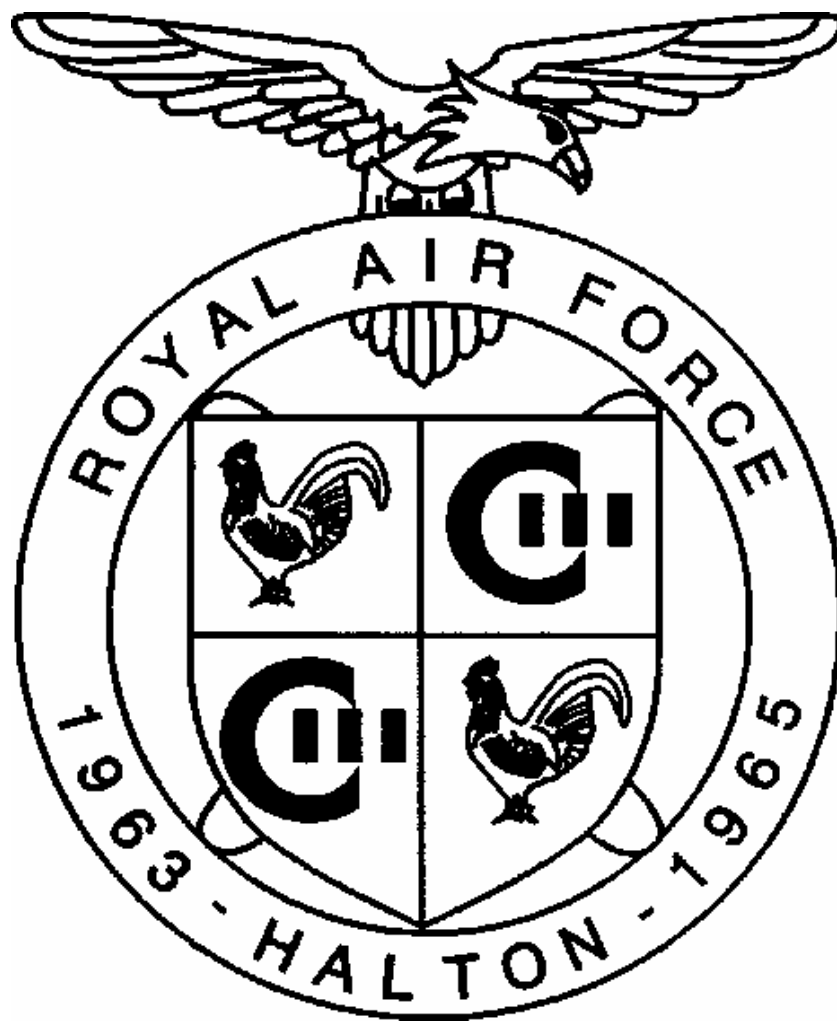


103rd Entry Association

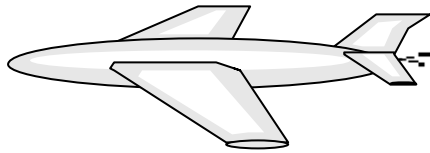
Newsletter



No. 15

November 1998

Editor: MHF Watts



Editorial

To those who have been eagerly awaiting this newsletter, my apologies for the long gap since the last. Thankfully the task is made easier by not having to rush out with the sort of bad news which dominated the last two issues.

While it has been a while since the last newsletter, work has continued in the background as it always does. Your Committee are now working in preparation for our next reunion in 2000. However, I think that I can speak on behalf of everyone when I say that our meetings have not been quite the same without JB.

Following the loss of John, I was delighted to receive a personal letter from his mum, in which she expressed her thanks to the 103rd for our donation to the British Heart Foundation. Our very best wishes go to all of the Bromley clan.

Back in February, I also received a letter from Mick Woodhouse, transcribed below. However, some months have passed since, so maybe we are due an update.

As I mentioned above, we are now advancing our plans for Reunion 2000. The Committee minutes speak for themselves, and we shall be seeking an early indication of those who intend to come along. Please see the attached form and return soonest. There is no commitment if you say that you intend to come, we just need to have a rough idea of the level of interest.

As we are approaching Christmas, I thought that it would be timely to provide everyone with the latest list of ex 103s, Association members or not. Hopefully, this will encourage those who have not yet subscribed to do so, or encourage others to provide us with any intelligence you may have on 'the missing'.

Now that many of us are getting 'connected', we need to maintain email details and we have started to include partner's names on our database. Please help us to keep our records current, and return the form to Les.

Halton Triennial '98

As usual, the Triennial Halton Apprentices Reunion was held at the end of September. In spite of the doom and gloom from the weatherman, it stayed fine, with just a hint of rain just prior to the traditional march up the hill.

This year, we had a limited turnout, with cancellations from our international businessmen and one who was moving house! Still, those that did turn up had the usual long natter with friends from various entries.

Two new faces appeared this year - Jon Griffin and Mick Davey - delighted to see you both. This reinforced one of the things that I and a few other Committee members have noticed, namely, how easy it is for 30 odd years to slip away as people seamlessly get back into the way it was.

As usual, the Golden Oldies pipe band (some are in their late 70s) did the performance of their lives, still able to do a 30 minute bash prior to leading the parade up the hill.

For those of you who really want to p*** your kids off, there is a CD/tape from the pipe and brass band of the 70s which features all those tunes which we hold so dear! Available from the HAA office for £5, it is not a bad piece of recording, considering the amateur status of the band.

One striking observation from these reunions is the lack of interest shown by entries junior to the 99th. I estimated that there were about 1500 from entries 1-99, and 30 from 100 onwards. As we formed up by entry in seniority order (how else) for the march up the hill, there seemed to be a distinct lack of people under 60! However, most of those over 60 were behaving as if in their second apprenticeships, with at least one senior ex WO (70+) leaping around with an entry banner organising his troops.

We, the younger ex-brats, may not fully appreciate what the Association is all about, we are a very rare breed. There are some 3000 members of the HAA, but very few from our generation. It merely costs £18 for 3 years membership, or £60 for life membership. If you are interested (and you should be), then contact me for the membership forms. (Or see the attached - Ed) The HAA and our own Association cannot survive on apathy.

LG

**Dates for your Diary: 6th March 1999 - Committee Meeting, Procon
11th November 2000 - 103rd Graduation Reunion (35 years!)**

A Letter from 'Ed' Cochran

Just received the Association newsletter with the news of John Brom's death. At any time it is bad news, but so soon after that of Paul's is awful. I wrote to Paul's widow - as I told you in my letter of the 27th Jan last year.

I know it may be a bit of a struggle, but is it possible to get an up-to-date list of who has passed on, when and how? I remember the demise of Pete Coate in the Herc crash at Colerne. I had met Pete in Chichester and we had a beer (or two) before he went off to Lyneham onto a squadron.

Have you heard from Ron Dent? John Forbear? I know that if you send letters to them c/o MOD, they will usually forward them - if they have the pensioners address!

My wife, Ingrid, has just found (God knows where), a coat hanger with a number on it - 685883. It is probably some old entry, but it would be interesting to locate the original owner. I will return the thing with apologies for hanging on to it for so long!

Now, me. I have been very busy. Amongst other things, I do a lot of writing for the broadsheets and local papers, and a few other things which I cannot really mention yet. However, I will always keep in touch. With three kids (under 12) and three horses and a lot of land, I never seem to have much time.

And finally; I have not yet completed my own album, but when I do, I will be happy to pass on any old photos etc for the Entry history, as requested.

DC

A Letter from Mick Bath

I was sad to hear that John Bromley has passed on. I was also one of the original group that started their post Halton career at Lyneham. We have all come a long way from those long lost innocent days back in 1966!

It's strange how some things work out. A couple of years ago, I was clearing out my mother's house when I found an old suitcase containing my old training notes and some old black and white photos from Halton. A day or so later, by coincidence, I came across a notice for the Entry Reunion in Stratford and was fortunate enough to contact Les and attend the get-together.

My last post in the Air Force was in charge of Basic Engineering Training (BET) at Halton. A great irony really as metal bashing and riveting were my bet-noire as an apprentice! Someone high above must have an extremely dry sense of humour! Many parts of Halton were just the same in 1989 as they were

back in 1963, but occasionally I would go round a corner or into a room or building and suddenly remember an incident or a face from the days of my youth.

Having left the RAF in 1989, I have been working since for Britannia Airways at Luton Airport. You probably know that Richard Ball also works here at Britannia as the Group Leader Engineering Development.

Now that I am back in the fold, I shall make every effort to keep up to date with 103 business.

Hope to see you again sometime.

MB

A Letter from Mick Woodhouse - 8/2/98

Thanks for the last newsletter and photos. I was very sad at the news of loss of John and of Paul earlier; however, I knew that Paul had been very ill for several years, still a shock!

I know you are in need of news for the letter, but I'm afraid I can't help you much. My only bit is that last season I finished my employment as the engineer of the oldest working steamboat on the Thames and tried something new. I now look after the stock and 'cellar' for a wine importer near Henley. The 'cellar' is an old chalk mine that has been 'purpose-converted' for storing wine and is a very pleasant working environment, although you can lose track of time.

There are only four of us in the company: the owner/director, a salesman, a secretary and me. I do all the stock taking, order pricing, some deliveries (to London, the Chilterns, Cotswolds and Hampshire), mine maintenance and anything else the others can't (or won't) do, mainly the practical things.

I really enjoy the involvement and see the sides of business I know nothing about, and of course physically shifting cases of wine keeps me fitter than I would be otherwise. Also not working weekends allows me more time at my obsession, sailing. (*and attending 103 Committee meetings - Ed*)

I had a tremendous Autumn with nineteen different people and a dog sailing the Norfolk Broads with me over several weekends, most of them came two or three times. This year I'm having a yacht in Greece in May again with three, possibly four, friends.

After that I hope it will be the Broads again and my dingy on my local lake, also with a friend on the Suffolk coast, maybe a friend on his boat in Turkey or with another friend who is hoping to cross from Cape Verde Islands to the Caribbean when she gets there.

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I'm afraid that's all that might interest you. I may well get to a Committee meeting again one day!

Hope this finds you all well. If anybody is interested in the wine business (particularly Australian, Californian or French), or more importantly! in sailing, please ring me: 01865 340535.

11 Fane Drive, Berinsfield, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7NB

MW

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 18th April 1998 (was 21st March)

Present: L Shardlow, N Smith, L Garden, K Bannister, C Wales

Apologies: M Watts, B Neal, J Dillon

1. Reunion 2000
LS has got a provisional booking for the Falcon in Stratford-on-Avon for 11 Nov 2000. Format is as the previous Reunion, available in the following packages:

Fri/Sat 2 nights room with Fri dinner, Sat breakfast, Reunion dinner, Sun breakfast - all for £107 each.

Sat only, Reunion dinner, Sun breakfast - £65, or with single room of an extra £10.

Association members only (not wives/partners), will be subsidised at an amount to be agreed at a future meeting - dependent on attendance.

Wine will be provided by the Fund. A raffle will be organised to provide a bar subsidy as per the last do. Any member going to Spain asked to donate 1 bottle of 103 Brandy (black label).

MHFW to publicise the event in the newsletter with a proforma to confirm interest.

If members wish to pay by instalments, then a cheque payable to 103 Entry Association should be sent to Nick Smith.

2. Halton Apprentices Reunion at Halton 26th September '98, will start with a Committee meeting. All members invited.
3. Next meeting on 4th July '98 where hopefully Les will be buying the beer.

LG

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

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

Apologies: C Wales, K Bannister, B Neal, M Watts

1. Financial Report -
current account £339.53
deposit account £1191

NS to transfer c£250 from current to deposit. Note that KB, instead of paying twice as normal, has now cancelled both direct debits!!

2. Triennial Reunion at Halton is on 26th September '98, starting at 10.30. This will be the venue for the next Committee meeting at noon. As is customary, the entry fund will provide some light refreshments for those attending. A resolution to fund it again to the amount of £50 was approved. NS to arrange for money to be sent to LS as NS is unable to attend.

3. Notes from RAFHAAA AGM
Apprentice scheme to be revived from April '98. After one year of training, graduates will pass out as SAC technician.

Membership drive in entries 100 onwards; less than 20% of membership of HAAA is from 100+. Latest HAAA membership forms to go into next newsletter.

HAAA Committee have requested that all entries consider the provision of a stained glass window in St Georges Church, as a lasting memorial to the Apprentice scheme. Assurance given that windows will not be destroyed or binned if church is de-consecrated. See centre pages of current Haltonian.

The tax man is sniffing at entry/branch funds. HAAA accountant is to provide details of tax exemption.

Ian Blunt (84th) is the new chairman of RAFHAAA.

LG

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Parish Notices

LS is now a dad again! Congratulations to Noreen and Phoebe, both well - YOU MUST BE MAD LES!!!

Ken - Our best wishes for a speedy recovery for Ann.
(*Sorry this is a bit late - Ed*)

LG has found Ginge Morris, who has been working for him for 5 months!!

Finally they were ready for the check ride. Santa got in and fastened his seatbelt and shoulder harness and checked the compass. Then the examiner hopped in carrying, to Santa's surprise, a shotgun.

"What's that for?" asked Santa incredulously. The examiner winked and said, "Well I'm not supposed to tell you this, but you're going to lose an engine on take-off".

CW

Changes of Address etc

Dr Jon Griffin, 83 Morley Grove, Harlow, Essex CM20 1ED
Tel: 01279 438062 Email: jon.griffin@btinternet.com

Dave Adams, 119 Wellesley Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. NR30 2AP Tel & fax: 01493 586488
(He's bought a guest house with bar and 7 rooms)

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

Help!

Is there anybody out there who can help me find any members of the 93rd Entry.

I am hoping to arrange a Grand Reunion in the Year 2000 and need to contact as many ex-93s as possible to make it a really BIG bash.

If you can help, please contact me, Brian De La Mare, at:
119 Albury Road, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3LW
or telephone: 01737 213539

One that Ticked Chris

Sant Claus, like all other pilots, gets regular visits from the Civil Aviation Authority, and it was just before Christmas when the CAA examiner arrived.

In preparation, Santa had the elves wash the sleigh and bathe all the reindeer. Santa got his logbook out and made sure that all his paperwork was in order.

The examiner walked slowly round the sleigh. He checked the reindeer harness, the landing gear and Rudolph's nose. He painstakingly reviewed Santa's weight and balance calculations for the sleigh's enormous payload.

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