

103rd Entry Association



Newsletter

No. 24
April 2005

Editor: Bob Procter

CRISIS WARNING

YOUR ENTRY NEEDS YOU



Yes. You !!!

Come on you slow coaches, we have had very few firm bookings for the Reunion, which will be held at The Falcon Hotel on 12th November. We have heard verbally that more of you want to be there but as yet no firm commitments.

The decision as whether to continue with the Reunion has to be made at the end of May.

Remember the Association is here for your benefit.

The 99th Entry has already about 137 confirmed bookings for their Reunion later this year; so come on lads and as Delia Smith (of Norwich FC fame) said; **“Let’s be havin’ you.”**

The following has been taken directly from the last Newsletter but with a slight change so that we can monitor the uptake more closely.

Attached are full details, including costings. Both Parts 1 and 2 of the completed Booking Form however should now be returned to Barry Neal. The cheque for the deposit however should still be made out in favour of The Falcon Hotel which, Barry will forward to the hotel.

Barry’s address : Badgers Barn
 Langtree
 Torrington
 EX38 8NL

For past Reunions the Association Fund has been used to enable colleagues to attend who may otherwise have found the cost prohibitive, and we are offering that facility again. Anyone who would like to take advantage of the offer is asked to contact Mick Woodhouse who will treat any enquiry in the strictest confidence.

Mick’s address : 11 Fane Drive
 Berinsfield
 Wallingford
 Oxon OX10 7NB

Reunion Costings

Dinner, B&B 2 nights, Friday & Saturday - £120

Dinner, B&B; Saturday night only - £77

Dinner, B&B; Friday, Saturday & Sunday - £160

Dinner only on Saturday night - £19

All these prices are per person sharing a twin/double room, and include VAT. There are 4 single rooms in the hotel and once these have been booked, there will be a supplement of £12 per night for twin/double rooms for single occupancy.

Check in Time – Bedrooms will be available from 2.30 pm; however, if you wish to arrive earlier, please do and the hotel will look after your luggage. A wide range of bar snack lunches are available in the hotel bars and lounges.

Editorial

Well, it’s time I resurfaced and got busy on the newsletter again; Barry has held the fort for the last edition. Many thanks for that. Much has happened to me over the last few years starting off with a heart attack late in 2002, which caused a loss of self-confidence in some aspects of my life. I am still involved with the Credit Union at BAE SYSTEMS but had to give up all the work I did for the group of CU’s around the Manchester area. I have since taken up sailing and have gained a number of qualifications with the Royal Yachting Association. This has helped to regain some of the lost confidence.

There is some sad news passed on by Mick Woodhouse to report in this issue concerning Rick Eades.

To save both your ink and mine I’ve now made the Entry Shield smaller and ghosted it. If you normally receive this over the net and wish to see it in glorious colour then just right click the mouse over it to reformat the object.

Now we are all approaching retirement ages I shall try to add useful information in the Newsletters, after all I do get there before the rest of you.

More potted histories and articles are desperately wanted.

Bob Procter

Preserved Pension

Did you serve only long enough to qualify for a preserved pension? If so, remember that slip of paper you received all those years ago entitled "Statement of Preserved Pension on Discharge from The Royal Air Force". If you did, now is the time to dig it out so that you can be prepared to contact RAF Pensions in due course. The advice given by them is that "you should claim, (the pension) in writing, not more than 3 months prior to your 60th birthday." If you haven't contacted them since you were discharged and have lost the address it is no longer RAF Innsworth as there is now a joint services approach. The new address to contact is

Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency
(Glasgow)
Joint Service Pensions
Mail Point 480
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow G2 8EX
Tel 0141 224 3600 or 94561 3600

Email afpaa-pensions-div@dial.pipex.com

Route to their Web Site

www.rafcom.co.uk
then click on "Pensions/Rates and Info"
finally click on "Service Preserved Pensions"

Sad News

(This news follows the committee meeting held on 23rd April –Ed)

Monday 25th April

I just made a surprise call to chat to Rick Eades as I do now and again, got Mo who told me that Rick died on 9th March, losing his battle with cancer. She thought we knew but unfortunately we didn't, his funeral and cremation were on the 18th March.

Rick was very confident when I saw him last autumn that he would be at the forthcoming Reunion, although it was obvious that his health was deteriorating, that was Rick the Optimist.

I was pleased that I had been recently able to find Tom Reay for him and put them in touch as he had often asked me to do, they planned to meet again soon. Condolences to Mo and his family.

Mo, please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Mick Woodhouse

Found at a Petrol Station

Email from Pete Ince to Les G.

Many thanks for getting in contact again after all these years. Yes I would like to join the entry association and I have sent my £5 standing order away today. I have often (sometimes?) looked at the Halton Apprentice website but never made it somehow onto the 103rd Entry site; it was only after I saw Mick (Woodhouse) at the petrol station in Abingdon the other day that the idea to try and find it occurred to me. It came up so quickly that I felt such a duffer, given that I use a computer and the Internet so often now as part of my job.

Resume – Pete Ince (26) – Ed.

I don't know if it is the form for us to give potted histories of our careers and lives but I shall just in case. My life since Halton as follows:

My first posting was to Watton in Norfolk with Geoff Barber, Geoff Lace, Charlie Barratt (I think?), and Ray Matthews. From there, to Cyprus in 1969 on 56 Sqn Lightnings for 2½ years. After a brief visit to Sealand (I think Keith Nuttall was there at the time) I managed to escape to 111 Sqn Lightnings at Wattisham in 1972. After the Lightnings folded at Wattisham I had 3 years at Honington on the Buccaneer OCU where I married my wife Sandra (an Essex girl) in 1975. My first son Christopher was born in Bury St Edmunds in 1977 and we three went off to Laarbruch that year, where I worked on the Buccaneers, Jaguars, and Hunters; my second son Stephen was born at Wegberg in March 1980. On return to UK in September 1980, I was initially posted to Scampton where they didn't have a job for me to do, so I pulled some strings and we went off to Coltishall where I was the Electrical Trade Manager of 6 Sqn Jaguars until 1984. Leaving Scampton was the second of my three great escapes. Laarbruch again in 1984 where I was the electrical shift trade manager on 20 Sqn Tornados until 1987 whereupon I was posted to Brize Norton. I was there for 7 years as NCO IC Engineering Records (not as dull as it sounds) until I asked for a move; the best they could come up with was Lyneham. Sandra and the boys by this time had put down taproots in Carterton (the satellite town to Brize), so we kept the house and I commuted when I was on shift. Lyneham was a mixed bag for me, I disliked being a shift NCO on the dreaded 'B' Line (another non-job) and managed to escape yet again (the third) after another Flight Sergeant in Eng Ops died and I was asked to fill in. I did this for a year then ran Lyneham Eng Records to gap the post until the civil service took over the job. I then went on promotion to an organisation called JSJET in MoD

London, where I was one of the Job Analysts for the Joint Service Job Evaluation Team.

This was completely different and probably one of the most interesting jobs I ever had in the RAF, even so they still managed to send me down to the Falklands in 1997/98 for four months. It wasn't so bad though.

I left the RAF in February 2001, and went to work for a small company on the Culham Science Centre just south of Abingdon, where I am the Quality, Health & Safety, and Facilities Manager for Culham Electromagnetics and Lightning working 4 days a week (Mon to Thur).

These days I am pretty boring really, I stayed in the RAF for 38 years, stayed with the same wife, and stayed with the same football team (Chelsea). My sons have both grown up (only one so far has fled the nest but I'm working on the other), and I have recently learned to fly

light aircraft with the Brize Norton Flying Club (I started on gliders at Bicester a few years back) and gained my PPL in 2002.

I cannot say for definite at the moment whether I shall be attending the bash in November, but Stratford on Avon is not that far away so I am hopeful to see you in the near future.

Pete Ince (688685)

P.S. Has anybody got any photos of the farm? I was very proud at the time of our team's Aylesbury Duck Farm signs; still am for that matter.

Recommended Reading

Title: It's all FREE for Seniors

Author: John Clarke

This paperback gives information on those things we can get for free as we get older - you know,

Prescriptions when you are 60, the Winter Heating Allowance etc etc.

The only thing I don't have is the price.

Published by:

The Windsor Group
The Old School House
1, St. John's Court
Moulsham Street
Chelmsford
Essex CM2 0JD

Ken Bannister

Mini Reunion

News of this was broadcast at the latest committee meeting and was from our correspondent in Cyprus.

Jeff Lloyd and Tiny Cowhill met up in Cyprus where Jeff and Jeanette retired to a few years ago. I bet that was a grand affair, with a few beers etc being sunk.

Bob Procter

The New E111 Certificate

Are you travelling to Europe this year? You are? Then make sure you have a copy of the New E111 Certificate. If yours was issued before 19th August 2004 then it is no longer valid.

The new E111 can be obtained from your local Post Office (if it hasn't been shut) or downloaded from the following net address www.dh.gov.uk/travellers. Remember though it still has to be stamped by the PO.

At the end of December this year a new form is being introduced called 'European Health Insurance Card' (EHIC), which can be pre-applied for on the back of the E111 application form.

We are Sailing (and Steaming)

I'm pleased to report that my sailing holidays are still proving to be popular. I'm going for a fortnight on 1st May to the Greek Southern Ionian with five friends for the first week and three other friends for the second. Bob Procter is coming with me for the fourth or fifth time and Chris Wales for the third. They are out with me for different weeks this time so no chance of an extraordinary Committee Meeting (or expenses claim!) I have received a request from another friend to try and get a crew for the 18th September and join him and his crew again in the Southern Ionian. So if any of you fancy a holiday that is a bit different please give me a ring.

There was an unexpected spin-off from my agency lorry driving work a couple of months ago when I met Pete Ince at a filling station. Coincidence that he works about three miles from my home, we used to be neighbours in the late seventies. This occurred shortly after I had made contact with Tom Reay following Rick Eades' request.

Roger Flitter and I continue to work together crewing

the beautiful steamboat Alaska on the River Thames, we are looking forward to another busy season.

I am in contact with Les Rogers but unfortunately he regards our time at Halton as history and doesn't want to be more involved, much like Peter Milsom. I feel it a shame because I'm sure their old friends and colleagues would love to see them again, but we have to respect their point of view. Potted life histories like Pete Ince's are always interesting and welcome.

Mick Woodhouse

NOTES OF A COMMITTEEE MEETING OF THE
103rd ENTRY ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE
BLACK PRICE, PRINCESS RISBOROUGH ON
4 DEC 2004

Present: LS, MW, LG, CJW, BP

Apologies : BN, KB,MFHW.

- 1) MW presented finances – still healthy at £2029 in deposit account and £398 in current account. 58 members renewed their subscriptions.
- 2) Reunion 2005. All members (including committee) to be encouraged to respond asap to the booking request from Barry.
- 3) It was agreed that any disadvantaged member could have the cost of the event (room + meal) subsidised by the Entry Fund.
- 4) It was agreed that the Entry Fund should subsidise the event to the sum of £1500. Details of how this is to be done to be agreed at the April meeting.
- 5) Newsletter. BP agreed to do the next newsletter by Mar 2005 and to clarify that the “meal” was a buffet.
- 6) Discussion on newsletter – reduce size, – change to landscape, - reduce size of Entry Badge to cut colour printing costs. If colour printing required in large numbers contact LG so that use can be made of other “facilities” available.
- 7) LG to do a round robin on e mail to drum up support for contributions from members. !!
- 8) Discussion took place on whether we should follow RAFHAA and make all attending to join association – to be concluded at April meeting.
- 9) Discussion on Entry Constitution – CJW suggested that this should go on the website – to be reviewed at the April meeting. RAFHAAA constitution available off HAAA website – www.members.aol.com/haltonapps/halton.htm
(Incidentally this is a good website to trawl – go to 223

Entry and read the jokes page – will keep you in good pub jokes for a long time!)

- 10) On learning that Jenny Slawson had been in hospital for a fairly major operation, the Treasurer proposed that a bouquet of flowers be sent to her wish her a very speedy recovery. Agreed by all.
- 11) A vote of thanks was recorded for Simon Keen's hospitality in allowing us to use the facilities at the Black Prince.

April 05 meeting at KB Burgess Hill on 23rd April 2005

L Garden
Secretary

Finally

My address for articles etc etc :

Bob Procter
12 Cudworth Road
Lytham St. Annes
Lancs. FY8 3AE

Tel : 01253 711021

Email : beepee@cyberscape.net

Now fill in and send off the booking form which is on the next page.

Bob Procter

103rd Entry Reunion, Saturday 12th November 2005 - Booking Form

PART 1

Name Wife/Partner's Name (if attending)

Address

Telephone No E-mail

*I/we will be attending the Reunion on Friday 11th November 2005 for 2 nights

*I/we will be attending the Reunion on Saturday 12th November 2005 for one night

*I/we will be attending the Reunion on Friday 11th November 2005 for 3 nights

*I/we will be attending the Reunion for dinner only on Saturday 12th November 2005

Special Requests

*Please delete where applicable

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RAF Apprentices Entry Reunion Booking Form
Friday and Saturday 11th & 12th November 2005

PART 2

Please use BLOCK capitals and include all names of persons being booked.

Name

Address

Telephone No

*I will require single/twin/double room(s) on Friday 11th November 2005 - 2 nights

*I will require single/twin/double room(s) on Saturday 12th November 2005 - 1 night

*I will require single/twin/double room(s) on Friday 11th November 2005 - 3 nights

*I will require persons for dinner only on Saturday 12th November 2005

Special Requests

Please find enclosed my cheque for a deposit of £15.00 for each guest

Full payment is required in advance for those guests attending dinner only.

*Please delete where applicable

An allocation of rooms is being held for your party until 1st September 2005. After this date any bedrooms not reserved will be released and bedrooms will be available on a request basis only

The Falcon Hotel
Chapel Street
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire CV37 6HA
Tel - 0870-609-6122
Fax - 01789-414260

thefalcon@corushotels.com
www.corushotels.com/thefalcon