

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

# Newsletter

JUNE 2013

THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS

## 1. MEMBERSHIP

Whole Area Membership figures as at 28 May 2013 were as follows:

| Annual | Life | Full Associate | Total | New Ann/Ass 13 | All Losses |
|--------|------|----------------|-------|----------------|------------|
| 6108   | 5314 | 2300           | 13722 | 392            | 1330       |

We are heavily focused on retaining our Area Membership levels for 2013 and welcome contact from any of our Branches that may have a particular challenge or, indeed, a good method of ensuring their Branch retains its membership numbers. Best practice and models exemplar need to be shared! Our new Branch Support Officer (BSO), Jim Ritchie, is here to help and will happily organise a visit to discuss your issues. Jim can be contacted at [jim.ritchie@rafa.org.uk](mailto:jim.ritchie@rafa.org.uk) at the Exeter Office. Please be aware - for those members who have yet to renew this year - the following note is going out (and by e-mail, to those who have provided an e-mail address):

*I wanted to email you personally, as I have noticed that your Association membership has not been renewed this year. The greatest strength of our Association is our members, who so often can provide that lifeline, in offering friendship help and support to one another. Last year alone we handled over 50,000 enquiries. As such, I felt it important to contact you to see if there was anything I could do to help, or to encourage you to renew your membership.*

*It could well be that you have recently renewed and, if so, please accept my sincere apologies and ignore this email. However, if you haven't had chance to do so yet, you can call us on **0116 266 5224** and pay by debit or credit card. If you would like to simplify this process for **2013** onwards by completing a Direct Debit then either reply to this email, or call on the number above, for a form to complete. It would mean so much to us to continue to have you as one of our members. If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

*Celebrating 70 Years 1943-2013*

## 2. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013 - RESOLUTIONS

An Abridged version of Annual Conference 2013 will be made available soon. The following Resolutions were delivered and results were as follows:

- **Resolution 1.** This Conference reminds Central Council and the Annual Conference Committee of Byelaw 28 and the wording of Byelaw 29 which only permits changes to the Conference agenda for matters of urgency. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 2.** This Conference, having approved a new category of Junior Membership for the ACO at Resolution 1/12, now agrees that the scheme should be extended to all young people between 13 and 17 who have an interest in aviation. **Lost.**
- **Resolution 3.** This Conference resolves that those Ordinary Members in receipt of Housing and Council Tax benefit or similar criteria be offered the option of a reduction of 50% of the annual membership fee with effect from 1 Jan 2014. **Lost.**
- **Resolution 4.** This Conference takes note of a non-publicised decision to cease circulation of Central Council and Area Council Minutes to Branches viewing this as a retrograde step and should be reinstated. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 5.** This Conference resolves that, with all due diligence, facilities be provided for improved information access for more cost-effective communication between Branches and Headquarters. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 6.** This Conference resolves that Byelaw 46 paragraph 2 be amended to reflect the fact that the Chairman of Council does not necessarily have to be a member of the RAF Association's Investment Committee. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 7.** This Conference resolves that Byelaw 25(1)(c) be amended to read 'In the case of a tie at (a) above, the successful candidate will be determined by totalling the number of Ordinary, Life and Full Associate Members of the Branches as at 31 December immediately preceding the Conference who voted for either or both candidates'. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 8.** This Conference resolves that Byelaw 25(3) be amended to read 'In the case of a card vote the number of votes cast by each Branch shall be based on the number of Ordinary, Life and Full Associate Members of the Branch as at 31 December immediately preceding the Conference'. **Carried.**
- **Resolution 9.** This Conference resolves that some Wings Appeal material be branded with the words 'Battle of Britain' and made available for those Branches which request it. **Lost.**
- **Resolution 10.** This Conference resolves that Branch status be granted to existing Area and CHQ Rolls enabling each of them to be represented by a Delegate at Annual and Area Conference and that the governing documents be amended accordingly. **Lost.**
- **Resolution 11.** This Conference resolves that there is a need to ensure adequate numbers of volunteers are available for the Annual Conference Committee and that the Rules and Byelaws are amended accordingly to allow co-options to the Committee. **Lost.**

An audio CD of Conference has been made and is available from the Area Office should this be of use.

### **3. WELLESBOURNE 2013 WINGS AND WHEELS**

You may be interested to know that the annual Wellesbourne Wings and Wheels event will take place on Sunday 16 June with gates opening at 1000hrs. More information can be obtained via the 655 Maintenance & Preservation Society website at [www.xm655.com](http://www.xm655.com).

### **4. BRANCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2012 AND FORMS 1056s**

A quick reminder to those Branches who have yet to send in a copy of their Branch Annual Accounts for 2012. Only a handful remain outstanding but I'd rather not name and shame! Please send these as soon as possible.

### **5. THE 2013 SILVER JUBILEE BIRMINGHAM TATTOO**

The 2013 Silver Jubilee Birmingham Tattoo will take place at the NIA, Birmingham on Saturday 30 November at 6pm and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 2pm. Over 1,000 military musicians and other performers will line up for this year's special 25th Birmingham International Tattoo.

The RAF Association is delighted to be able to offer a limited number of discounted tickets to our members. Instead of the normal £25 per ticket, members can pay just £15 by booking them through CHQ. If you would like to purchase tickets, please call Rishi on 0116 2688785 and you will be able to pay with credit or debit card over the phone. We regret that we are unable to accept cheque payments for these tickets.

From the massed marching bands to the spectacular displays, this year's event has something for everyone and, with only two performances to choose from, tickets are already selling quickly so reserve your place soon.

The Area Office in Exeter will be co-ordinating a more detailed plan in respect of Branch Standard Bearer participation, Band attendance, MET involvement etc and information will be made available soon.

### **6. AREA COUNCILLORS – BRANCH COVERAGE**

This article is repeated from last month as several Branches failed to receive an enclosure of updated Branch coverage by Area Councillors.

### **7. MOD ST ATHAN – CELEBRATING ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Repeat article. Geoff Horton, Area Councillor, has provided the following piece in respect of MOD St Athan's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations:

'As an ex Boy Entrant of St Athan (Ex 48th Entry Rigger), I'm keen to promote the forthcoming 75th Anniversary of MoD (RAF) St Athan, where I trained for 18 months (63-64). The date is Tuesday 9 July 2013. If you did training on No. 4 School of Technical Training, or as an Instructor, or knew someone close to you, or were posted to the Station's strength in some other capacity, do please give this the widest publicity. It is hoped that the Association's MET will be in attendance to promote our work. Many of the past Station Commanders, some retired Air Ranking Officers, are coming along. This is a definite one for the diary as the Station starts to draw down. I've posted a message on the Boy Entrant website with the contact details for Sgt Stu Taylor or through myself at <http://www.rafbea.org/> - bottom right hand side, click on Enter my Forum. Good luck and I hope to see many of you there on the day.'

You may also look at <http://www.raf.mod.uk/modstathan/events/>.

## **8. NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR OUR AREA STANDARD BEARER!**

I am pleased to report that the National Standard Bearer Competition, which was held at Eastbourne as part of the Annual Conference programme, was won by our very own Mr Mike Facey, Neath Branch. A typical expression might be to suggest that Mike fought off very tough opposition, but the fact is Mike was absolutely head and shoulders above his competitors and a very clear winner. Well done and congratulations to Mike who will now carry the National Standard. Mr Paul Ellis, Standard Bearer, Calne & District Branch, will deputise for Mike at Area level when required.

## **9. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at Aberdare Branch Club (2pm) – 1 June 2013.  
West Glamorgan Region Meeting at Porthcawl & Kenfig RAFA Club – 3 June.  
Sherborne; The Service of Dedication of the New Branch Standard and Laying up of the old, to be held at Sherborne Abbey on Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 (6.30 pm)  
Wiltshire Region Meeting at Swindon Branch Club (1pm) – 6 July 2013.  
Cornwall Region Meeting at RBL Truro (2pm) – 13 July 2013.  
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Knighton Branch (2pm) – 13 July.  
Devon Region Meeting at Plymouth Branch (2.30pm) – 20 July 2013.  
Northern (Midlands) Region Meeting at Staff County Council Club (12.15pm) – 24 July 2013.  
North Wales Region Meeting at Wrexham Branch (2pm) – 10 August.  
Area Council Meeting – venue to be confirmed – 21 August 2013.  
Bodmin Branch – Wreath Laying Service at Sea, Padstow – 15 September 2013.  
Northern (Midlands) Region Meeting at Staffs County Council Club (12.15pm) – 25 September 2013  
Devon Region Meeting at Plymouth Branch (2.30pm) – 19 October 2013.  
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Brecon Branch (2pm) – 19 October.  
Cornwall Region Meeting at RBL Truro (2pm) – 2 November 2013.  
Area Council Meeting – venue to be confirmed – 20 November 2013.  
Northern (Midlands) Region Meeting at Staffs County Council Club (12.15pm) – 27 November 2013.  
North Wales Region Meeting at Llangollen Branch (2pm) – 30 November.  
Devon Region AGM at Dawlish Branch Club (2.30pm) – 1 February 2014.  
Northern (Midlands) Region AGM at Staff County Council Club (12.15pm) – 26 February 2014.  
North Wales Region Meeting at Anglesey Branch (2pm) – 12 April 2014.

Paul Baker – Area Director

*Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.*

Enclosures:

1. Area Councillors – Branch Coverage.