

Association News Update

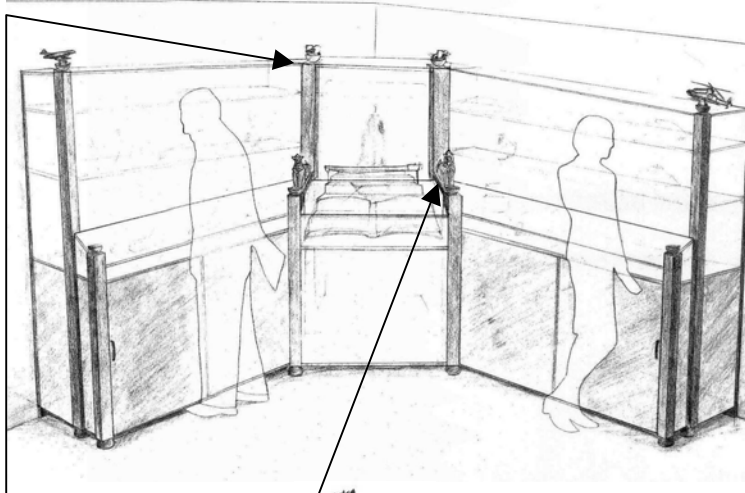
June 2001

Report of AGM.

The AGM on the 10th June was attended by 21 members, and with their ladies made 34 sitting for the dinner. The day commenced with the traditional laying of a wreath at the War memorial before moving off to the Langport Arms for the meeting. The main points of the agenda, increase in fees and support for the GWT, (for which proxy forms were sent out) were carried. Future fund raising will be split between the Association and the GWT, and to this end a proposition was carried that we hold a "200 Club" for which details are in a later sheet. There were no volunteers forthcoming to form a committee, so we still have vacancies. The Squadron birthday present has now been decided as a showcase, (shown below) having had our ideas for a flag rejected by the Regimental Committee. One quote is approx £5,000 but this is only a 'guestimate'. We now need to concentrate on fund raising to achieve this target within the limited time scale. The presentation is due early 2003, at a date convenient to the Squadron. It was brought to notice that the Squadron history at the Museum of Army Aviation is sadly lacking in finer detail from the late 60's. This is due to a change in reporting, but efforts are being made to fill in what details we can. Efforts are to be made to trace and return a Kris, presented to the Squadron to celebrate 150,000 flying hours in the Malayan campaign, and passed to the HQ AAC Officers Mess for safe custody when the Squadron went into suspension.

The OC detailed the arrangements as they stand at present for our Dishforth Reunion in September. It looks as if we are in for a very good day with a variety of displays, and possible rides in an Auster! The details for the dinner are on another page, and don't forget I need your payment for both these sent to me soon

Impression of proposed Showcase.



Centre Case: All Glass on Burmese teak. The two 'arms' either side would have a Chinthe on, whilst on the top of the main uprights will be 25 pounder guns. In the mid part graduated 'steps' would be formed to give an impression of leading away, and resting on them would be a leather bound Roll of Honour.

Side cases: Glass top with secure cupboards below. Extreme uprights will have an Auster model at the left, and an Apache on the right.



Donations, large and small, are needed now for this project, so please help all you can. We intend to seek donations from the RAF, AAC, RA, and any other Units that have been associated with 656.

FEES: The increase in fees to £3.00 pa. is from Jan 2002. Please contact your bank to make the change, and ask them to submit payment using reference: (your name)-(membership No) ie Smith-123
If you do not have a standing order at present could I ask you to consider this method, as it saves so much effort in administration chasing up members who have forgotten to send it in. Remember only you can alter it, making it a very safe method, and not liable to memory lapses!

FUND RAISING. Needed for the Birthday presentation. Please support it!

With immediate effect I am running a '200 club' for members, and their close family. Full details, rules, and prospectus are on page 3. (the reverse of an application form enclosed.) Should it be oversubscribed by 200 (which I hope it will be) then I will run a second club alongside the first, so all may play. If there is a only small over subscription, they will be held over until the next run, and then be the first members on this new list.

MALAYA REVISITED

Members who were able to travel on our Malaya trip have sent glowing reports back. Many thanks to John Heyes for organising and controlling it all. A full report of the journey and the reception received at Kluang will be in the Autumn Newsletter.



SWEETHEART PINS
By Bickerton Jewellers



At the AGM I showed silver lapel badges and tie tacks to members. The lapel badges and tie tacks have the Squadron crest centre, and measures 11 mm (or just under 3/4 inch to us oldies). Above illustrations are approx the right size. Cuff links and ladies broaches are also available, and they are a larger, the broach about 35mm (1 1/4 inch)

All items can be bought in Silver, Silver gilt, or white and yellow Gold. Prices are as follows:

	Silver	Yellow & white Gold
Lapel stud	£11.00*	£45.00
Tie stickpin	£18.00*	£50.00
Cufflinks	£45.00	£140.00
Ladies brooch	£47.00	£140.00

To enhance the items a diamond can be used as the 'eye' for an extra £10.00

* plus postage and packing £1.00 if delivered to you. No charge if bought at reunion/shows.

Orders to me please, for delivery direct to your door!

Cheques to '656 Squadron Association', (NOT to J.Bennett)

Dishforth – 8th September – Reunion & Dinner

Hope to meet a large gathering from our Northern members and families. Please let me know soon by post, Email or phone if you and any guests will be attending, so we can make suitable arrangements. The refreshment buffet is £8.00, which you should send to me before the 26th August. The Squadron have laid on a splendid programme to interest and entertain everyone. Timing: arrive at the Squadron area about 12.00 hrs. The OC, Maj Alex Tucker, will brief the party during coffee in the crewroom.

Dinner is at 6:30 for 7:00 in the Crown Hotel in Boroughbridge, and costs £18.00 per head. The choice for menu is on a 'returns sheet' enclosed with this letter. Please complete your choice and send it to me no later than 26th August, **including your payment.**

Accommodation is available at special rates, tell them you are attending the dinner: double or twin rooms = £70.00 one night, or £60.00 p/n for 2 nights. Please phone direct to the Crown Hotel on 01423-322328 to book.

!! ...PLEASE.....DON'T FORGET..... ..PLEASE.....!!

- Join the 200 club NOW by returning the form and your cheque
- Send your names (Guests welcome) if you will be attending the Reunion
- Send your names and menu choices, if you will be attending the Dinner night
- Amend the Standing Order Form to your Bank Manager

200 CLUB RULES

The club will be open to members, and their families only. 200 people will pay £5.00 each to join the club and have one chance. There is no limit to the number of £5.00 chances a person may have, but the total chances in the club will not exceed 200. This will generate £1,000.

TWICE A YEAR, at the AGM and the Dishforth reunion a DRAW will take place with a payout of £225.00 !! prize monies will be distributed as follows.

1st prize = £75.00

2nd prize = £50.00

10 consolation prizes of £10.00 each

This will raise £550 a year, to be distributed between the Associations Presentation fund, and the nominated Association Charity. The ratio of distribution to be 75% / 25% in our favour, or any other ratios as decided by a members committee.

Membership of the Club and tickets for the draw will be on a first come - first served basis. A 100% oversubscribing will mean there can be 2 simultaneous clubs running.

I took part in a similar 200 club in my last village, and it was always over subscribed, with people waiting to see the start of the new club! I don't want people to wait if we can run 2 clubs! I hope that with over 450 members, plus their families, we will have no difficulty in running an 'A' and 'B' Club!

To be sure of YOUR ENTRY and chance to WIN MONEY, send your name and a cheque for £5.00 increments for each ticket you would like, (to 656 Squadron Association), as soon as you can to me at the address above. With a limit of 200 in each club, the odds are very good, far better than the National Lottery!!!