

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

# Newsletter

**MARCH 2014**

**THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS**

## **1. RAF ASSOCIATION APPOINTS A NEW HEAD**

On Saturday 15 February 2014, the Central Council of the RAF Association approved the appointment of Mr Nick Bunting as Secretary General, with effect from 3 March 2014. Chairman of Trustees, Air Vice-Marshal Nigel Bairsto said: "We are delighted to welcome Nick Bunting to the Association in this important role. You will see from his biography below that Nick has skills and experience from the commercial and charitable sectors to bring to the RAF Association's mission to support members and welfare beneficiaries in the RAF family.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Easton for her immense contribution over the last three and a half years, and to wish her well in her new role."

Nick started his career with Cadbury's where he held a number of sales, production, marketing, management and operational roles. He then went on to work for Guinness running the on-trade operations, Pepsico where he led the licensed trade function and the home baking side of Whitworths; before becoming part of a management buy-out of the dry dog food division of Dalgety. As the Sales and Marketing Director he created the largest supplier of own label dog food in the UK. His sporting passions have always been rugby union and motor sports. He played rugby until a motorcycle accident resulted in a rethink. Nick then became a referee, where he represented the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and was appointed as the northern hemisphere referee representative on the International Rugby Board.

Taking the opportunity to do his hobby for a living, Nick joined the RFU to lead the development of refereeing. He spent 14 years, in a variety of roles, latterly, as a member of the Executive Committee, as the Head of Public Affairs and Operations, generating over £200m of inward investment into the sport for community based activity and facility development. On leaving the RFU Nick became Chief Executive of one of His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales' charities. He developed and expanded the charity to reach more of its target group of the unemployed over 50s, creating over 2,000 new businesses and 3,000 jobs. Latterly, he was the Chief Executive of the Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association, where as the Chief Executive, he led the organisation through a period of transformation.

Both Nick's father and brother served in the RAF, and his sister-in-law was a commercial pilot, so he has a natural affinity for all things aviation. Outside work Nick has held a Ministerial appointment, several non-executive directorships and acted as a trustee for a range of charities.

Nick takes over the position from Jane Easton, who led the charity through a major restructure during her three and a half year tenure.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

Whole Area Membership figures as at 27 February 2014 were as follows:

Annual	Life	Full Associate	Total	New Ann/Ass 14	Losses Ann/Life/Ass 14
6349	5095	2667	14111	186	114

## 3. WALES, MIDLAND AND SOUTH WESTERN AREA – PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

In recognition of their meritorious service to the Association, the Area President has been pleased to award his Certificate of Appreciation to the following:

Mr Arthur Burgess	- Worcester Branch.
Mrs Ivy Waite	- Porthcawl & Kenfig Branch.
Mr Hugh Thompson	- Swindon Branch.
Mr Bob Curson	- Swindon Branch.
Solihull Branch.	
Mr Doug Collett	- Poole Branch.
Mr & Mrs John and Rose Borrows	- Weston-super-Mare Branch.
Sergeant Paul Cassidy RAFVR(T)	- No 2509 (Yate/Chipping Sodbury) Sqn ATC.
Mrs Maureen Brice	- Salisbury Branch.
Mr Len Farthing	- Pontardawe & District Branch.

Certificates will be presented at the Area AGM in Cardiff or as individually arranged. Many congratulations to all.

## 4. AREA MEMBERSHIP TROPHIES - 2013

Trophies have been awarded to the following Branches for their membership achievements in 2013. The trophies will be presented at the Area AGM:

<u>Highest % Increase in Membership</u> (Branches with 150 Members or less)	WRAF Branch.
<u>Highest % Increase in Membership</u> (Branches with over 150 Members)	St David's & Solva Branch.
<u>First Branch to achieve 100% Renewal of Members</u>	Dursley & South Glos Branch.

## 5. AREA WINGS APPEAL TROPHIES - 2013

Trophies have been awarded to the following Branches for their Wings Appeal achievements in 2013. The Trophies will be presented at the Area AGM:

<u>Highest Gross Per Capita</u>	North Cotswold Branch.
<u>Highest Gross Collection</u>	Torquay Branch.
<u>Highest % Increase in Gross Collection</u>	West Bromwich Branch.

In addition, £10,000 Wings Certificates will be presented at the Area AGM, or as individually arranged, to Birmingham Moseley, Cheltenham, Christchurch, City of Bristol, Cosford & District, North Cotswold, Plymouth, Swindon, Tamworth, Weston-super-Mare and Wrekin Wellington. A £15,000 Certificate will go to Poole Branch, a £20,000 Certificate will go to Solihull Branch and, of course, a fantastic £25,000 Certificate will be presented to Torquay Branch. Many congratulations to all these recipients.

## **6. AREA BRANCH EFFICIENCY COMPETITION – 2013**

The Winners of the Area Branch Efficiency Competition 2013, who have been put forward to the National Competition were as follows. Trophies will be presented at the Area AGM.

Branches with 150 Members or less @ 31 Dec 12                      Penarth Branch

Branches with over 150 Members @ 31 Dec 12                      Torquay Branch

## **7. AREA BRANCH CLUB EFFICIENCY COMPETITION - 2013**

The Winners of the Area Branch Club Efficiency Competition 2013, who have been put forward to the National Competition were as follows. Trophies will be presented at the Area AGM.

Clubs whose parent Branch had 200 Members or less @ 31 Dec 12                      Knighton & District Branch.

Clubs whose parent Branch had over 200 Members @ 31 Dec 12                      Tamworth Branch.

## **8. AREA WELFARE TROPHY - 2013**

This is our fifth year that the Area has been pleased to present the Lightning Trophy for the individual or organisation which has made the biggest contribution to welfare in the Area over the past 12 months. Congratulations this year goes to Mr Phil Thurston, HWO at Kidderminster Branch. Phil is a most deserving winner of this award in recognition of his welfare work.

## **9. ARMED FORCES DAY – GOLF TOURNAMENT – COTTRELL PARK, CARDIFF – WED 25 JUNE**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, in support of Armed Forces Day, is to be held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 at Cottrell Park Golf Club, St Nicholas, Cardiff, CF5 6SJ.

The tournament will be open to all members of the Armed Forces, Past, Present and Future, as well as those who support the Armed Forces, and you are invited to form a team and take part by entering either the Individual or Team Stableford Competitions. The cost for the day will be £20 per person, which will include a bacon roll and coffee / tea on arrival, a round of golf, a buffet meal and prizes for the lucky winners. It would be appreciated, if you are a member of a club, you could display this Invitation on your Club Notice Board as the day is open to all who support the Armed Forces. I can be contacted by email or telephone, or via our Web Site [www.armedforcesdaywales.org](http://www.armedforcesdaywales.org). Simply click on and follow the link to download an Application Form. Entries should be sent as soon as possible to the following address, with CHEQUES made payable to "ARMED FORCES DAY WALES". Thank you - Dixie Dixon.

Lt Col P A Dixon, Staff Quartermaster, Dering Lines, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7RA, Tel: 01874 613566  
[INFBS-QM-STAFFQM@MOD.UK](mailto:INFBS-QM-STAFFQM@MOD.UK)

## **10. BOMBER COMMAND CLASP PRESENTATIONS**

Our National and Area Presidents have been very happy to present Bomber Command Clasps to Association members in our Area over the last several months. If you are the holder of this Clasp or know a member who is entitled then please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like a presentation. Clearly this would require some organisation and it would be sensible to join one or two together at the same occasion. Sadly Area HQ cannot provide any assistance in obtaining the Clasp but will happily facilitate a presentation. We already know of one member in the Melksham area who is due to be presented with his Clasp. Please let us know!

## **11. RAF ASSOCIATION CENTENARIANS**

We are blessed with fabulous members some of whom make it all the way to their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and although our systems are fairly robust to pick up these important milestones, it might be that we simply don't have every date of birth recorded. Nothing beats local knowledge so please make contact if you

know a Branch member is about to become a Centenarian. It is important to us that we offer our congratulations on every occasion!

## **12. OLD BRANDED PACKAGING SILVER SPITFIRE BADGES AND GOLD LANCASTER BADGES**

Our Fundraising Events Department would be grateful for any old branded packaging silver spitfire badges and gold Lancaster badges that can be recycled into boxed sets which are sold at air shows. These are very popular during the Summer Season and stocks are running out. If Branches have any then please get them to any Area Office (Exeter, Moseley, Newbridge) or when you see a member of staff next at AGMs or Conferences. Please don't spend money on postage.

## **13. WINGS APPEAL WORKSHOPS**

A number of Wings Appeal workshops will be held throughout the Area in April. These will allow Wings Appeal Organisers from different branches to come together to share ideas, receive updates on the newest initiatives while feeding back and making suggestions on how the central team can improve the support you receive. The workshops will be taking place at the following locations:

10 April – Weston-super-Mare Branch Club.

15 April – Wolverhampton Branch Club.

Full details have been sent to all Branch Wings Appeal Organisers but if you have any questions please contact Pete Brocklehurst in the Wings Appeal office on 0116 268 8757 or email [wings@rafa.org.uk](mailto:wings@rafa.org.uk) .

## **14. DOSHBOX**

With effect from 1 February 2014 we have moved all our affinity benefits, offered by the RAF Association, from Doshbox to our own website. You will not have to log in to the members are to take advantage of these offers that have been put together especially for our members and the wider community.

## **15. rafa YOUTH UPDATE**

We have no idea where February has gone! Things over here at [rafa YOUTH](#) certainly have been busy with more visits out to Cadet and Scout Groups around the UK, even as this goes to press we are whizzing through the countryside on a train to RAF St Mawgan!

February has seen an increase in Branch interest in [rafa YOUTH](#) and what getting involved can do for you and your Branch. There are a number of ways that you get involved with [rafa YOUTH](#) from calling us to find out what units you have in your area and getting their contact info to sponsoring a prize or even buying gift/group membership for Cadets or Scouts/Explorer Scouts you are already involved with.

Our grand day out to the RAF Aerobatic Team, The Red Arrows on Valentine's day went off without a hitch, even the weather stayed on our side long enough for our ten lucky winners to watch the team practising as well as attend the post-practise debriefing session, meeting the pilots and touring the hangar with a member of the engineering team. In addition to this we have also had three more winners of the British Gliding Association One Day Course Vouchers and they are hoping to be airborne in the very near future! If you haven't already, pop over to [www.facebook.com/rafaYOUTH](http://www.facebook.com/rafaYOUTH) facebook page and check out what's happening! The year has certainly started with a flurry of activity, with seven visits (and more planned) to RAF Association Branches, Girls Venture Corps and ATC Squadrons, so we've been whizzing around the country spreading the [rafa YOUTH](#) message ☺

## **16. ANNUAL CONFERENCE BLACKPOOL – 16 TO 18 MAY 2014**

This is a repeat item. The letter giving details of Annual Conference has been despatched to Branch Secretaries, by E-mail or hard copy (where required). It is important that the pro forma is returned direct to the Conference Organiser (Seb Hargreaves) at CHQ, 117½ Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5ND ([seb.hargreaves@rafa.org.uk](mailto:seb.hargreaves@rafa.org.uk) ) and not via Area offices. It is also imperative that it is returned by the due date (Friday 11 April 2014). In recent years many Branches have not made contact until as late as the week prior to Conference. It is necessary to complete and return the form even if accommodation has been

booked, either direct, or through Area HQ - again in recent years many Delegates have assumed that as they had booked their accommodation there was no need to return the pro forma. Many thanks.

## **17. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at Chepstow & District Branch (2pm) – 1 March 2014.

Somerset Region AGM at Taunton Deane Branch Club (2pm) – 1 March 2014.

Wiltshire Region AGM at Swindon Branch Club (1pm) – 1 March 2014.

Area AGM and Reunion Weekend at The De Vere Village Hotel, Cardiff – 8 March 2014.

St Nazaire Parade and Memorial Service, Falmouth (1020am) – 15 March 2014. Falmouth - Lead Branch.

Sherborne Branch and Club AGMs, Slessor Club, Long Street, Sherborne (8pm) - 19 March 2014.

Mid Wales Region Meeting at Towyn & Aberdovey Branch – 22 March 2014.

Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 12 April 2014.

North Wales Region Meeting at Anglesey Branch (2pm) – 12 April 2014.

Royal Cornwall Parachute Association - 70th Anniversary of 'D' Day - A Tribute to the Normandy Veterans and the 29th US infantry Division at Trebah Garden, Mawnan Smith, Nr Falmouth – 31 May 2014.

Falmouth – Lead Branch.

Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge - 5, 6 and 7 June 2014. RAF St Mawgan - Lead Branch.

Cornwall AFD, Heartlands, Redruth (11am) – 21 June 2014. Camborne, Redruth & Illogan - Lead Branch.

Somerset Region Meeting at City of Bristol Branch Club (2pm) – 5 July 2014.

North Cornwall Branch - Battle of Britain Parade & Service, Kilkhampton Church (11.00am) - 7 September 2014.

Falmouth Branch Battle of Britain Service, Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles The Martyr (1030am) - 7 September 2014.

RNAS Culdrose Air Day – 31 July 2014. Falmouth - Lead Branch.

Somerset Region Meeting at Weston-super-Mare Branch Club (2pm) – 4 October 2014.

Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 8 November 2014.

*Paul Baker - Area Director*

***The best relationship is one in which your love for each other exceeds your need for each other.***