

CoolhardBull



FAA Buccaneer Association
Newsletter

September 2010 Issue 2

Association News

Welcome to the second newsletter for 2010 written after a very successful and entertaining reunion weekend at the RCH. Most of you will have seen and heard all about it from the many photographs and comments on our web site but for those without internet access— you will just



Jimmy Green, Brian Johnston, George McD and Billy Boyd at the Tot queue RCH

have to come along to experience it first-hand! Suffice to say it was yet another success story in the history of the FAABA and our first major milestone as it was the 10th reunion since the creation of our Association. There were visits to Bruntingthorpe on the Saturday and a visit to the new FAA Memorial stone at the National Arboretum on the Sunday, always a very moving experience. The AGM was well attended and the overwhelming majority voted once again to hold next years reunion at the same venue. It was also agreed that we throw open an invitation to the Sea

Harrier and 892 Associations to join us in 2011. The Association is financially sound with a small working capital now available and

the slops have stock in hand. The Reunion costs were covered by the supplement charged and profit from the raffle held on the Saturday night. A donation was given to the Buccaneer Trust for their hospitality and willingness to run the aircraft for our benefit. More of the visit later.

Forthcoming Events in 2010:

The Limes Country Lodge Annual Charity Gala takes place on Saturday 23rd October 2010 with all fundraising profits going to Armed Forced Charities. Special guest star is Bobby Davro, other guests include Paul Burrell who some of you will remember from our 2008 reunion. There will also be a casino running all evening and table magicians to complete the entertainment package. The Limes is owned and managed by one of our FAABA members Dave Morris and he and his team have worked hard to put this night together, so please come along and give us your support. Tickets are priced at £49.95 and overnight accommodation is available at a nearby Travel Lodge. **So please, lets see some FAABA support, contact Dave Clark to book your tickets and rooms.**

Remembrance Sunday will once again see the FAABA in attendance at the Cenotaph marching with the FNF column. Regrettably it was a poor turn out last year for our first march so the committee are keen to see a better showing for this year. Men and Hip Flasks muster at Horse Guards Parade prior to the march. After the main march past the FNF Division will then march to the FAA Memorial on the Embankment for a small service. There is then a post march PU at the Tattersal Castle.

On Sunday 17th October the HMS Illustrious Association will be unveiling their memorial in Portland Harbour to remember the Pinnacle Disaster. The FNF has been approached and asked if Association members in the area could attend. More details will be provided when they become available.

Fly Navy Federation Update.

The last FNF meeting was held at the FAA Museum on Friday 21st May 2010. The meeting was honoured by the presence of Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham, who recently (in April) took over the role of Chief of Staff (Aviation and Carriers) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm. He gave an excellent and entertaining 30 minute brief on the current challenging but positive state of affairs for the FAA and for the wider Navy in general. He also took questions from the association representatives, re-emphasising the positive and beneficial role played by the associations in maintaining the proud heritage of the FAA and in support of FN100. We were all pleasantly surprised and impressed by his attitude towards the Associations within the Federation and his honest brief on the state of the FAA, and it was excellent recognition of the ongoing relevance of the FNF to have the Admiral take time to attend the meeting so early in his tenure.

Nick Foster gave a brief update on the Historic Flight, focussing on the ongoing difficulties with the Swordfish engine - if anyone knows any Swordfish engineers please pass their details on to the

HT! He also discussed the ongoing need for increased finance to keep the FNHT running, which is particularly difficult in the current troubled financial times. He emphasised that any and all financial input helps to keep things running. So please can I ask you all to consider becoming a member and to sign up as FNHT supporters. Membership forms can be downloaded from the web site or if you are receiving a printed copy there should be one in your envelope.



The Association representatives thanked John Phillips (RNSESA) for his outstanding work on designing a Federation logo. Having come up with several excellent designs, the majority vote decided on the one logo that John produced, see left. This logo is now available for all to use on association literature and web sites. The logo was designed to identify that Pilots, Observers, Aircrew and Maintainers are all an equal part of the Federation which is open to all and in joining we all become part of the overall community

Remembrance Day Cenotaph march past - 2010 proceedings.

A letter has gone in to the Royal British Legion requesting that, as per last year's event, the Associations of the FNF be allowed to march as one company. This has been accepted and we have been allocated 24 places. The order within the column will remain the same for the sake of simplicity and continuity. The 2010 post-march social will not be prescriptive for those associations/members who wish to do their own thing, however, the Tattershall Castle pub has been recognised as an excellent location for those who do wish to gather at one venue after paying respects at the Embankment memorial. Details will be finalised at the next meeting. Ray Whitehouse of the RNPA will once again be applying for press accreditation, so it will be excellent to have a dedicated 'Federation' photographer on site and he will make photographs available to us for our web site.

FAA memorial - National Memorial Arboretum.

Mike Purse gave an update on the progress to repair the frost damage to the mortar and slightly faded paint on the FAA memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. After research and testing the repairs are due to take place very soon, and the memorial will be restored to an as new condition,

all within the budget allocated. Once repairs have been carried out there will be further discussions on the provision of funds for the future upkeep of the memorial.

Most associations have discussed at length and decided on their preferred plaque designs, and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting once the repairs have been completed. All agreed that it was appropriate to take time to make the right decision, and by the next meeting all remaining associations should have decided on their preferred design, and the majority vote will then decide the style and placing of the plaques. We have already made our choice based on the feedback from members canvassed and it is the same decision that most of the Associations I have spoken to have reached.

035 at Topsham.

I have recently received an Email from Andrew Langdon who purchased 035 from Culdrose a few



years ago. He has slowly been restoring it and has recently built a hanger to house his collection of Jets comprising the Buccaneer and Sea Harrier from the FAA and an RAF Jaguar. There is always ongoing work to be done so anyone in the Exeter area who can help Andrew is asked to contact him via the Association in the first instance. There will hopefully be an opportunity for a visit later this

year so keep an eye on the website for further details.

020 at Bruntingthorpe.

Guy and the Team have acquired a further Buccaneer (Sorry folks a crab version) taking the total of Buccaneer aircraft to three. The plan is for two of them to be brought up to and maintained as taxable ground runners. 020 which they kindly ran, (and gave a back seat ride to yours truly) is in wonderful condition, both cosmetically and mechanically and everyone had a quite nostalgic time as can be seen from the photos of Alistair Gilbert and Jimmy Green, recreating old memories from the Sixties (For ladders now read safety platforms!!)



I think this year the hospitality offered by the Bruntingthorpe Team excelled even that of previous years and a selection of snacks, hot potatoes, beer and wine were enjoyed by all. It is hoped that Guy will be able to attend next years event as our special guest along with representatives of the team.

Future FAA News and the end of an era.

I think most of you will be aware of where we are with the new carrier. Building is well under way and progress can be viewed via the ACA (Aircraft Carrier Alliance) website linked to the front page of our site. Currently work is ongoing in joining the two modules which make up the first block of the ship up in Rosyth where both ships will be assembled. What has not been reported in such depth is news on the aircraft which will give the ship it's firepower and defence. There have been, and still are many problems with the F35 JSF (aka the Lockheed Martin F35 Lightning) and it's budget over-run and slipping milestone dates. But it is not all gloom and on the 18th March this year a prototype aircraft made it's first vertical landing at Pax River in the USA. The aircraft made a 80 knot short take off and after flight trials lasting 13 minutes positioned the aircraft 150 above the airfield, hovered for approx one minute before descending to the ground without any major problems.

March was also the month for another major FAA historical occasion. The last of the Sea King Mk 6 Commando Role helicopters XZ922 was retired from service with 846 NAS. Based at Yeovilton it make it's final flight to HMS Sultan where it will be held in storage. During it's 31 years in service the aircraft completed over 8,400 flying hours.

And finally it's good to hear that EVT courses are still a valuable part of the sailors transition to "Civvy Street." One enterprising ex Chief has started a new business making ID's out of prayer mats. He was quoted recently as saying that Prophets are going through the roof.

And on that note I would like to say farewell as the Editor of the Coolhard Bull and as Secretary of the FAABA. Named after the two pubs many of you have frequented over the years, I hope you have found it informative and perhaps, a tad whimsical at times. I will still be contributing - if the new Editor allows, but hopefully from my new retirement home somewhere on the Moray Firth. As per the discussions made at our AGM I still intend to remain as a committee member for the Scottish and Overseas community of the Association, but Rob Harper will now be the Association Secretary with myself and Brian Sharrock (as the Southern Region Representative) helping out. We still require someone to look after the Northern parts of England and Wales so if anyone wants to join us please get in touch. The plan is that Rob will co-ordinate all secretarial matters flowing info out to the regional representatives who in turn will flow it down to you the membership. But I must say that the enjoyment I have had over the last 10 years of helping to organise the Association has been a wonderful experience, and, as well as meeting many old friends I have made some mighty fine new ones. So a big, big thank you to you all ,for your company, your dits and your tastes in fashion (stand fast McDonald) and I hope the next 10 years will be as rewarding and as much fun as the last 10. And if you all heed the plea below we may have some new friends to play with!

RAF Woodville has requested that any ex FAA personnel who would like to march in the Battle of Britain parade in Southport on the 17th September will be welcomed. The muster point is at Chapel Street, Southport at 10am. This area of the B of B involved many FAA aircrew and maintainers. More details available on our website

and finally, again the plea

if you are in touch with anyone from HMS Fulmar or the Buccaneer circuit please tell them about us. It's a never ending source of amazement to me that so many people forget they know where someone is or was. We can do certain traces so even if you only know the name and town we may be able to find them. I also trawl the web pages containing service personnel but I don't know everybody so cough up those names and we will do our best. Also if you have any ideas, photos or dits which may be of interest to the readers send them to me with an SAE if you want them back to:

Dave Clark, Secretary FAABA, 1 Hampton Close, Stoford, Somerset, BA22 9UN

and keep visiting the web site www.faaba.co.uk