



# LAA NEWSLETTER

Serial 33

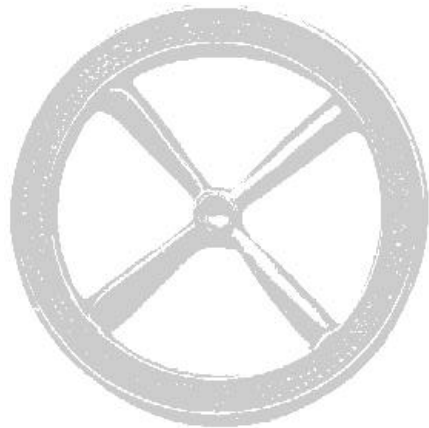
May 2002

## RAF LOCKING

## SOLD

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### 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

## AGM — APRIL 2002

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING OF THE RAF  
LOCKING APPRENTICE  
ASSOCIATION, HELD AT DAUNCEY'S  
HOTEL WESTON SUPER MARE ON  
SATURDAY 13TH APRIL 2002 AT  
13.30 HRS**

**PRESENT**

President:	
Air Cdre M Palmer	91 <sup>st</sup>
Chairman:	
Bert Davies	79 <sup>th</sup>
Secretary:	
Glyn Price	102 <sup>nd</sup>
Treasurer:	
Tony Horry	76 <sup>th</sup>
Membership Secretary:	
John Farmer	77 <sup>th</sup>
Service Rep:	
Jo Holroyd	85 <sup>th</sup>
AA Rep:	
Charles Hart	71 <sup>st</sup>
Tech Rep:	
Andy Perkins	109 <sup>th</sup>
General Rep:	
Vic Gibbs	88 <sup>th</sup>
Apologies:	
Craft Rep:	
Graham Beeston	209 <sup>th</sup>

**T**he Chairman opened the meeting at 13.30. He welcomed the members and guests and asked them to mark the passing of Her Majesty The Queen Mother, and the two members of the association who had passed on since the last AGM with a minutes silence. After this mark of respect, the Chairman read the Apprentice Prayer and then invited the President to address those attending the meeting.

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS & RAFLAA  
TROPHY PRESENTATION.**

**T**he President welcomed everyone and stated how pleased he was at the level of turn out. The President then paid his respects to the two departed members

David Restall  
71<sup>st</sup> Entry      April 2001

Michael Dawson  
76<sup>th</sup> Entry      June 2001

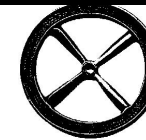
Air Commodore Palmer went on to thank the Chairman and his committee for their efforts over the year and to inform the membership that the Trophy was not be awarded this year due to lack of suitable candidates.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

**T**he Chairman stated that it was regrettable that the Association were unable to make a Presentation of the RAF LAA Trophy this year but

*(Continued on page 3)*

THE



NEWS

**FABEA  
MAY 2002  
80TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF  
APPRENTICE  
TRAINING**

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**RAF  
Locking  
Sold**

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**Next Issue:**

**75th Entry Reunion  
September 2003**

**Latest News on Vulcan  
XM655**

## RAFLAA COMMITTEE

APPOINTMENT	NAME	ADDRESS	TEL/E-MAIL	RE-ELECTION DUE	ENTRY
President	M a r t i n Palmer				91 <sup>st</sup>
Chairman	Bert Davies	20 Lakefield Ave Little Paxton St Neots Cambs PE19 4NZ	(01480) 217243 bertdavies@netscapeonline.co	Sep 02	79 <sup>th</sup>
Secretary	Glyn Price	"Sentosa" 9 Blake Hill Way, Abbeymead Glos GL4 4QR	(01452) 615265 glynprice@09sentosa. freeserve.co (home) gprice@technology.serco.com (work) (01452) 726300	Sep 02	102 <sup>nd</sup>
Treasurer	Tony Horry	Hillside Cottage Kewstoke Road Kewstoke W S M BS22 9YD	(01934) 628383 horrycorp@aol.com	Mar 03	76 <sup>th</sup>
Membership Secretary	John Farmer	8 Glenmore Road Minehead Somerset TA24 5BQ	(01643) 705443 RAFLAA@aol.com	Mar 03	77 <sup>th</sup>
Service Rep	Joe Holroyd	Well Cottage 36 High Street Guilford Morden Royston SG8 0JR	(01763) 853742 patandjoeholroyd@tesco.net	Sep 02	85 <sup>th</sup>
AA Rep	Charles Hart	9 South Road W S M BS23 2HA	(01934) 621969 charhart@supanet.com	Sep 02	71 <sup>st</sup>
General	Vic Gibbs	8 Old School Road Royal Lane Hillingdon Middlesex UB8 3WE	(01895) 235 076 Gibbsvic@aol.com	Mar 04	88 <sup>th</sup>
Craft Rep	Graham Beeston	87 Hornbeam Road Havant PO9 2UT	Home (023) 92346242 Work 0778 8795358 graham@mapleoak.co.uk	Sep 02	209 <sup>th</sup>
Tech Rep	Andy Perkins	107 Balmoral Way Worle W S M BS22 9BZ	(01934)417323 aperkins@schaffner.com	Sep 02	109 <sup>th</sup>
Newsletter Editor	Colin Ingram	Fairhaven Gooseham Morwenstow Nr Bude Cornwall EX23 9PG	(01288) 331629 cwingram@aol.com	Sep 02	88 <sup>th</sup>

## AGM — APRIL 2002

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that we were in the hands of RAF Cosford to make the nomination. Although they had been contacted, Cosford had responded that they felt that there were no candidates of sufficient quality to warrant the award of the trophy. The Chairman asked the President to sound out the Commanding officer to determine if he still wished to keep the RAF LAA Trophy as an award for an outstanding contribution to the training machine at RAF Cosford.

He said that he did not intend to go through a catalogue of the year's events as these had been well documented in the news letter but he that he must put on record his gratitude for all the hard work done by the committee. He explained that his continuing poor health had prevented him from contributing as much as he would like. He stated that he was unable to represent the association you at the FABEA special meeting at St Clement Danes church and the annual FABEA meeting at Bedford. The Chairman thanked Vic Gibbs who ably deputised for him at both meetings, and then went on to thank Charles Hart and Tony Horry, for their efforts in organising the AGM weekend.

The Chairman then raised some issues regarding the Association. He

said "In an effort to minimise the cost of the newsletter we have investigated various sources of printing facilities and the main cost driver would appear to be the A5 sized booklet format. We could reduce the cost of production by reverting to an A4 loose leaf format but your Committee felt that the A5 booklet format was preferable and affordable. The newsletter has stimulated a quite a lively debate from a few of the members on the way we should conduct ourselves and the direction that the association should be going.. It has been commented on, that we appeared to be over-conscious of the final service rank of individuals and that our AGMs were too service orientated and consequently too long and formal. We have taken on board both of these observations, dropping the use of rank in the minutes, other than that of the president, and I will endeavour to keep this meeting as short as possible.

Two other issues were raised, with both the practice of subsidising the social functions and the purpose of the association being questioned. Although we have had only the one observation regarding the practice of subsidising the social events, as it involves the way we spend your money I felt it merited a little of AGM time to see if the view is more widely held and this will be discussed as an

*(Continued on page 4)*

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(Continued from page 3)

agenda item during “Any Other Business.”

With regard to the purpose of the association, this is clearly stated in the constitution. However, my simplistic view of the aims of the LAA is to publicise and sustain the good image of the Locking Apprentice throughout the service and to keep alive the spirit of comradeship and fellowship that we developed and enjoyed during our training, by providing a focal point for contacting old comrades and arranging the occasional social function. To those members who question these aims, or indeed question the basic need for the association I would point out that while membership is exclusive it is not compulsory. Any voluntary organisation can only remain effective if its members believe in it and are prepared to support and contribute to the furtherance of its aims. So, at the risk of sounding trite, I will paraphrase a quote from the past and urge you all "not to ask what the Locking Apprentice Association can do for you, but rather what you can do for the Association."

In keeping with my promise to keep this AGM as short as possible, I will close on that point” The Chairman then invited the Membership Secretary Mr John Farmer, to present his report.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT.**

**M**embership has changed only slightly over the last year. There has been an increase in numbers in the active membership, which has been countered by an increase in the numbers of resignations to give a slight increase overall, also I have to report that two members have passed away since the last AGM further depleting the active membership. I feel that some of our recruiting/membership problems are due to problems being experienced with the Appbe website (through which most of our recruiting has taken place for a number of years) and a change in the subscription ‘reminder’ documentation which has given people the opportunity to terminate their membership (for what ever reason). For those of you who like figures I offer the following: -

- We now have a total of 576 names on the Association Database (this includes both Active & Non-active members)
- An increase of 11 from last year
- There are 392 active members listed
- Down by 8 from last year
- 11 New members since the last AGM
- A fall in recruitment of 10 from 2000/2001
- 12 Members have resigned since last AGM

## STANDING ORDER MANDATE



To .....		Bank		<b>STANDING ORDER MANDATE</b>	
Postal Address .....					
Please Pay		Bank	Branch Title (not address)		Sorting Code Number
HSBC		WESTON - SUPER-MARE		40 - 46 - 18	Quoting Reference
For the credit of		Beneficiary's Name		Account Number	
R AF LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION				41368877	
The sum of		Amount	Amount in words		
£					
Date of first payment		and thereafter every		Due date & frequency	until further notice in writing or
commencing					Date of last payment
					and debit my/our account accordingly
PLEASE CANCEL ALL PREVIOUS STANDING ORDER/DIRECT DEBITTING 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.					

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



**RAF Locking  
Apprentice Association**

**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 £6 per tie - max 2 ties) (Qty) ..... £.....

Total Enclosed £.....

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

**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 .....	

**AGM — APRIL 2002**

- A total of 29 members have resigned since the Association started
- 2 Members have passed away since last AGM
- A total of 15 members have passed away since the Association started
- There are 149 ‘non active’ or ‘ex’ members listed (this includes those resigned or deceased) An increase of 15 since last year
- There are currently 29 members who are being chased for late payment of subscriptions. About the same as last year. The ‘two reminders’ and then out procedure is now in operation.
- There are 91 names an the enquiries list
- Of these 5 are new since last year and are being actively pursued

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP AND STANDING ORDERS**

The number of members who are taking out Life Membership of the Association is growing. In the last year we have had 9 members take out life membership. The numbers of members paying their subscription by Standing order also grows, an additional 8 making use of this facility. 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 of these facilities.

**RECRUITMENT**

Recruitment from the ‘Appbe’ web site has dried up due to problems that I will mention later. There have been a few direct referrals via members and a few from other sources, principally the Channel 4 Service Pals teletext page. As in previous years advertising in magazines and papers is proving too expensive for the return. We have been promised that the Associations details will continue to be entered into RAF News Association Register.

We are always glad to hear of any possible source of (free) advertising and will be delighted to hear from any members who may know of a possible source.

**APPBE WEBSITE**

For those of you who may not know the Appbe website was generated, run and owned by a past member George Burville who passed away in December 2000. The operation and care of the website was taken over by member Phil Mills. Unfortunately the direct rerouting function for membership application/enquiries failed not long after Georges demise and Phil was unable to get into the operation programming for the website to effect a repair. This was the case up until a couple of months ago when Phil made contact with George’s brother-in-law Howard Mclawhorn who it appears had

## AGM — APRIL 2002

Georges computer plus software for the website. Howard it appears is prepared to take over ownership of the website and to try to run it (at least for a while until he determines both his ability to do so, and also the time needed to do so). I have been in touch with Howard by e-mail and he is working his way through the intricacies of George's passwords and setting up procedures. He hopes (?) to let us know the situation as far as the future of the website and in particular to the rerouting problem with the RAF LAA section in the very near future.

### NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

Recent exercises to ascertain member's willingness to receive the Newsletter by e-mail have shown that most members with e-mail will be willing to do so. It is anticipated that the next Newsletter will be distributed by e-mail to those with the facility.

### CHANGES OF PERSONAL DETAILS

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

### TO SUMMARIZE

Membership still grows, albeit slowly. It is hoped that the problems with the Appbe website will be resolved soon and that recruitment numbers will increase.

We have lost some members through the change in subscription reminder documentation, it is felt that it is better for members to resign if they are not happy.

We also continue to lose members through non-payment of subscriptions. In both cases we are asking ex members to let us know why they no longer wish to be members. Perhaps their answers will help us improve the Association.

On the membership front we are in reasonable shape and I commend this report to the meeting.

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

The attached accounts are for the year ending 31st January 2002. These will be audited in the next few weeks.

In these accounts we see income for two AGM's, which has a considerable effect upon the annual income compared to the previous year.. The AGM due in 2000 was postponed and was held at RAP Henlow on 31st March 2001. The income for that event was £1587.50 and the expenditure was £1921.47 -a cost to the Association of £333.97, within the budget set by the Committee. Since the publication of the last newsletter, I have been receiving income for the AGM due to be held at Dauncey's Hotel, W-s-M, on 13th April. £1963 has been received as we are holding the payment due to

## DOGGIE TAIL

A retiring Group Captain having bought his house in the country decided to take up shooting and join the county set. Not owning a gun dog he contacted a couple of ex RAF dog handlers, who kept a gun dog school, with a view to renting a dog for the forthcoming shoot.

The school was run on RAF lines with dogs being given the rank appropriate to their skill level and the only dog available was LAC Bonzer, a young dog with little more than the basic obedience training. However the Group Captain needed a dog so he hired him for the meagre sum of £10 per day.

As one would expect Bonzer was a minor disaster, he was useless at retrieving, had no idea how to point but he was obedient and didn't embarrass his boss so when the next shoot came along the Group Captain decided to give him another chance.

On asking for LAC Bonzer he was advised that Bonzer was now a Corporal and would cost £20 per day. The £20 was well spent, Bonzer was now a competent retriever and was beginning to get the hang of pointing.

When he tried to book Bonzer for the next shoot the Group Captain was told that the dog had been promoted to Sergeant and would cost £30 per day. Once again the dog's performance was impressive and the Group

Captain did well enough to be invited to attend the prestigious final shoot of the season.

By the day of the final shoot Bonzer was a Flight Sergeant costing £50 per day but once again this was money well spent as the Group Captain got the best bag of the shoot and was featured in Town and Country Magazine.

During the closed season the Group Captain decided to try and purchase Bonzer. He was prepared to pay up to £1,000 so you can imagine his surprise to be told he could have him for £100. What is wrong with the dog? asked the Group Captain, I expected to have to pay that much per day for him next season.

Well sir, said the owner, he is not the working dog he was, he did so well in the last shoot of the season that we felt obliged to promote him to Warrant Officer and now all he does is sit on his Bum and bark

ED: It must be true it came from Bert

## CONTRA BAND IN THE GUARDROOM

*(Continued from page 15)*

the Guard Commander in his office.

That afternoon at visiting time, two of the prisoners fellow bandmen arrived bringing the prisoners bagpipes so that he could keep up his practise. They were invited into the office where a couple of RAFP's gently took the bagpipes from them and be-

gan to take them apart. When the drones and stocks had been removed the bag was inverted and out fell a collection of packets of tobacco and papers.

The RAF Locking Apprentices Pipe Band whilst parading during the following month was three players short!

## AIRCREW FUNNIES

Here are some actual maintenance complaints/problems, generally known as squawks, recently submitted by QANTAS Pilots to maintenance Engineers. After attending to the squawks, maintenance crews are required to log the details of the action taken to solve the pilots' squawks.

(P = The problem logged by the pilot.)

- P - Left inside main tyre almost needs re-placement.
- P - Test flight OK, except autoland very rough.
- P - No. 2 propeller seeping prop fluid.
- P - Something loose in cockpit.
- P - Dead bugs on windshield.
- P - Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200-fpm descent.
- P - Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.
- P - DME volume unbelievably loud.
- P - Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.
- P - IFF inoperative.
- P - Suspected crack in windscreen.
- P - Number 3 engine missing.
- P - Aircraft handles funny.
- P - Target radar hums.
- P - Mouse in cockpit.

(S = The solution and action taken by the engineers.)

- S - Almost replaced left inside main tyre.
- S - Autoland not installed on this aircraft.
- S - No. 2 propeller seepage normal - Nos. 1, 3 and 4 propellers lack normal seepage
- S - Something tightened in cockpit.
- S - Live bugs on backorder.
- S - Cannot reproduce problem on ground.
- S - Evidence removed.
- S - Volume set to more believable level.
- S - That's what they are there for!
- S - IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.
- S - Suspect you're right.
- S - Engine found on right wing after brief search.
- S - Aircraft warned to "Straighten up, Fly Right, and Be Serious.
- S - Reprogrammed target radar with words.
- S - Cat installed.

Who says that you have to be intelligent to be aircrew or humourless to be an engineer??

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Dauncey's for most of the rooms that have been booked. The only expenditure for the AGM has been the payment of £200 deposit to Dauncey's Hotel.

**The Social Dance in September** - 44 members and guests attended this event at Danscene, W-s-M, with total income of £550.00. The Association paid for the Wine and the Disco - a total charge to the Association of £279.20. Total cost = £829.20.

Printing & Postage continue to be a large part of our expenses, but again this is bound to be the case by the very nature of the organisation, which seeks to remain in touch with its membership, scattered across the globe.

The Association purchased a Samsung Laser Printer + USB cable for use by the Membership Secretary -John Farmer. Cost: £186.98. This becomes an asset to the Association.

We are pleased that there have been nine persons taking out Life membership during the year, It would be very beneficial to the Association if more members would consider signing up to pay by Standing Order. As we get older we become more forgetful!

As the financial position of the Association remains healthy I can see no reason at this time to increase our subscription rates.

Tony Horry, Treasurer February

2002

The meeting was asked to endorse the accounts. This was proposed by Mick Rafferty 98<sup>th</sup> Entry and Seconded by Mick Farrer 102<sup>nd</sup> Entry. The meeting voted unanimously to accept the Treasurers Report and accounts.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The Chairman advised the meeting that although the treasurer had already suggested that the association retain the annual subscription at £7.50, this is a decision that must be ratified by a vote at the AGM.

Joe Holroyd 85<sup>th</sup> Entry proposed that the annual subscription remained at £7-50. This was seconded by Robin White and given unanimous approval be the membership present.

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Chairman stated that at the last AGM he gave notice that the committee would be proposing a change to the Constitution to enable the Association to grant Honorary Life Membership. He pointed out that the minutes of the 2001 AGM were circulated to the membership via the newsletter and there had been no notification of dissenters.

The proposal is to amend the constitution by adding the following sentence to paragraph 9.

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"Honorary life membership may be granted to individual members of the association in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the association. This honour may only be granted with the unanimous approval of those members present at the AGM where the honour is proposed."

The proposal was made by Harry North 96<sup>th</sup> Entry and seconded by Mick Rafferty 98<sup>th</sup> Entry. Those members present voted unanimously in support of the proposal.

### NEWSLETTER FORMAT

The Chairman stated that as mentioned by the Membership Secretary, Newsletters would continue to be distributed by both-mail and normal post but asked the membership to take up the e-mail method where possible to reduce costs. The postage being the largest percentage of the costs.

### MEMBERS' PROPOSITIONS.

The Chairman informed the members present that no proposals had been received from the membership.

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman then informed the meeting that nine of the ten committee posts are up for re-election before or at the next AGM. Of

these, 7 committee members have a mandate to serve until September 2002, which can be extended to the next AGM, and the other 2 until the 2004 AGM. The chairman stated that he thought that the posts of chairman and secretary are fundamental to the day to day running of the association and ideally their changeover should be staggered. He believed that his continuing ill health makes it inadvisable for him to offer to extend his term of office and the Secretary has already indicated that due to his ill health he would like to stand down as Secretary as soon as practicable although health and workload permitting he would stand for committee membership again at some point in the future.

The Chairman proposed that the membership nominate and elect replacements for both these posts today, with the new Secretary taking up office as soon as is convenient after a suitable hand over period; and the Chairman elect holding the post of deputy chairman until the next AGM, after which he would assume the chairmanship and hold it for a further 3 years. In this way the association would achieve a "one year" stagger in the two posts and provide cover for the chairman's post in the event of any sudden deterioration of his health.

The chairman called for any objections to this approach and there were none. The Chairman then asked if

*(Continued on page 9)*

## CONTRA BAND IN THE GUARDROOM

Robin White (86th Entry)

Reading John Farmers excellent story of his experiences in the Locking Guardroom, reminded me that as 1<sup>st</sup> Year Apps we got our fair share of time in the Guardroom. Not, I hasten to add, as prisoners, but on the interminable picket duties (dished out to the junior entry of the day) that made up so much of our evenings and Saturday mornings across that period.

It was here that I was introduced to the staple diet of dessertspoons full of evaporated milk and sugar that we could avail ourselves of as soon as the night duty rations arrived at 9 pm. But that's another story.

The incident that I want to tell you about began on a Saturday morning. As soon as I arrived, the Guard Commander, a newly arrived Flight Sergeant, ordered me to assist him with a cell search. A member of the Locking Apprentices Pipe Band had recently been offered his own exclusive accommodation for a limited period, and had succeeded in arousing the Flight's suspicions. Having sent him down to do a spot of dirty work in the Sergeants Mess for the morning, the Guard Commander proceeded to strip and search the cell. Or rather, I carried out the heavy mattress, bedside locker and kitbags whilst he searched.

Apparently suspicions had been

aroused because prisoners were only allowed to smoke cigarettes whilst their visitors were present, but this one seemed to have an unending supply. However, despite our best efforts, the cell search turned up not so much as a Rizla paper

Undaunted the search was widened to include the toilets and ablutions. Nothing. At this point I thought the Flight was suffering a brainstorm as he started tapping the bricks of the main wall of the toilets at floor level. Suddenly with a great shout he began prising a brick out of the bottom course, then another and then, laying full stretch on the floor, he thrust his arm into the cavity that was revealed. From it he began pulling packets of tobacco and fag papers. "There's enough here to stock a shop," he said, "but it's time to put up the shutters."

Grabbing an old piece of cardboard he wrote "SHOP SHUT -RAF Locking Guard Commander", placed it in the hole, with a couple of empty tobacco and Rizla packets for good measure, and replaced the bricks.

Later that morning the prisoner returned and was watched as he disappeared into the toilets. He was watched as some while later he came out into the yard, guiltily looked around and then hurried into his cell, where a few minutes later the largest RAFP on duty extended an invitation for him to join

*(Continued on page 16)*



## LOCKING BASE SOLD

Acknowledgement to:  
Weston & Somerset Mercury April 12th 2002

### **The RAF Locking site on the edge of Weston has been bought in a £10 million deal.**

The South West Regional Development Agency and the English Partnerships joined forces to buy the former training base from the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The two organisations, which use Government money to help regenerate areas, say they will be looking to provide space for business, homes and communications facilities.

RDA area manager Ian Thompson said: "The RAF Locking site is an important part of the Weston Visioning exercise which is going on at the moment to determine how the town will develop over the next 20 years.

"RAF Locking needs to be considered with other major sites like Weston Airfield.

"Alongside that, we need to develop detailed plans for the site and that will take about 12 months. It's a long process. We want to involve the local business and residents in the process.

"We are having detailed discussions with the developer Persimmon Homes about how the former airfield it owns and the RAF Locking site would be developed. Hopefully we will have a strong partnership with

them.

"We want to create 2,000 to 3,000 jobs as well as building houses.

"One problem with business parks in Weston is that they have not been marketed as strongly as those elsewhere like Aztec West in Bristol. But firms are looking further south now because there is a lot of labour.

"One use of land we are not looking to have is retail. That should be concentrated in the existing town centre.

"As well as the RAF Locking site, we are also starting to talk to the council about the seafront and the piers. We have funding available for future improvements. There needs to be a total approach to the whole area.

"Weston is an important area for economic development. At the moment it is not fully reaching its potential."

North Somerset Council leader Cllr Mike Roe said: "I am really pleased the development agency and English Partnerships have taken the site on.

"The difficulty with the MOD is that it would be looking to maximise the return it would make on the site and this would have come from housing alone.

"But the agencies are working closely with North Somerset and accept our representation about the need for employment locally."

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*(Continued from page 8)*

there were any volunteers for the post of Secretary and for the post of Deputy Chairman/Chairman Elect. Again there were none.

The President then suggested that these posts were critical and members might wish to consider the possibility of standing for office overnight as without executives there would be no Association.

*Post Meeting Note: Dave Gunby 72nd Entry and Tiny Kuhle 87th Entry responded to the President's prompt and volunteered for the posts of Secretary and Deputy Chairman/Chairman Elect respectively. In the absence of any other contenders for the posts the committee accepted the offers and co-opted both volunteers to the committee with immediate effect pending ratification at the next AGM.*

### **THE SUBSIDISING OF SOCIAL EVENTS**

The Chairman pointed out that one member has objected strongly to the current practice of subsidising social functions. The Chairman said that he was conscious of the fact that the constitution does not specifically cover this point but he and the Committee all feel that this is a legitimate way of encouraging and indeed in some cases enabling members to attend these func-

tions thereby furthering the aims of the association. The Chairman opened the floor for debate. Dave Gunby 72<sup>nd</sup> said that he fully endorsed the use of Association funds to subsidise the AGM and other social events and that he found the level of subsidy very reasonable. As there were no dissenters about the use of subsidies, the Chairman requested that someone propose that the Committee be mandated to subsidise social events for the association at a level which they consider fit at the time.

Proposer Dave Gunby 72<sup>nd</sup> Entry  
Seconded Brian Garret 87<sup>th</sup> Entry.  
Carried unanimously

### **THE LAA MEMORIAL.**

The Chairman stated that at the last AGM he had asked for proposals as to what form an LAA Memorial should take. He said that in the absence of any proposals from the membership the committee had been discussing the placing of a display cabinet in the Weston super Mare RAFA Branch club and that the branch has provisionally agreed to the proposal. The Chairman continued "one of the most enduring memories of our days at RAF Locking must be marching behind the pipes and drums of the Apprentice band. So we thought to centre the display on the band. We have some sashes and other band

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memorabilia plus an original RAF band drum and if the proposal meets with your approval we will attempt to acquire or if necessary purchase a set of pipes. Obviously such a project cannot be undertaken without committing the necessary funds. to it and naturally we will make every effort to minimise the costs. I would like to seek your authority for the committee to spend up to £1,000 on the provision and fitting of a suitable display cabinet, the refurbishment of the drum and sashes and the acquisition of a set of bagpipes. Before I ask for a proposer, does anyone wish to make a counter proposal for the form or location of an LAA memorial?" There were discussion about the selling of Locking and marking the site appropriately but this was continued as another AOB item.

It was proposed by David Hazel 97<sup>th</sup> and Seconded by Robin White 86<sup>th</sup> that the Chairman's suggestion be adopted and that £1000 of Association funds be allocated to the project. This was carried unanimously in a vote.

### RAF LOCKING SITE

The meeting was informed that most of the Locking site had been recently sold for development. It was suggested during previous discussion that it might be appropriate to get the developed site marked in some way to record the fact that the

site had been previously been the home of No 1 Radio School, RAF Locking. Discussion took place on the best way forward including the possibility of the Developer sponsoring the concept of an RAF Locking marker and it was agreed that Tony Horry would progress this via the Local Council Chief Executive and the Developer.

### FABEA COMMEMORATION SERVICE AND LUNCHEON

The Chairman pointed out that FABEA feels that this is a very important event. FABEA need to sell 300 covers for the lunch buffet to be viable. The latest information was that Halton and Cranwell have taken up 200 tickets with the Admin Apprentices etc. taking a further 50 or so tickets. To date RAF LAA have sold only 12 tickets. The widow of George Burville is attending as the guest of the Association. The Chairman stated that this is a major event commemorating the start of youth training in the Royal Air Force which merits our support. The event has been advertised in the last two news letters and the Chairman urged members to consider representing the Association at the church service and buffet luncheon.

### THE APPRENTICE RECORDS AT RAF HENLOW

As a result of some enquiries and comments the meeting was in-

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## BALANCE SHEET - 2000/01

### BALANCE SHEET - 2000/01

#### CURRENT ASSETS

Moneymaster account	6875.56	£4,303.53
Current account	2577.75	£2,853.67
Petty cash	33.77	£65.00
<b>NETT CURRENT ASSETS,</b>	<b>£9,487.08</b>	<b>£7,222.20</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>

#### FINANCED BY

Brought forward balance	£7,222.20	£5,852.46
Profit and loss account	£2,264.88	£1,369.74
	<b>£9,487.08</b>	<b>£7,222.20</b>

**PROFIT & LOSS - 2001/2002****PROFIT & LOSS - 2001/2002**

<b>SALES</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	
Membership fees	2,658.72	2,760.07	
Life membership	900.00	0.00	
Sales - ties, pins and videos	79.00	85.00	
Social events	550.00	10.00	
Raffle at social event	0.00	0.00	
AGM and other misc income	3,549.50	962.50	
Bank interest received	91.65	115.97	
	7,828.87	£3,933.54	
<b>PURCHASES</b>			
Pins	252.50	0.00	
Ties	0.00	0.00	
Videos	0.00	0.00	
Social event expenses	829.20	0.00	
Donations and wreaths	165.00	60.00	
Name badges	29.90	7.80	
Other	247.07	151.00	
AGM and other purchases	2,121.47	0.00	
	3,645.14	£218.80	
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>			
Advertising	0.00	0.00	
Bank charges	2.00	26.35	
Auditing	50.00	50.00	
Refund	42.50	977.50	
	94.50	£1,053.85	
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>£4,089.23</b>		<b>£2,660.89</b>
<b>OVERHEADS</b>			
Travelling expenses	532.80	430.60	
Printing	562.13	271.18	
Telephone	41.25	71.01	
Postage and carriage	486.92	416.20	
Stationery	201.25	102.16	
	1,824.35	£1,291.15	
<b>NETT PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b>£2,264.88</b>		<b>£1,369.74</b>

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formed that the apprentice records held at Henlow are only in our custody, the Association do not own them. The Secretary stated that they cannot be copied in toto and are subject to MOD controls for 75 years. Joe Holroyd stated that visits to these records can be arranged, where people can review the data and extract useful detail but these visits must be controlled with access arranged through the Secretary

Colin Bell commented that the records are subject to deterioration and should be protected. The Chairman agreed but stated that the committee does not currently have the resources to deal with the problems. He stated that the records will be protected from damp and unauthorised access. Cataloguing and much improved methods of protection are beyond the association at this time but he hoped that this could be taken this on board some time in the future.

**OTHER ITEMS**

Members were informed of the availability of Lapel Badges and Brass Wheels and the existence of a waiting list that has been started for Final March Past Videos.

In respect of the potential sale of Coasters, Tony Horry stated that he was still attempting to obtain a good copy of the RAF Locking Crest. It was suggested he contact the badge/shield manufactures and possibly the

RAF Neatishead Museum. Neatishead was suggested as being the custodian of badges for closed RAF Stations.

Dave Gunby enquired about copies of the RAF Locking related book entitled "Over and Out" It was thought that the most likely contact was Warrant Officer Ian Norris, the last SWO at Locking. Doug Reid 86<sup>th</sup> Entry will be contacting him in the foreseeable future and an update will be published in the Newsletter

**DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The Chairman advised the meeting that it was likely that the Next AGM would take place in Spring 2003 and at a venue to be decided on by the Committee.

A proposal was put forward to the effect that all future AGMs be held in the Weston area.

Proposer Bob Storey 99th Sec-  
order Chris Horn 99th. The Chairman said that although he would have preferred this proposal to have been raised at Agenda Item 8 he was prepared to accept it and invited comment. After a lively debate a vote was taken and the proposal was defeated by 35 to 11.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 15:45