

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association

MULTUM A PARVO

Web Address: www.rafadappassn.org



NEWSLETTER No 91 - September 2012



NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

NMA Memorial

The dedication of our memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum will take place on Saturday, 20th October 2012 at 12 noon. All members and partners are invited to attend. Those attending are requested to assemble at our memorial by 11.55 am. The Reverend Colin Weir, the Station Chaplain at RAF Cosford, has agreed to conduct the short dedication service. There will be no formal arrangements for refreshments but there is a restaurant in the main Visitor Centre at the NMA. The NMA's main car park has 200 hard standing spaces for cars, with a dropping off point outside the Visitor Centre. All visitors arriving by car should be aware that a charge of £3.00 per day applies from 8.30am to 9pm. On busy days when the main car park is full, an overflow area is available up from the NMA in Croxall Road (opposite the quarry entrance): This involves a short 5-10 minute walk to the Arboretum.

The NMA is located off the A513 Croxall Road, Alrewas, Staffordshire, DE13 7AR, to the north of Lichfield close to the A38 and is well signed from the A38 onto the A513.

The placement of a permanent memorial at the NMA would not have been possible without the generosity of members of our Association, former Apprentice Clerks and, in many cases, surviving families of former Apprentices. I am very grateful for every donation received. Thank you. I would like to thank, in particular, the members who attended the last two Reunions and through the collection boxes at the AGMs contributed significantly towards the overall cost. The appeal raised in excess of £6,000 and consequently the memorial and all associated costs have been fully paid without impinging upon Association funds.

Federation News

At the recent annual meeting of the Federation of Apprentices and Boy Entrant Associations, two of the Federation members - the Cranwell Apprentices Association and the Brats 192 Association - announced that due to the advancing ages and continuing decline of their membership, they are to disband in December 2013 and 2014 respectively. Because of their close training links, the Halton and Locking Apprentices Associations offered Associate Membership to any of the members of the disbanding Associations who wished to remain a member of an Apprentice Association.

Remembrance Parade

We have one ticket remaining for the annual Remembrance parade being held at the Cenotaph on Sunday 11th November. Any member who would like to attend is requested to contact me on 01933 443673 or at chairman@rafadappassn.org.

Committee Members

There has been no response to the request at the AGM but there is a continuing need for volunteers to join our Association Committee either now or in the future. Can you give your Association a few hours a month as a Committee member and are you able to attend the AGMs? If you would like to serve on your Committee please contact me on 01933 443673 or chairman@rafadappassn.org. Current contact details for the Association Committee are given at the end of the Newsletter.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Your committee will be meeting on Saturday 13th October at Boddington, near Cheltenham. If you have anything at all that you wish the Committee to discuss, please let the Secretary have your written request by 8th October.

Bob Wise's address: 3 Humphries Close, Carterton OXON OX18 3HS. Email: r.wise285@btinternet.com

2012 REUNION AND AGM



Copies of the AGM minutes and annual accounts are attached.

2013 REUNION AND AGM

The 2013 Reunion and AGM will be held at the Waltham Abbey Marriott Hotel on 21st/22nd/23rd June 2013. The Booking Form for the Reunion is included with this Newsletter; please return your form to our Social Secretary, **Bryan Hoare**, not later than 31 January 2013.

RAF HERITAGE ROOM BIRCHAM NEWTON
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 50th Anniversary Event marking the closure of RAF Bircham Newton will take place there on 30th September 2012 commencing at 2pm. In addition to the RAF Heritage Room display there will be a number of other exhibitions and, weather permitting, a fly-past of vintage aircraft ending with a 'Sunset Ceremony'. The open days for the 2012 season and full details of the event are available on their web site at www.rafbnmp.org.uk.

Dixie Dean (40th)

INFORMATION ON THE
PINGAT JASA MALAYSIA MEDAL

Awarded for service in Malaysia between 31 Aug 1957 and 12 Aug 1966 and now permitted to be worn. The closing date for applications is 30 Sep 2012. Apply to John Simcock on 0161 215878. About 37,000 have applied and 31,000 medals have been awarded

Dixie Dean (40th)



NEW MEMBERS

591317 **John Bothams** (49th Ruislip): Ruthin, Clwyd:
01824 703419: jbothams@googlemail.com

594169 **Wayne Beverley Viles** (44th): Ramsey, Huntingdon:
01487814715: waynev@tiscali.co.uk

595635 **Stephen Deer** (308th): Stowmarket, Suffolk:
01449 771761: stevedeer@sky.com

8000535 **Adrian John Hughes** (314th): Waddington, Lincoln:
01522 850252: adihughes@virginmedia.com

8002077 **Michael Joseph Pengelly** (330th): Plymouth, Devon:
01752 670075: gillyp@btinternet.com

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS' DETAILS

Gerard Cumiskey (56R): mail@hawkeye1776.plus.com

Tony Johnstone (3rd): johnstone.anthony2@gmail.com

Don Burlingham (5th): Newmarket, Suffolk:
01638 665620: donald.burlingham@virginmedia.com

David Helson (11th): davidandisobel@gmail.com

Ian Thomson (19th): ian.thomson700@btinternet.com

Fred Harrington (30th): frederick9495@hotmail.co.uk

Mike Needham (34th): jrmandmj@hotmail.com

Ron Muggleton (38th): aatsron@hotmail.co.uk

John Wildish (39/40th): Campbeltown, Argyll

Rick Dickinson (35th/36th): rick.patd@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Hamill (40th): michaelhamill658@gmail.com

Michael Hickman (43rd): michaelhickman5@gmail.com

Sandy Hopewell (Hon): sandyhopewell@live.co.uk

RESIGNATIONS

592358 **Peter Rich** (6th)

680936 **Brian Penfold** (28th)

R.I.P.

It is with sorrow that we have learned of the death of the following affiliated member:

3504263 **Reg Drinkwater**

and of the following ex-Ruislip Apprentice Clerks:

590813 **James Griffiths** (34R)

591345 **Wilfred Lumbard** (49R)

591319 **Joseph Cali-Warrington** (49R)

591424 **William R. Addison** (51R)

591513 **Ronald Knight** (52R)

THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE OUT THERE

You knew that there are still ex-Admin Apprentices out there who don't know about the Association. I met one out on the golf course – thought I recognised a badge, went to speak to him and conversation turned to history. So, I've met a member of the 9th Entry, got his 'phone number and passed it on to a Committee member. Hopefully, we may have a new member. Keep your eyes open, people!

David Marshall (23rd)

WEB LINK: THE NEW MEN

RAF Film No 68, a 1964 RAF film aimed at recruiting young men into the Air Force, can be found at:

http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=fd1_1322690339

Mostly Halton and Locking but a bit about Clerks and Suppliers at Hereford. Lovely "BBC English" voice-over, as well!

Tom Price-Rees (40th)

CYPRUS GROUP

The 9th meeting of the Cyprus Group was out of the established order and replaced our scheduled meeting of June 4th which was abandoned as it was the Cyprus Bank Holiday celebrating Katyklysmos. The meeting took place on Monday 16th July at the Kyrenia Restaurant on Avdimou Bay. Very hot, as is Cyprus at this time, but a welcome relief after the UK in June. We are actually experiencing the usual August humidity this month so one wonders what we are to expect in August. The restaurant was busy but very pleasant with a nice breeze coming off the sea to keep the temperature pleasant. There was a good turn-out for this meeting with five out of the six members present. Brian Granville couldn't make it owing to previous commitments but we are hopeful that he will make our next meeting in September at the same venue. Ian Dennis produced a DVD of the Cyprus Rugby Team win over Greece in May, Ben Casey looks as if he has recovered very well from his shoulder problem and both Dave Pyant and Phil Tobutt are looking very fit. We had a moments concern when some members of the local constabulary arrived but they were there for lunch so things carried on as normal. It's quite amazing how quickly 3 hours goes by when the company is good and the reflections on our past experiences remind us how lucky we have been. We don't talk a lot of business at our meetings but we did agree to meet again at Avdimou Bay on Monday 17th September at the usual time of 1230 – 1300.

Again, if anyone is in the area and wants to join us for a friendly BS session they will be more than welcome. Give me a call nearer the time just in case we have to change the date. I will make a stern effort to find out all the Cyprus Bank Holidays prior to sorting out the proposed dates for next year to try to avoid some of the problems we have had this year. I've attached a photograph of the attendees so you can see what a great bunch of ambassadors we are.

Ray Burrow (29th)



(COSTA BLANCA/MURCIA AREA)

(Reprint (reminder!) from Newsletter 90)

Any members living or holidaying around the Costa Blanca who would wish to join us for one of our bi-annual sessions, please contact Frank Carroll on (0034) 962800462 or notreve@shajah.org.uk; our next gathering will be towards the end of September 2012.

Frank Carroll (38th)

NEW!!

INAUGURATION OF THE DORSET BRANCH

The inaugural meeting of the Dorset Branch of the Admin App Assn took place in the Blue Boar Pub in Dear Hay Lane in Poole on Saturday 25th August 2012. Those attending were Peter Reed (30th), Tony Peters (34th), Mike Hamill (40th) and Shay Foley (46th). We had apologies from 3 other members. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in the Blue Boar to enable the other members to make contact but thereafter the location will be rotated around the county to ensure maximum coverage.

The next meeting will be in the Blue Boar on Saturday 24th November 2012 - 1230 for 1300. No need to book - just come along - but it would be nice if you let me know beforehand on 01202 631652 or heights73@talktalk.net.

Shay Foley (46th)

SOUTH WEST HERTS GROUP

The Group met for its quarterly "Blog" (beer,lager,oldies,grub) on Saturday 4th August at the Three Crowns pub, Bushey Heath, with a very good attendance for the time of year of 11 members. We were pleased to welcome a visiting member from Andover -John Gent (14th). Bentley Priory (our former abode) is now established as a gated residential area. Separate work is in progress on conversion of the old Battle of Britain HQ and Officers' Mess to a Museum. It is the intention for the SW Herts Group to visit the site, subject to approval, at a future date to coincide with one of our quarterly meets; all our members will be kept in the picture on arrangements.

Our next meet is on Saturday 3rd November 2012 at the Three Crowns pub.. We meet at 11.00 onwards with food available at 12.00. We look forward to meeting old friends and any Association members who may wish to visit on the day. Pub details and directions at www.three-crowns.com. For any queries please contact Trevor Moore on 01923 232686 or babstrevem@btinternet.com.

Trevor Moore (15th)



Photo (L to R): John Gent (14th), Jack Marshall (56th Ruislip), Tom Price-Rees (40th), Tony Parsons (19th), Haydn Illingworth (21st), Ken Roost (1st), Peter Ralph (46th), Gerry Singlehurst (15th), Trevor Moore (15th) (George Masson (29th) and David Marshall (23rd) arrived later)

TG17 WOS DON'T MAKE MISTAKES

(OR DO THEY?)

In 1970, at the age of 32, I was newly commissioned and posted to RAF Upwood supernumerary waiting to join the next Supply Officers' course. To pass the intervening days in a reasonably productive manner, I was appointed OC Training Support Flight, a small organisation comprising, from what I remember, not much more than just me. The job included being the PSI treasurer, handling money into and out of the account. To make this easy, I was given a cash book the size of a small snooker table in which to enter receipts on one side, and payments on the other. I also had the use of a cash box, a safe, a strange mechanical adding machine, and a van that came periodically with an RAF policeman to escort me and all this wealth to the bank. From time to time, the accounts WO would drop in for a chat to see how I was getting on. I am pretty sure he had decided it might be wise to keep an eye on what I was up to to make sure that no sprog flying officer - and a supplier at that - was going to cause him to lose sleep at nights. At the end of the month it was, apparently, traditional to make sure that the sum of the figures on one side of the cash book came to the same as the sum on the other side. (I expect the accountants among you will know the correct terminology). The first month end arrived and I had settled down with receipts, cheque book and other assorted bits of paper to make it all work but without much success. The accounts WO 'happened' to poke his head through the doorway as I was on my fifth or sixth attempt at making the figures agree. 'Everything all right, sir?' he said. 'Not really Mr (forgotten his name)' I replied.' I have done something wrong but I can't find out where'. He came round the desk to look over my shoulder and within seconds he said: 'I think you have made a mistake, sir. This entry is on the wrong side; it should be on the other. But don't worry about it, we all make mistakes. I even made one myself in 1953. I thought I had made a mistake but, in fact, I hadn't. I was mistaken!'

Peter Bullock (23rd)

ADAPTABLE SUPPLIERS

Following the editor's request for some articles for publication I have been thinking for some time now that Suppliers seem to be under-represented in the newsletter. Let's try and correct this, so here goes. I often look back on those days of trade training at RAF St. Athan and try to relate how those often dull and meaningless trade training lessons relate to the real world of the RAF. We can all recall the time of carrying out those fictitious transactions on a F 1640 Stock Record Form in order to calculate the hit and miss maximum and minimum establishments of stock items. And how we remember moving those little wooden bin boxes around on the shelf in the mockup stores in order to update an imaginary bin location system. Was this a useful precursor to prepare us for the real world? So what will be the Equippers role in the scheme of things, will we be at the forefront of the fighting force next to the preparation and maintenance of our strike and support aircraft!! - highly unlikely so far; but is it? Picture if you will back in 1959. The introduction of the Thor missile; the answer to the cold war in association with our American partners. These missiles were to be positioned on various sites down the east coast of England. They relied on two methods of propulsion, RPI fuel and Liquid oxygen, both highly combustible and required expert handling. Careful supervision was needed particularly on the transfer of the liquid oxygen from road tankers to the launch pad. Maintenance of stock levels were critical to compensate for loss due to the low boil-off point of liquid oxygen - a task essential to the operational readiness of the missile. This task was assigned to my section staff at RAF Driffild. So we were reasonably close to the front line, I guess! The Thor missile itself was flown in direct from the USA by Globe-master and Stratocruisers. Guess what, they required re-fueling for the return non-stop journey to the States. As it would appear that visiting US aircraft re-fueling did not fall in within RAF guidelines, so my Section became responsible for re-fueling these aircraft. So we became in effect a station re-fueling flight, a task normally carried out by the Station Engineering Wing. The Thor programme was short-lived replaced by the free-fall nuclear weapon and later by the Blue Steel deterrent carried by squadrons of Vulcans. On a visit to the States I visited the US Missile Museum at Cape Canaveral. As a matter of curiosity I asked one of the curators what was the fate of the Thor, he pointed to an impressive ICBM and said "You're looking at Thor now, it's the third stage rocket carrying the nuclear warhead". Small world I thought. Just two examples of a Supplier's work and how we can and did adapt to a changing and often challenging world in our RAF careers.

Stuart Robathan (2nd)

RAFAAA OLYMPIANS

The RAF Administrative Apprentices Association had two members involved in the London 2012 Olympic Games. Both Ken Roost (1st) and Dave Ainsworth (304th) had positions during this highly successful occasion. Both Ken and Dave had represented the Royal Air Force at athletics and continued their involvement long after their demobs.

Dave was given a contract as an event announcer and also to co-commentate on three "live" athletics events. The events were the Men's 20 Kilometres Walk, Men's 50 Kilometres Walk and Women's 20 Kilometres Walk, all of which were held along The Mall and Constitution Hill, passing iconic sights such as Buckingham Palace, Admiralty Arch and the Queen Victoria Memorial. It was estimated that up to fifty thousand spectators lined roads for these three races, and their experience was enhanced by large screens and "live" commentary. Said Dave, "The training was thorough. We were even told how to address Lord Coe if he were to enter our commentary box while we were working and what do do if a member of the Royal Family were to arrive at the venue

while on air. All major announcements, by Olympic tradition, are first spoken in French and I worked with an actor called Philippe who took care of that."

After leaving the RAF Dave worked for the Ford Motor Company in Public Affairs, during which time public speaking became a major part of his business, with particular reference to presentations which came in handy when clinching an Olympic role in the "Live Production Team".

During the Olympics, Enfield & Harringey Athletic Club staged "Olympic Friendship" walking races at Enfield's Queen Elizabeth Stadium, which was for Games visitors and spectators. Ken, a Life Member of the promoting club, was an Official at this meeting. In earlier days both Ken and Dave completed the famous London-to-Brighton Walk and also became members of the exclusive "Centurions" - a Club open only to those who've finished a 100 miles race walk in under 24 hours, which Dave achieved in 1974 and Ken both in 1975 and 1979.

Back to the Olympics; Dave said, "During the Games I met another 304th Apprentice, retired Warrant Officer Sid Day, who I'd not seen for 46 years since passing-out at Credenhill. We found time to chat about old times and mutual acquaintances - which is what always happens when old comrades meet up!"

(I hope you found time to chat about Association membership too, Dave! – See Dave Marshall's article above - Editor)

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

The current contact details for the Association President and Committee are as follows:

President: W J (Jim) Wilcox - 01452 863935 - noEMail

Chairman: B (Bryan) Schofield - 01933 443673 - chairman@rafadappassn.org

Vice Chairman & Secretary: R (Bob) Wise – 01993 212595
r.wise285@btinternet.com

Treasurer: G (Garry) Hoyland – 01594 860644 - accountant@rafadappassn.org

Newsletter Editor: P J (Pete) Ralph - 07901 551753 (preferred) or 01923 491785 - ralph82@ntlworld.com
82 Gammons Lane, Watford, Herts WD24 5HZ

Membership Secretary: A (Tony) Burchell – 01425 511378:
burchell.anthony@sky.com

Web Manager: A (Alan) Bell - 0033545 985074
administrator@rafadappassn.org

Social Secretary: B P (Bryan) Hoare – 01403 581324:
socialsecretary@rafadappassn.org

Archivist: M (Mike) Heritage – 01403 783360:
archivist@rafadappassn.org

Almoner: T (Tom) McKnight – 01302 831970:
almoner@rafadappassn.org

Golf Secretary: S (Steve) Sanders – 01527 878825:
steveksanders@googlegmail.com

Publicity Officer: R B (Bob) Danes – 01751 473790:
publicityofficer@rafadappassn.org

Bircham Newton Heritage Co-ord: W G (Dixie) Dean – 01728 747878
williamdean907@sky.com

NEWSLETTER

I am now **very** short of material (i.e. members' contributions) for future newsletters. Please let me have any articles for publication at ralph82@ntlworld.com or 82, Gammons Lane, Watford WD24 5HZ. If no contributions ensue, the Newsletter could be reduced to an (at most) two-page information sheet. Come on, guys – help me out here!!

Newsletter Editor

Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentices Association

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION 21st – 23rd JUNE 2013
WALTHAM ABBEY MARRIOTT HOTEL**

BOOKING FORM

Return to: Mr Bryan Hoare – 60 Wordsworth Place, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5PS

Tel: 01403 581324 or e-mail socialsecretary@rafadappasn.org

ALL BOOKING FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY 31st JANUARY 2013

From: - Name..... (Block Capitals please)
Number..... (Check letters not required) Entry.....
Address.....
.....Tel No.....

I will/will not* be attending the Reunion & AGM 2013 and will be **Accompanied/Unaccompanied***
by.....First Name. If attending, please indicate your requirements below:

OPTION A - ACCOMMODATION FOR FRIDAY & SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Fri Dinner, Sat Breakfast, Reunion Dinner and Sun Breakfast) **Rate £65.00 pppn. (Single Supp £15.00 pppn)**

Room Required - please tick
Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION B - ACCOMMODATION FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

(Includes Reunion Dinner and Sunday Breakfast) **Rate £65.00 pppn. (Single Supp £15.00 pppn)**

Room Required - please tick
Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

OPTION C - REUNION DINNER ONLY (Saturday Evening) (£25.00 p.p.)

Number Attending _____ **DINNER ONLY. (PLEASE PAY THE TREASURER AT THE A.G.M.)**

THERE IS ALSO AN OPTION TO STAY FOR THE COMPLETE WEEKEND

(As per Option A plus accommodation Sun night, Sun Dinner and Mon Breakfast)

Room Required - please tick
Double Room _____ Twin Room _____ Single Room _____

REUNION DINNER SATURDAY EVENING

If you would like to sit at a Table with colleagues please indicate below and we will endeavour to accommodate you

.....

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS.....Disabilities, Dietary, etc

LADIES OUTING - SATURDAY AFTERNOON – YES**/NO - (please advise) - £5.00 per lady

** Please include £5 cheque dated 18 June 2013 with the Booking Form

BURNETT TROPHY GOLF – FRIDAY 21ST JUNE - **PLAY/NOT PLAY - (please advise)**
LADIES' TROPHY - **PLAY/NOT PLAY - (please advise)**

Please note this is a Booking Form and we will book your room upon receipt of this form

N.B. ALL HOTELS HAVE NOW IMPOSED A CANCELLATION CHARGE AS DETAILED BELOW:

Over 90 days 10%; 90 to 61 days 25%; 60 to 30 days 40%; 29 to 10 days 60%;
9 to 3 days 80%; 2 days to night of 98 %

Member's Signature..... Date

It is advisable to send in your booking form as soon as possible as we cannot reserve the entire Hotel and there could be limitations on accommodation

**MINUTES OF THE 15TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION
HELD ON SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 2012 AT THE MARRIOTT HOTEL PRESTON**

Committee

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Post</u>
Present:	W J Wilcox	5th	President
	B Schofield	33rd	Chairman
	G Hoyland	330th	Treasurer
	P J Ralph	46th	Newsletter Editor Designate
	M Heritage	11th	Regional Focal Point Rep & Archivist
	A Burchell	38th	Membership Secretary
	T McKnight	318th	Almoner
	A Bell	29th	Web Site Manager
	R B Danes	33rd	Publicity Officer
	S Sanders	307th	Golf Secretary
	B Wise	4th	Secretary
	B Hoare	307th	Social Secretary

Members Present (in Entry order):

1st: T Davies, J Green, J Robinson, K Roost. **4th:** P Bullick, B Dixon, D Kirby. **5th:** D Burlingham, B Huggins. P Pendlebury. **14th:** B McEwen, T Richards. **16th:** B Mabbott. **17th:** B Blundell, B Bullivant, R Holman, D Valentine, G Wright. **18th:** A Key. **19th:** A Cowan, J Evans, D Hobden, J Waltham. **23rd:** P Bullock, J Reynolds, B Shepherd. **24th:** D Bullied. **27th:** A Martin. **29th:** R Burrow, B Croucher, D Davies, G Masson, R Pipe, H Trumbell. **30th:** B Philpott. P Reed, P Williamson. **32nd:** M Wilkinson. **33rd:** G Goddard, **34th:** K Hendry, M Needham, R Orr. **35th:** R Dickinson. **36th:** B DeVeccis, P Holland, L Porter, K Rossiter. **38th:** P Dyer, M Gunning, D Linney, J Nash, K Williams. **40th:** D Dean. **42nd:** R Hedinburgh, B Hoggarth. **44th:** B Morrison. **45th:** I Hunter. **46th:** S Foley. **305th:** T Hammonds. **307th:** A Thomson. (Total attendance 73)

ITEM 1 – Opening of the Meeting by the Association Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting at 14.00 hrs and welcomed members to the 15th Association AGM, in particular those members who are attending for the first time. He thanked all who had travelled long distances, particularly from overseas. He and the Committee hoped they would all enjoy the weekend. He then handed over to the Almoner.

The Almoner asked: Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Fellow Committee Members and Members "Please stand to honour the memory of those members who have died since our last Annual General Meeting" - Desmond Hitch 42nd, Jack Leach 14th, Brian Moss 17th, Jeff Homersley 53rd (R), Clive Woodin 17th, Milton (Andy) Anderson 2nd, Derek Gould 23rd, Brian Miller 1st, Stuart Longbottom 42nd, Ken Cameron 4th, Walter Prior Affiliated, Mrs Lillian Walklett Honorary, David Birt 42nd and Dave Hill 35th. He continued; please also think of members and their families who are unwell at this time and those members who have been prevented from attending the reunion because of ill health.

In respect of Ken Cameron, he wished to say that since joining the Association in 2001 and taking on the unenviable task of Newsletter Editor, Ken and his wife Kath have tirelessly supported the Association in every way. As a member of the Committee, he dedicated many hours to the Association business and, in particular, ensuring that all members received a Newsletter on time. We thank Ken for his counsel and support, he has been an outstanding servant to the Association and a good friend to all Committee members, we will miss him.

ITEM 2 – Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following members (in Entry Order): **1st:** P Evans, M M Jeffrey, S Mold. **2nd:** S Cliff. **4th,** J Young. **9th:** J Williamson. **11th:** D Gibson, J D D Sutton. **13th:** J White. **14th:** J Dodd, T Moore. **16th:** P Baker, G Singlehurst. **17th:** B Stott. **18th** J Summers **19th:** T Parsons. **20th:** P Follett. **24th:** M Griffiths, T Huntley. **33rd:** A Du Feu. **34th:** C Morgan. **38th:** M Day, A Smith. **40th:** P Charnell. **42nd:** G Ash, P Bailey. **Also:** R Drinkwater (Aff), M Burchell, T Perry and T Wilkinson

ITEM 3 – Minutes of the 14th AGM

The Chairman stated that the minutes of the 14th AGM, held at the Northampton Marriott on 18th June 2011, had been circulated with the August 2011 Newsletter and are therefore taken as read. Proposed Ben Croucher (29th) seconded Don Davies (29th) that the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried.

ITEM 4 – Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 14th AGM

There were no matters arising that are not covered later in this meeting.

ITEM 5 – Association Accounts for FY ending 31st March 2012

The Treasurer stated that copies of the audited Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet had been distributed to the members attending.

These accounts have been audited by John Waltham and there were no formal comments from the Auditor. He then explained details from the accounts; in the Income and Expenditure Account, the excess of income over expenditure has shown an increase from £669.73 to £1,618.88. However, in 2011 there was a grant of £1,500.00 reserved for the Hendon Museum Project, which is the main reason for the lower figure in 2011. On the income side, there were no major changes: Subscriptions were down slightly, as was income from the sale of ties & badges. Bank interest & T-Plus commission income increased, again slightly. There was no income from Donations to the Association as all donations received were paid into the NMA account.

On the expenditure side: Costs for stationery, printing, office equipment, telephone calls and newsletter printing have all fallen. Travel costs have increased, due mainly to meetings for the NMA Project and next year's AGM/Reunion.

Up to 31 March 2012, there was a total of just over £4,000 donated to the NMA Project and expenditure of over £3,000 leaving a balance of nearly £960.00, which has been reserved in the Balance Sheet. As at today the total income into the NMA project is around £4,640 and expenditure £6,050 leaving just over £1,400 still to be found. Overall, the Association remains on a sound financial footing.

There were again a number of late payers resulting in 71 needing one reminder to pay (last year 33) and 21 needing 2 reminders to pay (last year 24). This resulted in a loss of 23 members either who resigned or whose membership has now lapsed (last year 13). There is no problem with members paying for more than one year at a time.

Proposed by Ian Hunter (45th), Seconded by Don Davies (29th) that the accounts are accepted as presented. Carried.

ITEM 6 – Annual Membership Fees for 2012

The Treasurer stated that the Association remains on a sound footing and he considered it unnecessary to alter the Annual Membership Fee and so proposed it be retained at £10.00. The proposal was seconded by Dixie Dean (40th) Carried.

ITEM 7 – Reports for Period 1st June 2010 to 31st May 2011 from Committee Members

a. Chairman.

Firstly, he thanked our President and the Committee for their continuing dedication and hard work on behalf of the Association over the last year and in particular, for all the help and support they have given to him. Before starting the individual reports, he invited our Association President to say a few words.

The President thanked the members for voting him as their Life President and then informed them that he is continuing to trace ex Apprentices and encourage them to enlist as members.

The Chairman then continued, stating, I am sure you will understand I have spent a lot of my time last year ensuring that the NMA Project would be completed by this Reunion. In the coming months I will now be able to concentrate more on our other projects.

It was disappointing to see so many former members failing to renew their subscription at the end of last year, particularly as 9 of the 17 were members were from the 300 series entries. The future of our Association lies in the hands of the later entries and it would be a great pity if we continued to lose members at such a high rate.

This is your Association and if you feel that we the Committee can improve the way in which we administer the Association's affairs on your behalf, please do tell us; any comments or criticism, constructive or otherwise, are welcome. Furthermore, do we meet your expectations of the Association, do you like the format, venues' ladies outing etc at the AGM and Annual Reunion, and are there any other activities that you would like to see the Association involved with? If so please let us know, if not over this weekend, our contact details were in the February Newsletter.

b. Membership Secretary.

Tony Burchell reported that membership wise it has not been a particularly good year. During this year, we had 20 new full members joining plus 2 Friends of the Association and 5 Honorary members. Of the 20 full members, 10 were ex Ruislip, one reinstated and one rejoining. There had unfortunately been 14 deaths, 7 resignations and 17 lapsed members. Although our membership had declined over the year, we are constantly on the look-out for new members. Current membership comprises of 576 full members, 28 honorary, 3 Friends and 3 Affiliated; a total of 610

c. Newsletter Editor.

The Chairman introduced Peter Ralph to the meeting and stated that whilst Peter has not yet been elected as Newsletter Editor, he very quickly volunteered to step into appointment following the untimely passing of Ken Cameron. The Chairman was sure you would all agree with him that Peter has done a superb job with the last 3 newsletters; He thanked him for all his time and hard work and invited him to present the editor's report. The editor stated that as he was the "spare tyre" on the committee and he volunteered to temporarily take over the duties of Newsletter Editor. Subject to the agreement of this Annual General Meeting, he is perfectly willing to assume the post permanently. Newsletters 88/89 and 90 were issued successfully, with great help from the Chairman, to whom he offered thanks. He requested that members continue to send in items for the newsletter.

d. Social Secretary.

The Social Secretary stated that the feedback from the Northampton Reunion was all good, especially the half price drinks.

With regard to the reunion booking form: - it clearly states that 91 days prior to the reunion cancellations are down to the applicant to contact the Hotel. It is then down to the Hotel with regard to fees to be paid, which is also on the form. We as an Association advocate that individuals take out insurance against any possible eventualities with regard illness etc which necessitates a cancellation. So far the Hotels have been more than generous with regard to this problem.

2013 Reunion: This is being held at Waltham Abbey Marriott Hotel 21st – 23rd June 2013 at a cost of: - £65 per person per night 2 sharing. £80 per person per night single.

Bar Prices:

Draught Beers – From £1.70 per pint (50% Discount Agreed)

Bottled Beers – From £3.80 per bottle

Wine – From £5.95 per glass

Spirits & Liqueurs – From £3.50 per 35ml

Fruit Juice – From £1.55 per bottle/unit

Soft Drinks – From £2.35 per bottle/unit

e. Regional Focal Point Representatives Coordinator

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Association has a number of very well established Regional Groups; namely SW Herts, Gloucester, Cyprus, Spain and not forgetting the Wynstrode Farm Barbeque, all who meet on a regular basis and he is sure you have seen their reports in the Newsletters. These Groups are now entirely self sufficient and each has its own coordinator and he thank them for their work and commitment. As these Groups are well established, submit their own reports and do not require Committee involvement, the decision was made to relinquish the Committee appointment of Regional Rep Coordinator. The Committee has recently been made aware of the possibility of a Dorset Group being formed. The Regional Rep stated that during the year he had only 2 requests for assistance, as the majority of get-togethers on a regional basis do not need any help. He thanked the regulars for their work and it had been a pleasure, together with other members of the Committee, to attend the 10th anniversary of Trevor Moore's function at SW Herts. He continued, you would all be familiar with the other meetings through entries in the newsletter, even though some only had a few attendees. He is himself holding a BBQ on 12 August. He thanked all those that volunteered to be a local rep and hoped they will continue to try to bring members together even though the numbers may be minimal. He stated he would still be available as the Archivist.

f. Publicity Officer.

Bob Danes said that as usual he had little to say. He had continued advertising in journals such as RAF News, Air Mail and the British Legion Magazine. He stated he had made a contact at Marham and was going to put entries in local papers there. He did wonder whether a PRO post was needed, the subject will be discussed at the next Committee meeting. Bob Danes stated that his input in the newsletter regarding Honours and Awards had received the usual no replies. Surely, some of us had been awarded something during our careers. Please let him know of any awards so the records can be updated.

g. Almoner.

Tom McKnight stated that, In addition to remembering those members that had passed away, mentioned at the opening of this meeting, it was also the duty of the Almoner to recognise, on behalf of the Association, the deaths of member's wives and to send a Condolence Card to the member on behalf of the Association. Since our last reunion, John Corrin 38th sadly lost his wife Nancy.

Get well cards had been forwarded to seven Association members, Honorary members and Members wives. Six "thinking of you" cards had been sent to Association members suffering particularly difficult times in their lives as recognition that they are not alone and their fellow Association members were remembering them in their thoughts. One affiliated member, who is held in high esteem by the Association, Reg Drinkwater, has been taken into a care home where he is expected to remain for some time. His wife Margaret is seriously ill in Gloucester Royal Infirmary. As you will all know, Reg has serious mobility problems and that, coupled with the stress brought on by his wife's illness, has led to him no longer being able to cope at home on his own. Our thoughts are with him at this difficult time. (Secretary's Note: Unfortunately Reg died on 14th June). These were the only ones notified to him but he is sure that there are other members out there who have been ill or who have experienced difficult times during the year but the information was not notified to either him or a fellow committee member. He asked that if you do hear of any occasion where you feel a card should be sent, please do get in touch, his contact details, as are all the other committee members, is on the Association website and in addition, in the February Newsletter. Offers of Honorary Association membership had been sent to the widows of those members that had passed away during the year and five: Jan Hitch, Doreen Leach, Ann Gould, Margaret Miller and Kathleen Cameron have accepted the offer and joined us in the Association as Honorary members.

h. Golf Secretary.

Steve Sanders reported that the Reunion Match played on 15th June at Preston had only 4 players following a problem with Dress Code at the event. One of the four was Madge a lady participant and with only three males playing it was decided that the Burnett Shield would not be played for at Preston but would now be at Mowsbury in July. With only one lady, playing at Preston the Ladies Burnett Shield was not played for this year. He continued that the annual match against the Aircraft Apprentices for the Don Fisher trophy had been booked for Mowsbury Golf Club (Bedford) for Wednesday 18th July 2012 with tees starting at 11.00. Currently we have 3 players for Mowsbury which is half the number we played with last year. He was hoping that additional players can be found to play but if this is true then it will only be one or maybe two. Following this match, he will be discussing with the Aircraft Apprentices Committee their feelings towards continuing with the event. He concluded that the Golf Section is now in real need of new blood and with the lack of new members joining the Administrative Apprentices Association then there is a real possibility of it closing.

i. Archivist.

Mike Heritage said that he continued to receive some items for the records, which go to the Web Manager or are placed in Entry folders. We are still short of documents etc for the earlier entries and some of the documents are not of sufficient standard for photo-copying, but can still be seen in the folder. He asked that members still kept them coming. If any reunions are being held and members would like to have the folders, please ask for them and he will try to get them to the organiser. Most of the items are now on the website.

k. Web Site Manager. The Chairman stated that Alan Bell would make his report and a presentation at a later stage of the meeting (see Item 13 below).

ITEM 8 – Hendon Museum Project Progress Report

Toblerone - The Chairman stated that recent discussions with Matt George, Head of Design at the RAF Museum, have indicated that they will soon be in a position to begin the work on our toblerone display. Therefore, we now need to arrange a meeting, on a date suitable to us all, at the Museum with Matt, Mike H and myself to discuss the layout and exactly which photographs etc should be on the toblerone. To this end, Mike and he plan to spend a day or so together in the very near future to agree our proposed layout of the toblerone, decide which photographs should be included and write the appropriate scripts before we take the package to the Museum.

Albums - In the Entry Lists, the Chairman holds there are currently 1,365 Service numbers against which we hold no surname. He is currently in contact with the Head of Branch at DCOS Cranwell and, hopefully, it is anticipated that during July he will visit Cranwell to obtain these missing details. However due to the requirements of the Data Protection Act, the information they are able to provide may be considerably less than we would wish for and he anticipates all that we may get are number, surname and initials.

ITEM 9 - Admin App Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum - Progress Report and Means of Funding

The Chairman stated that as agreed by members all at last year's AGM, the memorial commemorating all who trained as Administrative Apprentices and Apprentice Clerks between 1925 and 1973 is now in place at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas. He hoped some of the members might have had the opportunity to visit the NMA en route to this reunion. He continued; because of a forecast increase in costs, the Committee made the decision to proceed with the manufacture and installation of the memorial without further delay: We have since found out that the NMA have increased their costs by 50% and that the cost of the materials supplied to the Stonemason has increased by 4%. If we had not proceeded when we did, this would have meant we would have had to raise a further £700.

Thanks to the generosity of all of you all, the former Apprentice Clerks and in many cases their surviving families, the appeals for funding have raised approximately £4,500 so far. We were unsuccessful in our bids for funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund and to the Lafarge Landfill Communities Fund. Therefore, the need for funds still exists, so I invite you to continue to make donations. (Secretary's Note: As a result of donations made at the Reunion and since, sufficient funds have now been raised to cover the cost of the memorial). A dedication ceremony has yet to be arranged and once it has, an invitation will be extended to every member of the Association and to non-members who have donated to the memorial.

ITEM 10 – Resolutions

There were no resolutions put before this Annual General Meeting.

ITEM 11 – Election of Association Committee 2012/2013

The Chairman stated that until the latest Newsletter, the appeal for more Committee members in recent Newsletters had proved fruitless. However, there is now one member who has volunteered to act in a supporting role to the Committee. Committee appointments are for one year, with the exception of the Secretary and Treasurer, which are for 3 years, and these two are due for election next year. The remaining eight Committee posts are all to be elected today. The current Committee have, so far, all indicated their willingness to serve on the Committee for one more year; but some not beyond that. However, for the administration of the Association to continue in its present manner and for the Association to continue in the long term, it is essential that we always have at least ten Committee members and as was proven with the loss of Ken Cameron, some cover for existing members. Therefore, there is a vital need for more volunteers to join the Committee. Can you give your Association a few hours a month as a Committee member and attend the AGMs? The Committee also meet twice yearly, currently at Boddington near Cheltenham, and whilst attendance at these meetings is always desirable, it is not essential. He stated he did hold a list of volunteers who expressed their willingness to serve on the Committee when they first joined the Association, but very few names on the list actually attend the AGM. There were no volunteers from the floor so the Committee was voted in on block

Chairman	Bryan Schofield
Vice Chairman	Bob Wise
Treasurer	Garry Hoyland
Secretary	Bob Wise
Archivist	Mike Heritage
Membership Secretary	Tony Burchell
Website Manager	Alan Bell
Publicity Officer	Bob Danes
Social Secretary	Bryan Hoare
Golf Secretary	Steve Sanders
Newsletter Editor	Peter Ralph
Almoner	Tom McKnight

No formal vote was taken - carried by acclamation!

ITEM 12 – Cenotaph Remembrance Parade 2012

The Association will ask for 6 tickets for the Remembrance parade and the Chairman asked for names of members who would be interested. Four 29th Entry members, Ray Barrow, Ben Croucher, Don Davies and George Masson put their names forward.

ITEM 13 – Any other business.

Website Manager's Report

The website manager stated that the site continues to receive around 200 visitors per day and there is little doubt it serves not only us, but is a useful source of historical information to many researching various aspects of RAF service. In the last year, there has been a marked increase in the number of enquiries from individuals who served in, or those with relatives who served, in the RAF and who undertook some form of training at one of our training units, notably Ruislip and Hereford. A number of interesting photos of Hereford in particular have been donated by members of the public. He has decided to place these images on the site rather than refuse to use them. Enquiries range from those seeking information, perhaps about a lost National Service friend or a deceased parent, even in one case someone asking where she could find out more about a Beaufighter that rumour has it, predated the spitfire gate guard at Hereford.

Last year, having upgraded his computer from Windows XP to Windows 7, he discovered that the web hosting software he used to maintain the site was not compatible with Windows 7 operating system. Yahoo is not apparently interested in further developing their software to make it compatible. After discussions with the Chairman, the Association paid for a new copy of Windows XP, which he now runs from a second computer without problems. The Website has been revamped and all pages have been redesigned in the new blue livery and more stylish logo. In conclusion, the Website Manager thanked those who were still digging out photos for publication on the site or who contribute in other ways by sending him useful input. He is particularly grateful to Dixie Dean who continues to act as his de-facto proof reader and self-styled nit-picker, thereby keeping him on his toes. The Guest book page of the site has been revamped to exclude advertising. Alan then gave a pictorial presentation of comic cartoons- too lighten up the meeting.

The Chairman then thanked Alan for all the hard work that he has done and continues to undertaken on the web site.

ITEM 14 – Date and Venue of next AGM

The 2013 AGM and Reunion will be held at the Marriott Hotel, Waltham Abbey over the weekend of 21/22/23 June 2013

**The Chairman closed the 15th Annual General Meeting of the
Royal Air Force Administrative Apprentice Association at 15.45 pm.**

**ROYAL AIR FORCE
ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICE
ASSOCIATION**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT
31 MARCH 2012**

<u>2011</u>	<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2012</u>
£3,216.56	Cash at Bank	£2,231.80	£5,550.00	Subscriptions 2011	£5,410.00
£6,003.42	Deposit Account	£8,501.52	£1,500.00	Hendon Museum Project Reserve	£1,550.00
£5,004.00	High Interest Bond	£5,016.12		NMA Project Reserve	£959.68
£54.36	Stock of Ties	£417.96			
£89.50	Stock of Badges/Wheels	£189.00			
£500.00	Deposit 2011 Re-Union				
	Deposit 2012 Re-Union	£500.00			
	Deposit 2013 Re-Union	£500.00			
£14,867.84		£17,356.40	£7,817.84	Capital Account	£9,436.72
			£14,867.84		£17,356.40

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT AS AT
31 MARCH 2012**

<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>		<u>2012</u>
£7,148.11	Balance as at 1st April 2011	£7,817.84	£0.00	Excess - Expenditure over Income	£0.00
£669.73	Surplus - Income over Expenditure	£1,618.88	£7,817.84	Balance as at 31st March 2012	£9,436.72
£7,817.84		£9,436.72	£7,817.84		£9,436.72

I certify that I have examined all relevant financial documents of the RAF Administrative Apprentice Association. In my view the Income & Expenditure Account for the period ended 31st March 2012 is an accurate summary of the financial transactions that took place during that period and the Balance Sheet is a true representation of the Associations financial position as at 31st March 2012.

J Waltham

Date: _____

**ROYAL AIR FORCE
ADMINISTRATIVE APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION**

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

<u>2011</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2012</u>
£6,210.00	Subscriptions (2011)	£5,550.00	£244.95	Net Postage	£245.03
	2011 received 2011/2012	<u>£395.00</u>	£5,945.00	Stationery	£53.08
			£81.54	Printing	£32.68
	Ties:		£74.04	Office Equipment	£29.99
	Opening stock	£54.36	£362.64	Telephone	£99.79
	Plus purchases	<u>£399.84</u>	£1,051.50	Travel Expenses	£1,586.60
		£454.20	£18.00	Publicity	£0.00
	Less closing stock	<u>£417.96</u>	£50.00	Buffets	£53.00
	Net cost	£36.24	£120.00	Donations - RAF Benevolent Fund	£140.00
	Sales	<u>£42.00</u>	£1,906.37	Newsletter Printing - RBLI	£1,634.43
£8.36	Surplus on sales		£0.00	Bank Charges	£6.00
	Badges/Wheels:		£120.00	Web Site Costs	£188.95
	Opening Stock	£89.50	£15.00	Suspense - Subscriptions	£26.00
	Plus Purchases	<u>£120.50</u>	£0.00	NMA Project Costs	£3,052.00
		£210.00	£0.00	Bircham Newton Project	£120.00
	Less closing stock	<u>£189.00</u>	£151.20	Hendon Museum Project	£0.00
	Net cost	£21.00	£1,500.00	Expenditure	£0.00
	Sales	<u>£31.00</u>		Hendon Museum Project Additional Reserve	£50.00
	Surplus on sales		£10.00	NMA Project Reserve	£959.68
£32.00	Bank account interest	£19.37	£230.00	<u>2011 Re-Union</u>	
£11.38	Donations	£0.00	<u>£200.00</u>	Coach	£225.00
£246.75	T-Plus Commission	£42.80	£30.00	Less Passenger Receipts	<u>£155.00</u>
£25.36	Hendon Museum Project Donations	£50.00	£50.00	Hotel Bill	£70.00
£12.28	Suspense - Subscriptions	£26.00	£0.00	Less No Shows	£126.00
£15.00	Membership Lists	£1.50	£0.00	Less Part Payment	£0.00
£3.00	NMA Project Donations	£4,011.68	<u>£16.00</u>	Bouquet	<u>£20.00</u>
			£96.00	Total Cost	<u>£216.00</u>
	Excess Expenditure Over Income		<u>£96.00</u>	Excess Income Over Expenditure	
	to Capital Account	£0.00	£669.73	to Capital Account	<u>£1,618.88</u>
<u>£6,564.13</u>		<u>£10,112.11</u>	<u>£6,564.13</u>		<u>£10,112.11</u>