



# ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CURRENT OFFICER COMMANDING NO 202 SQUADRON, WING COMMANDER STEVE GARDEN

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I had the privilege of assuming command of 202 Squadron from Pete Lloyd on 15 November 2001. Having served on 202 Squadron as both a flight lieutenant and a squadron leader, I am delighted to return as Squadron Commander. While there will undoubtedly be many high points over the next two years, I am much looking forward to maintaining the very strong links between the Squadron and the Association, of which I have been a member since it was first established. In particular, I am looking forward to welcoming you to the reunion in May at Leconfield. I thought last year's reunion was the best to date (and I have missed only one so far) and I believe that this year's will be even better.

While I leave it to Martyn Williams to update you on the Squadron's activities over the past few months – and they have been varied and interesting – for those whom I have not met, I thought you might like to know a bit more about me.

After graduating as a helicopter pilot in 1985, I spent two tours flying the Wessex, predominantly in the Support Helicopter role, on 28 (Army Cooperation) Squadron in Hong Kong and on 72 Squadron in Northern Ireland. I arrived on 202 Squadron in August 1990, to serve on A Flight at RAF Boulmer in the wonderful Northumberland countryside. The last year was spent as the (last) flight lieutenant Flight Commander, which was undoubtedly the best flight lieutenant's job in the RAF. During this tour I also spent two seasons as the Sea King display pilot.

On promotion in February 1994 I went to B Flight 202 Squadron at RAF Brawdy, but in June of that year moved the unit to (the then) RAF Chivenor where it became A Flight 22 Squadron. I left Chivenor in January 1996 to spend six enjoyable months as the Officer Commanding 78 Squadron in the Falkland Islands, flying both the Sea King and the Chinook Mk2.

I've just returned to flying after 5 years on the ground, mainly working in MOD Main Building in Whitehall. The first two were spent as 'Hels 1a' in the Directorate of Air Operations in the central staffs. Amongst other things, my responsibilities there included SAR policy and custodianship of the NATO SAR (ATP-10) and Combat SAR (ATP-62 manuals. I then had a year off at school (Advanced Staff Course at Bracknell) for good behaviour before taking up the post in November 1999 of Military Assistant to the

Minister of State for the Armed Forces – some of you asked me last year about the gold braid on my Mess kit. This was a demanding and fascinating job but to be returning to flying and command is wonderful – some would say fantastic and mean it literally!

So, that's me. I'm very much looking forward to seeing you all at Leconfield in May. This year I hope that I have the stamina to outlast Pete Williams and Bob Griff!

**Steve Garden**

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## Secretary's Note

The last year has seen an increase in the membership, which now stands at 135. Most of the subs for 2001 are now in with only a few stragglers.

One way of making my job as Secretary a little bit easier and has saved the Association money is the use of Email addresses. I can currently save 60 stamps per letter so if you have an Email address and wish to receive 202 correspondence this way let me know. If you have forgotten to pay your subs and wish to send me a cheque for £5 made payable to 202 Sqn Association to see you at the Reunion,

**Jules**

## From the Treasurer

It has been a quiet period for the Treasurer; the important thing to report is that our funds are healthy – around £2000.

Life is very much easier for both the Secretary and Treasurer if annual subscriptions are paid by Direct Debit. Jules will be delighted to send the necessary forms to any member who feels able to pay by this method. Just drop a line or send an email.

**James Goodbourn**

## The Future of the Committee

At the November Committee meeting the Chairman again emphasized that, to keep the Association moving forward, it was vital to keep recruiting new members onto the Committee.

The Chairman and Treasurer both wish to stand down and replacements are being sought. In the Chairman's Remarks he welcomes Derek Whatling as the new Chairman and we all agree.

Hugh Cumming, your Editor, has decided to stand down from the Committee after the next meeting due to the difficulty of justifying the cost of travel. I shall, however, continue to produce this Newsletter until a volunteer replacement is forthcoming.

Mike Hamill, our Webmaster, has accepted an invitation to sit on the Committee and Brian Tanner will join it at the next meeting.

We have also heard expressions of interest from Merv Counter and Chris Goldsmith; any more?

## Social Events

A few ideas have been put forward for social events in addition to the annual reunion (about which more later). They include:

1. A lunch in Durham to coincide with Remembrance Day. The Squadron Standards is paraded to Durham Cathedral on that day.
2. A lunch in the RAF Club (London) in September or October.

### 3. A visit to Gibraltar.

Your views will be polled at the Annual General Meeting at Leconfield in May.

[My, necessarily vague, memories of Squadron Gibraltar trips suggest that it could be an extremely interesting visit possibly leading to the Gibraltarians voting to join Spain]

#### *Letter to the Editor*

Dear Hugh,

Since reading the Spring Newsletter I have been meaning to write to you regarding the "Hastings Bismuth" phase of the Squadron's history. I also knew of "Iggly"; he wasn't on 202 whilst I was on the Squadron at Aldergrove. He returned to ATC Aldergrove at about the time I left in January 1960 to take up the post as Station Nav Officer at RAF Khormaksar.

About 10 years ago a WO Paddy Porter of HQ Support command Brampton was writing an article entitled "Long Range Weathermen" for the magazine *Air Enthusiast* and he contacted me at JARIC, also at RAF Brampton, for some help. I could only find one photograph of my time on 202, but I was able to help him with other details. . .

Squadron Leader Jim Sullings was the Officer Commanding 202 for most of my tour of duty and we received the colours during that time. The reviewing officer for the parade was, if my memory serves me correctly, the second officer commanding of 2 Sqn RNAS.

Keep the newsletters coming,

Yours aye

Jeff Bartlett.

[My thanks to other correspondents who's letters have been held over]

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## **Chairman's Report and Annual Reunion Details**

Well, amazingly, we're approaching Annual Reunion time again and I'm really looking forward to it. It's going to be my last as chairman of your committee. Derek Whatling has bravely agreed to take over from me – so, at least, I'm fulfilling my aim to keep the Committee a dynamic organisation!

There's not a great deal of activity to report since the last Newsletter, except that we're consolidating nicely – the membership continues on the up and the number of Life Members is increasing, which is particularly good for the health of our funds.

So, I thought I'd use the space to tell you the Reunion arrangements and to seek your firm bookings. But, firstly many, many thanks to all of you who responded to my first trawl – it looks like it's going to be even more popular than last year.

The overall arrangement will be much as last year – we'll gather for a meet and greet on the Friday evening over a curry and a pint or two. On the Saturday, we'll have our AGM at 11.30am, followed by the "Reunion Photograph", and then, once again, OC 202 Sqn has invited us to lunch at the SAR Flight. One suggestion for the afternoon has been a trip to the Aviation Museum at Elvington – whether or not we follow this up will depend on the level of interest.

If the numbers coming remain as high as they seem at the moment, there is no way that we can accommodate a formal dinner on the Saturday evening, as we did last year, but, whatever happens, **we will have a “proper sitdown meal” in some way or other!**

**The bad news is that the Army have been hit by the same bug as the RAF in terms of having to charge for “unentitled civilians” to stay in the Mess.** I have spoken nicely to the Treasurer and we shall endeavour to keep costs to a minimum.

The cost for a member staying for 2 nights, including a supper on the Friday, the Evening Function on the Saturday and 2 breakfasts will be £60.00 per person.

A member staying only on the Saturday night, including the Saturday Evening Function and breakfast will pay £35.00 per person.

A member making their own accommodation arrangements will pay £17.50 per person to attend the Saturday Evening Function.

As last year, Mess accommodation will be available on a first come, first served basis with Evening Meal and Breakfast for each night booked – the Saturday Evening Meal being the Reunion Supper. For those of you who do not wish to stay in the Mess, the same hotels are available in Beverley – indeed, I believe some of you have already booked rooms in town! The slight change this year is that, if the Mess is already fully booked, I'll let you know and ask you to book your own hotels.

Telephone Numbers for the hotels are:

The Lairgate, 30 Lairgate, Beverley                      01482 882141

The Market Cross, 12-14 Lairgate, Beverley            01482 679029

The Beverley Arms, North Bar Within                 01482 869241

Please complete the proforma and let me have it soonest. I will be happy to receive your bookings by – but please make sure you answer all the questions and let me have a cheque in due course – or you can return the form to me at my home address:

Please make sure that I have a contact number for you.

**The A Flight Shop has a lot of very attractive items of Squadron Memorabilia that are available to Association members.**

202 Squadron Plaque*	£24.00	Tie	£7.50
202 Squadron Embroidered Badge	£4.00	Cummerbund	£20.00
Sea King Enamel Badge	£3.00		
Large Sea King Print	£2.00		* To order
Sea King Mountains Print	£1.00		
Sea King Postcard Print	£0.25	Please send your orders to:	
Tankard*	£15.00		
Pen	£0.40	S Cameron Forbes, B.E.M.	
Key Ring	£1.00	35 Church Close	
202 Squadron Sticker	£0.50	Buxton	
RAF Crest – Enamel Badge	£3.00	Norwich	
Bookmark	£1.00	Norfolk	
202 Squadron Crest Enamel Badge	£3.00	NR10 5ER	
Sea King Sticker	£0.50		
Sea King Embroidered Badge	£4.00	Please make cheques payable to: Services Fund	
T Shirt (all sizes)	£8.50	RAF Boulmer for all goods except ties for which	
Polo Shirt (all sizes)	£14.00	the cheque should be to 202 Squadron Association.	

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To: Pete Chadwick

From: Name:

Address:

Contact Telephone Number:

I shall be / not be attending the 202 Squadron Association Reunion at Leconfield on 3/4/5 May 2002.

I will be accompanied by ..... / I will be unaccompanied.

I would like to be accommodated in the Mess for the Friday and Saturday nights.

I would like to be accommodated in the Mess for the Saturday night only.

I will make my own accommodation arrangements, but would like to attend the Saturday Evening function.

I would/would not be interested in joining a trip to the Yorkshire Air Museum.

My car details are:

Make.....Model.....Colour.....Reg.....

I enclose a cheque made to the 202 Squadron Association for.....