



The Fly Navy Heritage Trust

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FNHT Supporters' Newsletter

May 2010

Thank you for all your feedback on the previous Newsletter, we hope to continue with this format so that more and more new supporters will enjoy keeping up to date with the Trust's and the Flight's activities.

Naval Aviation Limited – the FNHT's new company.

In the last edition of the Supporters' Newsletter, Commodore Bill Covington outlined the 'vision' for the Trust into the future. Part of that vision is to acquire historic naval aircraft for the Flight to operate in order to broaden the range of available aircraft. So that we can own aircraft, the Trust has formed the company Naval Aviation Limited through which the FNHT can acquire assets and trade in order to increase revenue for the Flight. The company was officially formed in December 2009 and through the extremely generous support of a benefactor, has already acquired a Sea Fury T20 twin-seat trainer (VX281). This aircraft which is wholly owned by Naval Aviation Limited is civilian registered and will be operated under a CAA Permit to Fly; the aircraft is currently being brought to flying condition in time for this year's season. Its prime role will be to assist new Historic Flight pilots gain experience in a powerful piston aircraft before moving onto the Flight's single seat Sea Fury FB11 (VR930). The Flight pilots are experienced operationally in the Harrier or helicopters, neither of which have the significant torque induced characteristics from the Fury's 2,450hp Centaurus engine. It is therefore particularly useful to have a two seat aircraft where the torque effects and how to combat them can be seen and practised under supervision. The T20 will also be a substitute for the FB11 if the single seat is not available.



Naval Aviation Limited will also take over the merchandising of Flight related memorabilia at several air shows and other events throughout the year. This was formerly organised by the Flight itself, but revised MoD corporate governance issues preclude the continuation of that effort by a military unit. It is only through the selfless volunteers who offer to run the merchandising that we are able to continue to have a ground presence at various events; a vital part of keeping the naval aviation message alive in the British public's minds.

The Royal Navy Historic Flight update by Mike Abbey

Despite the volcanic ash we have pulled the Swordfish out of the hangar and onto the hardstanding for its first ground runs in two years. We will continue to ground run and test until we are happy the engine is ready to fly. Some of you may recall we were at this stage two years ago when all looked well, but within a handful of hours of flying, the Pegasus engine developed problems. The Pegasus engine has undergone a considerable amount of work to overcome these problems including sourcing original cylinders to replace the existing ones, which displayed signs of wear despite only running for 50 hours. By replacing the cylinders with ones in better shape, from a donor engine in Canada, then manufacturing new piston rings to the original specification, DELTAIR¹ were then able to restore the engine to an almost original spec and returned the engine to us in February. As with all engineering projects involving old machinery, it is the little things that cause problems.

¹ DELTAIR are an air engineering firm based in Gosport, Hants and have been undertaking the restoration on behalf of the RNHF.



Leaking fuel pipes, followed by leaking airlines and of course the ever present leaking wiggly amps all conspire to hold the process up, but we are now in the process of carrying out extensive ground runs to make sure all is well before she takes to the air. We are mindful of promising too much before she has flown for a few hours. That said so far so good.....

The picture shows Fraz Fraser and Dickie Dawes furiously crank starting the aircraft. What it doesn't show is Mick Jennings, Les Cornford and the Commanding Officer Mike Abbey flaked out to the side having had a go ahead of them. This was Dickies first attempt to start a Swordfish and his beginners luck worked a treat!

We are working hard to meet the deadline of the 16th of May when LS 326 is scheduled to fly to Lee-on-Solent to fly past the Telegraphist Air Gunners memorial at midday. A very important day for the TAGS who

have been waiting patiently for seven years to see their 'Fish' overhead the memorial that honours their endeavours in the Swordfish during WWII.

Howard Read and Don Robertson popped over to California in March to do a stage check on the Centaurus for Sea Fury VR930. The engine has rather more damage than initially thought but with the use of the second Centaurus, purchased for this aircraft, we are confident we will have an engine ready for attaching to the aircraft by the end of this year. The same type of data gathering system fitted to the Sea Hawk two years ago is being wired into the Sea Fury whilst she is grounded. This system provided invaluable information on the Sea Hawk for the RNHF engineers last season and it is hoped will do the same for the Sea Fury when she next flies. For the moment all remains on track for getting this aircraft back in the air and ready for the 2011 display season.

The Sea Hawk has had her winter overhaul and all the hydraulic jacks inspected for cracks and corrosion. Although it sounds like a straightforward job, it wasn't as most of the jacks had been physically built into the aircraft at manufacture and needed to be disassembled in-situ to enable us to get them out. Another crack was found in the exhaust which meant an engine out to get the exhaust pipe removed. The crack has been successfully repaired and the exhaust and engine are now back in the aircraft ready for engine ground runs and test flights.



With the engineers working hard getting the aircraft prepared for a busy season, it was time to shift attention to the volunteer pilots who met in April for a couple of days of flying the Chipmunk and ground school briefs in preparation for the display season. We have two new pilots for this season, Lieutenant Si Wilson who is earmarked for the Swordfish and Lieutenant Si Rawlins who will display the Sea Hawk. You can find out more about them via the 'meet the team' button on the RNHF website.



Both Swordfish LS 326 and Sea Hawk WV908 have a full display programme waiting for them and this is now on view on the RNHF website. The programme will change as we roll through the season so do keep popping back to this site to check on the latest updates. *All Flight photos copyright Lee Howard.*

A round-up of FNHT activity since November 2009.

Swordfish Charity Dinner – HMS President, London 10 March 2010.

In 2009 our Charity Dinner remembering the Battle of the Atlantic attracted 150 guests and with a very successful auction after dinner we raised almost £30,000 for the Trust. This year, the recession has affected everyone and only half that number attended our dinner this time where we remembered those in the Fleet Air Arm who had served East of Suez during the Second World War. The fewer numbers did have a positive side in that we were able to dine in the Wardroom Dining Room rather than on the drafty Drill Deck of previous years. All those attending agreed that the more comfortable and intimate surroundings of the Wardroom with unparalleled views towards Tower Bridge and across the Thames was much better.



We were honoured to have as our guest speaker, Hank Adlam, who flew Hurricanes, Wildcats, Hellcats and Corsairs during WW2. Having been introduced by our Chairman, Rear Admiral Terry Loughran, Hank proceeded to regale us with several anecdotes from his time in the Far East – a fascinating and amusing talk. The Commander In Chief Fleet, Admiral Sir Trevor Soar responded on behalf of the Veterans present and proposed the toast to the Officers and Men of the Eastern Fleets. Other distinguished guests from that era included Bruce Vibert, John Maybank, Val Bennett, Ken Ward and Peter Jupe.



We also decided not to hold a Charity Auction at this event as several of our strongest industry supporters advised of 'auction exhaustion' at such events in the current climate. That said BAE Systems generously had commissioned a superb painting of Corsairs flying off Indomitable which we subsequently sold for a very good price along with a few other fundraising initiatives during the evening. Thanks to everyone's generosity and after all bills had been paid we managed a profit for the Trust of just over £8500, a creditable sum and far more than anticipated before the dinner.

Continue to raise money for FNHT when you shop online.

I make no apology for reprinting this section from the last Newsletter. *We are pleased to announce that you can now **raise money for the Trust at no cost to yourself** when you shop online. All the major on-line outlets, Amazon, Currys, M & S, Tesco, John Lewis, Boots, Argos etc etc have pledged to donate a percentage of all money you spend through their websites to a charity/cause that you nominate. All you have to do is register as a user at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and then find 'Fly Navy Heritage Trust' as your cause. You then go straight to whichever on-line store you wish and make your purchase. We then receive a quarterly cheque for the full amount that has been donated by the companies you have used. It's a simple as that.....**please use easyfundraising whenever you purchase anything on-line**; the money you help raise goes directly to keep the Historic Aircraft in the air. Please tell all your friends and relations to use this fundraising site as well!*

The good news is that some of you are obviously using this facility and we have received an encouraging amount of money from easyfundraising since last year. You can also find a direct link to the easyfundraising website by going to our website www.royalnavyhistoricflight.org.uk/fnht and clicking on 'How to join/donate'.

FNHT Supporters' Group Membership Card - 2010

You should all now have received your FNHT Supporters' Group membership card valid throughout 2010. This gives you reduced price entry into the Fleet Air Arm Museum as many times as you wish during the year. The card will also give you free access into our Supporters' Marquee at Yeovilton's International Air Day on

Saturday 10 July. Please also see the poster at the back of this Newsletter which tells you how to join us at Air Day and purchase advance tickets at reduced prices. In addition, we can arrange personal visits to the Historic Flight if you are in the area.

The Supporters' Group and Volunteers.

We are delighted to inform Supporters that through your hard work in encouraging others to join and an extremely useful Heritage flyer attached to the final FN100 News Sheet in January this year, our Supporters' Group is continuing to expand and now numbers over 700 (from just over 200 this time last year!). Do keep up the hard work, our target is 5000...! **Please also note that if you are giving donations to us, make all cheques out to 'Fly Navy Heritage Trust'. I know several Supporters send donations direct to the Flight, but rest assured that if it comes to us, we can Gift Aid your donation (to increase it by a whopping 28%!) and all our fundraising goes to support the Flight directly.**

If you would like to help at any of our events **please do contact the office.** We are always looking for willing volunteers to help rig marquees, help run our merchandise trailer, distribute FNHT literature, dish out sandwiches, strap visitors into aircraft, etc etc : you name it we need volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Swordfish Golf Tournament Monday 7 June – Bowood Wiltshire

This Championship Course has now hosted our annual tournament for many years and it has become a major fundraising event in our calendar. It may not be too late to enter a team of four for this prestigious golf tournament next month. For only £600 per team you will enjoy a welcome breakfast roll followed by 18 holes of superb golf in beautiful Wiltshire, concluding with a charity lunch and the chance to win many fantastic prizes including a brand new set of TaylorMade R9 Burner Golf Clubs. If you would like further details of how to enter, then please contact the office on the number at the top.

'Spirit of Swordfish at the Rose and Crown Trent' – Friday 18 June 2010

Thanks to Michael Ryan, one of our staunch supporters for coming up with this brilliant idea to raise our profile whilst also supporting local charities. With the lead from Michael's local pub and with support from Wadworth Brewery there will be a chance to sample Swordfish Ale, eat Swordfish steaks, listen to local jazz bands and other attractions at the Rose and Crown pub in Trent near Sherborne. We may even get a flypast by the Flight's Swordfish! If you are in the area on 18th June, do come along and help support the Trust where we will be spreading the word and signing up new supporters. Details on the poster at the back of the newsletter.

Yeovilton International Air Day Saturday 10 July 2010.

We will be once again be setting up our Marquee at Yeovilton's Air Day this year. It is the 70th anniversary of the commissioning of HMS Heron at Yeovilton in 1940, so please come and join us. Our Marquee and enclosure provide the opportunity to rest from the hurly burly of Air Day, watch the flying display and enjoy complimentary drinks from the FNHT Staff. You can bring your own picnic or pre-order a light lunch which includes two rounds of sandwiches, crisps, nutty and fruit for only £5 per head. We will also be able to get you advanced reduced price entry tickets for Air Day. Details are on the poster at the end of the newsletter and please contact the office if you wish to join us.



Charity Flying Day at Yeovilton, Saturday 18 September 2010

For those of you that want the opportunity to get airborne in a classic aircraft, or indeed just come along and be a volunteer to help on the day, we will once again be holding a Charity Flying Day to raise funds for the

Trust. For only £100 you will get a ride in an aircraft, a hog roast lunch and free entry into the FAA Museum. Details and how to sign up are on the flyer at the end of the newsletter. If you would like to volunteer to help strap visitors into aircraft or help with the overall supervision of guests, then please let the office know as soon as possible. This event is particularly manpower intensive, so the more volunteers the easier it becomes for us all.

FNHT Grand Raffle

For those who receive this newsletter through the post, you will find two books of raffle tickets for our grand draw, due to take place on 30 September this year. Tickets are only £1 each, in books of five and you can win our Star Prize of a Hyundai i20 Supermini worth over £9000. Second prize is a week for up to eight in the luxurious Sheraton Vistana Villas in Florida. Other great prizes include a TV, Laptop, Satnav, Digital Radio, iPod and many others. If you have received the newsletter by email and still want to buy (or sell) raffle tickets then please contact the office on 01935 842005 or office@fnht.co.uk and we will be pleased to send you as many books as you think you can sell. Please send all monies (cheque preferred made out to FNHT) and ticket stubs with contact details back to the office at the address at the top of the newsletter and also on the raffle tickets. We are indebted to Lodgers of Yeovil, Hyundai UK and Captain Bill McCamy USN for their kind generosity in donating our major prizes. There is a poster advertising the Raffle at the end of the newsletter.



FNHT Personalities.

RAdm Terry Loughran – Chairman

Cdre Bill Covington – Chairman of Fundraising

Mrs Sue Dible – Business and Office Manager

Cdr Nick Foster – Events Manager

Mr Bill Burgess – Company Secretary

If you have received the newsletter by post it means we don't have an email address for you. If you would prefer an e-copy (which saves us money) – please let the office know.

FNHT EVENTS FOR 2010

Further details are available on our website at

www.royalnavyhistoricflight.org.uk/fnht or contact the office on 01935 842005.

Monday 7th June – Swordfish Golf Tournament – Bowood
Sunday 13th June – Cosford Air Day – Merchandise Trailer
Wednesday 16th June – Merryfield Open Evening – Merchandise Trailer
Friday 18th June – Spirit of Swordfish at the Rose and Crown Trent
Sat/Sun 26/27th June – Biggin Hill Air Show – Merchandise Trailer (tbc)
Saturday 10th July – RNAS Yeovilton Air Day
Wednesday 28th July – Culdrose Air Day – Merchandise Trailer
Saturday 18th September – Charity Flying Day – RNAS Yeovilton
Thursday 30th September - FNHT Grand Raffle Draw
Saturday 10th October – Duxford Autumn Show – Merchandise Trailer
Date TBC – Supporters & Volunteers Party – Somerset



Fly Navy Heritage Trust
Members' Marquee & Enclosure
Yeovilton Air Day



Saturday 10th July 2010

Join us in our Exclusive Marquee and Enclosure and:

- take a break from the hustle and bustle of the day, sit under cover or outside and enjoy the air displays
- bring your own picnic or enjoy a light lunch organised by the Trust for only £5 per head (pre-booked only)
- enjoy complimentary drinks from the FNHT Staff
- enjoy the company of like minded people and Senior Naval Guests
- take the chance to win a Supermini and other superb prizes by buying our Grand Draw Raffle Tickets

FNHT Members are also entitled to purchase advance tickets at reduced prices (£14 Adult, £5 Child under 16) and keep Naval Aviation Heritage alive.



To join us at Air Day, contact the office at:

Fly Navy Heritage Trust, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, BA22 8HT

Tel: 01935 842005

email: office@fnht.co.uk

Spirit of the Swordfish

at The Rose and Crown Trent

18th of June 2010 3pm till 7pm



Join us all for a tasting of ale, Flypast, Music and charity fund raising events;

Flypast by the Swordfish at 4:30-5:pm (weather dependent)

Swordfish Ale: *an Award winning Ale from Wadworth Brewery with a gentle rum aroma and dark, unrefined sugar smoothness, full-bodied, deep copper coloured ale with a base of crystal malt and delicate Fuggles and Goldings hops. 5% ABV*

Why Swordfish? *Quite simply because the Fairy Swordfish is one of the Fleet Air Arm's great iconic aircraft, with its classic look, robust build and ability to press on and leave others behind whatever the conditions – all ingredients that go to make a good quality traditional ale!*

FLY NAVY HERITAGE TRUST

SUPPORTING THE ROYAL NAVY HISTORIC FLIGHT

2010 GRAND DRAW

(to be drawn on 30 September 2010)

FIRST PRIZE: HYUNDAI i20 SUPERMINI



(KINDLY DONATED BY LODERS HYUNDAI YEOVIL AND HYUNDAI MOTOR UK LTD)

SECOND PRIZE: 7 NIGHTS IN SHERATON VISTANA VILLAS, ORLANDO, FLORIDA, FOR UP TO 8. (FLIGHTS NOT INCLUDED)

OTHER PRIZES INCLUDE: LCD TV, LAPTOP, SAT NAV, DAB RADIO, IPOD, £50 M&S VOUCHERS, PUSSERS RUM and many others.

Tickets at £1 each (books of 5) can be obtained from Sue or Nick at the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset, BA22 8HT, office@fnht.co.uk, 01935 842005 or 01935 849200.

PLEASE RETURN ALL MONIES (CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO FLY NAVY HERITAGE TRUST), COMPLETED STUBS AND UNSOLD TICKETS TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE BY 24 SEP 2010.