



The AnyFace Association Newsletter May 2022

Bagger to Black Cat!

Firstly, huge congratulations to Lt **Jim Carver** who has been selected as the Black Cat Display Pilot and Team Manager for this year. Jim started life in the RN as a jungle Air Engineering Technician, serving on 848 and 846 NAS before being selected as an Upper Yardman and gaining his commission. He initially qualified as a Search and Rescue pilot with 771 NAS before his prayers were answered and he was sent to 849 NAS, where he seemingly spent most of his time deployed on operations in the Gulf with Palembang Flight! Jim transferred to the Wildcat Maritime Attack helicopter shortly before the Sea King decommissioned and hasn't looked back – he's been a Flight Commander on 815 NAS, now a Qualified Helicopter Instructor on 825 NAS and was selected for promotion to Lt Cdr last year. BZ Jim and good luck with the forthcoming display season!



Remembrance Sunday 2022.

This is the **last** newsletter before I provide the RBL with an idea of numbers for the Cenotaph Parade on 13 November 2022. If you are even slightly interested in being in the contingent, please RSVP at the event link [here](#).

Allocated ticket numbers for each association will be confirmed by the RBL in the summer. It would be great to have a good turn out this year.

TAG Commemoration Weekend.

John Saunders recently attended the annual commemoration weekend for the Telegraphist Air Gunners of the FAA and has provided this update for us.

'Every year a weekend is set aside to commemorate the sacrifices made by the FAA Telegraphist Gunners. Three thousand were trained in the 28 years life span of the branch, 507 were lost through enemy aviation and/or flying accidents and 69 became POWs. There were two surviving TAGs who attended the weekend along with their families. A wife of a now deceased TAG organised the weekend with the help of the FAA Association. Sons and daughters of deceased TAGs also attended. On the Saturday evening a supper party was held with MP Julian Lewis attending, as on previous occasions. The Chair of the Intelligence and Security Committee he provided some fascinating insights to current events. The Sunday kicked off with lunch at Lee Golf Club, with Admiral Adrian Johns, Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham and Bill and Penny Covington to lend a touch of gravitas. As important, the new entry AET class from HMS Sultan also attended - 11 weeks in the RN and keen as mustard! This was followed by a service at St Faith's Church Lee on Solent with brass band and a laying of wreathes at the FAA memorial on the sea front. The young AETs laid their wreathes with great style, a spitfire (by chance) flew overhead and one of the Carriers sailed into view. Bill Covington claimed he had organised the carrier, but I somehow doubt it!'



(L) The two surviving TAGs with Adm Johns and RAdm Cunningham and (R) joined by FAAA members and trainees from HMS Sultan.

AnyFace 70/Project LAST 40 Reunion 17-18 September 22.

Unfortunately, we've come up against a few planning challenges regarding the evening reception on the Friday night. The committee has therefore agreed to compress the reunion to a mess dinner in the Wardroom of RNAS Yeovilton on Saturday 17 September followed by a memorial service at the FAA Church on Sunday 18 September. We hope this doesn't cause too much disappointment; all of our effort will now be focussed on delivering a fantastic dinner to commemorate 70 years of RN AEW and 40 years since the inception and development of the Sea King Mk2 in just 12 weeks. Tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks (hopefully around the £50 mark) – those who have already expressed an interest will be prioritised.

Yours aye,

Admin Director

