

Wales, Midland & South Western Area

Newsletter

JUNE 2014

THIS NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE DISPLAYED FOR THE USE OF ALL MEMBERS

1. MEMBERSHIP

Whole Area Membership figures as at 28 May 2014 were as follows:

Annual	Life	Full Associate	Total	New Ann/Ass 14	Losses Ann/Life/Ass 14
6253	5479	2408	14140	467	1196

Last month's Newsletter was a 'call to arms' to find new and lapsed members. Thank you for your efforts as we continue to chip away at our Area target.

- Area Membership as at 31 December 2013 – 15,168.
- Area Membership as at 28 May 2014 - 14,140.
- Minimum target by 31 December 2014 - 14,788.
- Still required to achieve minimum target - 648.

Clearly it's a basic idea that if each of our 90 Branches can attract 7 or 8 new or lapsed individuals this year then we shall be doing extremely well. Rest assured there is much activity going on elsewhere, not least to encourage more RAF serving members to come on board and to recognise the Association as the RAF Charity of first choice.

We all lead such busy lives that it is sometimes useful to stop and consider where the RAF Association is heading and as our nation begins its 100th commemoration of the First World War we remember that in the final year of that war the Royal Air Force was formed. The Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service amalgamated on 1 April 1918. In 1929 the 'Comrades of the RAF' was formed in the Mess at RAF Andover. In 1933, the then Air Ministry officially recognised the 'Comrades' and Lord Trenchard accepted the Presidency. In 1936 King George VI gave his patronage. In 1941 the men's and women's Comrades Associations joined together to form the Royal Air Forces Association. In 1943, the aims and objectives of the Association were extended to those we know today. These events and the centenary of the RAF are the most significant in the history of the Association. In preparation the Association is devoting a larger proportion of time, resources and energy towards the current and future beneficiaries of the Association than ever before. This will support the ambitions of the Association and its members. Our task is to ensure that the centenary of the RAF is not just a single moment in time, a never to be repeated high water mark. Instead, the centenary can be the catalyst to deliver a stronger and more resilient RAF Association, more relevant and providing the charitable aims to a wider membership.

2. AREA WINNERS AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Congratulations to the following recipients who were recently honoured at the Annual Conference Gala Awards Evening in Blackpool:

- RAF St Mawgan Branch won the President's Cup – awarded to a Branch for outstanding achievement in 2013.
- No 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Sqn ATC won the Sir Douglas Bader Trophy – awarded to the ATC Sqn with the greatest per capita contribution to Wings Appeal in 2013.
- Sergeant Simon 'Wilky' Wilkinson from Remote Radar Head Portreath won the Wally Marriott Trophy – awarded to the RAFALO judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the Association in 2013.

Other Area recipients on the evening included Mr Phil Thurston who collected the Lightning Trophy for his outstanding contribution to Area Welfare and Mr and Mrs Bill and Margaret Leech from Cheltenham Branch who collected a National Presidential Certificate.

3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014 - RESOLUTIONS

The following Resolutions were carried at Annual Conference 2014:

Resolution 1

This Conference resolves that Byelaw 26 be amended by inserting the following after Byelaw 26(1): If a vacancy occurs amongst the Elected Members, it shall be filled by the Annual Conference Committee by offering the vacancy to the unsuccessful candidates at the last election in turn, starting with the candidates who obtained the greatest number of votes. If there were no unsuccessful candidates or if none of these candidates are willing to fill the vacancy, it shall be filled by the Annual Conference Committee by appointing any member who is eligible for appointment.

If a vacancy occurs amongst the Members of Council on the Annual Conference Committee, it shall be filled by the Council.

Resolution 2

This Conference resolves that Central Council investigate a way forward to ensure that Members on Area and CHQ Membership Rolls are not disenfranchised and each roll is represented by a voting delegate at Area and Annual Conferences, and that the governing documents are amended accordingly.

Resolution 4

This Conference having approved a new category of Youth Membership, rafa YOUTH, now agrees that the Association extend the eligibility of the rafa YOUTH scheme, subject to the satisfactory completion of due diligence by Central Council, to include all air cadet organisations in the British Commonwealth.

Emergency Resolution 1

This Conference resolves that the Eagle and Globe emblem remains as an integral part of the Association identity.

Emergency Resolution 2

Notwithstanding the proposal in Resolution No 8 to hold the 2016 Annual Conference in Harrogate subject to due diligence, Council is requested to also consider Blackpool as the 2016 Conference venue.

The following Resolutions were not carried:

Resolution 3

This Conference resolves that Rule 8 (1 (c)) be superseded, as follows, That a spouse, partner, widow, widower and sons or daughters (on reaching the age of 18 years), of personnel who are serving or who have served in the Royal Air Force be eligible for Ordinary Membership of the Royal Air Forces Association.

Resolution 5

This Annual General Meeting of Conference agrees with immediate effect, all future memberships are run on an Anniversary basis, i.e. the date of joining is the date of renewal, and the Admin Handbook is amended accordingly.

Resolution 6

This Conference resolves that with effect from 1 January 2015 only full Associate Members of a Branch shall be eligible to become an Associate Member of a RAFA Branch Club and that Standard Club Rule 9 (2) be amended accordingly.

Resolution 7

This Conference resolves that, following satisfactory due diligence by Central Council, a larger, more substantial Wing emblem, should replace the sticky backed Wing, currently given out by collectors for our Wings Appeal.

Resolution 8

This Annual General Meeting of Conference agrees that the Conference venue for 2016 should be Harrogate from 13-15 May 2016 subject to due diligence being carried out by Central Council.

4. THE PEOPLE'S MOSQUITO LTD

The following project may be of interest.

The People's Mosquito Ltd is a charitable organization, with but one aim. To restore to flying status, and base in the UK an example of the de Havilland Mosquito, as a flying memorial to those who worked on and flew in this fabulous aircraft. This link will take you to our website <http://peoplesmosquito.org.uk>.

The good news is that the work - starting with the cutting of a complete set of new wing ribs - has begun in New Zealand, courtesy of our partner, Aerowood Ltd. The Canadian Spruce being used has come from the same area as that used by de Havilland Canada to build their Mosquitoes during the Second World War. On our website we have just posted a short colour film of an amazing raid by Mosquitoes, carried out in August 1944 - <http://wp.me/p2633O-zi>. Please help us to 'Build One For Britain'. Anyone wishing to support this project should make contact with Ross Sharp, Director, Engineering & Airframe Compliance, at ross.sharp@peoplesmosquito.org.uk.

5. RAFA CLUBS IN WALES – FOOD HYGIENE BILL

The following information is provided by our National Clubs Advisor and is aimed at our Branches in Wales that operate Clubs. Welsh Clubs serving food will need to display their food hygiene ratings after the Food Hygiene Rating (Wales) Bill became law on 4 March 2014.

For more information, see <http://www.clubmirror.com/?page=news&feature=64> and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2013/2/crossheading/introduction/enacted>

6. BRANCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2013 AND FORMS 1056s

A quick reminder to those Branches who have yet to send in a copy of their Branch Annual Accounts for 2013. Only a handful remain outstanding but I'd rather not name and shame! Please send these as soon as possible. Many thanks!

7. rafa YOUTH – UPDATE

Our exciting youth membership initiative is going from strength to strength with more Branches coming on board who are looking to galvanise their relationship with local ATC Sqns. This remains a great way to say thank you to your adjacent ATC Sqns by committing Branch funds to the purchase of cadet memberships. Run entirely on Facebook, it costs just £10 a year to join and offers exclusive news, articles and interviews, plus competitions and monthly prize draws for the chance to win air-related experiences such as flying, gliding and RAF station visits. Please help to build on this success by giving consideration to your Branch sponsoring a local ATC Sqn, CCF (RAF), Girls Venture Corps Air Cadets, Air Scouts or Air Explorer Scouts. The Project Manager, Helen Gibson is on 0116-268-8789, if you wish to discuss this initiative or to organise a local presentation, or you can call Jim Ritchie or Paul Baker at Area HQ in Exeter.

rafa YOUTH facebook community:

Regular updates, news, polls and quizzes...

**CALLING ALL YOUNG FLYERS ...
LOVE AIRCRAFT AND FLYING? AGED 13-17?**

rafa YOUTH

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rafa YOUTH

8. DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

West Glamorgan Region Meeting at Neath RAFA Club – 2 June 2014.
Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge - 5, 6 and 7 June 2014. RAF St Mawgan - Lead Branch.
Weston Air Festival at Weston-super-Mare - 21 and 22 June 2014 (11am to 6pm).
Exeter Armed Forces Day Celebrations on Cathedral Green – (11am) – 21 June 2014.
Cornwall AFD, Heartlands, Redruth (11am) – 21 June 2014. Camborne, Redruth & Illogan - Lead Branch.
Devon Region Meeting at Exmouth RAFA Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 19 July 2014.
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Cardigan (2pm) – 19 July 2014.
Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 19 July 2014.
RNAS Culdrose Air Day – 31 July 2014. Falmouth - Lead Branch.
North Wales Region Meeting at Wrexham Branch HQ (2pm) – 9 August 2014.
East Glamorgan & Gwent Region Meeting at Llandaff & Ely Branch HQ (2pm) – 23 August 2014.
RAF Cosford Battle of Britain Parade and Service (1130am) – 7 September 2014.
MoD St Athan Battle of Britain Parade and Service – 7 September 2014.

North Cornwall Branch - Battle of Britain Parade & Service, Kilkhampton Church (11am) - 7 September 2014.
Falmouth Branch Battle of Britain Service, Falmouth Parish Church of King Charles The Martyr (1030am) - 7 September 2014.
Ellesmere Branch Summer Fete - Three Pidgeons Nesscliffe nr. Shrewsbury - Saturday 13 September 2014 (2pm). This in aid of the Branch's Wings Appeal.
Bodmin Branch – Annual Wreath Laying Service at Sea, departing Padstow Harbour at 4pm – 21 September 2014.
Mid Wales Region Meeting at Llanidloes (2pm) – 18 October 2014.
Devon Region Meeting at Plymouth Branch HQ (2.30pm) – 25 October 2014.
Cornwall Region Meeting at the Kernow Club, Truro (2pm) – 8 November 2014.
North Wales Region Meeting at Llangollen Branch HQ (2pm) – 29 November 2014.
Devon Region AGM at Dawlish RAFA Club (2.30pm) – 7 February 2015.

Paul Baker - Area Director

Hospitality: making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.