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Coolhard Bull

The Newsletter of the FAA Buccaneer Association



Air Power from the Sea

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From the Bomb Bay

The reunion at the Royal Court Hotel in June went extremely well. Once again the hotels organisation excelled itself and Shep Woolley provided some excellent entertainment with a mix of new material and the odd bit of nostalgia! The trip to Bruntingthorpe to see O20 burning and turning was a highlight for many and our thanks to Guy and his team for a very well organised day. Photos of the day, together with the meet and greet and Saturday dinner are available on the web site.

During the weekend we held our AGM the minutes of which are available in pdf if anyone would like a copy sent electronically. A mandate was given to the committee to increase the membership fee to £10 a year in line with most other associations. After looking at the balance at our committee meeting on Thursday 10th July it was decided to hold the current fees for a further year and implement the increase in 2009. Again minutes of our meetings can be sent on request to members.

Membership. We now have over 600 names on the list although some names have dropped off as Email addresses change. Full membership is still disappointingly low at about 120. It is only £5 until the end of the year payable by Bank transfer or £10 for a two year period by cheque, so please, if you are not a fully paid up member please consider joining. It is getting increasingly expensive to meet all our commitments to you the membership, with magazines, newsletters and other communication briefs etc and every penny counts with any excess being ploughed back into the Association.

Merchandising. Harold Williams is doing an excellent job in Merchandising. We have added a couple of new lines with the Buccaneer tie pin and the latest polo shirt design. A price list is available on request to hedwinwilliams@btinternet.com or 01935 455438

FAABA Whisky. We have a few 70cl bottles at £25 each and a quantity of the 50cl minis with the four individual front line squadron crests on the labels. The cost of these is £3:50 each or £12 for a set of all 4 squadrons plus p&p.

The FAA Diary. As a member of the FNF we are sent an updated copy of the diary every 3 months. I intend in future to send these out every 3 months as they are updated. The FNF is looking for a volunteer to organise and publish the FAA Diary so if anyone is interested in getting involved please contact me and I will pass your interest on to the FNF Secretary Phil Carpenter.

The new improved **FAABA Web** site is now up and running and our thanks go to Ian Martin who started the site and to Phil Glover who has taken it on and revamped it. It will in future be more widely used as a communication tool so please do make regular visits to the site.

The Fly Navy Federation (FNF). I attended the latest meeting at the FAA Museum on Friday 4th July and like others was amazed at the scale of events being planned for Fly Navy 100 which begins in January 2009 and runs right through to December. Again I will be sending a detailed itinerary out to everyone. Everyone is welcome to apply for tickets to these events but if oversubscribed preference will be given to full members. Some of the planned events are:

February - Festival of Music in the Royal Albert Hall

May - 6-11th CVS at Greenwich

May 8th - Memorial Service in St Paul's followed by a Royal reception at the Guildhall

May 9th - Beat Retreat, Flypast and Dinner in CVS hangar.

May 17th - TAGS Memorial Service at Lee on Solent followed by lunch in the WO & SR Mess

June 5th - FN100 Exhibition and book launch at FAA Museum

July TBF Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

July 11th Yeovilton Air Day

July 24th - FAA Flypast at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppy, the birthplace of RN Aviation

July 29th - Culdrose Air Day

September 18-21st - CVS alongside at Liverpool Reception on 19th

October 15th - Dinner on Britannia

November 8th RBL Festival of Remembrance themed to FN100

December Centenary Dinner in the Painted Hall Greenwich

As an Association we will receive invites to these events so if anyone out there is interested in any of the above or any other planned events please get in touch and get your name down on the list.

The National Arboretum situated near Burton on Trent is managed by the British Legion and is open daily to all. It has been suggested by the FAA Officers Ass that an "All ranks" memorial stone be placed in the Arboretum as a focal point for the FAA. The cost of this is in the region of £25000 and it was suggested an appeal be launched to help offset the cost. The FAAOA have very generously agreed to underwrite the cost, but I would ask each and every one of you to make a contribution to this extremely worthwhile cause. Our Association aim is to raise a minimum of £1000 which, if you all contributed, would be less than £2 a head. So can I please ask you all to dig deep into your pockets. This will be a permanent memorial to everyone who has ever served in the FAA and it is felt to be very important to remind future generations of the role of the FAA in Britain's history. It is hoped that this will be completed in time for a memorial service and dedication sometime in September 2009. Please make cheques payable to the FAABA but make a note on the back that this is for the memorial fund. I hope you all will give this project your support.

On the opposite page is a poster for the HMS Heron Volunteer Band Concert to which I hope some of you will be able to attend. There will be an auction and raffle on the night and if anyone would like to donate raffle prizes or items for auction please get in touch and I will arrange for Tosh Hudson to contact you with details of how to send the items. Donations by cheque are also welcome, again Tosh will provide details.



HMS Heron Volunteer Band



Charity Concert in aid of Injured Service Personnel

"Helping Heroes & their Families"

Directed by -

Royal Marine

Band Colour Sergeant Tim Carter

Location-

Jesters Bar, HMS Heron

Open - 7 pm

Performance at- 7:30pm

Tel- Band C/SGT Tim Carter 01935 456292 (Ticket Sales)

Mr Tosh Hudson 01935 848644 (Sponsorship)

Miss Sarah Corbett 07853 283646 (Sponsorship)

£10 each

Friday 7th November 2008

A Very Scottish Story

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough".

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. 'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell they're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this,' She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Okay,' he says, 'they're coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way.'

JUNE 2009 REUNION AT THE ROYAL COURT HOTEL KERESLEY

We have confirmed the weekend of 5th / 6th / 7th June 2009 as the dates for next year's reunion. Those wishing to place bookings please contact Brian Sharrock on 01305 834112 or alternatively email

Brian at sharrockb@hotmail.co.uk



During the 2008 reunion weekend some of our members paid a visit to Bruntingthorpe on the Saturday afternoon where Sharkey Bennison flashed up both engines of Buccaneer 020 owned by Guy Hulme and carried out a full functional including wing fold and deck hook movements.

Several new faces attended the weekends festivities, Alan and Vickie Breward, Bob Bunyard, John Keenan and John Tuke, to name a few.

Presentation of an engraved bell to the WO & SNCO's Mess HMS Fulmar

Dave Clark, the secretary of the FAABA, returned to the WO & SNCO Mess on the 23 Jul 08 and presented WO Dianne McLeish, the CMC, with a beautiful brass hand bell as a thank you to the mess for allowing them to hold this memorable function here. Dave once again acknowledged that the mess had been excellent hosts for the evening and the members of the association had been delighted at having the opportunity to return to RAF Lossiemouth after such a long period. Mr Hughie Williams the Chairman, of the recently reformed HMS Fulmer Association also attended the presentation. The CMC rang the bell to celebrate its arrival and to signal "Toofers" before placing it behind the Top Bar (the old Petty Officers Mess) where hopefully it will be rung many more times by the members of the Mess.



Dave Clark, Diana McLeish (CMC RAF Lossiemouth) and Hughie Williams

PLEASE NOTE - IMPORTANT. With immediate effect we have changed the way you will all be contacted and kept informed of Association activities. With the increased data base of members it is getting increasing difficult for one person to manage. We have decided therefore to assign regional secretaries as follows to cover all geographical areas:

Dave Clark	Scotland, Non UK members and new member contact (until allocated to area)
Brian Sharrock	South of England
Graham Williamson	North of Birmingham. Wales and NI
Phil Glover	Web Master. All Events and newflashes will in future be published on the site.

Why I snore (according to Wifie) - Me balls fall over me bum hole and I vapour lock 😊

Secretary Dave Clark 1 Hampton Close Stoford Somerset BA22 9UN Tel 01935 474862
 Email: faaba@tiscali.co.uk Web site: www.faaba.co.uk