

## 1. DIARY DATES

2009

May 13	Northern Region Meeting, Lossiemouth
May 15/17	National Conference, Bournemouth
May 27	RAF Lossiemouth Veterans Day
June 17	Area Council Meeting, Edinburgh
June 27	Armed Forces Day
Aug 19	Southern Region Meeting, Glasgow
Sept 3	Brew for the Few, RAF Museum, Cosford
Sept 11	Northern Ireland Region Meeting, RAF Aldergrove
Sept 12	RAF Leuchars Airshow
Oct 4	Area Golf Competition

## 2. SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA CONFERENCE 21 MARCH 2009

A total of 25 Branches were represented at the Area Conference. A report of the proceedings will be issued in due course. The following were elected as representatives for the Area.

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Group Captain D A Needham BA
<b>AREA VICE PRESIDENTS</b>	AVM D Whittaker CB MBE, AVM J Morris CBE BSc, Mr J McGowan MBE
<b>AREA COUNCIL</b>	Mr T Foster MBE - Armagh (CHAIR) Mrs H Robertson - Dunfermline (VICE CHAIR) Mr R Chandler - Ayr & Prestwick Mr N Coulter - Lisburn Mr J Gannon - Largs Mr J Kirkpatrick MBE - Larne Mr J Maclean - Peterhead Mr J Sims - Lossiemouth Mr J Skelton - Glasgow

## 3. DONATIONS

Donations received during Conference and at the Northern Ireland Reunion Weekend are at Annex 1.



#### **4. PRIZE WINNERS – SCOTLAND & NORTHERN IRELAND AREA DRAW 2009**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize £1000 - A M Morrison, Isle of Lewis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £250 - J Penman, Elgin  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £100 - G Fairhurst, Knaresborough  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize £50 - S Cushnie, Aberdeen  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize £50 - T McClymont, Rothsay

- 1 of 5 £20 - B Thornton, Kinghorn  
2 of 5 £20 - R Hazelgrove, Antrim  
3 of 5 £20 - P F B Lough, Berwick-upon-Tweed  
4 of 5 £20 - K Brown, Crumlin  
5 of 5 £20 - F Bolan, Kilmarnock

#### **5. BRANCH CLOSURES**

Sadly, it has been advised that Stockport Branch closed on 1 March 2009 and Mirfield Branch closed on 31 March 2009.

#### **6. NATIONAL TROPHY WINNERS 2008**

I am delighted to announce the following awards which will be presented at the Annual Conference in Bournemouth.

Gwynne-Vaughan Trophy Co Fermanagh Branch  
*(Home Branch with the highest net collection per member)*

Buckhurst Hill Trophy Carrickfergus Branch  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> highest net collection)*

Sir Harold Lydford Trophy Carrickfergus Branch  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> highest net collection per member)*

The Presidents Cup Ayr & Prestwick Branch  
*(for outstanding achievement throughout the year)*

Sir Charles Wheeler Trophy ScATCC (Mil) Prestwick  
*(Highest collection per head of personnel by a Home RAF Station)*

Sir John Baker Trophy RAF Aldergrove  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> highest collection by an RAF Station)*

Wally Marriott RAFALO Trophy Flt Sgt K Griffiths  
*(for achievements and support of the Association as a RAFALO)*

#### **7. FUNDING – WELFARE PROJECTS**

The Welfare programme for 2009 lists a number of projects for Storybook Wings, Richard Peck House, Rothbury House, Flowerdown House. Branches interested in funding projects for any of the above please contact the Area Director or Liz Fredericks (Trust Fundraiser) at RAFA 117 ½ Loughborough Road, Leicester, LE4 5ND. Tel: 0116 268 8766 or email: [liz.fredericks@rafa.org.uk](mailto:liz.fredericks@rafa.org.uk) before making any commitment. This will ensure donations are targeted where required.

**8. LIFT-OFF LOTTO – BRANCH INCENTIVE SCHEME**

The Association lottery, Lift-Off Lotto, has to date received an excellent response from the Membership. Branch Secretaries will recently have received an information pack containing details of a scheme which gives incentive to Branches to recruit players for the Lotto. For every player a Branch recruits including neighbours, friends, relatives, etc – not necessarily Members of RAFA, the Branch will receive 10% commission. The more people recruited, the larger the commission. Commission will be accrued throughout the year with an annual payout in November. This is an active way of increasing Branch funds and supporting the Association.

**9. HEROES RETURN 2 – FUNDING INITIATIVE BY THE BIG LOTTERY FUND**

Second World War Veterans across the country can now sign up for a new commemorative funding scheme that will provide Lottery support for anniversary trips to the places they saw action.

The Big Lottery Fund has announced the opening of its funding initiative, Heroes Return 2, pledging funding for veterans, spouses, widows and carers wishing to mark overseas anniversaries throughout 2009 and 2010.

The Fund has opened up a Heroes Return 2 hotline for all veterans to ring for further information: Heroes Return 2 Helpline 0845 00 00 121. Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

**Further information**

Big Lottery Fund Press Office: 020 7211 1888  
Out of hours contact: 07867 500 572  
Public Enquiries Line: 0845 410 2030  
Text phone: 0845 602 1659

**10. RAF ENSIGN – FUNERALS**

Following enquiries regarding the use of flags and ensigns as drapes on coffins it seems prudent to advise the official policy. Under no circumstances is the RAF Ensign to be used as a drape on a coffin. RAFA House Flags (for members) and Union Flags (for all ex-servicemen and women) are permitted.

**11. FLY A FLAG FOR OUR ARMED FORCES – MONDAY 22 JUNE 2009**

MOD had advised that anyone wishing to participate by raising the flag at 10.30am on Monday 22 June 2009 honouring Britain's Armed Forces past, present and future may now purchase one of the special flags direct from the manufacturer. The design of the Armed Forces Day flag is based on the Union Flag, measures 5ft by 3ft and costs £10 which includes postage and packing to UK addresses, VAT and a £1 donation to the Forces Children's Trust, a charity devoted to helping dependant children who have lost a parent while serving in the Armed Forces.

Anyone wishing to order an Armed Forces Day flag, please visit [www.piggotts.co.uk](http://www.piggotts.co.uk) or email [armedforcesdayflag@piggotts.co.uk](mailto:armedforcesdayflag@piggotts.co.uk) .

**12. ARMED FORCES DAY – 27 JUNE 2009**

The Veterans Minister, Kevan Jones, has recently launched Armed Forces Day (27 June). This is developed from Veterans Day. The title has been chosen to reflect the wider Armed Forces family of Serving Personnel (regular and reserve). The Armed Forces Day will continue to recognise Veterans who have served their country. Branches may wish to mark this day with an event of their own. As previously, there is funding available from MOD to assist in staging or attending a

special occasion to mark the Day. A website has been set up to give ideas and guidance on holding events and how to apply for funds from MOD. Details at [www.armedforcesday.org.uk](http://www.armedforcesday.org.uk). It should be noted that MOD funds will not support any form of fundraising. MOD funds may be available to help with social events, hire charges for coaches, etc. Please ensure the careful wording of applications to allow requests to be considered.

**13. RAF LOSSIEMOUTH VETERANS DAY 27 MAY 2009**

RAF Lossiemouth is hoping for a good attendance on the Station Veterans Day. A programme of visits around the Station has been organised and there will be representatives from ex-service charities present on the day. Any Veterans who are interested in attending please contact: Cpl Lisa Hempshall on 01343 812121 ext 7320 or 01343 817320.

**14. BREW FOR THE FEW, RAF MUSEUM, COSFORD - 3 SEPTEMBER 2009**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we will be inviting you to come along to a special day out at RAF Museum, Cosford. You can come along for the day, have a look around the museum and maybe have lunch. Then at 2pm come along to Hangar 1 and enjoy an exclusive Brew for the Few.

The RAF Museum at Cosford is home to the National Cold War Exhibition with interactive kiosks showing what life was like behind the Iron Curtain. The museum is home to 70 aircraft and has displays of warplanes, missiles, Transport & Training and Research and Development. With ample parking places for all and full disability access there should be no difficulty for any of our guests.

We will, as last year, have music for your entertainment with tea/coffee and cakes. We hope to have a static display of aircraft specially provided but we also hope to have a very special surprise that we are confident you will love!

We understand that last year some of you were disappointed with not being able to get a ticket for the event and we have reviewed how to make it equal for all. This year the ticket allocation will require you to phone a dedicated number 0116 2688751 on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 and each individual will be able to apply for four tickets only. The tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and successful applicants will be notified at the time of the call

**15. DAVID HAMER – RETIRING AREA DIRECTOR**

Despite my farewell message in the March/April issue of the Area Newsletter, circumstances (not mine!) have conspired to have me remain in office until 1<sup>st</sup> May. This, however, allows me the opportunity to thank everyone for the good wishes and retirement gifts bestowed on me and my wife, Eleanor, at the Area Conference in Perth and at the Northern Ireland Reunion Weekend. We both very much appreciate the kind thoughts and practical gifts which we will cherish.

The new Area Director, Gair Brisbane, is now in the seat and I welcome and wish him well. I know that you will give him the kind of support I have experienced during my 14½ years in the Area Office, as Area Welfare Officer and latterly as Area Director.

My very best wishes to all and I look forward to seeing RAFA continue to flourish. I hope to continue meeting many of you in the future.

Thank you all.

**David Hamer**  
**Director—Scotland & Northern Ireland**

**Area**