



Honorary President
Rear Admiral Scott Lidbetter



Coolhard Bull

October 2012

The Magazine of the FAA Buccaneer Association

Welcome to the latest news from the Buccaneer and Fulmar associations. It has been a relatively quiet year with few events for members to meet up compared with the activity of the last few years. However we did manage one successful reunion at the Eight Acres in Elgin which was a joint event between the HMS Fulmar and FAABA associations. (see picture below)

So what did happen over the last year?

The Navy lost big style to the Army at Twickers in April. Culdrose and Yeovilton both had successful Air days and the future of the FAA is still undergoing the hopefully temporary transition to a rotary wing only service until the introduction of the FW squadrons of the new carriers. Keep up to date with the latest news on the Navy Campaign website at www.thenavycampaign.com Spread the word, get active and keep the future of the FAA secure.

The NMA FAA Memorial Stone is proving to be a very popular attraction and is entering the next phase of construction with the placing of the association stones. We are submitting our design at the FNF meeting on the 19th October and subject to the expected approval will commission the engraving of the plinth. When we have the finished stone we will be arranging a memorial event to place and dedicate the plaque. Details will follow when finalised.

The Fly Navy Heritage Trust are looking for new members/supporters to help preserve and maintain the aircraft and heritage of the FAA. Please consider joining and lending your support financially and/or as a volunteer. Ask your local rep for an application form or visit www.fnht.co.uk

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The FAABA is a founder member of the Fly Navy Federation

The 13th Annual FAABA and HMS Fulmar Reunion

The 2013 reunion will again be held at the Royal Court Hotel Keresley (near Coventry) from Friday 7th June until Sunday 9th June. The all inclusive cost per person will be:

£75 Per Person for one night

£110 Per Person for two nights

£145 Per Person for three nights

Supplements :

£0 for full members

£5 for each full members guests

£10 each for non members and guests

Brian Sharrock is coordinating the event. Please contact him if you would like to attend on 01305 834112 or Email him on sharrockb@hotmail.co.uk



As usual full hotel facilities, swimming pool, gym etc. are available for all to use and all “house beers, wines and spirits will be £1.75 all weekend. The last reunion at the Eight Acres in Elgin was very well received with several new faces attending, hopefully all coming again this year and we hope to see even more new members this time around—So pass the word!

Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph.

Sunday 11th November 2012, meet at Horse Guards parade at 0950. It would be good to see a few more people attending this year. We have 24 tickets and only 6 people turned up last year which made us the smallest group in the Federation platoon although we have one of the largest memberships. This is a good day out and a chance to meet up with FAA folk from all the various associations, and is a chance to show your respect for all men of the Services who have died in service. Post the march there will be the usual chaotic march down to the embankment for a short memorial service by the FAA memorial. After this we will all be going back to the Tattershall Castle for a few drinks and some food. Don't forget your hip flasks!

The Limes Big Charity Ball.

Will be held at The Limes Country Lodge, Earlswood (just off the M42) on Saturday 17th November 2012, Up Spirits at 1830. The Black Tie event is held at the premises of one of our members, Dave (Birdie) Morris with all proceeds going to Service Charities. Last years event was a fantastic night out with a packed entertainment package from comedy to music with a casino and late night dancing for “The Stayers”!!! The association has booked two tables of 10 so first names received will get the tickets. Contact your area rep for details. Please try to support this event put on at great expense and effort by Dave and his team at the Limes. We have booked a local hotel and transport will be provided to the venue. Please arrive early for tot time with your bubbly bosun Dave Clark!!



FAABA Regional Representatives are:

Scotland and Overseas: Dave Clark 01542 649093 or daveclark@faaba.co.uk

South (Below M4 corridor): Brian Sharrock 01305 834112 sharrockb@hotmail.co.uk

North and Wales: Brian Stanley 01458 441440 or defstan1@hotmail.com

General Secretary Robin Harper 01935 840565 or robinH@fleetairarm.com

Web Master Phil Glover 01305 786646 or philglover@faaba.co.uk

The 2012 Combined FAABA and HMS Fulmar Reunion—Eight Acres Hotel, Elgin

A most successful and enjoyable weekend by all who attended, the reunion followed the now familiar routine of a meet and greet (with Up Spirits) on the Friday evening which was a low key and relaxing

time which gave everyone the opportunity to catch up and see who had turned up for the weekend. The AGM on Saturday morning did not change any of the association routines or policies, We did ask for a vote on whether to continue trying to establish the HMS Fulmar association as a separate entity or continue to run it as a subsidiary to the main FAABA association. The majority vote was to let the existing situation continue as no one wanted to form another committee. So the Fulmar members will continue to be consolidated into the FAABA membership for all association activities and all Fulmar members be automatic FAABA members (according to the type of membership applied for).



Tot time in the evening sun for Dave Morgan, Andy Fleming, Chris Walsh, Steve McWilliams, Colin Shippey and Nigel Garbett .

The Saturday evening Dinner went very well with a profitable raffle, good food and music, the only complaint being a shortage of staff for the earlier part of the evening.

Sunday morning and the working members who had to get back home said their goodbyes, leaving the brave, fit and foolhardy assembled for the coastal path walk organised by Dave and Stacey Clark who had earlier moved to the area. So 10am saw about 15 members leaving Elgin in brilliant sunshine only to arrive at Findochty unable to see to the end of the harbour wall! Undaunted we set off and the sea mist soon cleared and



the sun shone on the righteous for the rest of the walk. We were lucky enough to see the Moray dolphins in Cullen Bay before setting back along the viaduct back to Findochty and a welcome drink in the Admirals. After yet another Tot time on Sunday evening we had a relaxing wind down before everyone made their way back home on Monday morning.

The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a Vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.

The wife has been missing a week now. Police said to prepare for the worst. So I have been to the charity shop to get all her clothes back.

On holiday recently in Spain I saw a sign that said 'English speaking Doctor' - I thought, 'what a good idea, why don't we have them in our country?'



We are on the Web - www.faaba.co.uk Not online?
Please address all comments to Mr Robin Harper, C/O
FAA Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset 01935 840565 or
robinH@fleetairarm.com



Below are notes of interest from the last FNF meeting held on 20th July 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Chairman noted that Admiral Tom Cunningham is to be replaced by Admiral Russ Harding in September, and the Federation wishes to thank Admiral Tom for his support of the FNF, and for his attendance at several FNF meetings.

COMMAND BRIEF

Captain Nick Blackman sent his apologies, but left a Command Brief which was read by the Chairman. Of particular note, it includes the news that Captain Blackman heads Project Warnford VC; through this project ACOS (CSAV) "has tasked a small team of volunteers to conduct a review into how NCHQ, and the serving cadre as a whole, can better support heritage." The FNF looks forward to reports on its progress, and thanks ACOS for this initiative. Nick also reported the acquisition of a Phantom (XV586) which is to be restored to 892 circa 1978 livery, two Sea Harriers FA Mk2s and one T8. Any members who can offer any help and assistance with the restoration of these aircraft are asked to contact your area rep who will put you in touch with Captain Blackman. A full copy of the Command Brief is available on request.

NAVY CAMPAIGN (www.thenavycampaign.com, btorvell@thenavycampaign.com)

4. Beth Torvell sent her apologies, adding: "*The Campaign is still here, working away. Steve has formally stepped down as a director to give his full attention to some other projects. He will still be called on for advice and to be a commentator, so it's not really a goodbye.*" Many thanks to Beth (and Steve) for their continued (unpaid) efforts – please continue to advertise the Campaign website.

HISTORIC FLIGHT (www.royalnavyhistoricflight.org.uk, yeovilton-rnhfco@mod.uk)

Lt Cdr Sloan stated that although ultimately it was disappointing that the Jubilee flypast was cancelled due to weather, it did prove the positive point that approval can be granted for such events – especially as permission was given by the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff. The Swordfish and Sea Fury are flying the season, and will take part at the Goodwood Revival and the Manston Dash. It is hoped that a second Swordfish and Fury (and possibly a 3rd Fury) will be flying next year in time for the Battle of the Atlantic celebrations, for which planning is on-going. Please continue to make requests for fly-bys at association events. There may be other events in the area on the same day/same way, and maximum benefit must be squeezed from all of the flying hours. Also, the flight is always in need of volunteers to help at displays and events; please advertise this to associations, and contact the flight if you have time to give or are able to assist in any way.

SWORDFISH ALE. Mike Nixon stated that this is now available in Tesco and Waitrose – please continue to ask for it in your local store.

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC CELEBRATIONS This is being planned for 2013 and more details will follow. There will be events in Liverpool and London, with a Royal concert and Service of Remembrance. A documentary has also been made. There will be a call for volunteers nearer to the occasion to assist in publicity and event staffing, please advertise the events to association members.

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Stone plinths/engraving. It was decided that initially only the larger 600x300 stones will be used, and an application form for the laser engraving of individual association plinths will follow. Federation representatives felt that it was sensible for there to be some 'control' of content on plinths, and the Chairman will 'filter' the design and wording of applications. A formal event for unveiling of plinths will be discussed once the initial engravings have been completed. Our associations wording will be presented to the next meeting in October.

NEW FNF BANNER. A new banner has been made and applications for borrowing it (and our FAABA banner) can be made through your local area rep. Please note you are responsible for returning the banners after use. Our banner can be viewed on our web site, the FNF one is of a similar style.