



LAA Newsletter

Serial 45

July 2006

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Editor's Notes

Hello to you all. As always, all contributions gratefully received.

This issue has a lot about the biggest event in the associations' calendar – The Annual General Meeting and Dinner Dance. You will find the minutes and pictures of the event inside.

There are follow up items from the AGM. There are more details of the Locking Apprentices Window Dedication Service at Halton and we went to a new venue this year so we conducted a survey to see what you thought. See inside for the results.

Please note the Notices section. There you can find out about attending the Armistice Day Remembrance Service in Whitehall and how you may have qualified for another medal. If I get enough items, this will be regular feature, so if you are planning a reunion or any event, send me some information.

We also have another entry for the best skiver, the usual jokes, a few lessons and a bit on a day out.

Deadline for next issues

To allow for printing and distribution, each newsletter needs to be completed well ahead of the nominal month of issue. If you have a contribution please ensure it reached the editor before the date set below.

23rd September for November 06

23rd January 07 for March 07

23rd May 07 for July 07

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Pictures from the 2006 AGM

The 2006 AGM was held in the Royal Hotel, Weston-super-Mare in April 2006. My thanks to Colin Hinson for these photos from the event, which seemed to go very well.

Your Committee



Right to left: John Farmer – membership secretary; Martin Palmer – President; Tiny Kuhle – Chairman; Dave Gunby – Secretary; Tony Horry – Treasurer; Chris Tett – Newsletter Editor.



A well attended event

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION



The president, Martin Palmer presents the RAFLAA Trophy, a framed citation and a cheque for £50 to F/Sgt Kevin Hannaford.



The newsletter editor, Chris Tett presents the first wordsmith award to Stan Murray.

The AGM Minutes

Dave Gunby (Secretary)

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting of the RAF Locking Apprentice Association

Venue: The Royal Hotel Weston-super-Mare

Date: Saturday 22nd April 2006 at 13.30 Hrs

Present:-

Air Cdre Martin 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
Peter Crowe	95 th	AA Rep/Webmaster
Andy Perkins	109 th	Tech Rep
Rick Atkinson	91 st	Service Rep
Chris Tett	92 nd	Newsletter Editor

Apologies: -

Graham Beeston	209 th	Craft Rep
Vic Gibbs	88 th	General Rep

ITEM 1 Chairman's Address

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a reading of the Apprentice Prayer. There followed a minutes silence in memory of those who had passed away since the last AGM. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their support during the past year. He also touched on a few items that were to be dealt with later in the meeting.

The AGM this year was at a new venue and opinions as to its suitability would be canvassed. The Chairman lamented the failure of a Lottery grant application but was pleased that the issue of security within our records of Apprentices had been finally laid to rest. He looked forward to further contact with the No. 1 Radio School.

Having read out the names of those apologising for non-attendance the Chairman hoped that all present would enjoy the rest of the reunion day, and then introduced our president.

ITEM 2 President's Address

The President presented the RAFLAA Trophy, a framed citation and a cheque for £50 to F/Sgt Kevin Hannaford (Training Delivery Squadron at No. 1 Radio School). The Citation was read out, and F/Sgt responded by saying that although it was a team effort he was honoured to receive the award.

The President continued by thanking the Committee for their hard work during the year and pointed out that he took a keen interest in their activities through the minutes.

ITEM 3 Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented his report saying that he hoped that those present each have sight of a copy of the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending January 2006.

This year our expenditure has almost equalled our income, leaving us with an increase in funds for the year of £4.19.

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

INCOME – membership subscriptions is some £200 less than the previous year – the reason will no doubt be highlighted in John Farmer’s Membership Secretary report.

The AGM for 2005 shows an income of £3820 and an expenditure of £4820. The actual cost of the event at Daunceys was £4474, which is a cost to the Association of £579. The Committee had allowed for a budget of £600. The other expense associated with the AGM includes £200 deposit paid to the Royal Hotel for today’s event. We also paid for the recipient of the Trophy, Chris Aiken, to attend the AGM and function. Wine, engraving, and presentation plaques also are accounted for.

EXPENDITURE - OVERHEADS. The travelling expenses have reduced this year, due to change in Committee members and travel arrangements – sharing transport.

The Cost of PRINTING for 05/06 has risen significantly - from £302 to £635. A rise of £351 due to the cost of newsletters:

(7) April 05	Print = £107	Postage = £93	Total = £200
(21) Aug 05	Print = £334	Postage = £112	Total = £447 included 207 membership lists
(24) Jan 06	Print = £125	Postage = £62	Total = £187

Postage cost increase also reflects the sending of membership lists.

At this point the Treasurer pointed out that the 06/07 Accounts will already show a considerable increase in Printing & Postage.

The last newsletter – commercially produced cost:

Newsletters (269)	= £656.80
Postage (269)	= £198.78

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 2006.

The subject of subscriptions will be dealt with under another item.

The Treasurer requested that the Accounts for the year 2005/06 be adopted.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Charles Hart (71st) and seconded by Chris Hibbet (76th). There was unanimous approval.

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

ITEM 4 Membership Secretary's Report

The membership secretary presented his report.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

There have been small changes in membership numbers since the AGM. We have gained 4 new members (1 member has rejoined) and lost 2. There are now 621 names (past and present) on the database of which 362 are considered to be 'active'.

The number of members paying their 'dues' by Standing Order Mandate has decreased to 236. This leaves 95 who pay by "other means".

Life membership has remained constant at 31.

GOLDEN YEARS CERTIFICATES FOR 2005

All despatched.

NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

The last edition of the newsletter was sent out successfully in part by e-mail. Several requests for back numbers by E-mail have been received and processed.

NEWSLETTER BY MAIL

Address lists supplied to the Newsletter Editor in required format. Several requests for back numbers in hard copy have been received and processed.

APPBE WEBSITE

No Change.

RAFLAA WEBSITE

Up and running.

GENERAL

A reasonably quiet period apart from generating address lists. This should not cause any problems in the future now that the format and process is agreed.

Proposals for speeding up 'New Members' and subscriptions processing formulated for presentation at this meeting.

Acceptance of John's Report was proposed by Joe Holroyd (85th) and seconded by Colin Hinson (89th). There was unanimous approval.

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

ITEM 5 Election of officers.

Officers of the Association due for re-election were all prepared to serve for a further period. Charles Hart (71st) proposed they be re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by John Smith (72nd) and all agreed.

The minutes contained the list of committee members and contact details. These always appear towards the end of every newsletter. To save repetition, the details here have been removed but are shown on page 29 Ed.

ITEM 6 Commemorative Window in St. George's Church RAF Halton

The Secretary gave a demonstration of a mock up of the proposed window and invited comment. Two amendments were generally agreed namely that 'D' Squadron hatband (brown) should be depicted and that the words 'RAF Locking Apprentices' should appear together at the top of the window. The secretary will have the designer incorporate these changes and a picture of the proposed rearranged window will appear in the next newsletter. The joint dedication service with RAF CAA will be held at RAF Halton on Sunday 15th October. Further details when available.
(See 'Commemorative Window Dedication' on page 15. Ed)

The Secretary had been assured that the total cost of the window including installation would not exceed £850.00. However, it was proposed by Chris Bryant (87th) that the Association set aside £1000.00 to cover any contingencies. This was seconded by Glyn Price (102nd) and all agreed.

ITEM 7 Newsletter Production

Following the last newsletter print by City Print, which cost the Association in the region of £855, the Committee had received an offer to produce the next newsletter from Graham Beeston at an approximate cost of £600 like for like. It was proposed by Chris Tett that the Association should accept Graham's offer. Glyn Price seconded and all agreed.

Chris Tett announced that the first winner of the "Wordsmith Award" was Stan Murray (92nd). Stan was presented with a plaque to mark the award.

ITEM 8 Subscriptions

The membership had prior notification of the Committee's proposals to increase subscriptions. The new subscriptions of £10 for existing members and £15 (£10 plus £5 joining fee) for new members were proposed by Tony Horry (76th) and seconded by Chris Bryant (87th). The new rates were approved by all.

ITEM 9 RAFLAA Web site

The Webmaster Peter Crowe said that the site was receiving plenty of 'Hits' and he issued a general invitation to members to submit input.

ITEM 10 Golden Entries 74, 75 & 76

There was no contribution from the 74th Entry. As the 76th entry had inherited most of the 75th then Mike Collier felt that he could speak for both. Mike gave a humorous account of the entry's exploits that was much appreciated by those present and Mike Robins read a poem.

(See *The Golden Entries later in this issue – Ed*)

ITEM 11 Venue and format of AGM 2007

In view of the use of a new venue this year, it was suggested that a firm decision with regard to next year would be premature. It was proposed by Glyn Price that any decision should be left to the Committee. This was seconded by Joe Holroyd and all agreed. The AGM 2007 however would be held in April.

ITEM 12 Any Other Business

1. The Secretary drew the attention of members to the existence of the Veterans badge and the ongoing change to the period of eligibility. He also mentioned the proposed availability of a medal for service in Malaysia.
(See Notices page 26 Ed)
2. The treasurer explained the logistics for the evening meal in a bid to avert menu disputes.
3. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 1510 hours.

The Golden Entries

As noted in the minutes of the AGM, the 74, 75 & 76 Entries are now golden entries.

Mike Collier - 76th Entry gave this address:



20th January 1954, a date firmly engraved in the memories of the 94 British and 3 Rhodesian lads who came together on that day, to form the 76th Entry.

An Entry, I believe, endowed with more than it's fair share of that fabled quantity, entry spirit. As a small example of this, almost 50 years after passing out and going our separate ways, we currently know the fate of 95 of the original 97 and that of all but 2 of the 58 who joined us from other Entries.

In our time at Locking we created at least one record, by winning the Inter-Squadron Drill Competition for "A" squadron, three terms in succession. We also provided many members of Wing sports teams. A number of these went on to represent the RAF in their chosen activity.

Sadly, our academic performance left something to be desired. This, in part, possibly due to a prolonged scientific study of the residue at the bottom of scrumpy glasses. Obviously, quite a number required to be emptied to obtain a comprehensive set of results. The study was greatly enhanced, if some of the young ladies from Weston could be persuaded to come and perform secretarial duties, such as knee warming. The aforementioned young ladies, also played an essential part in another of the entries scientific interests, biological research.

If I may quote from the commanding officers closing speech after our passing out parade. "The 76th were a good Entry to instruct, however, we feel that their results would have been improved considerably if they had paid more attention to private study". He obviously did not know about our alcoholic and biological research!

Unfortunately, neither did T.S.T.S, as they certainly did not ask many questions on the subjects. The C.O's remarks appear to be borne out by the fact that only 43 of the original 97 made it to our passing out parade on 18th December 1956.

With regard to post Locking claims to fame. One of our number became what I suspect was the ambition of most of us when we joined, in that in inventory terms, he became a "Drivers Airframe", flying Shackletons and Nimrods. Strangely, the same person claims the Entry record for the number of days "jankers" completed whilst at Locking. He had even just finished a session of "jankers" as a J/T when he was promoted to Corporal. Is there a lesson to be learned from this I ask?

Another Entry member became the Chief Financial Advisor to the First National Bank of Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, Mugabwe did not take his advice. One other performed on stage on Broadway. That is the New York one, not the one in Worcestershire or Baling.

Perhaps as one final illustration of our camaraderie. Almost since its inception, the 76th has had more people on the books of the LAA than any other Entry and to the best of my knowledge, continues to do so.

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

This poem was read at the AGM by Mike Robins but written by Jane Hay, wife of Burt Hay, 76th Entry.



FROM THE GIRLS YOU LEFT BEHIND 40 YEARS AGO

They scattered far these fine young men
who set our hearts aflutter.
Will we ever see their likes again?
"I hope not" - some will mutter!

Fair maids of Weston we were then
Oh how we loved to tease the men.
We kissed them here, we kissed them there
we kissed and cuddled everywhere.
Under the pier, - a bench in the park.
The back of the Odeon in the dark!

We were told tall stories and downright lies,
by fighter pilots and trainee spies!
They bought us coffee and sometimes scrumpy,
with hopeful dreams of Rumpy-Pumpy!
But games like those were frowned upon,
and so we kept our knickers on!!

This story is told by girls growing old,
whose memories are put to the test.
Us grey-haired Grandmothers have forgotten the others,
'cause the 76th were the best!!!

Dinner Dance

The dinner dance was a great success. Thanks to Ray Mockford 79th for these pictures. Ray reported that it must be a small world as he sat next to Tony Horrocks 76th during the meal who served with him in Rhodesia at the same time and base.



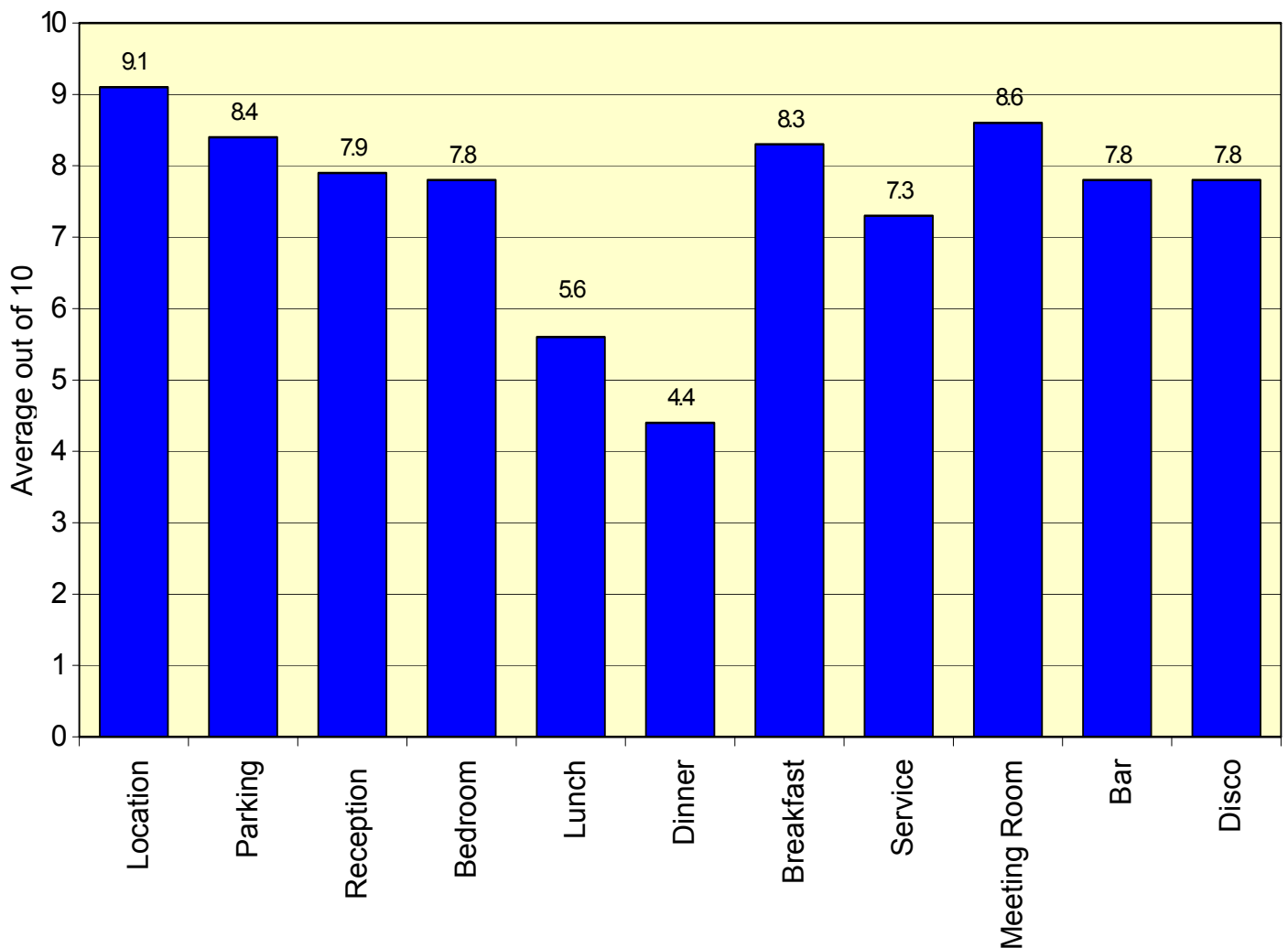
AGM Venue Survey

From Tiny Kuhle- Chairman

As this was the first time that we had used the Royal Hotel as a venue for the AGM and reunion, the committee thought it would be a useful exercise to carry out a survey in order to gauge its success. The results will help us to decide upon next year's venue.

We asked members to rate the Royal Hotel in the categories shown and give a rating between 1 and 10 where 10 was excellent and 1 was very poor. Here are the results.

Location Survey AGM & Dinner 2006



ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

Many thanks to those of you who did respond, and for your comments.

As you can see from the chart, the major shortcoming was the standard of food, except for breakfast which was almost universally rated very highly! Another area of dissatisfaction was with service, I know of several instances where requests to rectify problems were not dealt with correctly. Several of you commented that in the past discos have been too loud and prevented conversation, however, this time there was almost universal approval of the disco because of the reasonable volume.

One thing is certain, and that is that the location was right, and car parking was good (excellent for those of us who got there early - ahead of trade vehicles for the 'Continental' market!). The meeting room was also highly rated, where there were no pillars to obstruct views, and the buffet was hidden away behind a curtain.

We shall, of course, make the hotel management aware of this survey, any hotel that cannot score above 8 for service really does have a problem, but one that can be remedied with training and adequate supervision.

Commemorative Window Dedication

As mentioned at the AGM, the dedication service of the commemorative window will be held on Sunday 15th October at St. George's Church RAF Halton and is open to all with an interest, i.e. friends, families, etc.

Dedication Agenda

There is an established Visit Itinerary for Dedication days. The day starts with Tea/Coffee and Biscuits in the Officers' Mess, at 1030 hours. For those who may be interested, a conducted walk-round of the ground floor of the Mess. At approximately 1130 hours, the visitors will be asked to depart for the Church in time for the 1200 hours Service.

Lunch will be taken in the new 'Airmen's Mess' (a Cafeteria style establishment - and 'dry' - ie. No beer?) from about 1310 hours to 1400 hours. The overall cost for the initial Tea/Coffee & Biscuits in the OM and Lunch together is suggested as being £15 per capita (TBC). Following lunch there will be an opportunity for the attendees to visit The Trenchard Museum, to view the Apprentice artefacts therein.

There should be adequate car parking at the Officers' Mess and in the vicinity of the Church for the start of the visit. However, having 30 or more cars in convoy around the Camp for the Museum visit is not really on - we are therefore urged to take up the offer of Coach Hire at the Station.

Registration

However, we are not sure of numbers or final details so can those members who think they might attend, please contact the Chairman, or Secretary (see RAFLAA Committee on page 29) to register your interest (there is no obligation to attend just because you register your interest!) and whether you are likely to attend all event (i.e. the officers mess and the service and lunch and visit the museum) or just part. You will be then be contacted with further information later.



Design

During the AGM, Dave Gunby produced a pictorial representation of the commemorative window to be installed at the church (see left and AGM minutes, Item 6 on page 7).

Window Designs

To get an idea of the numerous 'Entry windows' and others in the Church, visit:

<http://www.7t5.co.uk/Church%20Windows%20page.htm>

The PMRAFNS window is in the same array as our proposed windows - the 'array' itself can be seen to the right of the Altar in the large picture at the very bottom of the page. The 'Polish' window is worth a look? The smaller 'in-fills' alternate with the larger designs in the window columns.

Best Skives

We have another entry this edition from Bruce Graham. Is there anymore out there?
From Bruce Graham 79th

Tiny Kuhle has my admiration – 6 months or more on light duties must be some kind of record, especially as the chit was probably significantly out of date!

A good skive needed two characteristics:

1. It should be prolonged or permanent.
2. It should bring direct benefit to the skivee.

Now how about something that was guaranteed to get you excused one wing parade every week **and** had the benefit of one 36-hour pass per term. The answer was simple – volunteer to join the Apprentice Wing church choir. Because the “choristers” had to get to the assembly hall in 3 Block in good time to put on the appropriate robes (light blue cassock and white surplice) we were allowed to simply saunter down there in our own good time, wearing shoes, and so avoided the weekly church parade. Of course it took an age to disrobe after the church service so there was no way that we could take part in the usual march past that followed with the saluting base outside the Gymnasium between 2 and 3 Blocks!

Finally, because we had to attend one evening choir practice per week the aforementioned 36 was available once a term. Regrettably, it had to be taken on one of the “free” weekends – i.e. a no church parade weekend.

Maybe not in the Kuhle category, but it served me well for a couple of years.

1966 and all That

From Stan Murray 92nd.

By the way, like all of those that have gone before, this is a true story.

I was not at Wembley the day England won the World Cup, after all I'm a Jock, but was a Corporal serving at Gutersloh in Germany. It was my bad luck to be Orderly Corporal on that particular day.

All went well and that night a dance had been organised in the NAAFI, which, from an English point of view was to celebrate the victory.

Everything ran smoothly and about 2 am on Sunday morning, the Orderly Officer, Orderly Sergeant and myself had got the celebrating troops out of the building and locked the place up. However the night was not over, and we were summoned to the guardroom a couple of hours later to be told that someone had noticed an open window on the first floor of the NAAFI building, and so, we had to go back in and investigate.

We could not believe our eyes - the place had been virtually stripped of furniture, carpets, ashtrays, and to a lesser extent booze and fags. How could this have happened? To find the answer to this question I waited another three years.

By now I was a Sergeant, and was attending a function in the Sergeants' Mess at 9 Signals Regiment in Ayios Nikalaos, in Cyprus, when a young soldier approached me to confirm who I was, as he recognised me from those days in Gutersloh.

He wanted to put my mind at rest after all these years and told me the following story:- Apparently, when we were securing the NAAFI building, some of the Army guys on the base had hung a small soldier on the hook of one of the gents' toilet doors. When myself, and the Orderly Sergeant had checked the toilets they looked empty, even when we checked the cubicles, there was no way we could see someone hanging up behind the door. When we left the building, he simply undid his jacket, slipped to the floor and proceeded to open a window so that his colleagues on the ground could enter the building by ladder and take whatever they wanted.

What happened to all the gear? I never asked! He apologised for the trouble I had been in but assured me it had just been my bad luck to be on duty that night.

Like the story that everyone remembers where they were the day JFK was killed, I certainly remember where I was the day England won the World Cup and being a Scot it always upsets me.

Playing with Numbers

The article in last months newsletter 'Attestation Number' is followed by more articles on the power of the mind with numbers.

Mind Reading ?

From Ken Farmer

All pocket calculators share the same layout. Ask a friend to choose two rows either horizontal, vertical or diagonal from either direction. Multiply these two 3 digit numbers together and tell you the answer with one of the digits missing, but replaced with a zero.

Almost instantly you will tell him or her the missing digit and its place value. Example: 357 and 654 are chosen, multiplied together giving 233478. Friend says 233078. Immediately you announce 4 or 400 with the minimum of effort.

Any three digits in a row on your calculator will always add up to a number that is divisible by three and two of the three digits multiplied together will be divisible by nine (3×3) so in the chosen example $2+3+3+4+7+8 = 27$ (divisible by 3). The numbers you were given add up to 23 so 4 is the missing digit and if you remember its place it will be 400.

The following example is provided to illustrate why the Zero is included. Say the two numbers chosen were 789 & 456 = 359784 and you were told 350784. The former adds up to 36 and the latter to 27, both divisible by 3 and the missing number must be 9 as that is the only number that will satisfy these conditions; place value 9000.

Here we are making use of the phenomenon of divisibility! A number is divisible by 3 when the sum of its digits are divisible by 3; e.g. the number 71832's digits add up to 21 which is divisible by 3. You can easily see that a number can be divided by 2 or 5, if the last two digits are 28, it is divisible by 4, and divisible by 6 if the conditions for dividing by 2 and 3 are set, by 8 if the last three digits are 928 and 9 as previously explained.

Whether this information is of any use is debatable but it is possible to determine the divisibility of numbers so large they will not fit on your calculator display.

85,437,904,621,874,135,928 added together = 96, divisible by 3 and $9+6=15$ also divisible by 3. By other techniques it is also divisible by 2, 4 & 8, and 6 (2×3).

I Only Wanted to be Different

From Mike Collier 76th

I do a lot of cycling. It is very pleasant to wander through quiet country lanes admiring the scenery. However, for busy, boring sections of main road or the long drag up the odd, seemingly endless hill, whilst obviously aware of what is going on around me, I try to think of things other than keeping the pedals turning. It is usually on these rides that the embryo ideas for the bits and pieces that I have contributed to the Newsletter originate.

Thus it was, that I came to consider if I may have been in any way unique in the Locking experience, where the system seemed intent on creating countless obedient clones.

The first idea that came to me was my date of birth. Adding the first two figures together made 19. Doubling it gave my year of birth, 38. Doubling it again gave 76, my entry number. Unlikely that anyone else in the entry could do that. Later, looking through my entry records, I found someone born on 18th January 1938. Drat!!! On a subsequent ride it occurred to me that my initials (M.C.C.) might be significant. If I took the numerical values of their position in the alphabet, M=13, C=3, C=3 which again adds up to 19. Then I thought about the other character who's initials were G.J.B. Foiled again!!!

In a final attempt to establish individuality, I decided to use COUNTDOWN type principles with the six digits of my service number to try and make 76. It took 45 minutes of convoluted mental arithmetic but I finally succeeded. It took less than 5 minutes to achieve the same result with his service number. At this point I admitted defeat.

I was never going to be as unique as he was in any case. He was the only person I knew, who received training at three different R.A.F. youth training establishments. He started at Cosford as a Boy Entrant then transferred to Locking to join the 76th. After three months, he decided that Radio was not the trade for him and he moved to Halton, where he eventually passed out with the Halton 76th, as an Airframe Fitter.

Returning to the COUNTDOWN principles, which are similar to those employed in the television programme. Some of you might find it amusing, to try and mathematically manipulate the digits of your service number to create your entry number.

The rules of the game are:-

1. Each digit can only be used once.
2. You must use all the digits.
3. You may add, subtract, multiply or divide.

Using my number as an example- 589567.

- a. $5 \times 9 = 45$
- b. $5 \times 6 = 30$
- c. $8 - 7 = 1$

$$\text{Add a, b and c } 45 + 30 + 1 = 76$$

I believe it may be impossible with some numbers, e.g. If someone can devise a way of making 76 from 589600, I would be very interested.

I Shouldn't Have!

From Brian Davies - 76/77 Entry

As an aircraft apprentice:

When the drill sergeant (one Sgt Corde) said on morning parade in my ear "I hate Welshmen", reply softly "I'm not very keen on Irishmen either". Result: being picked upon by him for the next two weeks.

When my 'C' Sqn Ldr said "I want you to promise that you won't go to Bristol without permission again" Say "I can't do that sir". Result: getting a roasting and staying an A. A. for the rest of my time at Locking.

Reporting sick with extreme back pain and missing tech training for the next two months after only three weeks in dock.

Having passed my football referees exam; going to the monthly meetings in WSM and getting drunk and having the sergeant ref. smuggle me into camp each time.

During summer camp in Devon, rolling over the lip of a sand dune with a bren gun held close to my body. Result: many lacerations to face and hands.

During an RAF Locking camp defence exercise, forgetting the password and getting arrested as a spy.

Saying to two large Teddy Boys who had me cornered in a shop doorway in WSM "If you don't let go of my lapels I am going to hurt you both". Then when they loosened their grip in astonishment, ran like hell.

Sitting in the middle of a Varsity aircraft at 18,000 feet wondering why big black blotches were floating before my eyes. The crew had forgotten to give me an oxygen mask, but did when I nearly fell into the pilot's lap.

Being found out by the senior entry hiding behind the toilet door with my feet off the ground as many times before, to avoid being made to clean their huts.

And many others, some too rude for reader's tender ears.

Humour

Our theme this time is the things children say. My thanks to Phil Marston 92nd.

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

One day a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looked at her mother and inquisitively asked, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then said, "Mummy, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael, He's a doctor.' A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher. She's dead."

The teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Lessons - No 1 MathsFrom Tiny Kuhle 87th

- 1 To find a woman you need Time and Money therefore:

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Time} \times \text{Money}$$

- 2 "Time is money" so

$$\text{Time} = \text{Money}$$

- 3 Therefore

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Money} \times \text{Money}$$

$$\text{Woman} = (\text{Money})^2$$

- 4 "Money is the root of all problems"

$$\text{Money} = \sqrt{\text{Problems}}$$

- 5 Therefore

$$\text{Woman} = (\sqrt{\text{Problems}})^2$$

$$\text{Woman} = \text{Problems}$$

(A⁺)

Lessons- No 2 Chemistry

From John Hall 92nd

Chemistry Quiz

The following is supposedly an actual question given on a University of Washington chemistry mid-term. The answer by one student was so profound that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well.

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following: First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving.

As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different Religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.
2. If Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Teresa during my Freshman year that, 'It will be a cold day in Hell before I sleep with you', and take into account the fact that I slept with her last night, then number 2 must be true, and thus I am sure that Hell is exothermic and has already frozen over.

The corollary of this theory is that since Hell has frozen over, it follows that it is not accepting any more souls and is therefore, extinct...leaving only Heaven thereby proving the existence of a divine being which explains why, last night, Teresa kept shouting, "Oh my God."

THIS STUDENT RECEIVED THE ONLY "A".

83rd Entry Reunion Dinner - May 6th 2006

From Brian Cooke 83rd Entry

The reunion dinner was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the 83rd Entry and, in the event, took place on the evening before the 50th anniversary of the day that most of us left home to travel to RAF Locking for the first time.

Typical exceptions to this were Dickie Dawson and Charlie Crowe, our New Zealand contingent, as well as those travelling from Scotland, who left home the day before most of us.

The reunion was held in Weston Super Mare at The Beachlands Hotel on Uphill Road North, a small, comfortable establishment with an indoor heated swimming pool.

The event was attended by a total of twenty-nine people, seventeen of who were members of the 83rd for all or some of their time at Locking. Thirteen of these were among those attested on the 9th May 1956, and fifteen were amongst the twenty-nine Apprentices who passed out on the 24th March 1959.

Most arrived on the Friday evening, some spending a leisurely evening in the Hotel chatting and catching up with the past, with others eating out at the Thatched Cottage.

The menu prepared by the hotel offered an extensive choice, providing an excellent three course meal suitable for the occasion.

Prior to the meal, a form of 'Grace' was said by Bryan Waring, something about turning water into wine and wine back into water. After the meal, Mac Manocha passed on the best wishes of a number of the entry who were unable to attend due to various circumstances, and those who were no longer with us were remembered with a minutes silence.

We then retired to the lounge for coffee and drinks, and of course the inevitable reminiscences of our days at and post Locking.

The following morning, after a hearty breakfast and with old friendships renewed, we went our separate ways, with promises to keep in touch and meet up again soon.

For several of those attending, this was the first time that they had met up with anyone from the entry since Pass Out, and the event was viewed with some trepidation.

The weekend proved to be a very enjoyable one for all concerned and we are all looking forward to the next reunion.

Notices

National Memorial Arboretum

Members may wish to visit the National Memorial Arboretum. This is set in the pleasant countryside of Staffordshire, between the towns of Lichfield and Burton-upon-Trent. The Arboretum provides a living and lasting focus for remembrance essentially for those who have lost their lives or suffered in the service of their country, it is also a haven of peace and contemplation where visitors can both enjoy and learn about the trees and their surroundings and reflect upon their special symbolism. The location benefits from a unique wildlife habitat, bordered on one side by the banks of the River Tame.

Location

The Arboretum is located between Lichfield and Burton on Trent, just off the A38 on the A513 sign posted for Tamworth.

Opening Hours

10am to 5pm (or dusk if earlier) every day except Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Boxing Day. There is no charge for admission.

Website

Find out more at the website: www.nationalmemorialarboretum.org/index.asp
Tele: 01283 792333

Millennium Chapel

The only Chapel in the UK dedicated in Millennium year. The Act of Remembrance is observed in the Chapel at 11.00 a.m. each day.

From Dave Gunby 72nd

During a recent visit to the National Memorial Arboretum, I was intrigued to discover that there is already a tree for RAF Locking. The man behind the desk said that the tree had been there for 7 or 8 years which is more or less the age of the Arboretum.

The man at the desk told me where the tree was but Anne and I had traipsed round once and did not feel like a further trek. The RAF Locking Tree (an oak) is in the RAF wood plot 72 and tree number 1200. There are maps and diagrams behind the reception desk to pin point it. If anyone should visit, a photograph would be useful together with details of any plaque.

Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal

From Dave Gunby.

I would like to draw your attention to the availability of a new medal.

The **Pingat Jasa Malaysia Medal** is being issued by the Malaysian Government to all British veterans and others who served in operations in Malaya/Malaysia between August 1957 and August 1966. Eligibility is a minimum of 90 days service between 31/12/1957 and 12/08/1966. More details and an application form can be found at www.nmbva.co.uk

ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

Potential applicants are reminded that the medal cannot be worn with the UK Medals as it is issued by a foreign government. Me? I miss it by 4 days!

If you are not on the net, you can get help from the Veterans Agency.
Call free on 0800 1692277 or write to: Veterans Agency, Norcross, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 3WP

New Veterans Badge

From Bob Cox.

There is a new veterans badge available to us all issued FREE by H.M.G. It is a very smart lapel badge and available to all who served before 31 Dec 1954.

To obtain the badge pass the following details to the veterans agency.

Full Name,
Postal Address,
Telephone No
National Insurance No
Date of Birth
Armed Service
Armed Service No
Service period
E-mail Address

To:

help@veteransagency.gsi.gov.uk

Or phone Veterans Agency free on 0800 169 2277

Or write to: Veterans Agency, Norcross, Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire, FY5 3WP

Cenotaph Tickets

From Dave Gunby – Secretary.

The Annual Armistice Service and Parade in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday will take place in November. Many thousands of ex-service men and women take part and the Association members march in a group with other ex-apprentices and boy entrants.

The RAFLAA Association will get about six tickets approximately 3 weeks before the event.

If you would like to attend the service and honour old comrades, please put your name forward to Dave Gunby. (See the Committee list of page 29 for contact details).

Applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis but if many apply in good time, then Dave will try to obtain more tickets.

Outings This Summer

The Helicopter Museum

The helicopter museum at Weston super Mare is a great day out for all the family. It is a four and half acre site and includes an active heliport. The display has more than 70 aircraft from around the world. You can see the helicopters including a Russian Hind gun-ship and Vietnam Veterans. There is a heli-adventure play and picnic area and restoration and cockpit viewing. It is also possible to take a helicopter experience flight.

See the website: www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk
Or call 01934 635227 for more details

Ian Davis 91st writes:

The museum is normally open Wednesday through to Sunday each week and I am sure that the ex-apprentices (and grandchildren) will find it interesting.

Please tell your readers volunteers carry out the restoration of the aircraft at the museum. We are always on the look out for anyone local with an interest in aircraft.

I have been working as a volunteer on Wednesdays for about 4 years. Most of the midweek volunteers, about a dozen, are retired and from all kinds of backgrounds.

The kinds of activities I get involved with are stripping, refurbishment and refitting of parts, fitting of items like gearboxes and engines and of course masses of paint removal.

I spent at least a year stripping the multi-layers of paint off the Belvedere we are presently restoring after decades of storage partly outdoors.

Obviously none of the helicopters will ever fly again (some of the original corrosion is extensive) but most parts are in their right places and correctly assembled. They look very good on display in the hanger.

You will see that this year there is an exhibition charting the 70 years that Weston has been an airfield. If any RAFLAA members have photos or stories about the airfield or flying any of the displayed helicopters the museum would be very interested in items submitted.

Battlefield Tours

If you might like to take a tour of the battlefields of Europe, you could contact Galina Battlefield Tours. They organise trips by coach and ferry for 2, 3, 4 and five days to see Normandy landings, Arnhem, Dunkirk, the Somme and many others. They will also help with self-drive and minibus hire for groups.

For details phone 01244 340777 or email info@wartours.com or visit the website at www.wartours.com or write to 40 Bridge Street Row, Chester, CH1 1NN.

RAFLAA COMMITTEE

Appointment	Name	Address	Tel/e-mail	Re-Election	Entry
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Closing Thought

From John Hall 92nd.

THE POSITIVE SIDE OF LIFE

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

If Tesco's is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.



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
