



Chairman's Report

In my letter about the very successful reunion lunch held on 13 May 2000, I said that I would tell you subsequently of the decisions taken by your committee prior to that lunch. I had hoped also to be able to give you a firm date for next year's get together at Boulmer, but, for a number of reasons, it has to remain at one of the two weekends 12th 13th May or 19th 20th May 2001. Please keep those weekends clear in your diaries and I shall let you know which it is to be, as soon as I possibly can!

Turning to the committee meeting, we agreed to continue the £5 annual subscription but to harmonize renewal to 1st September each year - so, those of you who were worried about not being asked to renew will now know why and will get a reminder any day now. We also decided to offer the opportunity to pay by Standing Order or Direct Debit and that Life Membership would be available for a single subscription payment of £50. (This would not be abated by any previously paid amounts!)

The establishment of an Association Website was a topic of lively discussion and Mike Hamill agreed to set one up and act as webmaster.

As well as the next reunion, other topics were the availability of more items of [memorabilia](#) than at present, which Stew Cameron-Forbes is working on. I made the point that I did not want to be a Chairman in perpetuity and that the Committee should be dynamic in its composition - we needed to recruit new Committee members sooner rather than later - and those of you who volunteered your services after lunch at the Club - I haven't forgotten!!

The next committee meeting is planned for 23rd November 2000 and I would welcome any items for discussion from any of our readers.

My main concern, however, is to work towards a good turnout at Boulmer next year - so, once again, keep those weekends free and we'll let you know as soon as we can what the date is to be. In the meantime don't hesitate to let me know of ideas for other Association events we could organize.

In Comradeship,

Pete Chadwick

P. S. Heartfelt thanks to all who supported my London Marathon for the Lymphoma Association, you'll be pleased to know I'm running next year also!

From The Treasurer



The Treasurer is a happy man! The balance of the Association accounts is £1600 in credit with no current expenditure planned. The membership year ends in September so for those who feel able, if you can pay the £50 up front for life Membership than this will of course greatly cement our financial base, which has already been greatly enhanced by generous contributions from the Squadron and our Honorary President. That said, do not be pressured into the £50 option as the annual renewal of £5 is also perfectly acceptable, but, as your Treasurer, I am, of course, always after your money.

Jim Goodbourn

Membership Secretary



Greetings from Cornwall! What happened to the summer? Membership numbers have settled down to 80 or so, with 5 life members. The subscription date was agreed as 1st September, so I look forward to receiving your life or annual renewals in the next month. I'll borrow Fred McMillan's quotation from Intercom, the magazine of the Aircrew Association: "The past is history, the future is a mystery, today's is a gift; that's why it's called the present". Thank you to all those members who kindly sent contributions towards a commemorative publication to mark 60 years of RAF Search and Rescue. To those members of the pre-helicopter 202 Squadron, please record your stories of bygone days on 202 - such precious material is important.

From The Squadron



Those of you lucky enough to attend the 202 Squadron Association reunion lunch in the RAF Club in May will be familiar with some of the contents of my contribution to this Newsletter. However, I've brought it up to date with some late additions.

I thought the members might be interested in some statistical information and anecdotes, which give an insight into the current state of 202 Squadron. In the year January to December 1999 the Squadron were involved in a total of 590 operational call outs. The breakdown is as follows:

A Flight Boulmer	139
D Flight Lossiemouth	280
E Flt Leconfield	71
Total	590

Lossiemouth, who have the unenviable task of patrolling the Scottish Highlands, continue to be our most active flight. But, hidden within the statistics, lies the fact that some 384 people have been rescued, a large proportion of whom owe their lives to the continued professionalism and courage of 202. The rest have almost certainly been speedily relieved from extreme discomfort and pain in circumstances where no other asset could have offered them assistance. Also included are 6 military aircraft crashes attended by 202 Squadron and an Air Force Cross, awarded to

19 March 1999

A crew from Lossiemouth is presented with the Edward and Maisie Lewis Award. This is a prestigious award for gallantry in Search and Rescue operations. The SAR crew lifted the ship's company from the Multitank Ascania off northern Scotland despite the fact that she was burning out of control and had an explosive cargo.

16 January 1999

After having picked up a casualty from Sharp Edge in the Lake District, Rescue 131 from Boulmer landed at a hospital landing site in a less desirable part of Newcastle to hand over the casualty to a waiting ambulance. Whilst awaiting the return of the winchman the crew were entertained by a small Geordie lad who proudly showed the Captain, Sqn Ldr Henry Pottle, his collection of purloined car tyre dust caps. Wrongly assuming that the Sea King would be immune from such thievery, Henry continued to await his winchman. The lad was last seen departing the scene at high speed carrying the ultimate trophy: a set of two Sea King dust caps!

In addition to our UK task, we have also provided support for RAF operations around the Globe. Most notably we provided pilots, engineers, operations and administrative support for 78 Squadron in the Falkland Islands, operations support for tasks in Saudi, administrative support to operations in Kuwait and one pilot joined the helicopter tasking cell in Bosnia.

At the reunion lunch I was proud to bring with me and display the Squadron Standard. I was most gratified to hear the thanks I received for this and was amazed to discover how many ex Squadron members had

Flight Sergeant Gary Forsyth a winchman at Lossiemouth. Already to April this year, the Squadron has had 155 call outs and the pace seems to be quickening as the summer months arrive.

To give you a flavour of the sort of thing that we get up to nowadays, here is a roundup of some 'notable' jobs:

1 August 1999

Humber Coastguard were alerted by several members of the public to a dramatic scene off Whitby. A pleasure boat was on fire and people had been seen leaping from it into the water. Rescue 128 from Leconfield was scrambled along with Coastguard assets and all raced to the scene. On arrival a quite different picture emerged. When asked the nature of his emergency, the Captain of the pleasure boat declared, "Thanks for turning up, but our barbecue is going fine and the weather is so nice that we've decided to have a swim". All in the day's work!

24 August 1999

Some of you may remember a collision in the English Channel off Kent in which the Ever Decent and the passenger liner Norwegian Dream were both severely damaged. Although well out of 202's area, the incident was so serious that 202 Squadron was tasked to assist 22 Squadron, our southern sister.

not ever seen it. I am more than willing to display the Standard, with my OC's permission of course, at other such occasions, but I should point out that it is governed by some strict regulations, it is extremely old, fragile and is irreplaceable, so this may not always be possible. The Standard has been paraded at several locations over the past year:

I hope that my input to the Newsletter provides you with an insight as to how the Squadron is faring today. I can assure you that we endeavour to maintain the high standards set by you, our forebears, and that the name of 202 Squadron is well respected wherever it is mentioned. I wish you all well.

Graham Stewart.

Association Liaison Officer

Our Association Liaison Officer, Flt Lt Graham Stewart, has been posted - to the United States Coastguard - and has been replaced by Flying Officer Martin Williams of "B" Flight, Leconfield. Many thanks to Graham for all he did for us and every success in the States and welcome to Martin. We look forward to meeting you.



From The Editor

Annual Reunion 2001

By popular (with me anyway) request the next reunion will be held away from London; in fact it will be at Boulmer. We are still unable to be precise about dates, but it will be on one of the two weekends 12/13 May or 19/20 May 2001. Please make this the first thing that you pencil into your 2001 diaries when they arrive and we shall convert it to ink as soon as we can. I look forward to seeing a massive (well, big) turnout.

The Newsletter

Contributions of all sorts for publication are most welcome. We call this a newsletter, but it doesn't have to be confined to news; the article "angel" in this issue is an excellent example of the kind of general interest item that most of us find interesting and informative. Letters and points of view will perhaps strike a chord in other members.

Subject to the Editor's unbelievably wide discretion, any subject is acceptable, but the more relevant the better. If you don't want to write a whole item, suggestions for new ones will be accepted with pleasure and may be implemented. Anonymous items will not normally be acceptable, but try me anyway.

I am struggling to find a method of reproducing photographs to a satisfactory quality within a reasonable budget, so Readers' Wives is out.