



The Apprentice Prayer

Teach us good Lord, to be thankful
For all the good times we had,
The skills we have learned,
The friendships we have shared
And the companionship we have enjoyed.
May all who have served the apprenticeship of the Wheel
Be ever mindful of the needs of one another.

Amen

Editor's Notes

Hello to you all.

Well, I never thought back in those days at Locking that I might be one day editing an old boys newsletter. But here I am, slightly amazed, but here!

At first I was a bit lukewarm about the association, but having attending two reunions and found it to be really great to meet some of my entry again, I am surprised I hesitated. Now I am glad to do my bit for the association.

I will try to keep the newsletter interesting but mostly I need your input. Don't be shy.

In this issue is the tale of Stan Murray's RAF movements and how the RAF managed to lose him twice. The RAF only lost me once and it was a disconcerting experience to be posted somewhere and turn up there only to be asked 'Why are you here?' Read on and find out how Stan felt!

We also have a piece that should remind you all about how it was to be a junior entry.

Thanks

My thanks go to Colin Ingram for the superb job done over the last few years and for providing the history of the newsletter. We are all in his debt.



LAA Newsletter

Serial 42

July 2005

Highlights in this Issue

- EDITORS NOTE
- MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- CONTESTS
- JOKES
- MOVEMENTS
- A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SPROG
- OBITUARY
- COMMITTEE LIST
- FORMS

STANDING ORDER MANDATE									
To Bank									
Postal Address									
Bank		Branch Title (not address)		Sorting Code Number					
H S B C		WESTON-SUPER-MARE		40 - 46 -				18	
Please pay									
Beneficiary's Name		Account Number		Quoting Reference					
RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION		4 1 3 6 8 7 7							
Amount		Amount in words							
£									
Date of first payment		And thereafter every		Due date and frequency		until further notice in writing or		Date of last payment and debit my/our account accordingly	
commencing									
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITING MANDATES									
IN FAVOUR OF:		RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION		Account to be debited		Account Number			
UNDER REFERENCE No.									
Special instructions									
Signature(s)									
Date									
Note: The bank will not undertake to									
a) make reference to Value Added Tax or pay a stated sum plus V.A.T., or other indeterminate element.									
b) advise remitter's address to beneficiary. c) advise beneficiary of inability to pay d) request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt.									
e) accept instructions to pay as soon after the specified date as there are funds to meet the payment, if funds are not available on the specified date.									

Application for membership of the
Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

Name..... Serving member HM forces. Yes/No

Address..... Entry Number.....
.....
.....

Post Code.....

Telephone No.

E-Mail Address

Name for Identity Badge.....Membership Fee:(£10.00)

Do you require an LAA tie? (Cost £7.50 per tie - max 2 ties) (Qty)£.....

(Please make cheques payable to: -
Locking Apprentice Association)

Total Enclosed £.....

Do you object to your details being disclosed to other organisations? Yes/No

Return this form together with your remittance to: -

Mr A. Horry (RAFLAA Treasurer)
Hillside Cottage
Kewstoke Road,
Kewstoke,
Weston-super-Mare
North Somerset. BS22 9YD
Tel. No. 01934 628383
e-mail horrycorp@aol.com

For Committee use

Comments

Membership Paid/...../.....
Database Updated/...../.....
Acknowledged/...../.....
Tie/...../.....
Badge/...../.....

**Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the RAF
Locking Apprentice Association**

**Held at Daunceys Hotel Weston-Super-Mare on Saturday
23rd April 2005 at 13.30 Hrs**

Present: -

Air Cdre M Palmer	91 st	President
Tiny Kuhle	87 th	Chairman
Dave Gunby	72 nd	Secretary
Tony Horry	76 th	Treasurer
John Farmer	77 th	Membership Secretary
Charles Hart	71 st	AA Rep
Jo Holroyd	85 th	Service Rep
Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
Graham Beeston	209 th	Craft Rep
Colin Ingram	88 th	Newsletter Editor

Apologies: -

Vic Gibbs	88 th	General Rep
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The Chairman opened the meeting with a reading of the Apprentice Prayer, and then introduced the President.

The president presented the RAFLAA Trophy, a framed citation and a cheque for £50 to Mr Chris Atkins (Civilian Instructor at No1 Radio School). The Citation was read out.

The president then commenced his address by thanking everyone for coming and invited applause for the Committee as thanks for the work they had done during the past year.

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

All comments, contributions, ideas and feedback to the newsletter editor:

Chris Tett
Tele: 01908 583047
Mob: 07796 428663
45 Chapel Street
Woburn Sands
Milton Keynes
Bucks
MK17 8PQ
Chris.tett@tesco.net

Soft copy preferred!

Members wishing to put propositions to the AGM or propose amendments to the Constitution should submit them to the Secretary:

Dave Gunby
Tele: 01522 525484
23 Toynton Close
Gregg Hall Estate
Lincoln
Lincolnshire
LN6 8AL
dpgraf72@btinternet.com

Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Road Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 07	88 th
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Road Havant PO9 2UT	(023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 graham@mapleOak.co.uk	Sep 08	209 th
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle Weston Super Mare BS22 9BZ	(01934) 417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 08	109 th
Newsletter Editor	Chris Tett	45 Chapel Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8PG	(01908) 583047 chris.tett@tesco.net	Sep 08	92 nd

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RAFLAA COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election Due	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	"Tiny" Kühle	22 Tavistock Close Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Close Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 dpgraf72@btintern.et.com	April 06	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston super Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Mar 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Road Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Mar 06	77 th
Service Rep	Rick Atkinson	Gateway Cottage 1 Lake Walk Adderbury Oxon OX17 3PF	(01295) 812972 rick-jacky@lakewalk.wanadoo.co.uk	Sep 08	91 st
AA Rep	Pete Crowe	14 Hillview Road Weston-super-Mare N.Somerset BS23 3HS	(01934) 412178 peter@petercrowe.co.uk	Sep 08	95 th

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attended. (The bill was a long time coming and our cheques were a long time being cashed).

The Association had been invited to the dedication of a window at RAF Halton church (Admin Apprentices). The Chairman would have attended but ill health at the last minute prevented him or a replacement being there. The Chairman went on to suggest that RAFLAA might like to consider having a window in the church along with the other apprentice organisations. The idea would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

The Chairman announced the donation of a superhet receiver to the memorabilia cabinet at RAFA Club Weston. Richard Putnham (79th) was the donor and sight of the set caused much interest.

The Chairman invited the Treasurer to present his report.

ITEM 3 Treasurer's Report 23rd APRIL 2005.

I hope that each of you have sight of a copy of the Accounts and balance sheet. I have highlighted the following points on the back of the sheet. The full accounts are here should anyone wish to see them.

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The meeting was asked to remember Bert Davies (79th) and John Aston (83rd) who had passed away during the year. Mr Doug Manocha (83rd) read an Obituary to John.

The President presented Honorary Life Membership Certificates to Joe Holroyd and Charles Hart both of whom were retiring from the Committee after 10 years service. Joe and Charles acknowledged the presentation and said that although they were leaving the Committee they would always be available to help the Association if needed.

The president presented a No 1 Radio School Plaque to the manager of Daunceys Hotel to commemorate the association which had developed between the RAFLAA and also individual entries over recent years. The manager of the hotel expressed his thanks and hoped to see many of us again.

ITEM 1 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Stan Branch (96th), Roger Viller (79th), Vic Gibbs (88th) and Mike Horlock (83rd).

ITEM 2 Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support over the year. He mentioned the vacancies on the Committee, which would be discussed later, and also the introduction of the 'Golden Entry' item.

The Chairman commented on the invitation to the No1 RS annual lunch in November 2004 that both he and the secretary

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John will not only be sadly missed by his family, but by those members of the 83rd entry who were fortunate enough to renew their friendship with him in the last two or three years.

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After the sale of the shop, John trained as a driving instructor, and taught driving for some 20 odd years. He married Sue in July 1972 and their son Paul was born in 1976.

John was a model aircraft enthusiast, building and flying radio controlled planes, a hobby that was over-taken by golf, which he enjoyed playing, though not competitively.

In 1987 he obtained his private pilot's licence flying Piper Cherokees out of White Waltham airfield near Maidenhead. John was a great 'DIY-er', totally refurbishing two houses, and was a self-taught computer buff.

In 1997 John and Sue bought a village shop and post office in Langton Matravers near Swanage which they ran for four years, but the physical side of it got too much after John developed arthritis in both knees and ended up having two total knee replacements.

Having sold the shop, they moved into a bungalow at Gillingham where John put in a new kitchen and landscaped the garden.

He took up golf again but then became ill two years ago, so walking around a golf course was too much. He had successful chemotherapy treatment for non-Hodgkins Lymphoma but once the treatment for that was finished, the thyroid tumour became evident; this one he couldn't beat and he died in Southampton Hospital on 25th November 2004.

Overheads

The DIRECT EXPENSES have been minimal, so we move to OVERHEADS

Travelling expenses remains our largest expenditure to cover the allowance made to members travelling to Committee meetings or representing the Association at other events.

Printing

This is mainly to cover the cost of printing the hard copies of the three newsletters and the membership lists published during the year. The average number now being printed is 218 – the rest at sent by e-mail.

Coupled with the printing costs is the cost of postage at £377.47.

Stationery includes the consumables e.g. labels, envelopes etc, and ink cartridges and toner as required to administer the Association. Newsletter envelopes and toner are costed as part of the Newsletter.

Balance

The Balance of the Accounts stands at £8,598.40 an increase from 2004 of £615.31

The Accounts have been Audited and the Auditor is satisfied that the Profit & Loss Account gives a true and fair view of trading for the year. The Balance sheet is an accurate reflection of the state of the Associations affairs at 31st January 2005.

INCOME (SALES)

Income from Membership remains steady compared with last year. John Farmer will give details on the movement regarding the membership.

Included within the Sales of ties, etc we now have coasters for sale. We purchased 100 in time for the last AGM and we have some for sale to-day at £1.50 each.

AGM - 2004

The income for the AGM held in 2004 at RAF Cosford with a dinner at the Moat House Hotel, Telford was £1641.60 and the total expenditure of the event (lunch, Dinner, wine and disco) was £1897.72. After taking into account a refund of £171.60 negotiated by the Secretary, the expenditure of the event upon the Association was £256.12.

The accounts also show £200.00 to Dauncey's Hotel for to-day's event.

Purchases

Under Purchases you will note: Donations of £100 – These are made up of donations made to RAFA (Weston-s-Mare) and Flowerdown House for hosting our Committee meetings throughout the year. £25 was also donated to Papworth Hospital in memory of Bert Davies.

Other

The expenditure under "OTHER" shows £99.88 - the cost of purchasing the 100 coasters.

Obituary

It is with regret that we announce the deaths of the following ex-apprentices:

Ken Smith of 78th Entry has written to inform us that Raymond Pobjee MBE, 70th Entry, passed away recently. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at Peterborough Cathedral on 8th May 2005.

John Aston (681976)

3rd October 1940 To 25th November 2004

On the 9th May 1956, John was one of 64 young hopefuls who became the 83rd Entry of Aircraft Apprentices at RAF Locking, passing out on the 24th March 1959 as a Ground Wireless Fitter.

John was a Drummer in the Band, and amongst other pursuits, he enjoyed caving in the Mendips and horse riding.

After a year at RAF Wattisham, John was posted to Henlow and joined a fitting party destined for Aden. Other postings included Singapore, RAF Episkopi and RAF Edzell, and in 1968 he purchased his discharge from the RAF to help his parents out with their toy shop in Henley on Thames. John and his mother continued to run the shop after the death of his father until his mother retired.

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performance tomorrow night and if there is not a vast improvement, a number of people will be doing "jankers". We are dismissed. An outburst of noisy chatter dispels the tension.

I quickly stow my kit in the correct places for tomorrow's inspection. Get out of uniform, break up bed pack to make my bed. Construct new sock cards while waiting my turn with the iron. The L.A. approves my efforts, with a warning that if I don't maintain a higher standard, the consequences will be dire! I have about 30 minutes before lights out. I lie on the bed and write to my girl friend at home, place the letter in the mail rack at the end of the billet. It's still cold; I throw my greatcoat over the blankets. My feet, clad in socks with pyjamas tucked into them, are just about under the bed clothes when the lights go out. Its 22 00.

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The number of members taking Life membership or paying their dues by Standing Order Mandate increases (albeit slowly).

Advertising

The association continues to advertise in the RAFA magazine and on Teletext Channel 4 p173 Service Pals. The IPA (Independent Pilots Association) continues to give us free advertising for major events in their magazine. The returns from this advertising continue to be encouraging with the greatest return from the RAFA magazine. As in previous years, advertising in other magazines and papers is proving too expensive for the anticipated return. We are always glad to hear of any possible source of (free) advertising.

Appbe Website

The Appbe website is still up and running. There are still serious problems. It is impossible to update our portion of the Website. The automatic re-router for enquiries to the RAFLAA membership secretaries e-mail address does not function. The notice boards do function (I was able to advertise this AGM and place a notice with more up-to-date committee details). I am pleased to say that enquirers are still able to download the application for membership form.

RAFLAA Website

The (temporary) RAFLAA website sponsored by Graham Beeston has recently been upgraded and is looking good. There will be more of this in item 7 on the agenda.

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I propose that the Accounts for the year 2004/05 be adopted. I also propose that the annual membership subscription should remain at £7.50.

Tony Horry
23rd April 2005

Glynn Price (102nd) proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted and this was seconded by Chris Bryan (87th) and all agreed.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts and then invited the Membership Secretary to present his report.

ITEM 4 Membership Secretary's Report.

General

The year 2004/5 has not been a good year as far as membership numbers are concerned. Although the total number of names on the database has risen, the actual number of active members has decreased again. This decrease has generally been due to members resigning or defaulting on their membership payments.

I am glad to say that the number of members 'passed away' is substantially reduced from last year.

The number of new members joining remains reasonably constant.

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follows him. I stand at ease, staring straight ahead, praying I've not forgotten anything. The C.A. is already tearing a strip off the first person in line. A resounding crash, I flinch but continue to stare ahead. Someone's big pack, small pack and mess tin have gone over the back of their big locker. Voices get closer. A pot mug flies across my field of vision; it shatters at the end of the billet. They are now at the bed space next to mine. The unfortunate occupant is ticked off for not polishing between the heel and sole of his boots. Another accusation and his tooth brush is snapped in half. It follows the mug down the billet. It's my turn. I spring to attention and announce 589567 A.A. COLLIER. The C.A. stands back and looks me up and down. "When did you last press your trousers?" "Yesterday evening C.A." I lie. "You must have slept in them then. Do them this evening and show them to the L.A. before light out." "Yes C.A." He takes my hat, removes the badge; I am reprimanded for not cleaning the back of the badge. Beret, bull hat and badges finish up on the floor. He scrutinises my kit, decides my sock cards are not neat enough. The L.A. tears them up as they walk to their next victim. I stand at ease and relax. I got away quite lightly. Various parts of a razor fly down the billet, closely followed by a couple more mugs. A tremendous crash is generated by someone's whole kit hitting the floor as their bed is overturned. They are ordered to re-do the whole thing CORRECTLY before 2130 when the L.A. will inspect it again.

The offender is also ordered to polish the "bull bucket." With a final crash, as another set of large locker adornment hits the deck, the inspection is over. The L.A., simulating extreme anger, informs us that the C.A. is very displeased. He has never seen such a shambles. There will be a repeat

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hut near his office. He decides to try to provoke a discussion, by showing us an American Evangelical film about the wonderful world in which we live. At the end he asks for questions. There are none, its tea time we want to get away early. He obliges and after the customary frantic march back up the hill, we are almost first in the mess. A quick search finds a table that has butter rather than margarine, we lay claim to it. I find myself with fried bread and tinned tomatoes plus all the bread I could scrounge. A mug of tea washes it down.

Back to the billet, a full kit inspection by the C.A.A. is scheduled for 20 00, after the usual bull night. I need some boot polish, last night I finished scraping the paint off my other tin and "bulled" the tin. I make a dash for the N.A.F.F.I. I would like a bar of chocolate but am down to my last two shillings, there are still days to go before pay parade. Luckily the senior entry has not arrived yet, I escape with out having to sing a song or clean their huts. In the billet, I rapidly change from working blue into denims. The L.A.A. appears with a large tin of tacky orange polish, a stick and more old blankets for floor pads. Beds on one side of the hut are moved to the other, the exposed area swept. Blobs of polish flicked onto the floor, are spread with the bumper. We form a line, Indian file, hands on shoulders of the lad in front, all on floor pads. Now effectively skate from side to side, moving slowly up the floor until the whole area is shining. Beds are carefully moved to the other side and the process repeated. Beds finally returned to their original positions, a good dust around and we start to lay out our kit, according to the "plan". I clean my buttons boots and badges. Back into uniform, make sure everything is tidy. "Stand by your beds", the C.A.A has arrived, the L.A.A.

Life Membership Certificates

There have been requests from life members for a form of certification to confirm their life membership. A certificate will be issued to all existing life members and in the future to all new life members. (An example is on display).

For those of you who like figures:

Membership changes for the year 2004/5

- 10 new members have joined. We now have 618 names on the database
- 8 members have resigned
- 2 members have passed away
- 20 members have defaulted on subscriptions
- All of which has resulted in a decrease in (active) membership of 20 to a total of 358
- 2 more members have applied for life membership giving a total of 31 life members overall
- There are a total of 236 Members paying by SO
- There are 92 members still not paying by SO
- There are 259 ex members (including those who have resigned, defaulted or who are deceased).

Changes of personal details

Please keep me informed in any changes in your personal details, especially those that may affect delivery of the newsletter.

This concludes my report, which I commend to the meeting.

Newsletter by e-mail

I am glad to say that the problem with Email addresses is slowly resolving and changes are being advised. Some members have been unable to open the 'pdf' file format in which the Newsletter is normally sent. Re-transmitting a 'Word' file attachment has usually rectified the problem. Both A5 booklet and A4 versions are available on request. Some of you may have noticed that you received both an 'E' edition and a 'snail mail' edition of the last newsletter. A copy of the new Membership list was due to be included in the newsletter mailing (and there would not have been an E-mail edition). Unfortunately, it was not noticed that the list was not included with the mailing labels sent to our distributor (Graham Beeston) until it was too late (and the 'E' versions were sent)! I am afraid that this was down to a touch of the 'anno domini's' on the membership secretary's part.

Membership reminders by E-Mail

This has been discontinued, as the response was so poor.

Life Membership and Standing Orders

The number of members who are taking out Life Membership of the Association continues to grow slowly as does the number of members paying their subscription by Standing Order Mandate. I would urge those of you with a commitment to the association (and those of you who like me want an easy life) to seriously consider making use of either facility.

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made worse due to "queue bashing" by the senior entry. I quietly seethe at the injustice and wait my turn. Not a lot of choice, I opt for something hidden under a crust, some watery cabbage and "pom". A sort of tart thing, with transparent custard, makes the dessert. One poor unfortunate drops a plate and the whole mess erupts into a bout of cheering. The meal finished its back to the billet. Very disappointed, I have no mail. Decide on a 10 minute lay on my bed. Seconds later there is a shout of "N.C.O. present". Everyone leaps from their beds and stands to attention. The ominous bulk of Flt. Sgt. Bettel ambles into the room. He sniffs the air, looks for illegal smokers. There is a light mist of cigarette smoke but no one actually smoking. We are ordered to about turn and face the walls. Before he leaves "Beetle" has ordered three people to get haircuts and report to him before 1700 tomorrow. As he leaves, "on parade" is called. I cannot believe an hour can be so short.

We march back down the hill again. The next period is P.T. We enter the gymnasium; change into shorts, vests and plimsolls. A sadistic P.T.I decides to take us for a road run. It is still freezing cold, he sets a fast pace. Those who cannot keep up are punished with "press ups". We stop briefly for physical jerks. Back in the gym it feels almost tropical. Change into uniform, march off to workshops. Make our way through a strange maze of corridors, created by 8 foot high plain brick walls separating the labs. Wally Still gives out our round brass bars that we have started to file square. No explanation as to why? Mine turns out quite well, at least on three sides, the fourth shows a bit of light through the set square. Can't do much about it, it's already a few "thou" too thin. Last period is padre's hour. The C of E's march up to a

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class leaders and at any junior entry members who incur their wrath. The class leader marches us off down the hill towards the "Tech Blocks." Not a pretty sight - hobnailed boots and icy roads do not make good bedfellows. The smell from the pig farm drifts across from our right. Finally we halt outside the "Tech Block."

Into the comparative warmth of the classroom, I attempt to find a seat at the back. Fl. Off. Wales arrives, starts to talk about trigonometry. I try, unsuccessfully, to follow the unfolding mystery of sines, co-sines and tangents. Everyone else seems to understand, why am I so thick? Examples to be worked out follow, but I really do not have a clue. Make copious notes, hope I can sort it out later. At the end of the session, out into the cold again. March up to the square for a drill period. Sgt. Maxwell and Cpl. Love await us, shouting because we are late, actually we are not! We go over previously learned manoeuvres. Left, right and about turns, stationary and on the march. Previous A.T.C. experience means I have few problems. Maxwell roundly curses every minor error. I learn some new swear words. Individuals are hauled out in front of the class to show how bad they are. One persistent offender has to double around the square. I am freezing to death! March back to the "Tech Block" for basic radio sessions. The instructor rambles on about things called resistors. How to connect them up and work out their total value. They appear to come in various colours. We are told to memorise a mnemonic about Billy Brown and a couple of alcoholic beverages. At last, its lunch time.

A frantic march back up the hill, dump books on bed, grab mug and irons, dash to the mess. There is already a long queue,

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The revised committee list is as follows: -

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election Due	Entry
President	Martin Palmer				91 st
Chairman	"Tiny" Kühle	22 Tavistock Close Woburn Sands Milton Keynes Bucks MK17 8UY	(01908) 583784 Hans.Kuhle@t-mobile.co.uk	April 06	87 th
Secretary	Dave Gunby	23 Toynton Close Gregg Hall Estate Lincoln Lincolnshire# LN6 8AL	(01522) 525484 dpgraf72@btinternet.com	April 06	72 nd
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke Weston super Mare BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Mar 06	76 th
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Road Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAAMS@aol.com	Mar 06	77 th
Service Rep	Rick Atkinson	Gateway Cottage 1 Lake Walk Adderbury Oxon OX17 3PF	(01295) 812972 rick-jacky@lakewalk.wanadoo.co.uk	Sep 08	91 st
AA Rep	Pete Crowe	14 Hillview Road Weston-super-Mare N.Somerset BS23 3HS	(01934) 412178 peter@petercrowe.co.uk	Sep 08	95 th

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The Chairman thanked John for his report and introduced the next item on the Agenda.

ITEM 5 Election of officers.

The following new appointments/re-elections were approved without dissent.

Service Rep: - Rick Atkinson
Proposer: -Martin Palmer
Seconder: - Glynn Price

A/A Rep: - Pete Crowe
Proposer: - Hans Kuhle
Seconder: - Glynn Price

Newsletter Editor: - Chris Tett
Proposer: - Hans Kuhle
Seconder: - Don Hall

General Rep: - Vic Gibbs term of office extended to
3/07 at 2004 AGM.

Craft App Rep: - Graham Beeston re-elected until 9/08

Tech App Rep: - Andy Perkins re-elected until 9/08

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inside. There is already a queue at the servery. We wait impatiently, our entry are not duty servers so no chance of any extra. A grey gruel, that would make even Oliver Twist think twice, is available. Large amounts of sugar hide the taste. A fried egg, in a plastic case, bacon with more fat than meat, pale baked beans and toast complete the fry up. I join the queue at the tea urns that dispense a grey, brown liquid with a strange taste, which no amount of sugar can disguise. I find a place, with other members of my entry, on a bench at a trestle table. The meal concluded, any residue is scraped into a foul smelling hole at the end of the servery, plates added to the adjacent precarious pile. Out into the cold again, mug and irons dunked in the tank of scalding greasy grey liquid. I pray I won't drop them.

A quick floor pad back to my bed space. Carefully dry mug and irons on my towel, place them neatly on top of my small locker. Blanket over bed, make hospital corners. Place "bull" hat on top of bed pack. Out to the toilets with cleaning gear. I am "bog" orderly today, so need to make sure toilets and hand basins are clean and tidy for Flight Commanders inspection. Despite being cleaned last night, it still seems to take for ever. Hasty return to bed space, grab bumper for a last minute polish of the area. Quick flick round with a duster. Get out books etc., required for the morning. Try to remember the programme; I think its maths first. "On parade" shouted from the end of the hut. Struggle into greatcoat and gloves; leave floor pads at the door, out again into the cold, books firmly held under left arm. The class leader musters the group into a military formation. Similar groups are appearing on the sports field perimeter road, as "C" and "B" squadron huts disgorge their occupants. Apprentice N.C.Os bustle about shouting at

A Day in the Life of a Sprog (Early February 1954)

Mike Collier 76th

I am suddenly awake, its dark, its cold, its 0625. I struggle from the embrace of my concave mattress. It's even colder, despite having my long sleeved pullover on over my pyjama jacket. The pipes behind my bed are lukewarm. I don plimsolls and clutching towel and washing gear, shuffle quietly on floor pads towards the door at the end of the billet. Heavy footsteps clump down the corridor outside, the duty trumpeter sounds reveille. Almost instantly the lights are on, a chorus of complaints issue from various beds around the room. Abandoning the floor pads at the door, I hurry to the washroom. A number of the basins are already in use. Finding an empty one, I gaze into the mirror trying to decide if I need to shave. At 15 years old, it seems hardly necessary but if I don't, I'm sure to get picked up. I run the hot tap until ice cold water becomes tepid.

Back to the hut, floor pad down to my bed space. There is frantic activity and a babble of noise from people in various stages of undress. I make up my bed pack, not bad! Carefully remove my trousers from under the mattress; hoping that last nights lack of ironing has been countered by body pressure. A couple of minutes wrestling with still unfamiliar collar studs, the noose of my ready made tie over my head and tightened. Into the rest of my uniform, tie up boots, grab mug and irons and join a small group already floor padding their way to the door.

Outside, in the half light, it is bitterly cold. We make rapidly for the mess, past what appears to be the only hot water in the whole Wing, simmering away in the foyer. A pervading smell of cooking cabbage greets us but at least it's reasonably warm

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Following Pete Elliot's presentation a vote for immediate acceptance was proposed by Charles Tyler (91st) and seconded by Ian Davis (91st). The proposal was defeated there being 12 for and the majority against.

In order to make progress Chris Tett (92nd) proposed that the Association set aside a sum of £500.00 to fund the setting up of a RAFLAA web site. The proposal was seconded by Dave White (79th) and carried unanimously.

Chris Tett (92nd) proposed that the Committee be empowered to decide who would provide the web site.

The proposal was seconded by Chris Bryan (87th) and carried with one dissenter. The secretary agreed to put the item on the agenda at the next Committee meeting in July 2005.

In order that our domain name is registered as a matter of urgency Pete Crowe offered to register: -

raflaa.co.uk and raflaa.org.uk

immediately after the AGM at no cost to the Association. This was widely accepted and Pete was thanked for his offer. See postscript to these minutes.

ITEM 8 Recognition of the 'Golden Entries'

The Secretary explained that the celebration of the 'Golden Entries' had long been a tradition with the Cranwell AA association. However, they had now run out of qualifying entries and the RAFLAA Committee thought it should carry on

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ITEM 6 Honorary Life Memberships.

Item discharged as was covered in the Presidents address and item 4 (Membership Secretary's report).

ITEM 7 RAFLAA Web Site.

John Farmer introduced the subject as being under discussion long enough and that definitive action was required if the Association was to be represented on the Web. To that end, he had several suggestions to make and he introduced Pete Elliot (91st) to give a detailed presentation. There were several other suggestions.

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coming back from an unaccompanied tour. As I had enjoyed Finningley, I thought I'd try it again, with other choices in the area as standby second and third preference - I got Thorney Island - pretty close!

Even after all of this, I had to admit to being a bit scared of Civvy Street, and no matter how I felt; I might actually like to stay in. I was a bit of a coward, so I made enquiries, only to be told that the Government of the time were doing the usual Forces cut backs and I had no chance. So, no matter what, I had to come out.

Irrespective of what I've said I don't regret my time, and as memory always remembers the good times, I had a ball while it lasted.

Attending the AGM/Reunion at Weston in April and meeting so many of my old mates, made me realise what it was all about - Mates. Whatever I've done since doesn't hold a candle to my RAF days, and if my daughter gets a bit fed up with the stories - tough - I'm still going to tell them.

Since coming out I've had good responsible jobs, which I was able to cope with well and I put that down to the discipline and skills I learned at Locking and thereafter. Some may feel different about it, but did they get messed about as much as I did and still manage to come out smiling at the other end?

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travelling on the manifest as one. So I did not exist - again! I was delayed for almost a week in Bahrain till it was sorted out and finally I got on the Argosy to Sharjah, where I was duly charged with being AWOL, although I had sent them a signal with the full story. I was fined a week's wages.

The whole thing need not have happened because I did not need to be in Sharjah in the first place. I had just done a week at the Officers And Aircrew Selection Centre at Biggin Hill and returned to my home base at Finningley, where I was told I was being sent to Locking on a six week course prior to going abroad to pastures not yet decided. I was also told that if I wanted to continue my quest for a commission I would be able to try again on my return.

As you can imagine, I was not a happy bunny, especially after arriving in Sharjah to meet the guy I was to replace. He was a Ground Wireless Fitter who had spent all of his career in commcens, and had been trained to do the job. He loved it and had applied to stay in Sharjah till it closed, which was officially going to be in about 3 months. So, they rejected his application, and sent me, a guy who had never worked in a commcen and to be honest didn't turn out to be that good at the job. To crown it all, he had applied for a commission and was due to go to Biggin Hill in about 3 months, which would have suited perfectly. As it happens, he got through and eventually made Squadron Leader. On top of it all, my 3 months in Sharjah lasted 10 months, before the station finally closed. Good organisation once again.

Well, I thought at least when I got back I'd get a priority posting as it would be my last before leaving the RAF and I was

Contests

There will be a small prize at the next AGM for the best contributions to the Newsletter. The editors choice will be totally biased and final!

Swiftest Overseas Posting

This contest is to find out who holds the distinction of having the shortest time from passing out to being sent abroad.

In Movements below, Stan Murray has laid claim to the record with just six weeks before he was on a plane overseas.

So Stan is the winnerunless you know different!

Ceasing to Exist

It must be a unique experience to find yourself not wanted and officially not there. Stan Murray shows that the RAF lost him and he ceased to exist, not once but twice! That must be a recordunless you know different!

Humour

A few jokes have been contributed below by the 92nd Entry. These are the funniest jokes you have heardunless you know different!

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the tradition. Consequently, Charles Hart (71st) Dave Gunby (72nd) and Ben Cuming (73rd) gave a short celebratory comment about their particular entries. A bottle of 'Vin rouge de maison' was to be presented later that day.

ITEM 9 Any other business.

Chris Tett (Newsletter Editor) introduced himself and appealed for interesting input to the Newsletter.

ITEM 10 Venue, Format and Date of next AGM.

Following last years relatively poor attendance at RAF Cosford it was felt that perhaps the membership does not want to alternate the AGMs at home and away. The feeling of the meeting was that Dauncey's Hotel provided a good venue that was always well supported. Next year's AGM/Reunion would therefore take place on Saturday 22nd April 2006, at Dauncey's Hotel.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1520hrs.

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crashed? So they put me on a bus to Pergamos, which had actually been closed a month before. I arrived at the unoccupied camp to be met by two Greek Cypriot policemen who thought I was mad, (by this time I bloody well was), but eventually they put me in a taxi to Ayios Nilolaos.

It was the same there, but eventually I was sent to a hotel in Famagusta, where I stayed for 4 days, before someone eventually found out that I had been posted to Cape Greco. The problem was that the unit at Greco did not officially exist, for political reasons, it was all a bit of a secret at the time, or so I was told. I won't go into all that just now.

Because of MOD plans, my 3 years in Cyprus was cut to 2, as the job was being transferred to the Army. I was supposed to be going back to the UK to be best man at a mate's wedding, which was no problem if I had been completing the original 3 years. But, as the new timing didn't suit the MOD, my leave was cancelled and my mate had to find another best man.

The RAF also lost me again in 1971 when I was returning from the UK to Sharjah after a couple of weeks leave. I did not qualify for an indulgence flight, so I had to scrounge my way both ways as best I could, which I think is where the confusion arose.

I had got back as far as Bahrain when a Tannoy message requested the presence of Sergeant Murray at reception. When I duly turned up I was told I was the wrong Sergeant Murray, it wasn't me they wanted, and where had I appeared from. Apparently, there was another of the same rank and name on the flight, officially, and somehow the two of us were

Movements

Stan Murray 92nd

When I read the article by Mike Collier in the November 2004 issue, it made me think about my own reasons for leaving after doing the 12. There were many, but it all started not long after passing out. So here we go.

I passed out on April 17th 1962, and in early June, about 6 weeks later, I was on my way to the Far East, via Singapore, to Chiang Mai in North Thailand. Very exciting you may say, but at no time did any of us on that trip know where we were going until we got there. It was supposed to be a short exercise, but lasted, living in a tent, till December 17th 1962. It was all pretty traumatic at the time and as far as organisation was concerned, it was a disaster. My first taste of what was to come, and it didn't get any better.

By the way, I wonder if any other ex Apprentice from Locking spent such a short time before going abroad. I often wonder if I hold some sort of record. No doubt there is someone out there who can beat me. (Of course I can't include any of the guys who had been posted to Henlow on fitting party work, that was part of their life).

On another occasion, I was posted to Cyprus. Now anyone who has had such a posting will remember they always knew which camp they were going to. Not me. When I arrived at Akrotiri, the Movements Staff had no idea who I was or where I was going, made me think a bit I can tell you. So, if that was the case, was I actually on the aircraft manifest? If not, and I did not exist, what would have happened if the plane had

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return. Two o'clock came and no hired hand. He returned around two-thirty, and upon entering the room, he found the rancher's widow sitting by the fireplace with a glass of wine, waiting for him. She quietly called him over to her. "Unbutton my blouse and take it off," she said.

Trembling, he did as she directed. "Now take off my boots". He did as she asked, ever so slowly. "Now take off my socks". He removed each gently and placed them neatly by her boots. "Now take off my skirt."

He slowly unbuttoned it, constantly watching her eyes in the fire light. "Now take off my bra."

Again, with trembling hands, he did as he was told and dropped it to the floor. "Now," she said, "take off my panties." By the light of the fire, he slowly pulled them down and off.

Then she looked at him and said, "If you ever wear my clothes into town again, you're fired."

On the evening of the Royal wedding, Camilla was becoming somewhat uncomfortable in her regal attire. Unfortunately, the shoes she had worn that day were a bit too small and, by the time the festivities were over, Camilla's feet were in agony. When Camilla and Charles withdrew to their bridal suite, the only thing she could think of was getting her ill- fitting shoes off.

The rest of the Royal Family crowded round the door to the bedroom and they heard roughly what they expected, grunts,

Humour

From: Martin Eversfield, John Hall and Sandy Gauld 92nd

A political canvasser called at the door of a retired Colonel and gave him the spiel and party line. He then asked him various questions about his family background and circumstances. Then out of the blue he then asked him "When did you last make love to your wife?" to which the Colonel replied 1945. The canvasser was taken aback and remarked that it was a long time ago! The Colonel blustered and said " Well - it's only 21:00 hours now".

A successful rancher died and left everything to his devoted wife. She was a very good-looking woman, and determined to keep the ranch, but knew very little about ranching, so she decided to place an ad in the newspaper for a ranch hand.

Two men applied for the job. One was gay and the other a drunk. She thought long and hard about it, and when no one else applied she decided to hire the gay guy, figuring it would be safer to have him around the house than the drunk.

He proved to be a hard worker who put in long hours every day and knew a lot about ranching. For weeks, the two of them worked, and the ranch was doing very well. Then one day, the rancher's widow said to the hired hand, "You have done a really good job, and the ranch looks great. You should go into town and kick up your heels."

The hired hand readily agreed and went into town one Saturday night. One o'clock came, however, and he didn't

Apprentice Days

Father Was it you that had my daughter?
 Doin' things you didn't oughta!
 Cuddlin' close and moving up and down.
 'cause someone came along one day
 And put her in the family way
 And soon she's going to be all big and round

Apprentice Yes it was me that had your daughter
 Doin' things I didn't oughta!
 Cuddlin' close and moving up and down
 But ever since I had your daughter
 I've had trouble passing water
 So I guess that makes us even all around!

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As luck would have it, I dropped my spoon and he was able to replace it with his spare. "I'll get another spoon next time I go to the kitchen instead of making an extra trip to get it right now." I was impressed. I also noticed that there was a string hanging out of the waiter's fly. Looking around, I noticed that all the waiters had the same string hanging from their flies. So before he walked off, I asked the waiter, "Excuse me, but can you tell me why you have that string right there?"

"Oh, certainly!" Then he lowered his voice. "Not everyone is so observant. That consulting firm I mentioned also found out that we can save time in the restroom. By tying this string to the tip of you know what, we can pull it out without touching it and eliminate the need to wash our hands, shortening the time spent in the restroom by 76.39 percent. I asked "After you get it out, how do you put it back?"

"Well," he whispered, "I don't know about the others, but I use the spoon."

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straining noises and the occasional muffled scream.

Eventually they heard Charles say, "God, that was tight."

"There," whispered the Queen. "I told you Camilla was a virgin."

Then, to their surprise, they heard Charles say, "Right. Now for the other one."

This was followed by even more grunting and straining and at last Charles exclaimed, "My God! That was even tighter!"

"That's my boy," said the Duke. "Once a sailor, always a sailor!"

Last week, we took some friends out to a new restaurant, and noticed that the headwaiter who took our order carried a spoon in his shirt pocket. It seemed a little strange. When another waiter brought our water and utensils, I noticed he also had a spoon in his shirt pocket. Then I looked around saw that all the staff had spoons in their pockets. When the waiter came back to serve our soup I asked, "Why the spoon?"

"Well," he explained, "the restaurant's owners hired Andersen Consulting to revamp all our processes. After several months of analysis, they concluded that the spoon was the most frequently dropped utensil. It represents a drop frequency of approximately 3 spoons per table per hour. If our personnel are better prepared, we can reduce the number of trips back to the kitchen and save 15 man-hours per shift."

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