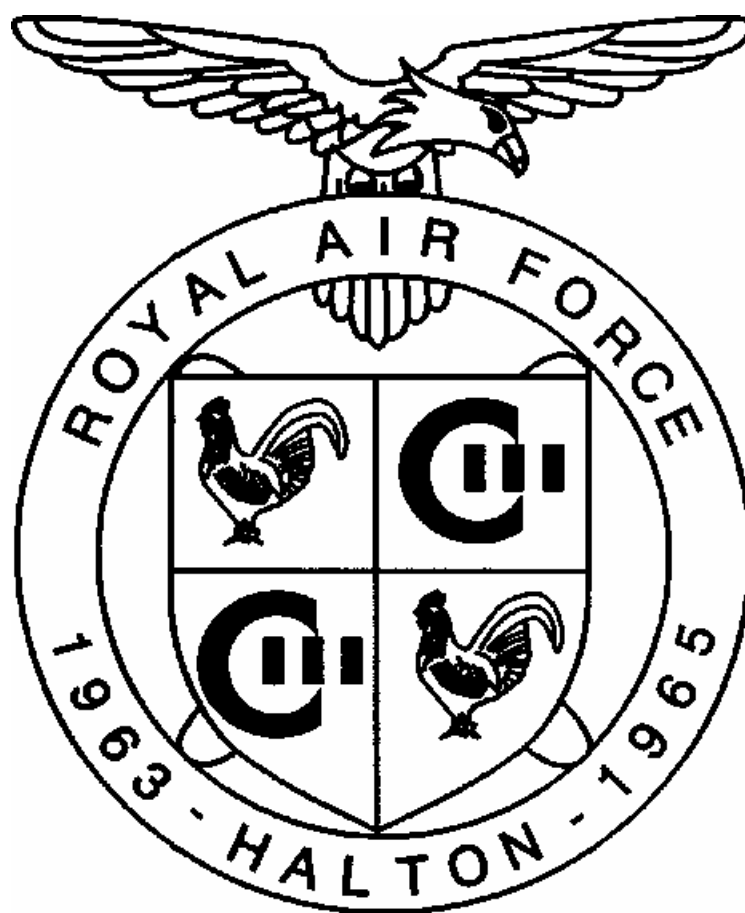


# 103rdEntry Association

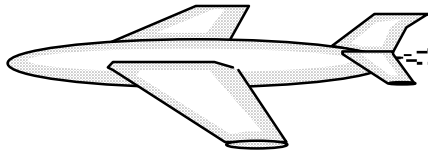
## Newsletter



No. 11

April 1995

Editor: C. J. Wales



## **Editorial**

Apologies to all of you who have been wondering why your copy of the newsletter has arrived so late. The truth is that I have been waiting until we have had our first returns from the Reunion mailshot, so that you would have some idea of progress. At the Committee meeting on the 9th of this month we counted positive responses from 29 members, of whom 18 are bringing 'guests', making a total of 47 for the dinner, so far. Most have elected to stay at least one night in the Falcon Hotel. The Committee will be reminding those members who have yet to respond. However, based on these figures, the Reunion is on!

Behind the scenes, Les & Co will be finalising the arrangements to give you the final costings etc. According to our intelligence, the Hotel staff will make every effort to ensure that the evening is a success. They have a very good track record with this type of function.

Now that I am back from Sweden, it is nice to have been reunited with my trusty Mac. My company are trying to convert me to a Toshiba T1910, full of DOS and Windows etc. What come-down! It still amazes me who much time people waste at work, just trying to get some simple things done, like printing and networking. Anyway, enough of the sales pitch. Next time, I'll put in a good word for Psion.

Good old Bill Davidson has responded to my persistent pleas. Now, who else has promised to amuse the readership?

Our Chair has passed me a letter from Ken Bannister in Qatar. I think all this sun and sand must be making him feel somewhat homesick. His letter appears below.

The last Committee Meeting minutes appear in this newsletter, as usual. Needless to say, we have been concentrating on the Reunion, almost to the exclusion of all else. Since full details have yet to be finalised, including the subsidy from our fund, then there is little else to report. Full Reunion details will be sent to all members as soon as they become available.

MHFW

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**20th May 1995 - RAFHAAA AGM, RAF Halton.**

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**11th November 1995 - 103rd 30th Anniversary Graduation Reunion.**

## **Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 9th April 1995 @1100hrs**

Present: L Shardlow, J Dillon, M Watts, N Smith, P Slawson, L Garden, C Wales

Apologies: J Bromley, B Neal

1. A preliminary list of attendees has been collated. A total of 47 members and wives/partners have replied and have indicated that they will attend. These include: Dave Adams, Ken Bannister, Jeremy Bell, John Bromley, Ken Burn, Bill Davidson, John Dillon, Roger Evanson, Chris Fair, Roger Flitter, Colin Frame, Les Garden, Bob Lee, Brian Lee, Dave Mathers, Gerry Miller, Barry Neal, Geoff Owen, Duncan Patterson, Bob Procter, Dave Post, Les Shardlow, Kev Sheehan, Pete Slawson, Nick Smith, Chris Wales, Malcolm Watts, Gwyn Weallans, Mick Woodhouse & Ernie Fox.

2. A total of 32 members are to be contacted to 'remind' them to reply.

3. Non-members are to be contacted at their last known address.

4. LS/JD/NS to visit Falcon to confirm pricing and pay deposit.

5. Current state of fund is approx £1119.80 in deposit account with £86.58 in current account.

6. Date of next meeting is Sunday 18th June 1995 at 1100 at Les's House, Haddenham.

L G

## **RAF Halton Show Day - 18th June 1995**

The Halton Show will be held on the Airfield on Sunday 18th June 1995. The gates open at 1000 and the show usually ends about 1700. Flying starts at 1300. RAFHAAA members and their guests will be welcome in the Members Marquee.

If you intend to visit the show, why not drop in at Les Shardlow's where the Committee will be in 'session' from 1100?



### A Letter from Ken Bannister

Well, the Christmas festivities have died down here in the State of Qatar - being a Muslim country, the only people who make a big deal out of it are the 'expats'. If you think about it, we're closer to the scene of the action than most people. Anyway, we worked over Christmas day and Boxing day as normal. In fact, we were quite busy and I don't really remember too much about it. We did manage to get together for a meal on Christmas day at about 5 o'clock in the evening. Eleven of us sat down to a feast prepared by a 'committee' of three of our wives. I ate and drank so much that I didn't eat anything much on Boxing day.

New Year was a quiet affair for Ann and myself. There was a big party going on at one of the villas and we were going to go, but I was required the next day to stand by in case there were any problems when our second course of students sat their CAD/CAA Technical Exams. So, we had a barbecue instead washed down with a nice bottle of wine.

Right, enough of the news - down to business. Please could you put Ann and I down for the reunion dinner and send all the relevant details as soon as you have them. The date and venue are suitable for us. It falls into our next leave year so I will have air tickets available from Gulf Air. We also have a vehicle stationed at my son-in-law's place in Kent so it shouldn't be too difficult to get to Stratford.

Would you do me a favour Les and note that we have taken our own post box at the post office here in Doha

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and that's the one we now use and not the one for Civil Aviation College. Also our telephone number is different as we have moved from one villa to another in a different area. Please would you let Nick Smith know so that he can update his records.

Right then, that's yer lot for now - hope to see you in November for a couple of beers!

Ken & Ann

PO Box 17068, Doha, Qatar, Arabian Gulf  
Tel: 0974.353267

PS Please don't invite Mike Evans as the after dinner speaker - how about Ernie Fox!!!

### Résumé from Bill Davidson (21)

Shamed into action by Malcolm's disgust at the lack of response to his plea for contributions, I have decided to pour some lubricating oil (malt whiskey, not HELLERINE!) into the rusting clogs of what remains of my memory, in order to give the rest of the distinguished membership the story of my life so far. Laugh or cry - I don't mind, so here goes. But first, a little lubrication... Lovely (Dalmore).

I, like many others, was posted to Scampton after Halton and began 2 and a half years of life at the sharp end of the UK's nuclear deterrent. Together with Ron Anderson and George McCartney, I spent the first 18 months in the Air Electrical Bay, only being released for QRA and exercises. The most memorable (work-type) event was my first stint at guarding a fully-armed Vulcan, with only a truncheon and a whistle. A close second was the occasion on QRA when we leapt from our beds at the sound of the Tannoy, only to hear that a Vulcan about to take off had burst into flames after an engine exploded. This was just by the QRA huts, so we spent the evening watching it burn - the fire crews could do nothing. Met (July '66) and married (March '68) my dear wife Jane and was promptly ordered overseas to defend Germany against the Soviet threat.

And another wee whisky .....(Macallan....V Nice).

Defending Germany turned out to mean 24 hour shifts on the Wildenrath Comms Squadron (later Number 60) and more exercises, but this time armed with rifle, NBC suit and gas mask (Sorry - respirator. Better have another little sip). Tiny Cowsill was just along the road on one of the Canberra squadrons and Cliff Kay was also on 60. At a rough guess, about half of the 103rd staged through Wildenrath on one Air Engineers course aboard Varsitys. (Or were they Varsities? Better have a bigger sip). Our first son was born (must have been all the exercise) and I became a fully paid-up member of the Sergeants' Mess.

To Coningsby in July '71 to begin a long acquaintance-ship with the mighty Phantom. The married quarters waiting list was so long we were forced to buy a house and its value promptly doubled. (Bit of good luck there - better have a large one (The Singleton - smashing!!)) Our second and final son was born in '72, but of promotion there was none, so in '77 I applied for a commission and was accepted! (Excellent - time for a Glenlivet!).

As a shiny and eager new flying officer, I emerged from OCTU on a cold and frosty January day in '78. It was October '79 before I escaped the clutches of the Cranwell training machine and started my first tour as JEngO at Manston (SAR helicopters, Chipmunks, foamy runways and lots of bent aeroplanes), ending up as OC Eng Sqn. Excellent friends, colleagues and social life (OIC Sergeants' Mess for the first time). Bit of a boozy tour, actually. (This Glenlivet is wonderful). Went to the Halton 60th anniversary reunion (also a bit of a boozy do) in 1980 and met Ron Dent, Bob Mawson, Les Garden, Don Avery, Simon Keen, Dave Adams etc; heard George Rattray away in the distance!

A bit of a come-down to go next to West Drayton and my first taste of life in the world of Ground Radio. They call it Comms-Electronics now, but it is still nothing like as interesting as aircraft work. Never mind, the weekends were good, with London competing with the Bucks/Berks countryside for attention. In fact.....I think Glenlivet is my favourite whiskey.

Two years of drudgery at W Drayton and it was off to Cranwell again, but this time as a proper officer and OC Elect Eng. Very busy settling into a house of our own again (near Newark) and discovering all the little problems with the heating, leaky gutters etc that the previous owners forgot to mention. We liked it so much in the Newark area that we have stayed there during subsequent postings. Jane has a job matching would-be volunteers with voluntary organisations and has become a firmly established part of the local community.

Life at Cranwell was so much fun that their airships decreed I must do 4 months penance in the Falkland Islands. That tour had its moments, but I won't bore you now; pull up a sandbag and have a drop of this excellent (but rapidly disappearing) whiskey some time.

My return to UK in Dec '85 was marked by promotion and posting to North Luffenham as OC Elect Eng Sqn. This was a very sociable station, but the job was not to my taste (more Ground Radio); however, I did have the pleasure of being OIC Sergeants' Mess again. More boozy dos (or is it does? Better have a Teachers!).

Passing quickly over the 2 years at North Luffenham, I next had the pleasure of a 3 months course for grown-ups, back at Cranwell, where the other course members included John Hay. We visited a number of exotic places, including Sealand, where we bumped into Chris Fair.

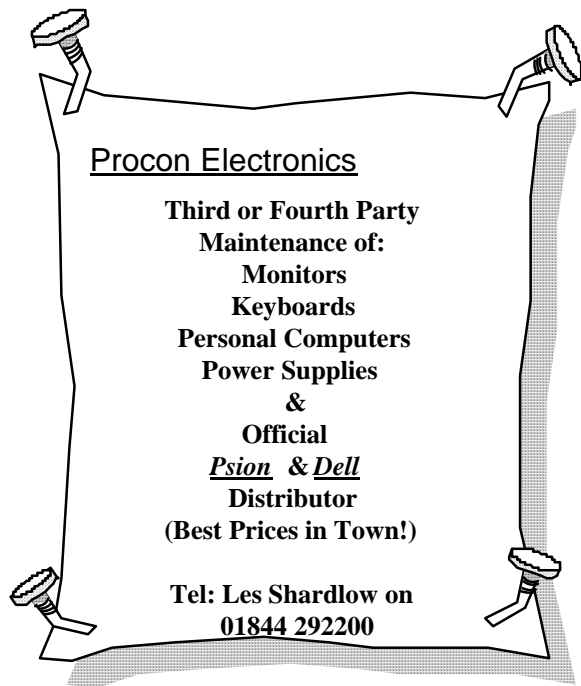
My joy at next being posted back to Phantoms was only tempered by the fact that the job was at HQ Strike Command and that I would have to become a bean-stealer. Bill Reay (Flight Sergeant) was in the Phantom office when I arrived, but soon moved on to greater things. The work during the 2 and a half years I spent at High Wycombe was interesting and demanding, but at the end of it I faced the prospect of another dull job, procuring spares for radios. Aghast at the thought, I drowned my sorrows for a while (more Glenlivet) but leapt at the last-minute offer of a job in the EFA project as Eng Sponsor for much of the avionics.

That was in October '90; since then, the name of the jet has changed to EF2000 to fool the German tax-payer and its in-service date has slipped 3 years (watch this space!). I have seen more of Munich (beer halls and all) than I care for, and I have been extended in the job twice. I often see Tony Shevels, who works upstairs in Helicopter Projects. Jane and I are now empty nesters, with both lads in excellent jobs and I am now (February) starting to think in equal measures about: the next posting; the next redundancy package; the next National Lottery draw.

We are hoping to make the reunion on the 11th November, and I'm looking forward to seeing those familiar faces of 30 years ago (can it really be that long?). I might as well just finish off this last drop of Highland Park, I'd forgotten we had that. Cheers for now.

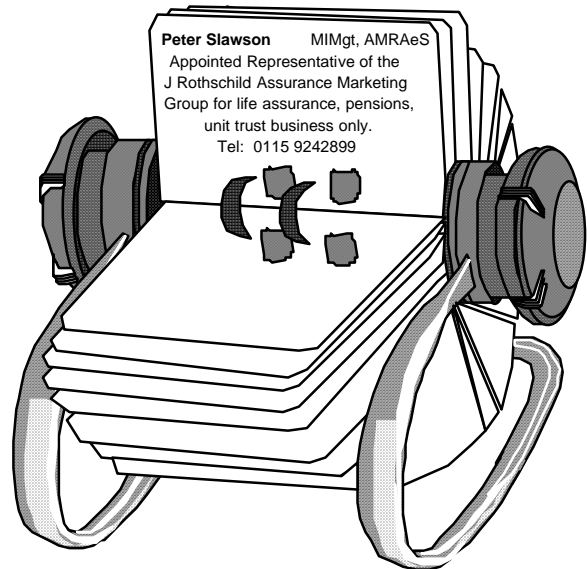
Bill Davidson

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Profit Related Pay (PRP) paid out of an Inland Revenue approved scheme is **exempt from income tax** up to the lower of: 20% of total taxable pay, or £4000.

Should you or your employer be finding out more? If so contact:



**Changes of Address**

Ken Bannister - see above

Jim Dartnall  
Aidandurne, Chapel Lane, Lossiemouth, Morayshire  
IV31 6DT - Tel: 01343 813072

Al Simmonds  
32 St Johns Close, Ryhall, Stanford PE9 4HS

Tony Shevels  
Little Trodgers, Honor End Lane, Prestwood, Great  
Missenden HP16 9HG

Rod Goodhew  
Cranford, 64 High St, Wilburton, Cambs CB6 3RA  
Tel: 01353 741263

**And Now for Something Completely Different**

Many caring employers are consistently reassessing the benefits they can provide to their employees.

Some time ago the Government introduced legislation to provide a tax incentive for employees to receive part of their pay based upon the profits generated by their employer.

**And finally..**

Don't forget to send your contribution for the next newsletter to me at:  
162 Main Rd, Naphill, High Wycombe HP14 4RU

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