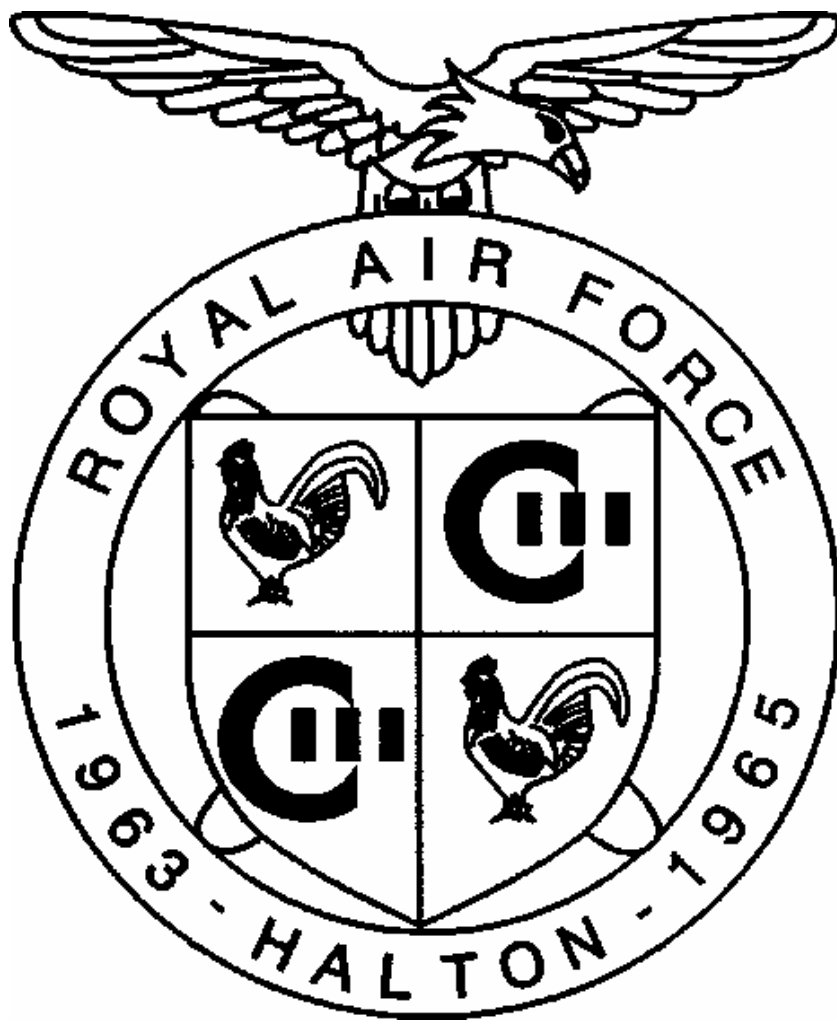


# 103rd Entry Association

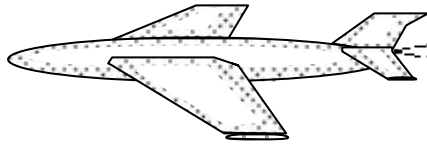
## Newsletter



No. 14

December 1997

Editor: MHF Watts



## John Bromley

It is with much regret that the Association has to announce the passing of John Bromley on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1997.

John's funeral took place on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1997 in Salisbury.

Our thoughts and sympathy go to the Bromley family at this tragic time.

### Editorial

How does one write an editorial without conveying a sense of emotion. At the beginning of the year we said farewell to Paul Gallagher, and now . . . . .

Once again the circumstances dictate that I shall be circulating this to all ex-103s for whom the Association has an address.

Although JB naturally dominates our thoughts, I have included a contribution from Ken Bannister's missus, Ann, a letter from Tom Maxwell, plus our usual Committee minutes and personal occurrences.

### More about John Bromley - A Personal Recollection

Where to start? John was the sort of chap about whom most people will have memories or stories to tell.

John and I shared an interest in wiggly amps and rugby. On graduation from Halton, we both went to Lyneham, joining the rugby club and later shared a room with Gary McMenemy and other sporting fellows. It was open house and the only room with a TV.

At first, the Lyneham Rugby Club considered us too young and innocent to play for the First XV, but it didn't take us long to change their minds. John's aggression on the field was in stark contrast to his behaviour off it. But whether on or off the pitch, John was always someone you could rely on.

John and I found ourselves at RAF Newton when trade restructuring meant that we had to change from being Aircraft Fitter Electrical to Electrical Fitters (Air). This gave us an opportunity to play for RAF Newton, meet up with our chums from Cranwell, and also to explore the joys of Nottingham. In those days, the RAF used to bus nurses into Newton on Thursday evenings for mutual morale raising. Whatever happened to those innocent days?

Back at Lyneham again, John and I decided to explore the Bath RFC and ran out for their Colts team. About the same time, we decided to educate our minds still further by enrolling at Chippenham College in order to add a HNC to our ONCs. However, the RAF had other ideas and John was finally posted to Butterworth. Eventually John got his HNC some years later.

Some years went by before I saw John again. I got married and became aircrew, while John met Di and got himself another overseas posting, this time to Cyprus. I met both John and Di at Akrotiri, by which time we had both fathered 2 children.

John remained a 'truckie' at heart. He never let me forget the day when I returned to Macrihanish from a low-level flying exercise with a telephone cable wrapped around the tail of our Hercules, 3 bent propellers and 2 crazed windows. It was subsequently proved that we had been flying 100ft below our briefed height of 250ft agl. I don't

think that we ever got around to paying our dues (in beer, of course) to John and his groundcrew for that one.

We now move into the '80s and a turning point for John.

His health deteriorated, which resulted in a heart by-pass operation. He had to remake his life and find a new role outside the RAF. However, it was typical of John that he took an active interest in the newly reborn 103rd Entry Association. Indeed, he was due to join us last Saturday, the 13th, for a Committee meeting.

John collapsed during a karting event organised by his work colleagues. Only days after being given a medical check-up, his heart failed. John died competing, a fitting, if premature end to a sportsman, father and friend.

John will be greatly missed by us all.

MHFW

### **John Brom's Funeral**

On behalf of the Association and all ex-103s, I attended the funeral at Salisbury Crematorium.

It had been 30 years since I last met John's family in Andover. His mother still lives in the same house, where we used to drop in on our way to the beaches at Studland. Yet Mrs B seems hardly to have changed.

Typically, John's passing was not allowed to mar the day; I got the impression that the family had been briefed by him beforehand. It was good to meet Neal, who seems set to follow in his father's footsteps (despite the brown uniform); maybe the Army is in better shape than I had thought. I hope that he is not offended if I refer to him as being a chip off the old block.

John was involved with the St John's Ambulance, who sent their own representatives to the funeral. Such was John's popularity and with the size of the Bromley family, the chapel was almost full. The family had requested donations to the British Heart Foundation, which of course has been respected by our Association.

As I write, most of us will be looking forward to spending time with our families over Christmas, but I for one will be sparing a thought for the Bromley family, in particular John's children and his mum at this time.

MHFW

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 26th April 1997**

Present: L Shardlow, J Dillon, N Smith, L Garden,  
M Watts

Apologies: C Wales, J Bromley, B Neal

1. The treasurer presented the financial statement: £1048.81 in credit. Statement accepted.
2. Reunion '98 at Halton - investigate an after event in the Halton area where we can have a few pints and a stag social - to be looked at at next meeting.
3. CW is progressing photos and has contacted Alec Nicholson for a professionally printed montage for the Entry history.
4. Next meeting

LG

PS As all members present own Psions, we had the meeting entirely by remote control!!!!

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 20th September 1997**

Present: L Shardlow, C Wales, N Smith, J Bromley,  
L Garden

Apologies: B Neal, M Watts

1. NS presented the completed accounts for the period ending 31st May 1997. CW and JB were appointed to audit the accounts. The account balance was checked against all bank statements and accepted as a true and accurate account of the Association fund. (A copy of the balance sheets which show a Savings balance of £760.22 and Current balance of £169.71, can be obtained on request from NS - Ed)
2. CW has printed off all the photos from the last Reunion, for inclusion with the next newsletter. Accompanied members get 2 prints and unaccompanied get one. Reprints contact CW direct.

**Dates for your Diary: 21st March 1998 - Committee Meeting, Procon  
26th September 1998 - RAFHAAA Triennial Reunion, Halton**

3. A decision was made on the price which overseas members would have to pay. A figure of £7 was agreed.
4. LG is the holder of the Entry archive pictures. Any member who has photos of Entry personnel and wishes to donate a copy to the archive, please do so.
5. E-Mail. Several members of the Committee are now contactable via the internet. It was decided that we should list these as part of our address (on the 103 database - Ed). Note that we have already turned up John Taylor, because he logged into NS's home page. There is a flourishing Halton and Locking Internet user's group. Anyone interested contact NS or LG.
6. A reminder for all members that the next Reunion will be the 11th November 2000, commencing at opening time. Planning will start next year - any member with suggestions for venue please contact the Committee. Current thought is that it will be at the Falcon in Stratford-on-Avon.
7. Ken Bannister was co-opted back onto the Committee after returning from Doha, to work for CAA at Gatwick.
8. Next meeting.

LG

### **Changes of Address etc**

Alex Nicholson, 33 The Stables, Wynyard Village, Teeside TS22 5QQ Tel: 01740 644879 (home) 01642 245401 x298 (work) Fax: 01642 210565

Ernie Fox, 47 Grimbald Road, Knaresbrook, North Yorkshire HG5 8HD

Les Garden

Email: 113252,1411@compuserve.com

Ken Bannister, Hi-Kastren, 4 Welbeck Drive, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 0BB Tel: 01444 243019 (home) 01293 573551 (work) CAA Flight Crew Licensing

Malcolm Watts, now works for Mortgage Express on 0181 275 2239, Fax 0181 275 2477.

### **Found!**

John Taylor, 3 Hurst Crescent, Barrowby, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG32 1TE Tel: 01476 571192

Email: john@taylor.force9.net

Malcolm Cottle, 53 Manton Drive, Luton LU2 7DJ

Tel: 01582 410304 (work) CAA Luton

### **Congratulations**

Pete Ince has been promoted to Warrant Officer, now at MOD SP POL 1. Can anyone provide his address?

### **Sculpture to Commemorate the RAF Halton Apprentice Scheme**

October 31st 1997 will remain in the memory of a large number of people for a very long time. A glorious autumn day matched by a spectacular programme that delighted the thousands gathered at RAF Halton for the presentation of a Queen's Colour and the Unveiling of the Tribute to the RAF Apprentice Scheme.

A full report with colour photographs was published in the last edition of the Haltonian. So if you have yet to receive your souvenir copy, maybe your subscription to the RAFHAAA has floundered.

### **Letter from Tom Maxwell**

Thanks for the letter of early October (how time flies!). My apologies but it's been a hectic period for me.

I will have to start saving for the 11/11/20, 103rd Reunion, as it is a very good excuse to finally revisit the old country with my family. I haven't been back for almost 21 years now.

If you could let me have the address of the RAFHAA chapter in Australia, that would be good.

I will write to my Lloyds Bank branch in Wiltshire to arrange a standing order payment for membership of the 103rd Entry Association. I don't have E-mail at home yet on this computer

**Dates for your Diary: 21st March 1998 - Committee Meeting, Procon  
26th September 1998 - RAFHAAA Triennial Reunion, Halton**

and am reluctant to use it at work for private business because in my profession I seem to move around quite a bit, so letters or faxes fine. I enclose a cheque for £7 to get things started for this year.

Thank you for your efforts in running this association with others and I'm very glad you managed to find me. The downside of living in such a beautiful place as Adelaide is that we are, geographically speaking, at the arse end of the world in terms of travel and keeping in touch; however, we do get a great deal of pleasure from friends and relatives who manage to visit.

As you may know, we are now entering our bushfire season and the eastern states in particular always seem to be caught out. I hope that your winter isn't too harsh.

My regards to you all for the festive season.

Best wishes

Tom Maxwell

### **The Bannisters' Year**

Well, the wanderers have returned from their globetrotting but the year has passed so quickly, I can hardly believe that we are now a few weeks away from Christmas. The year has been very busy and I haven't been able to keep up with my usual letter writing, so there is probably a few of you wondering what's happened to us! I will tell you - as briefly as possible.

We left Doha not long after having a fabulous party to celebrate my 50th birthday and to say cheerio to all our friends. It was great to have so many friends at my birthday party but it was awful having to say goodbye to them at the end of the night knowing that we probably wouldn't see half of them again - regardless of the promises made!!

Spring 1997 - April 10th we flew back to England. It took a few days to visit family and friends and then on April 17th we presented ourselves at the house of Ken's aunt and uncle which is where we lived until we found somewhere to buy. Ken started work on May 1st at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) at Gatwick and I started looking at houses.

Early Summer - Found a house which had a garden you would kill for - but that eventually fell through. Then we found another house we liked and after all the usual hiccups and initial problems, finally picked up the keys on 18th June. We had our furniture and everything from storage in Scotland delivered on the 24th June, then it was all go to find homes for everything before the 90, yes

90!!! boxes arrived from Doha, as well as Ken's BMW motor bike!!!

While waiting for the boxes to arrive, I managed to get myself a temporary job with the solicitors office who had handled our conveyancing. It was originally only going to be for 6 weeks but it stretched to 11. The senior partner was very surprised when I said I was leaving, he thought I was there to stay.

The boxes arrived and it has been a nightmare trying to find homes for all the 'stuff'!! I really do wish I wasn't such a magpie ... but there you go!!

Summer - What a glorious summer. The weather was fantastic and we really enjoyed our first English summer for 7 years. In between emptying boxes, moving things around in the house every 5 minutes, sorting out the garden and both working, we managed to find time to do quite a bit of socialising. We had a weekend in Oxford, which was most enjoyable. We visited long lost cousins in Kent, we were visited on 2 occasions by friends making their way to or from Doha and we had a wonderful weekend in Paris via Eurostar; Waterloo to Paris, absolutely brilliant!!

Late Summer - We flew to Inverness from Luton for our week in our timeshare. It was the week that Princess Diana died and as well as that, the miserable weather put a real damper on the week. We did manage to visit 2 lots of ex Doha friends during that week so that managed to make the week more enjoyable.

When we returned from our holiday, we decided it was time to think about making the house into a home by completing the picture with a new member of the family. We went to a local animal welfare centre and ended up with 2 six month old sisters (kittens), black and white and as cute as anything. To cut a long story short, we ended up having to take one back to the centre because she was ill and after 3 weeks of trying to cure her, she had to be put to sleep. We now have the one, Molly - it didn't take her long to settle down. I think we can safely say that Ken and I are now fully trained!!!!

Autumn - It was our wedding anniversary in October and we went to London to see 'Starlight Express'. We thoroughly enjoyed it and rounded off the day with good old fish 'n' chips and a bottle of champagne, which is what we had on our wedding night!!!

Winter - Well, we are now into December and I can't believe that Christmas will be here in a

**Dates for your Diary: 21st March 1998 - Committee Meeting, Procon  
26th September 1998 - RAFHAAA Triennial Reunion, Halton**

couple of weeks. This Christmas I promised I would be all organised, but with one thing and another, I am still a bit behind with everything. Ah well! at least it will be a happy, healthy Christmas this year!!

Ann Bannister

### Once Upon a Time

A boy was walking down the road when he came upon a frog. The frog said, "If you kiss me I shall turn into a princess." The boy picked up the frog, looked at it and put it in his pocket.

The frog then said, "If you kiss me I'll turn into a princess and stay with you for a week." The boy pulled the frog from his pocket, smiled at it and put it away again. The frog then said, "If you kiss me I'll turn into a princess, I'll stay with you for a week and I'll do anything that you want." The boy pulled the frog from his pocket, smiled at it and put it away again.

The frog then said, "Hey, wait a minute! I've already told you that if you kiss me I'll turn into a princess, stay with you for one week and do anything that you want. I don't understand: why won't you kiss me?"

The boy replied, "Look, I'm a computer programmer. I don't have time for girlfriends but a talking frog is really cool."

### Reported from a Help Desk:

Last year, a customer upgraded his copy of GirlFriend3.1 to GirlFriendPlus1.0 (also sold under the name Fiancee1.0). Some months later, he upgraded again to Wife1.0 but he's found it's a real memory hog, it has taken all his free space, and he's found that Wife1.0 must be running before he can do anything else - it appears to carry out

validation checks on all other processes.

Although he did not realise it from the manuals and other documentation, Wife1.0 installs itself with Plug-Ins such as MotherInLaw and BrotherInLaw which use yet more processing time. In summary, he is not very impressed and wants a full refund.

Some features commonly requested to be added to the upcoming release of

GirlFriend4.0...

- A "Don't remind me again" button
- Minimize button

- Shutdown feature

- An install-shield wizard so that Girlfriend4.0 can be completely

uninstalled if so desired (so you don't lose cache and other objects)

A customer tried to run Girlfriend2.0 with Girlfriend1.0 still installed, using the same i/o port but there was a major motherboard conflict. Then he tried to un-install Girlfriend1.0 but it didn't have an uninstall program and there were elements of the application spread throughout his entire system which caused un-resolvable conflicts with Girlfriend2.0.

As a result of these and other reported problems, the company has issued the

following report to all users of Wife1.0:

Wife1.0 has an undocumented bug. Thus, if you try to install Mistress1.1 before

uninstalling Wife1.0, Wife1.0 will delete all MS Money files before automatically un-installing itself from your system. After this, if you try again to install Mistress 1.1, it will refuse to install claiming insufficient resources are available to continue.

### And finally:

If you have moved recently or are aware of anyone who has recently moved, please get in touch with me at the address below. Also don't forget to send your contribution for the next newsletter to me at:

162 Main Rd, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks  
HP14 4RU

**Dates for your Diary:** 21st March 1998 - Committee Meeting, Procon  
26th September 1998 - RAFHAAA Triennial Reunion, Halton