



THE FULMINATOR

THE MAGAZINE OF THE

HMS FULMAR
ASSOCIATION



Association News

Following a very successful reunion to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of HMS Fulmar being handed over to the RAF over the weekend of 22/24th June 2007 it was decided that we would proceed with the formation of an independent association away from the Buccaneer association who had organized the 2007 event. This would then open up the membership criteria to anyone who had served at Fulmar in any capacity at any time. As the attendance at the 2007 event was just over 220 it was felt that this was enough of a start to begin to recruit and build up a membership database. With the FAABA members who has served at Lossiemouth included, the membership potential was already in excess of 300 people. Hughie Williams who lives in Elgin has offered to act as Chairman and Dave Clark who is also Secretary of the FAABA has agreed to act as Secretary until the formation of an elected committee at the first AGM which, it is hoped, will be held sometime in 2009. However if anyone wishes to volunteer their services in any capacity in the meanwhile I for one will not object!

As the Royal Court Tournament is no more the social side has moved to the annual Army v Navy game at Twickenham. We have found a very hospitable Inn by the banks of the river called the Barmy Arms were we all meet before and after the game for a few drinks and to catch up. I hope some of you can get down for the game and a meet up. The game is generally held the first Saturday in May.

I have a quantity of the Fly Navy Federation information and recruiting leaflets if anyone has a use for them. If anyone can place them in local pubs, hotels or tourist centres please let me know. I also have a pdf copy which I can send to anyone as an attachment which can be printed off and distributed.

The National Arboretum situated near Burton on Trent is managed by the British Legion and is open daily to all. It has been suggested by the FAA Officers Ass that an "All ranks" memorial stone be placed in the Arboretum as a focal point for the FAA. The cost of this is itro £25,000 and it was suggested an appeal be launched to help offset the cost. The FAAOA have very generously agreed to underwrite the cost, but I would ask each and every one of you to make a contribution to this extremely worthwhile cause. Our Association aim is to raise a minimum of £1000 which, if you all contributed, would be less than £5 a head. So can I please ask you all to dig deep into your pockets. This will be a permanent memorial to everyone who has ever served in the FAA and it is felt to be very important to remind future generations of the role of the FAA in Britain's history. It is hoped that this will be completed in time for a memorial service and dedication sometime in September 2009. Please make cheques payable to the FAABA but make a note on the back that this is for the memorial fund.

Dave Clark, the secretary of the FAABA, returned to the WO & SNCO Mess on the 23rd July 2008 and presented WO Dianne McLeish, the CMC, with an engraved hand bell as a thank you to the mess for allowing them to hold this memorable function here. Dave once again acknowledged that the mess had been excellent hosts for the evening and the members of the association had been delighted at having the opportunity to return to RAF Lossiemouth after such a long period. Mr. Hughie Williams the Chairman, of the recently reformed HMS Fulmer Association also attended the presentation. The CMC rang the bell to celebrate its arrival and to signal "Toofers" before placing it behind the Top Bar (the old Petty Officers Mess) where hopefully it will be rung many more times by the members of the mess



The Fly Navy Federation (FNF).

I attended the latest meeting at the FAA Museum on Friday 4th July and like others was amazed at the scale of events being planned for Fly Navy 100 which begins in January 2009 and runs right through to December. Again I will be sending a detailed itinerary out to all, including non full members. Everyone is welcome to apply for tickets to these events but if oversubscribed preference will be given to full members. Some of the planned events are:

February - Festival of Music in the Royal Albert Hall

May - 6-11th CVS at Greenwich

May 8th - Memorial Service in St Paul's followed by a Royal reception at the Guildhall

May 9th - Beat Retreat, Fly past and Dinner in CVS hangar.

May 17th - TAGS Memorial Service at Lee on Solent followed by lunch in the WO & SR Mess

June 5-7th FAABA Annual Reunion at the Royal Court Hotel near Coventry

June 5th - FN100 Exhibition and book launch at FAA Museum

July TBF Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

July 11th Yeovilton Air Day

July 24th - FAA Fly past at Eastchurch, Isle of Sheppy, the birthplace of RN Aviation

July 29th - Culdrose Air Day

September 18-21st - CVS alongside at Liverpool Reception on 19th

October 15th - Dinner on Britannia, Edinburgh

November 8th RBL Festival of Remembrance themed to FN100

December TBA Centenary Dinner in the Painted Hall Greenwich

The HMS Fulmar Association will receive invites to all these events so if anyone out there is interested in any of the above or any other planned events please get in touch and get your name down on the list. The next meeting of the FNF committee will be held at the FAA Museum on Friday November 7th which I will be attending as the Association representative so if anyone has any comments, ideas or suggestions for any events to commemorate the centenary please let me have them.

Merchandising. The FAABA have a few HMS Fulmar polo shirts left or he can take orders for new merchandising with the Fulmar and or Fly Navy logo. Polo shirts, sweatshirts and fleeces are all available, the prices are all on the FAABA website or you can contact Harold Williams direct at hedwinwilliams@btinternet.com

FAABA Whisky. We have a few 70cl bottles at £25 each and a quantity of the 50cl minis with the four individual front line squadron crests on the labels. The cost of these is £3:50 each or £12 for a set of 4 plus p&p.

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough".

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. 'We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her.'

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. 'Like hell they're getting divorced,' she shouts, 'I'll take care of this,' She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, 'You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?' and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'It's all Okay,' he says, 'they're definitely coming for Christmas - and they're paying their own way

HMS Fulmar Association web site

It is hoped that someone will volunteer to design and maintain a Fulmar site at some point, but until we have our own dedicated site the FAABA have agreed to set up and maintain a site linked off the FAABA site. To access the Fulmar site visit www.faaba.co.uk and click the Fulmar link to the left of the page. If anyone has anything they would like published to the site please send it to me at the address below. This newsletter will be available as a download from the site and a photo gallery is being put together to generate interest in the Association. The FAABA site is now attracting worldwide interest and this can only improve the presence of the Fulmar Association and we should be able to recruit new members on the back of the FAABA.

Similarly if anyone has always yearned to be an author and would like to start by writing association newsletters every quarter please get in touch and offer your services. I am willing to help and pass on the FAABA news which will also be applicable to this membership and other snippets, jokes etc.

BRITISH VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Do you know there is an organisation dedicated to looking after the interests of ex servicemen, offering many discounts to various companies (P&O Ferries, Brewers Fayre to name but two) and providing you with an identity card and newsletters with articles of interest to service people. To learn more about this organisation you can either: Telephone the customer Services Dept on 0845 3003892 or visit www.britishveterans.co.uk and print off an application form

Origin of the name - The Fulminator

As some of you will know the original Fulminator was the station magazine of RNAS Lossiemouth and a further two copies have been sent to me thanks to Steve "Blood" Reed, ex Armourer who served at Tain Range in the early 60's. One memorable page will be covered at a later date as it deserves to be faithfully reproduced from the original (!) but other snippets from the magazines include:

Towards the end of 1965 a fancy dress ball was held in the Fulmar Club and first prize went to a Wren who appeared as a test pilot on a broomstick. She quoted "I had to go as a witch because I had nothing else to wear" Now I have my theory on who this was, but does anyone else know the identity of this Wren?

Heard at the defaulters table: Asked why he did not get his hair cut when ordered to do so he replied "Sir, it takes away my strength and confidence" The case was dismissed!

Commemorative Centenary Malt

As part of the FAA Centenary the FAA Buccaneer Association has been tasked with providing a Centenary Malt Whisky as a memento of the year. This has been researched, the product is available and the prices are as follows.

1. Limited Edition (individually numbered 1-60 or up to a maximum of 120)
50 year old Single Speyside Malt £179.00
2. Limited Edition (individually numbered 1-240 or up to a maximum of 300)
25 year old Single Speyside Malt £60.00

Each bottle will be labelled and numbered with a specially designed label, front and back in a commemorative tube and a certificate of authenticity issued with each bottle. Bottles are now being made available for pre-order now with delivery being made early in 2009. Demand for these products is expected to be high so early bookings are advised. A quantity of each will be held back for industry and sponsorship etc and requests for bottles for auction will also be considered.

If you would like to reserve one or more of these bottles please contact myself, Dave Clark by Email daclark@faaba.org.uk or by phone 01935 704580 (day) or 01935 474862 (evenings) to be entered on the respective list. If oversubscribed, names will be picked out as by raffle rules. Please send no money now, you will be informed if you are successful and money will be required in November. All profits from the sales of this venture will be shared equally between three worthy causes:

- 1 Naval Charities
2. The FAA Heritage Fund
3. To help offset the cost of an "All Ranks" memorial stone at the National Arboretum.

I hope you will give your support this venture.

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