

CONTRAIL

The Retired Staff Association Magazine for CAA & NATS pensioners www.caa-rsa.org.uk

ALL MEMBERS ISSUE

Successful Glasgow AGM

The last weekend of April saw the RSA Annual General Meeting being held in Glasgow. Depending on the outcome of the Scottish referendum in September this may have been the last RSA AGM to be held in Scotland before the country seeks its independence. The choice of Glasgow as the venue was so that it may encourage members of the West of Scotland Branch, which is currently in suspension, to re-activate the Branch for the benefit of its members. This was the first time, since the AGM of 2008 that was held in Stratford-on-Avon, that the RSA AGM has been held outside London, moving back from a one day meeting to the former format of a weekend hotel stay with a gala dinner on the Saturday evening. This issue of **Contrail** provides a full report on the 2014 AGM.

On the Saturday morning there was a meeting of Branch reps who provided the Central Committee with an update of the Branch, its activities and any problems being faced by Branches. Following lunch the AGM, open to all RSA members, not just Branch reps, commenced.

During her introduction RSA Chairman, Anne Noonan, stated "*Both West of Scotland and Highlands and Islands Branches have had to suspend their activities because of lack of volunteers to serve on their committees, so Glasgow was an obvious choice with the aim of trying to reignite interest in Branch activities. The Branches are the life blood of the RSA and membership is one of our strengths when representing retired members with the CAAPS Trustees, CAA and NATS managements*".

Anne reported that the RSA had several meetings, during the year, with Roger Mountford, Chairman of Trustees, on the subjects of RPI/CPI and an additional Pensioner Nominated Trustee. The RSA pressed the Chairman of Trustees to bring about changes to the Member Nominated Trustee structure and to establish the principle of NATS 2, CAA 2 and RSA 2 MNTs, agreed by the Trustees some time ago and now due for implementation. However the Chairman of Trustees does not want the responsibility of bringing about the change and feels that the RSA should be the ones to persuade NATS to give up one of their three Trustees. As a consequence, unfortunately, we have very little positive to report.

In her report the Chairman advised that the Triennial Valuation of both sections of the CAA Pension Scheme is nearing completion. NATS have agreed a plan with future pension increases limited to CPI. The company has reserved its position on RPI and may wish in future to return to pension rates for past service. It is believed that the CAA will set employees' future accrual rates at CPI with past service remaining at RPI. However, it is expected that the CAA will also reserve its position but there will not be an announcement from the Authority until this summer.

Anne finished her report by thanking Ted Pillinger, RSA Membership Secretary; Bob Connolly, editor of Contrail; Richard Woodroffe, Web Master; for all their hard work. She also thanked Eddie Donlan, who retired from the Committee this year after many years of service to the Central Committee, and welcomed Richard Wright, Chairman of London Branch, to the Central Committee and Duncan Boulton, our new Welfare Co-ordinator.



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FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Anne Noonan

The change of venue for the 36th RSA AGM from London to Glasgow seemed to deter a number of members and attendance was lower than in previous years. So perhaps it is back to the drawing board for the 37th meeting but, after four years in London, it was thought to be time for a move.

The hotel, the Radisson Blu, was excellent and it was good to see some attendees from the now dormant West of Scotland Branch at the buffet supper on Friday evening. Once the business of the day was over on the Saturday, an excellent dinner was provided in the evening which everyone seemed to enjoy. A toast was made to Sheila West, Edinburgh Branch, for her faultless organisation of the whole event.

There is much coverage of the AGM in this issue so I will leave it there, except to add that the Central Committee was re-elected which I hope is a sign that we are getting something right on behalf of you all.

Time to move on then and our next event will be the Annual Reunion at the Freemasons Arms in Long Lane, Covent Garden, London. This event was very well attended last year so we hope for a repeat this year. Admittedly, it did get a bit crowded occasionally, but we plan to have a strategic move round of some of the tables to make more space. We hope to see as many of you there as possible and a form, together with details, appears in this issue of *Contrail*.

Finally, I rather liked this tale of the burglar who broke into a house and found himself in the lounge. Suddenly a voice in the dark said "Jesus is watching you" several times. Shining his torch around the burglar saw a parrot in a cage and asked if it was called Jesus. "No", replied the parrot. "My name is Mephistopheles. Jesus is the Rottweiler".

Very best wishes

Anne Noonan

DATA PROTECTION

It has come to our notice that one of our members is alleging that the RSA could have been one of three organisations leaking/selling personal details to a third party. On behalf of the CAA Retired Staff Association, I wish to make it clear we abide by the Data Protection Act and take every step to protect the personal information of our members. There is not the remotest question of information being either leaked or sold.

Anne Noonan
RSA Chairman

Greetings Fellow Golfers

Firstly, may I wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable golfing 2014, with more 'Birdies' than 'Bogeys'.

The dates and venues of our 2014 season for your diaries are these:

The Summer Meeting for the Summer Salver is at the Army GC on Mon 7 July (same date as the annual NATS match).

The Autumn Meeting for the Autumn Trophy is at Coulsdon Court GC on Wed 24 September.

Calling notices for each gathering will be sent out nearer the time. Open to all RSA members who can attend. Enquiries to Ted Pillinger.

Solution to March crossword

Across:

- 1. Apron 6. Midwest 12. Grapevine 13. Vie 14. Loved 15. Suspect 16. Omen 17. Suit 18. Wed 19. Pesticide 22. Tree 23. Tuner 24. Pacier 26. Surges 27. Idols 28. Cite 29. Centipede 31. Gel 33. Dune 34. Gene 35. Loiters 37. Solid 38. Err 39. Neutering 40. Demotes 41. Wedge

Down:

- 1. Aglow 2. Promenade 3. Raved 4. Open 5. Ned 6. Misuse 7. Inuit 8. Destitute 9. Evening 10. Sic 11. Tethers 17. Seer 19. President 20. Cure 21. Deepening 22. Tilt 24. Pickled 25. Confirm 26. Side 28. Census 30. Puree 31. Gelid 32. Ledge 34. Gore 36. Ore 37. Sew

EDITORIAL



I was looking forward to the RSA AGM in Glasgow. However, unfortunately, due to family illness I was unable to attend. My sincere thanks go to Chairman, Anne Noonan, and our Secretary, Robin Morris, who very kindly provided me with all the material I required to produce the AGM Report in this edition of *Contrail*. My sincere thanks also go to Robin for kindly providing the photographs of this year's AGM for both *Contrail* and the RSA website. Earlier in the year I had agreed with our webmaster, Richard Woodroffe, that I would provide him with AGM photographs due to him being unable to attend and we are very grateful to Robin stepping into the breach at the last minute to help us out.

As I produce each edition of *Contrail*, I take a critical look at the layout to see if there are any improvements I can make to keep our quarterly newsletter looking as professional as possible while keeping production costs down. This may range from improving the quality of images used, minor layout changes and use of font colours. In this issue I am changing the text presentation from being left aligned to justified in an attempt to tidy up the visual aspect of the layout a little more. Many commercial publications use justified text as standard. This is something I have debated with myself for a while; it can lead to the occasional line of text that seems excessively spaced out but in general produces a more balanced text column. I would appreciate your feedback on this change and also welcome your suggestions for improving *Contrail*.

As usual I can be contacted by e-mail at contrailed@caa-rsa.org.uk (please put "contrail" at the beginning of the subject line), or by post to:

Robert Connolly
Contrail Editorial Office
21, Eleastan Park, Kilkeel,
Co. Down, Northern Ireland.
BT34 4DA

NEXT COPY DATE

Please ensure all contributions are with the editor by not later than **1 August 2014**



Dear Editor,

I found Derek Henry's article very interesting. He is quite correct; the Crew Chief in the picture is me. I think one of the others is Barry Whitley. I recall the day very clearly, the previous night Adrian Chater and crew came on duty at Preston at 2200 and controlled traffic until 2400. Ray Walker and crew were on duty at the Sub-centre following things from 2200 to 2400. At that point the Sub-centre took over and Adrian's's crew monitored things till about 0700 when Preston Centre closed for good. Phil Shove, with myself as Crew Chief came on duty at Manchester, Wally Scott was a roving trouble-shooter.

Things settled down and after some weeks it was arranged for the "high ups" from London to come and visit us. When they were due, the Lichfield/Scottish suite went u/s and I and my men de-camped to the spare suite.

I am sure Derek will recall the scramble to reinstate the suite, At one point it was half-back with myself and one controller on the spare with Dave Dews as Crew Chief and another controller on the main. All was restored in time for the visit.

In conclusion, I enjoyed my time at Preston and Manchester and felt proud of the people with whom I worked. I am greatly saddened by the loss of so many well respected colleagues.

Max Hundleby, ATCO 1 Manchester.

Motions to the CAA RSA 2014 AGM

Rule Changes 2/3rds majority required:

Motion 1 (Central Committee)

This AGM agrees that Clause 3.6 shall read 'The Committee shall meet as necessary, but normally three times per year, to an agreed schedule, or by special notice. A quorum shall comprise of six voting members, two of whom shall be Officers.'

Motion Agreed.

Motion 2 (Central Committee)

This AGM agrees that a new Clause 6.4 shall be inserted in the 'Rules' which shall read 'In the event that a Branch becomes inactive i.e. finds itself unable to sustain an ongoing working committee in accordance with its constitution, the RSA Chairman should be notified, the Branch accounts closed and, together with any residual money in the accounts, forwarded to the RSA Treasurer. This returned money may be used to help resurrect the Branch at some future date. The Chairman will declare the Branch dormant and details of its members will be transferred to an adjacent, active Branch, as determined by the Central Committee and with the Branch's agreement. This Branch will act as a link for members of the dormant Branch and may invite one or more of the dormant Branch members to sit on their Branch Committee in order to maintain contact and generate interest'.

Motion Agreed with secretarial amendment to add 'active' before Branch's in line 6.

Motion 3 (Central Committee)

This AGM agrees that a new Clause 6.5 shall be inserted in the 'Rules' which shall read 'The status and activities of all Branches will be reviewed annually, by the Central Committee, and reported to the RSA AGM by the RSA Chairman.'

Motion Agreed.

Motion 4 (Central Committee)

This AGM agrees that Clause 10.2 shall read 'In the event of dissolution, the assets remaining, after payment of all proper liabilities, shall be donated to 'The Charity for Civil Servants', for CAA and NATS pensioners and their dependants.

Motion Remitted.

Pensions simple majority required:

Motion 5 (Western Home Counties)

This AGM agrees that the RSA AGM Agenda includes a review of the CAAPS Annual Accounts. This item should review the Trustee's July Update and should be permanently on the AGM Agenda.

Motion Fell.

Motion 6 (Western Home Counties)

This AGM instructs the RSA Central Committee to press for a formal presentation, to the Central Committee, by the Actuary, of the results of the Triennial Valuation of the NATS & CAA Sections.

Motion Agreed.



COTSWOLD BRANCH

No meeting in January, members looked forward to 4 February when projected activities for the first half of 2014 were revealed and discussed. The fourteen members present were updated on the health of absentees before we settled down to a digital slide show.

This was given by Arthur Ball, a well known local bird watcher, and entitled "the Birds of Dowdeswell Reservoir". Arthur was 40 years warden of the reservoir back in the days when it was run by Severn Trent Water as the main supply for Cheltenham. Now no longer needed, the water level has been lowered and the Gloucestershire Wild Life Trust run it as a nature reserve. This has let more species of birds in and we saw slides of countless varieties, some very rare and migratory but all a product of Arthur's careful camera work. We resolved on the spot to invite him back for another session next year.

Fifteen members and friends made it to the Branch AGM on 4 March. Jessie Strawson, our Chairman, reviewed the year. Minutes of the last AGM were agreed, as were the accounts presented by Keith Plumridge, Branch Treasurer. The Central Grant provides a life line.

All Branch Officers and the Committee were re-elected en bloc, before we enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch prepared by the Albion House staff.

We received some local aviation news this month. It is that the jet age museum at Gloucester Airport, Staverton has brought forward its grand opening to 9-11 May. It had been scheduled for later in the year. The museum is now sited in the Meteor Business Park and the Branch hopes to pay a visit in August.

Due to holidays and sickness, for the first time ever we think, attendance for the April 2014 meeting did not even reach double figures, only nine being present. John Ross said he had fixed the visit to the Staverton, Butterfly Garden in May with an early start, to be followed by lunch at a pub, the nearby "House in the Tree".

Jessie Strawson then introduced this month's guest speaker, Mr Michael Fitt, who gave a talk entitled "One Man, 100 Homes". He has had over 22 years experience as a Professional House Sitter, in both England and Ireland. He has sat in many country houses but also farms where his riding expertise proved useful in attending to the animals. He had funny stories to relate too, passing round pictures before a Q & A session concluded a most enjoyable morning. A donation was given to Michael for the Alzheimers' Society.

Central Committee Members Elected at the AGM

Dave Hobday	Richard Wright	Richard Woodroffe
Sheila West	Barry Pratt	Colin Chisholm
Duncan Boulton	Ted Pillinger	

EASTERN BRANCH

The AGM was held on the 27 March. Five people attended and resulted in the branch becoming dormant due to a lack of volunteers for the Officer posts in the Branch. However, we have a new volunteer to serve as an officer on the committee. There is therefore to be an Extraordinary General Meeting on Friday 6 June.

We should be able to continue with this new injection of blood but could still do with one more. Any volunteers?

EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Branch AGM was held at the Murrayfield Hotel, Edinburgh on 18 March. Angus Mclean stood down from the committee. Many thanks go to Angus for all his hard work over the years and our best wishes to him for the future. Colin Rodger was elected to take up the committee vacancy.

In an attempt to run a democracy, the AGM decided on venues for our spring lunches and discussed ideas for possible trips later in the year:-

- April, Lunch at Howies, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh. (This was a post-AGM change as the two suggested venues on Princes St could not accept our booking for various reasons!)
- May, Lunch at Bar Italia, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.
- June, Lunch at the Hawes Inn, South Queensferry.

The new committee was asked to investigate the possibility of a trip to Bannockburn, a visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia and return visits to the Edinburgh Airport Control Tower and / or Scottish parliament. - More information on this after the June committee meeting.

Following the Central RSA AGM, held on 26 April 2014, the Edinburgh Branch now acts as a link for members' from the dormant **Highlands & Islands**, and **West of Scotland** Branches.

As well as holding details of Edinburgh Branch members', the Edinburgh Branch Secretary now holds membership lists for RSA members' belonging to the dormant **Highlands & Islands** and **West of Scotland** Branches.

Dates for future lunches and other events for the summer period 2014 are circulated to Edinburgh Branch members' who have provided email contacts to the Secretary. In addition, **on request**, this e-mailing can also be sent on **individual application** to the Edinburgh Branch Secretary by RSA members' who are in the dormant **Highlands & Islands (H&I)** and **West of Scotland (WoS)** Branches. If you are a new member to the Edinburgh Branch, an existing member, (including H&I and WoS) who has not previously provided an email to the RSA, you have changed your email, or for whatever reason you appear NOT to be on the e-mailing list having read about our past events, please advise the Edinburgh Branch Secretary. (Branch contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail).

Central Committee Officers Elected at the AGM

Chairman	Anne Noonan
Vice Chairman	Tony Cowell
Treasurer	Matthew Baines
Secretary	Robin Morris

LONDON BRANCH

A big “thank you” to Ian Johnson for looking after the fort (again) while I’m on holiday in South America. When sending a cheque for one of our events please make it payable to “CAA RSA (London Branch)” and send it to Ian. His address is in the Branch Contacts section of this edition of Contrail.

Social Events

Wednesday 26 March 2014: London Branch AGM and Reunion, The Freemason’s Arms, Covent Garden.

The Branch AGM and Annual Reunion were held in the Freemason’s Arms again; 29 Members attended. The issues of event subsidies and Branch co-operation were debated and Anne Noonan gave an interesting update on the pensions situation and RSA matters. (This update can be found in the AGM Update 2014 found on the London Branch website).

The Hon. Social Secretary presented an excellent Social Programme for the year and the Committee remains unchanged as all its members were happy to remain in post. We then moved on to the Reunion which was enjoyed by all.

NORTH WEST BRANCH

Barry Pratt, NW Secretary and Central Committee member, Tim Mackay, NW delegate, plus three NW members attended the RSAAGM and Dinner at Glasgow. The weather was kind, the company was good and so a pleasant time was had at a well hosted event.

WESSEX BRANCH

Once again, Wessex Branch enjoyed a winter / New Year programme of varied events, starting in February with an excellent ‘Skittles mit Lunch’ meet at the Coach & Horses, Wimborne. A fun event which was well attended and complemented by a ‘never ending’ buffet!

The March AGM was equally well supported and provided no surprises, the committee being returned ‘en masse’ under the Chairmanship of Mike Bartlett! The meeting concluded with an auction of unwanted items, conducted with the inimitable auctioneering skill and humour of Branch member, Chris Swinn.

The April highlight was, of course, provided by another Branch member, Phil Holt. Phil delivered a fascinating account of Donald Campbell’s life and his attempts on the world land / water speed records in both the ‘Bluebird’ car and jet powered speed boat. Phil’s depth of research and associated anecdotes made this a presentation to remember!

The RSA’s Annual General Meeting was also held in April, at the Radisson Hotel, Glasgow. Wessex members, Ted Tilly and Paddy Pollock attended and provided input on a number of issues, including recruitment and communication at both national and Branch level.

Our next meeting was on May 28 with a visit to the Russell Cotes Museum, Bournemouth, and was the start of the Branch’s ‘**Out & About**’ programme for the coming quarter.

Paddy caught his wife having an affair and decided to kill her and himself. He puts the gun to his head, looks at his wife and says “Don’t laugh, you’re next!!”

Membership Secretary’s Annual Report

Ted Pillinger - Membership Secretary

Membership:

Total membership 5369 Paying membership 3101 (58%)

There have been a large number of returned Contrails due to change of address this year. The trend is the same with the number of emails bouncing and I am asking for the matter to be highlighted in the next Contrail. If members cannot be persuaded to notify us when they move we risk becoming a nuisance to Pensions Branch.

Pensions Branch were contacted and requested to provide a list of paying members because income did not match the numbers of paid up members given by the database. This they did and it resulted in a lot of investigative work. Many errors in the database were corrected but there was still an outstanding group of 26 plus members who had provided authority to pay but who were not in fact paying. Several smaller investigations are outstanding and there is a small list of payees who are not on the database. Investigations are ongoing and the preliminary results are with Pensions Branch for comment. I anticipate that I will have to write to the 26 for renewal of authority.

AGM Pension Report

Dave Hobday - Pensions Rep.

Things have not changed over the year; the best news is that we are still receiving RPI indexing but for how long? CAAPS actives in the NATS Section will receive indexing at CPI for future service. We understand that it is likely that CAA Section will be moved to CPI.

We strongly believe that we are better off retaining RPI and are prepared to fight to maintain this for our members. The RSA has not received official confirmation from the employers or CAAPS Trustees that the status quo will continue for current and future pensioners of CAA and NATS.

NATS has indicated to the active members of CAAPS that it reserves the right to look at the position, RPI/CPI indexation, in relation to current and future pensioners, at a future date. It is expected that the CAA will adopt a similar position to that of NATS.

The CAA and NATS schemes are closed to new members and NATS is paying a 36.7% contribution rate plus £26m (+3.5% per annum) Deficit Repair Contribution, and CAA contribution rate is 12% from 1 April 2013 plus £6m per annum from its National Performance Plan, the CAA scheme being in a smaller deficit.

With regard to the Voluntary Pension Option (VPO), we understand that HMRC has now made a statement on how this can be handled. All those who are affected by the problems caused by changing the State Pension Age have been contacted by Pension Admin.

Though The NATS Section Triennial was signed off early, the CAA Section Triennial Valuation will not be signed off until just within the required time limit.

RSA ACCOUNTS FOR 2013

Matthew Baines - RSA Treasurer

BRANCH DIARY DATES

COTSWOLD BRANCH

- 3 June** - A talk on "Street Pastors".
1 July - Bring and Buy Sale.
5 August - Visit Aviation Museum. Lunch at "The Aviator".
2 September - TBA

EASTERN BRANCH

- 6 June 2014** – EGM Queens Head, Allens Green 1230 for 1300.
4 September 2014 - Pub Lunch at Chequers, Ugley 1230 for 1300.
Please let Jim Fuller know if you plan to attend either.
First week December - Christmas/Annual dinner, TBA.

EDINBURGH BRANCH

Brief details of our current programme of lunches, and any other outings can be seen on the RSA Web Site under Branches - Edinburgh: <http://www.caa-rsa.org.uk/edinburgh.htm>

The only request is that members' book in advance of the event through the Branch Secretary. (Secretary Contact information is listed in a separate section of Contrail)

LONDON BRANCH

Wednesday 2 July – Visit to the Tower Lifeboat Station
Tower Lifeboat is the dedicated Search and Rescue resource for Central London that covers the Thames between Barking Creek and Battersea.

The Station is floating on a tidal river and is accessed by a ramp which can slope down quite steeply. It also jolts around in the wash of passing vessels, so if you suffer from seasickness please take precautions before coming. Access around the Station is by an outside walkway grill separated from the river by just a railing, so you will need to wear flat footwear and outdoor clothes appropriate for the weather.

The maximum number for the visit is 16. The visit lasts about 1½ hours, including an introduction to the RNLI and Tower Lifeboat Station, a tour of the Station facilities with a talk about the lifeboat from one of the crew, and a chance to see video footage of rescues. However, the lifeboat can be called out any time, so the programme for a visit may have to change on the day if the crew are on a 'shout' or the Station facilities are required for an emergency.

The cost is £5 per head which will be donated to the RNLI: cheques should be sent to Ian Johnson by 25 June. The tour starts at 4:30 p.m.; we will meet at the entrance located on the Thames Embankment close to Waterloo Bridge, opposite Somerset House at 4.15pm. We will eat afterwards at the Wellington pub, on the corner of Aldwych and the Strand, and arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 p.m. The meal is BYO. When booking please make it clear whether or not you wish to join the meal afterwards. Those wishing just to join the tour party at the pub are welcome to do so – again please let us know if you wish to do this.

Tuesday 22 July : Tea at the Ritz. The Palm Court is an elegant salon at the heart of the Ritz Hotel and has become a renowned venue for serving afternoon teas. To experience this opulence in style we have reserved a table for eight people this summer, on Tuesday 22 July, and invite you to join in an afternoon of sheer elegance and indulgence.

Our table has been reserved for 3:30 p.m. and we will be meeting from 3:15 p.m. in the hotel lobby. The dress code requires gents to wear a jacket and tie; jeans and trainers are barred for both guys and ladies. Needless to say such splendour does not come that cheap at £47 per head, but is almost certainly well worthwhile. To book, you need to contact Ian Johnson by 8 July, and then send a cheque and booking form. More details can be found at the Ritz Hotel website <http://www.theritzlondon.com/tea.html>. Of particular interest may be the option for the overly indulgent to purchase champagne as an extra on the day. In addition the hotel can provide its own parking for anyone not quite so nimble underfoot, which you can arrange directly if you wish. We look forward to seeing you!

NORTH WEST BRANCH

9 July - 1100 Bowls and Social day at Poynton Sports and Social Club. Morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Please contact alanwalkerpoy@btinternet.com for further information and to advise attendance.

15 September - 1500 Visit to BBC Media City, Salford Quays.
11 December - Christmas lunch, Pinewood Hotel, Handforth.

WESSEX BRANCH

Wednesday 25 June - Verwood Walk. Stuart Clifton and Roger Spriggs, assisted by wives, Vivien and Katherine, have 'volunteered' to organise this year's Verwood Walk. The walk will commence at 1030 from the car park of 'The Hideaway' Restaurant, situated at 17 Moorlands Road, Verwood, BH31 7PD, and should last between 1.5 and 2 hours. 'The Hideaway' was formerly a British Legion Club but has been completely refurbished inside. It is an ideal venue for a 'post walk' luncheon, offering an attractive menu and licensed bar - with the added bonus of a discount for RSA / Wessex Branch Members !! Full menu and directions can be viewed on www.hideaway.co.uk.

Wednesday 23 July 1100 - Morning Garden Meet. Once again, Phil and Diane Holt have generously offered to 'host' an informal meet in the surrounds of their delightful garden at 6 Ebor Close, West Parley, Nr Ferndown, BH22 8LZ. Gather at 1100 for late morning Tea / Coffee and, of course, an inviting selection of cakes and light refreshments !! Good company, genteel scoff and, hopefully, fine weather – not to be missed ! Ebor Close is located off the A347 New Road ('twixt West Parley & Ferndown) and members are requested to park with 'consideration' for the neighbouring properties.

August - Please note that there will be no meeting.

Wednesday 24 September - The Autumn programme is scheduled to begin with a Pub Meet - full details will be published in the Autumn Newsletter. Visiting RSA Members / retired CAA & NATS Staff are always welcome to attend Wessex meetings and events. For further details of the Wessex Branch programme please contact Ted Tilly, Secretary Wessex Branch on 01425 474504 or e-mail: tilly@beggarsroost11.freemove.co.uk

YOUNGEST TO OLDEST

Eric Matthews

Your recent letters from Ken Stevens, Peter Hall and Jimmy Birchall have stirred me into action. I had a truly pleasant career in aviation having started work at Croydon, aged 17, as a Marconi Service Engineer and Radio Officer with a Marine and Air Radio Operators Certificate in Radio Telegraphy.

After six months training I was sent to Liverpool, later returning South to open up Marconi's service station at Heston. Whilst there I fitted up two DH86s with radio and flew in one of them, to Singapore, for Wearnes Air Services.

In the spring of 1935, the civil division of the Air Ministry advertised for Aerodrome Officers for Croydon Airport from ex-aircrew pilots and navigators.

In 1938 it became apparent that it was difficult to attract people with the appropriate qualifications. A new scheme was announced to employ assistant Air Traffic Controllers at £200 per annum whilst under training for a year. Interviews took place in late 1938 or early 1939. As far as I can remember, few of us who were successful actually started work before the start of hostilities.

Post war only three of us remained, of which one resigned, the other, whose name I cannot remember, went overseas for a time before returning to end his career as an ATCO 1. I was the lucky one, starting at the age of 21 years. I took early retirement at the age of 58 years and 11 months in aviation. I will be 96 in January and am beginning to feel "aged". I have spoken to Jimmy Birchall, whom I knew very well. He was very surprised to hear that I had started my ATC career some six years before him!

1935: I started work at Croydon in Marconi's Aircraft Radio department. Later I worked for them at Heston and Liverpool. Whilst at Heston, I spent some three months in Singapore, following the delivery flight in a DH86

1939: I started work in Air Traffic Control and served at Bristol, Aberdeen, Perth, Glasgow and Inverness before joining the RAF in 1941. Thereon I served at Valley, East Fortune - a Night Fighter airfield near North Berwick in Scotland.- Portreath- a Fighter Command airfield on the North Cornwall cliffs, with 2 Coastal Squadrons and a very large Transport Command commitment to and from Gibraltar. I also did two sessions of Instruction, one at HQFC and the other at Bridgenorth and Watchfield.

1946: Demobbed- had a weekend off and then reported to Heathrow where I was soon in charge of the Ground Controlled Approach. Later posted to Northolt, the busy place at that time where we really eliminated all landing delays.

Next posting was to HQ Scottish Division at Prestwick, before returning South to the Deputy Directorate of Navigation and Control. This was a very satisfying post embracing the bringing up to date for the then new tower at Heathrow and various Radars including the ACR6, PAR, ASMI and various aspects of Area Radars for application to the Airways system. My greatest achievement whilst there was to get the whole of the airfield lighting system moved from the fourth floor up to the Tower where it should have been in the first place.

Later my postings took me to LATCC, Manchester i/c., Preston as Supt. the ATC Centre, next DD/ATC Personnel and Heston as Inspector of ATC for the UK. Just before I finally retired I was visiting a West country airfield to review an airmiss or AIRPROX only to be told that I was "Parochial"!



AGM Gala Dinner

OBITUARIES

We regret to report the following deaths, notified since the **March** issue of *Contrail*:

John David Bourne, an ATE 1 at CTE, Bletchley Park, on 9 January 2014
Ralph Egizio Kohn, Senior Flight Operations Inspector at Gatwick, on 18 January 2014
Dennis Rausch, an ATE 2 at Heathrow Airport, on 27 January 2014
Leonard Overfield, a PTO at Gatwick, on 6 January 2014
Leo Gallier, an ATE 2 at Waringham Radio Station, on 29 January 2014
Irene Kathleen Garrett, a Band 4.2 at Birmingham Airport, on 30 January 2014
Anne Delaney, a Messenger with Central Services, CAA House, on 6 January 2014
Cyril Francis Rushworth, an ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 15 January 2014
Nancy Barbara Ackers, D Safety at CAA House, on 11 January 2014
David Gordon Santer, an ATCE 3 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 12 February 2014
Gerald Edward Davis, a Tel. Supervisor at Tels, Heathrow Airport, on 22 November 2013
Harry Huggett, a Machine Hand A at TEE Gatwick, on 29 January 2014
B R Hurman, an SPTD at Hurn Airport, on 22 November 2013
Patrick Henry George Lowe, an ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 13 February 2014
Doreen Lilian Clark, a CA at Pinner, on 4 February 2014
Hannah Marie Christopher, a Band 3 at CAA House, on 23 February 2014
Wilfred N Busby, an ATCA 1 at Manchester Airport, on 19 February 2014
Edna Pamela Taylor, DP7 at CAA House, on 19 February 2014
Douglas Ian King, a Craftsman at TEE Gatwick, on 14 February 2014
Roy Holmes, an ATCO 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 10 January 2014
John William Crompton, an ATCO 2 at CAA House, on 19 February 2014
Edith Violet Crux, an ATSA 2 at CAA House, on 21 February 2014

Stanley Arthur Nicholls, an ATCA 1 at Prestwick Airport, on 2 March 2014
John Douglas Judson, a PTO 1/7 at Redhill, on 2 March 2014
James R Gill, an ATCO 1 at Birmingham Airport, on 9 March 2014
Michael Morton, an ATE 1 at ATMDC, Bournemouth, on 25 February 2014
John McSkimming, an ATE 1 at Manchester Airport, on 14 March 2014
James Irvine, a General Hand at Belfast Airport, on 13 March 2014
Reginald Bell, an ATE 1 at CTE Bletchley, on 22 March 2014
Donald Sidney Joyes, an ATE 2 at Gatwick Airport, on 13 March 2014
Peter Berry, an ATCO 1 at Prestwick, on 23 March 2014
Warwick Webster, CAA Driver at Cardiff (Wales) Airport, on 11 November 2013
Keith Kenneth Luxon, an ATE 2 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 27 March 2014
Florence Louisa Wildey, an AO at Heathrow Airport, on 28 March 2014
Joshua Barnes, an ATE 1 at Prestwick, on 3 April 2014
John Raymond Gibson, a TA2 Storeman at Pailton, on 4 April 2014
Gwilym Jones, an ATCO 1 at London Air Traffic Control Centre, on 25 January 2014
William Russell Hart, an OO 1 at Aviation House, on 11 April 2014
Denis Mark Hall, D/D Grade C at Space House, on 9 April 2014
Ivy Joan Fox, Gov. Tele at Birmingham Airport, on 12 April 2014
Jeanne Lucy Berry, an AA in A/C Projects at Aviation House, Gatwick, on 8 April 2014
William Walter Hanna, an SMG 1 at CAA House, on 11 April 2014
Derek Eastman Helmore, C-Deputy Director, All Weather Operations, at Aviation House, Gatwick on 8 February 2014
Kenneth Lane, a Band 3 Driver at Cardiff Airport, on 24 April 2014

More AGM Gala Dinner photos



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KEEPING IN TOUCH

The RSA needs to know where you are so that you receive CONTRAIL and details of local activity from your Branch. **Please let Ted Pillinger, the RSA Membership Secretary, know if you have moved or other personal details have changed, for example your email address:**

Ted Pillinger,
17 Willow Grove, Welwyn Gardens, Herts, AL8 7NA.

E Mail: RSAmembershipsec@virginmedia.com

Remember to also advise Pensions Administration by post or email to pensions@caa.co.uk. You need to tell both the RSA and CAAPS as information cannot be exchanged because of Data Protection requirements.

Please DO NOT send address or personal changes to the editorial office.

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WEST of SCOTLAND

TBA

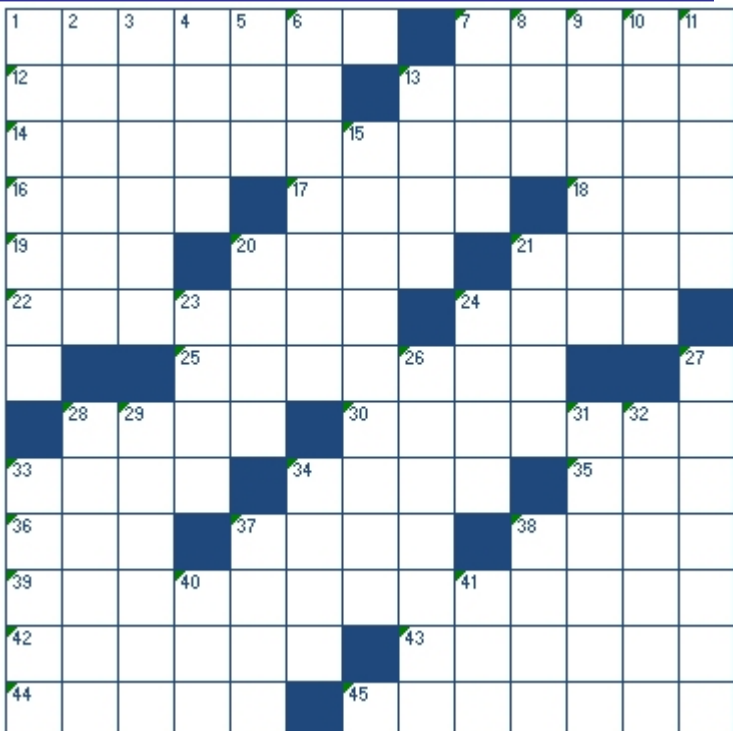
WESSEX

Howard 'Ted' Tilly, 11 Davids Lane, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 2AW. ☎

tilly@beggarsroost11freeserve.co.uk

WESTERN HOME COUNTIES

Ian Gelder, 19 Russley Close, Swindon, Wilts SN5 5AG
 ☎ commsengone@cooptel.net



Roger Myers Crossword

Across:

1. Flourish (7) 7. Deceivers (5) 12. Recover (6)
 13. Sea bird (6) 14. Amazingly (13) 16. Undiluted (4)
 17. Smirk (4) 18. Remain (3) 19. Preserve (3)
 20. Part of church (4) 21. Insects (4) 22. Raise (7)
 24. Fat (4) 25. Show horse (7) 28. Feeble (4)
 30. Slice (7) 33. Locate (4) 34. Quarrel (4)
 35. Corded cloth (3) 36. Plus (3) 37. Rabbits (4)
 38. Positive (4) 39. Repositioning (13) 42. Water craft (6)
 43. Removed (6) 44. Pick (5) 45. Noblewoman (7).

Down:

1. Cavorted (7) 2. Close again (6) 3. Fuel rating (6)
 4. Black deposit (4) 5. Joke (3) 6. Remove hair (7)
 7. Warren (4) 8. Hotel (3) 9. Rodsman (6)
 10. Depended (6) 11. Hordeolums (5)
 13. Clarified butter (4) 15. Number (9) 20. Fleet (4)
 21. Store (4) 23. Sell (4) 24. Metal (4) 26. Guardian (7) 27. Hinges on (7) 28. Pine-cone shaped (6)
 29. Not fastened (6) 31. Trip (6) 32. Idols (6)
 33. Shambles (5) 34. Enemies (4) 37. Regime (4)
 38. Luminary (4) 40. Fabulous bird (3) 41. Exists (3).

Power of Attorney

Duncan Boulton – Welfare Rep (welfare@caa-rsa.org.uk)

Most of us have made a will so that our relatives know what we want to happen when we pass away, but how many of us have considered how our family and friends will manage to know what we would like to happen if we were no longer able to do things for ourselves?

Do you know that overall 60% of those over 18 in the UK have NOT made a will and that 35% of the over 50s have NOT made a will. If you are one of those then perhaps you should consider doing it now!

However, more important, as we are all living longer, is to consider what we would like to happen if we were to “lose capacity”. That means if we were to have an accident, a stroke, suffer a mental breakdown or face the onset of dementia. Whilst I have listed some of the most common reasons why people “lose capacity” the list is not exhaustive.

Capacity is the ability to use and understand information to make a decision. Any evidence that a person does **not** have this capacity has to show **both** of the following: a person’s mind or brain is impaired or disturbed and that the impairment or disturbance means the person is unable to make a decision at the current time.

The consequences of losing capacity are far reaching. It could mean that your bank account, your investments, your pension and contact with the utility companies would be blocked until an application is made to the Court of Protection to appoint someone to manage your affairs. All this would be distressing for your partner, family and friends and may well cause significant problems. In addition, it will cost £400 to apply to the Court and probably at least another £800 for solicitors fees unless the application is made personally by a relative.

However, this can all be avoided if you make a Lasting Power of Attorney. You may have already done so but the evidence is that only one in sixty people have so far done this. If you are one of those who has made an Enduring Power of Attorney that is still valid and you need only check that the details within the document are still what you want and that the attorney is still valid.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) can be for Property and Financial Affairs or for Health and Welfare. By making an LPA you nominate one or more attorneys, who could be your partner, a relative, a friend or a solicitor, who would make decisions on your behalf. If your affairs are straight forward you can do all the paperwork either online at: www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/overview.

If, however, you would rather take legal advice then talk to a solicitor. The cost of an LPA would be £110 if you do it yourself and probably about another £200 if you use a solicitor. There are some solicitors who charge a whopping £600 for doing this work!!

For those in Scotland and Northern Ireland the situation is a little different due to differences in the legal systems. Details are on the GOV web site.

If you need further information please get in touch and I will try to help. I would be happy to come to your RSA Branch and give a presentation, which I did for Western Home Counties in April, if sufficient members feel it would be helpful.

Civil Service Benevolent Fund And Charity For Civil Servants



A large number of us contributed to the Civil Service Benevolent Fund (CSBF) from our salaries during our working lives and indeed many of us still contribute through our pensions. However, the CSBF “re-branded” itself a few years ago. The charity is still in title CSBF but it now uses the public title **Charity for Civil Servants** and their website is called **For You By You**. To contact them you can either go to their website, phone or write to them:

Head Office: 5 Anne Boleyn’s Walk, Cheam, Surrey. SM3 8DY
Tel: 020 8240 2400 - Fax: 020 8240 2401 - Minicom: 020 8770 0572
Email: info@foryoubyyou.org.uk

CAAPS very kindly included a leaflet with your pension update notification which we hope you will have found helpful. The leaflet describes in some detail the help they are able to provide, which is quite extensive and ranges from financial help with an unexpected expense to counselling and advice in a whole range of areas such as stress, relationships and depression to name just a few. Please remember it is our charity and it is there for us.

**Members website:
www.caa-rsa.org.uk**

CAARSA YAHOO GROUP

Don't forget our Yahoo Group where you can keep in touch with fellow members on items of mutual interest and view past issues of Contrail. To join just send an e-mail to: caarsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Reunion time again!

It will soon be time for the Annual Reunion to be held in **Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, London**. If you wish to attend this excellent get-together please pre-book by completing the application form below. Please note the venue is just a few steps away from the old venue, "Charlie's", in the direction of Covent Garden underground station.

An Event Not To Be Missed!



ANNUAL REUNION BOOKING FORM
Freemasons Arms, Long Acre, London WC2
Thursday 20 November 2014 from Noon to 4pm

Name.....

Known as.....

Address.....
.....

Post Code.....

Telephone:.....

Cost: £10.00pp in advance; £11 on the door.
Excellent buffet lunch and cash bar
Please make cheques payable to the
CAA Retired Staff Association and send them to:
Matthew Baines,
16, Mossman Drive, Caddington,
Beds., LU1 4EX.

CONTRAIL SMALL ADS

Please remember that RSA members are permitted to insert up to two small advertisements in any twelve month period. These can be submitted either by email or post to the editor by using the address shown on page 2.

For sale Kinetic SBS-1 virtual radar receiver in good working order. Displays and identifies Mode-S equipped aircraft in real time on a PC simulated radar screen. Easy to install, just connect to the usb port of a laptop/desktop PC running XP, Vista or later. Package includes compact mag mount antenna and all necessary components and software to connect to your PC. Size only 130mm x 95mm x 25mm. £175 plus postage. Email gi7ivx@btinternet.com.



More AGM Gala Dinner photos



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