

The Royal Air Force Physical Training Instructors Association



The Badge Newsletter No 21 October 2019

For Ex and Serving RAF PTI's, PJI's, ATI's & ERI's

RAF PTI Association Motto

'Friendship and Respect'

Editor's Note

Hello to you all, many thanks for the positive comments on my comeback as Editor of 'The Badge' Newsletter, I must say the finished product is down to Denise who is far more imaginative and creative than I am. Articles have been a bit slow coming in for this edition, remember this is your Newsletter and we rely on you the members, if possible, please send a photograph or photographs with your article. Thank you to everyone who sent in content for the Newsletter.

While rearranging my office at home, I came across this card which was issued when the RAF PTI Association was created. Founder members Phil Hockaday was member no 1 and me at no 2. Both of us were at the last reunion where we had a good talk about how the Association has grown and our thanks go to those that have built it up. It all started in the PTI Course Design Team at Cosford when Pat Corfield suggested that we have RAF PTI dinner functions in the Sgts Mess; the event became very popular as an annual event and we as a team decided to set up the RAF PTI Association. Thankfully, due to the golf competition introduced by Dave Percy and a very proactive executive committee together with support of School Warrant Officer as Chairman, the RAF PTI Association is thriving.



In this issue of The Badge

Chairman's Report – Mick Barron

Cycle Challenge - Dominic O'Sullivan

Karuta Sportswear - Michael Longdon

Roebuck Memorial Card

South West Reunion and Golf Competition – Graham Hughes

RAF Wittering Sports Day 1944 – Jon Pulford

North East "My First Two years at The Helm" – Mal Broom

2020 RAF PTI Association Annual Reunion/AGM/Golf

Where are They Now?

Chairman's Report – Mick Barron

I hope this finds all members well and having enjoyed an entertaining summer of sport! The Rugby World Cup is upon us and, if success is at all contagious, perhaps the Webb Ellis Cup is destined to return to these shores. Murrayfield anyone? If not, then either Cardiff or Twickenham would be acceptable alternatives...

Sadly, I do not have much to report as I have been benched with an illness since June. Thankfully, the evergreen Jo Geeson has stepped up to the plate and assumed the Warrant Officer role; so the school is in excellent hands. As I left the school it was good to see developments occurring regarding greater integration of Learning Technologies to further empower staff instructors in their quest to become ever more comprehensive and transformational in their facilitation of learning. This enhances the learning experience undertaken by trainees, ensuring the RAF continually and consistently receives able and motivated JNCO's ready to embrace the RAF mission. That is only one example, but a significant one. As with all resources, training time is continually scrutinized and being able to deliver efficiently, without compromise to quality, remains vitally important.

Thankfully, the school has been well supported by the Trade and Branch Sponsor, Wing Commander 'Vee' Howe who pulled out all the stops to secure a significant amount of funding. As ever, the school's highly motivated staff remain involved in larger, broader initiatives; from pre and postnatal developments with our sister services to engagement with numerous panels and working groups in the civilian sector, all of which helps ensure the school remains forward looking and relevant.

We have also had the windows in the wooden gym re-covered. Central Funds afforded the school a generous sum to make the window covering more aesthetically pleasing. The finished product is excellent and affords a gravitas more aligned to the unique establishment that is the School of Physical Training. Graduations and Home for Sport events will now be even more impressive. It is important to extend our thanks and gratitude to the Central Fund for their generosity and assistance in this project. Equally, we are indebted to **Russ Oxborrow** for his incredible patience and hard work in facilitating the design and installation of the new window screens.

In other developments **Darrel Jones** is working on the design and production of a greetings card that suitably reflects our regal memorial situated in the National Arboretum. Shortly, we aim to call for 2019 nominees to the School of PT Wall of Fame. Qualifying criteria and associated timelines will be published soon with a view to announcing the final results in March 2020. It is hoped this will be an enduring event that will keep our heritage alive and ensure the links between generations are continually strengthened.

Finally, our ever impressive and industrious Secretary will shortly send out details regarding the April 2020 AGM and reunion. I hope that you are able to keep the date free and attend; I hope to be well enough to attend and officially hand over the reins to my replacement having reached the end of my tenure as Chairman. Therefore, if all works out, I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes.

Mick Barron

Cycle Challenge - Dominic O'Sullivan

On Thursday 27th June I started the longest challenge on a bike that I have attempted! 700 miles in 4 days around all the RAF postings and Training Units I served between 1985 – 1999. The reason for this challenge is to initiate a 1-year countdown to my entry in The Race Across Europe, a 3000-mile SOLO race, the record for which is 12 days 7 hours!

Next year 2020 is the 10th anniversary of the founding of “Scotty’s Little Soldiers”, the charity set up by the wife of Cpl Lee Scott who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The charity looks after the children of our Servicemen and Women who died in service. I am doing this to raise awareness and much needed funds for the charity. Please read more about the charity at www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk or watch this clip https://youtu.be/fY1a_G5X1wI

After taking part in some crazy challenges in the past (25 hour World Record Rugby match/150 mile walks/24hour bike race), this is going to be the biggest. So on Thursday 27th June 2019 I set off from the old site of RAF Finningley (now Robin Hood Airport), at 0500 to ride through 9 places I served, as well as calling in to the “Scotty’s” HQ at Kings Lynn to deliver a cheque from the RAF PTI Association who kindly collected in acknowledgment of my efforts to date.



Thursday 27th Day 1 RAF Finningley - RAF Swinderby – Kings Lynn – RAF Ely – RAF Honington

Friday 28th Day 2 RAF Honington – RAF Headley Court – RAF Halton

Saturday 29th Day 3 RAF Halton – RAF Brize Norton – Raf Cosford – Oswestry

Sunday 30th Day 4 Oswestry – JSAT Llanwrst – RAF Cosford





Ian Nichols, Craig Bonnington, Matt Wilkinson, Dominic O'Sullivan and Andy Rose

My ultimate goal is to be in the Race Across Europe 2020 break the record and win it! There will be significant media coverage that can further boost the profile and funds for Scotty's. I need your support, either individually or from a business to get me to the start line. In total I need to raise £5000 and get support for the following:-

SUV/4x4 safety vehicle/Food/ Race specific bike/Ferry tickets Dover- Calais, Bilbao – Portsmouth/ vehicle fuel/Team clothing for rider and crews.

If you or your company can help, please email me at sully6189@googlemail.com or call 07951477149. I will be putting myself through the mill, with huge pain and discomfort for the cause, so please click the link and make a donation, the price of that pint or coffee or packet of cigarettes will go a long way to help. I will be posting my progress over the next days/months, but please don't wait to donate or think 'aahh! he doesn't need my help', this charity DOES need your help! You can make a difference.

Please click here

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bullonabikerae?utm_term=g664Gg46a



The result of the cycle ride was that I cycled to all the units mentioned above covering 600 miles in 4 days. This was a great test event and over £1000 raised to go towards the costs of the event.

Further good news was the incredible support I received from the PTI Family at the SW reunion at RAF ST Mawgan in August. £3000 raised which added to the existing funds raised puts me within touching distance of raising the full budget required to enter the event.

Dominic pictured with newly graduated PTI at Sof PT

Karuta Sportswear - Martin Longdon



Karuta Sportswear is the company that was started nearly 4 years ago by ex RAF PTI Martin Longden. Martin served between 1985 and 1991 and graduated on 19 course. On leaving the RAF Martin had a 26 year career in the Police where for 24 years he was a Detective. Martin had a varied career with

one highlight being the ground commander for the Exeter bombing in which he managed and co-ordinated a covert and overt response.

He was commended on five occasions during his Police career, his last being his penultimate investigation where he was the Deputy Senior Investigating Officer into the hit and run murder of a male in Yeovil. With the help of a team of Detectives he led, 3 individuals received substantial custodial sentences.

Martin was also the lead investigator into what the press termed the "Reservoir Dogs" case where a male poured petrol over his girlfriend and set her alight, fortunately the individual survived and the culprit received a life sentence, Martin received a Crown Court Commendation from His Honour Judge Picton for this case. One of Martin's roles was as a senior instructor on the regional CID training school where he trained Detectives and future Senior Investigating Officers and as he puts it "who would have thought it".

Martin comments "Throughout my Police career I held the values that were instilled in me by the RAF and particularly those of a PTI. I approached everything with a can-do attitude and in some dark times I remained positive and supportive to those around me. The CID in the 90's and early 2000's were very similar atmospheres to a PTI crew room, lots of banter, hard working hard living but a real togetherness."

As his Police career neared the end and not wishing to continue in that environment, Martin took stock stating "I had done my bit and was a bit washed out", so he put his considerable investigative skills to good use and looked into the sportswear market.

"I did not want to be a shop owner, I wanted my own brand designing and making my own sportswear. I am proud where Karuta is today, I am also proud to have helped Scotty's Little Soldiers and Horus (PJI Charity) both great military charitable causes. Karuta is also the supplier of all UT PTI kit so I have completed a full circle. This year we have designed and made kit for Ireland Rugby League and the GB Practical Shooting Squad. So we are getting there! I am determined to treat the local football, rugby or sports club in the same way as an international side, they both get the same quality and I am able to offer great prices to all levels We also

"My great friend from 19 course Dominic O'Sullivan got back in touch with me about 6 years ago and it was like yesterday since we had last seen each other.... typical PTI feeling.....always a PTI deep down. Recently Dom suggested a cycling top, the 'Roebuck Riders' Cycling Jersey which we designed and manufactured, it proved very popular."

This is a bit cheeky I know, but if any of you are involved in sport or know people involved in sport and they want some personally designed kit of any description, then point them in my direction I will see what we can do, martin@karuta-sportswear.com, www.karuta-sportswear.com .

I would like to thank Denise and the likes of Graham Hughes for the reunions, they are great and I try to get to one a year, I find it therapeutic being in PTI company, the years roll back and the stories get better and the laughter carries on late into the night. It is and has been a real tonic getting back in touch with old friends and making new albeit a little greyer and maybe one or two pounds heavier!"

To all PTI's it is a proud achievement to wear 'The Badge', I know I was and no matter what age we are we still have that swagger and confidence. I recall getting a rollicking from my Detective Chief Superintendent (yes I had a couple in the Police as well), on the way out I turned to his PA and said "That could have been worse, at least I didn't get a month of duty PTI", she gave me a strange look! My father Dennis Longden ex Wing Commander Engineer and RAF Football Manager (still going strong after recovering from cancer), always says to me, b****y PTI's get everywhere and if you get more than one of them together at any one time something will happen and it's not always positive! Take care folks...

Martin Longden, Managing Director, Karuta Sportswear
www.karuta-sportswear.com
07771 873047/01934 756599

Roebuck Memorial Card



£5 for 10 cards plus postage and package. Contact Flt Sgt Ronan Archbold for more information and to order.

Ronan.archbold310@mod.gov.uk



Commissioned by the RAF Physical Training Instructors Association, celebrating 100 years of the Physical Education Trade. Thanks to the sculptor Alfie Bradley for the creation of "The Roebuck" and to the other members of the association who gave their time and support to the induction of the Roebuck into the National Memorial Arboretum in April 2018.

Reverse of card



SW Reunion and Golf Competition – Graham Hughes

The SW PTI Reunion took place at RAF St Mawgan 28 - 31 Aug and was once again well attended. The events of Golf, Quiz and Top Table were a huge success and were enjoyed by all P.Eds.

To cap a great time we raised £370.00 cash plus, pledged on the day was £3200.00, so a total sum of £3570.00 was raised for Scotty Little Soldiers and to support Dominic O’Sullivan and his team to continue raising money for this charity.

The Mark Rogers Memorial Golf Bowl was won by yours truly Graham Hughes with Martin Burnelli and John Weedon in close pursuit. The Quiz was won by John Reeves, Helen Simpson, Sharon Cowap and Paul Bryant.

Thanks must go to John Reeves and Gary Scott for their organisation of golf and the Quiz and we are hoping to celebrate the PTI family again next year.

If you are keen to attend and have been involved in working in RAF Physical Education then e-mail me at hughesy56@sky.com .



**The Quiz winners
Helen Simpson, John Reeves, Sharon
Cowap and Paul Bryant.**

**Mark Rogers Memorial Golf Bowl
winner Graham Hughes**





Dominic O'Sullivan picks up a cheque for all the good work he is doing for Scotty's little soldiers

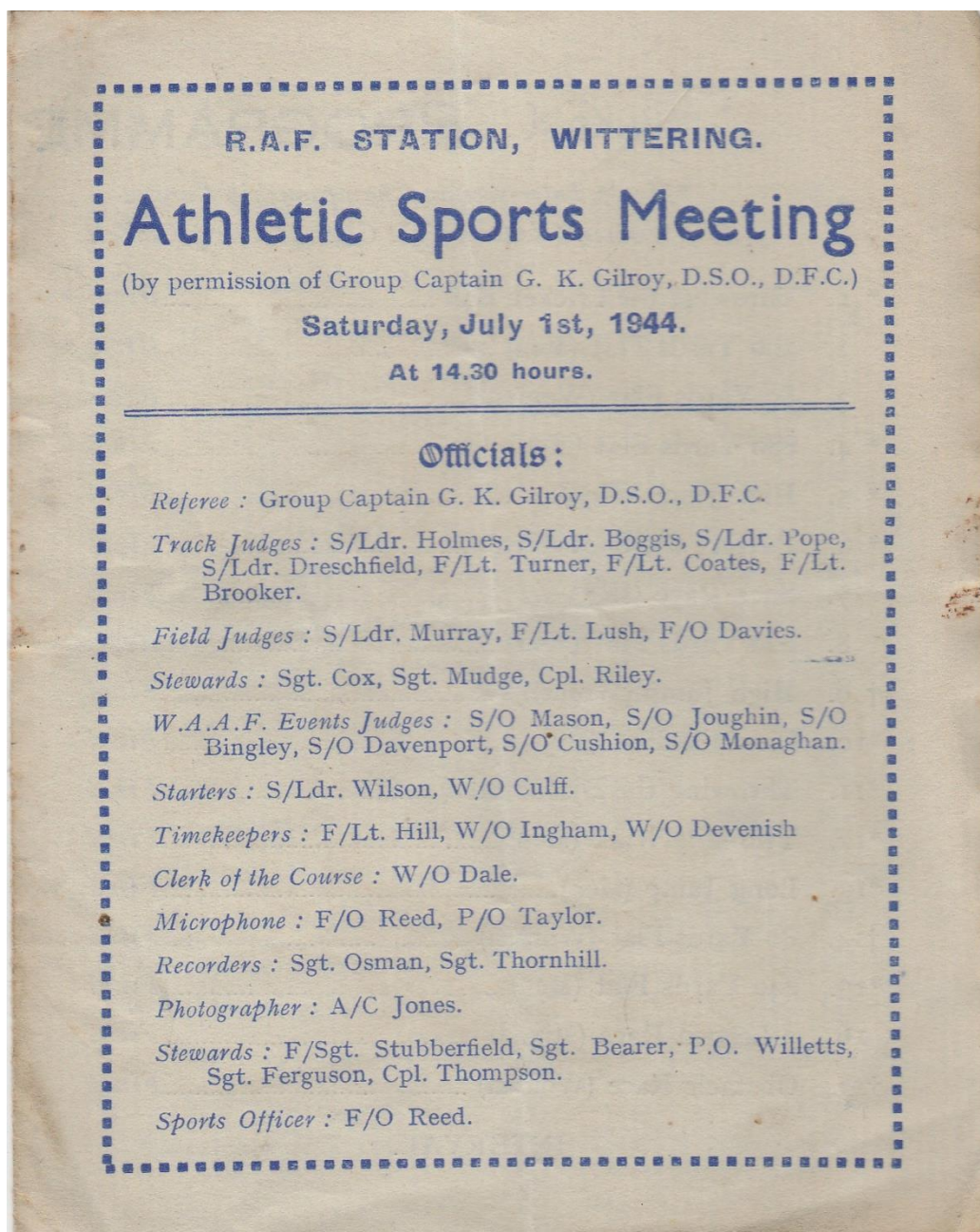


Gary Scott, Reg Bailey, Matt Martin, Mick Carey and Martin Burnell

RAF Wittering Sports Day 1944 – Jon Pulford

It was while going through my Grandfathers effects passed to me by my Mother because of the RAF connection, I found a fantastic Sports Day programme dated Saturday 1 July 1944.

Under the watchful eye of Sports Officer F/O Reed and stewards (I will assume as the PT Staff) Sgt Cox, Sgt Mudge and Cpl Riley, this takes place three weeks after the start of the D Day landings on 6 June 1944. The Battle of Normandy continued through till Aug 1944 so this must have been a fantastic diversion and morale booster to all staff and families based at the unit in this period, which was defined subsequently as the start of the end of the war.



I can only imagine that some of the following events would still be a winner today in any station sports day. Throwing a cricket ball, today you probably would have to say red or white ball? The slow bike race, I know a few people that would suit and I would not envy the conversation to get the mixed wheelbarrow race authorized, though the pictures on social media would probably be published before the end of the race!

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

*Men's Inter-section Championship Contest.
 †Women's Inter-Flight Championship Contest.

Points—1st, 5; 2nd, 4; 3rd, 3; 4th, 2; 5th, 1.

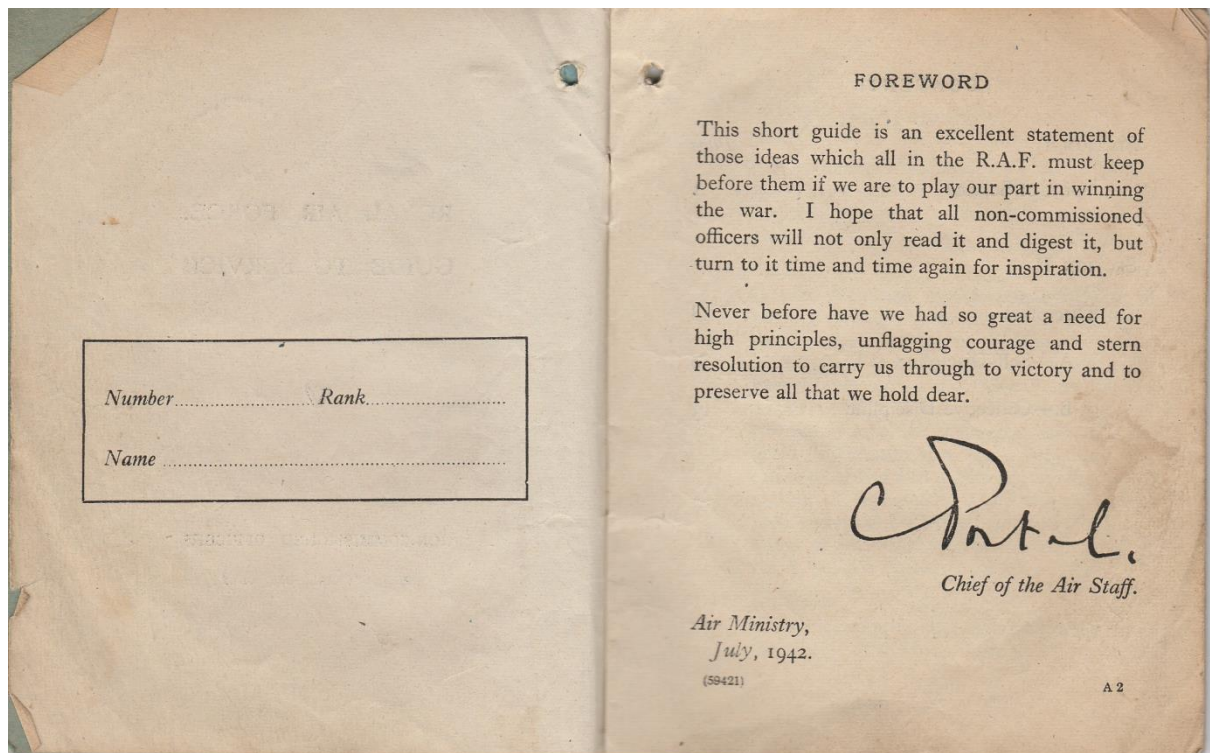
- * 1. Throwing the Cricket Ball *Final*
- 2. 100 Yards Flat (Men) *Heats*
- 3. 80 Yards Flat (Women) *Heats*
- * 4. 880 Yards Flat (Men) *Final*
- * 5. High Jump (Men) *Final*
- * 6. Putting the Shot (Men) *Final*
- 7. Sack Race (Men) *Final*
- 8. 220 Yards Flat (Men) *Heats*
- † 9. High Jump (Women) *Final*
- *10. One Mile Flat (Men) *Final*
- *11. Throwing the Discus (Men) *Final*
- *12. Two Mile Walk (Men) *Final*
- *13. Long Jump (Men) *Final*
- †14. 80 Yards Flat (Women) *Final*
- *15. 440 Yards Flat (Men) *Final*
- 16. 3-Legged Race (Mixed) *Final*
- †17. Obstacle Race (Women) *Final*

- *18. 220 Yards Flat (Men) *Final*
- 19. 120 Yards Hurdles (Men) *Heats*
- 20. 60 Yards Hurdles (Women) *Heats*
- †21. Long Jump (Women) *Final*
- *22. Two Miles Flat (Men) *Final*
- *23. 100 Yards Flat (Men) *Final*
- 24. Tug o' War (Men) *Semi-Final*
- †25. 440 Yards Relay (Women) *Final*
- *26. 440 Mixed Rank Relay (Men) *Final*
- 27. Slow Cycle Race (Men) *Final*
- 28. Slow Cycle Race (Women) *Final*
- 29. Pushing Cycle Race (Men and Women) *Final*
- 30. Veterans' Race—Over 40's (Men) *Final*
- *31. 120 Yards Hurdles (Men) *Final*
- †32. 60 Yards Hurdles (Women) *Final*
- 33. Wheelbarrow Race (Mixed) *Final*
- *34. 880 Yards Inter-Section Medley Relay (Men) *Final*
- *35. Tug o' War (Men) *Final*

INTERVAL.

Presentation of Prizes by G/C G. K. GILROY, D.S.O., D.F.C.

Also as part of his effects I found the Guide to Service for NCOs, it's a shame this is not still handed out.



The forward asks that all NCOs read it and digest it but turn to it time and time again for inspiration.

The Way of the British.

While eager to deserve the trust and respect of his comrades-in-arms each non-commissioned officer should cultivate the spark of humour that pricks the bubbles of misfortune or pompousness. Whatever the nature of his employment the "three R's" retain a constant value: (1) Reliability, which gives strength and accuracy in every part of the war machine; (2) Resourcefulness, necessary in a mobile force; and (3) Rapid mental reaction when emergency arises.

The Cause.

When the enemy announced "For fifty years we have been out to destroy England, and this time we are leaving nothing to chance," he simplified the issue for us all. He was unaware that our people have always displayed a type of courage that holds fast even when no one is watching; nor did he then know our reaction to his threat. Men and women of Britain and the Empire have been roused to implacable wrath and our reactions are demonstrated to the world. Our hatred

and contempt for the Nazi creed is welded into a fierce resolution to wipe its name out of human memory. To this end we must remember that a man fights best for the thing he loves.

The Aim.

For Cromwell's principle of selecting his New Model Army is still fundamentally true to-day—"I will have men of conscience who know the cause for which they fight, and love the thing they know." We who serve in the Royal Air Force know that upon our prowess and efficiency depends the whole future of the civilised world.

Strength is unity, and without goodwill there is no unity.

Goodwill lubricates the cogs in this great machine of ours as nothing else does; it ensures co-operation on the best of terms. Lack of goodwill is like sand in the wheels. Pour goodwill into it; encourage others to do so—and it all depends on unselfishness.

5. **A Sixth Principle is "Every Man will do his Duty"**.—This embraces all the foregoing principles and covers everything. Teach men to do their duty cheerfully, loyally and manfully, no matter what the results to themselves. Thus you will breed loyalty. The Empire was built on its teaching and hitherto defended on it. It is defending it now.

Establish loyalty to duty as the foundation-stone of everything you build up. Subordinate all private affairs and personal feelings to your job.

6. **A Seventh Principle is Individual Training.**—(i) *Mass production methods will not answer in the training of men.*—Individual treatment is essential. Learn as much as you can of each man under you—the strong points, weaknesses, interests, hopes of each. Encourage the good points, check the weak ones.

(ii) *Consider the type of man from whom you learnt most.*—Knew his job; taught it; took interest in you and encouraged you; told you where you got off when you went wrong and, if necessary, had given you "one in the pants"; afterwards again encouraged you and gave you a leg-up; no nonsense about him and a disciplinarian. You respected him and would go anywhere with him. He was strong but had understanding. That is the type we ought to try to be to our subordinates. And is the type of "hero worship" which is good. Example: Wing-Commander Bader and his Fighter Squadron.

7. **The Last Principle is Constant Practice, Precept and Example.**—Have you set high standards? Don't get the idea that they are impossible to achieve. Nothing is impossible—though it may be impractical!

Firstly, learn constantly to practice, set a good example, and live up to the higher standard you have set yourself and aim always at yet higher endeavour.

Secondly, teach others what you yourself should be aiming at—reiterate them and rub them in, but don't overdo it—avoid a saintly attitude.

Thirdly, enforce observance of this principle of good living and discipline.

Go steadily at it. Snatching at the bit only does harm. Obtain steady and continuous pressure from all in the same direction, and the results in a short time will surprise you.

You must maintain the results when you have got them. There must be no stopping. Things can never stand still. Either they go on as result of effort or they slip back if we slack off.

Go to it and good luck. You will deserve the great reward you will certainly get.

8. **Finally.**—I remind you that we are serving at a time of great national emergency. The greatest in our history.

We are up against a bitter and ruthless enemy. It is we or he who is to be crushed. We can do it with a fair safety margin if we set about him on the principle that "every man will do his duty" and in doing it "keeps his tail up".

9. Summarise the main points of all the talks.

Yours Jon Pulford

North East - My first two years at the helm! – Mal Broom

As a result of showing a semblance of interest in getting involved in the Association, I agreed to initially looking after the welfare of John Doran in 2016.

Following his sad passing around the time of the 2017 RAF PTI Association Annual Reunion, I agreed to liaise with his family for his funeral and took the reins as local representative for the North East. With this in mind, I set about organising the first of the 3 we have now had.

The first was attended by 5 'colleagues' in Oct '17. A plan of action was set upon to try and increase our interest and numbers. I set about tracking down northern based members and sending out open invites.

The second took place in Feb '18 in a local sports bar The Mile Castle and 9 attended. My gratitude going to those who travelled some distance.

Polly from Shropshire, Norman Hudson from Bedale, Phil Cook from Pontefract and Rick Taylor from Preston. The third in Nov '18 also had 9 attendees.

From a personal point of view I moved back to the North East in 1999 following 9 years service with "The Met". As a result of transferring to Northumbria and retiring in 2012, I am now a retired member of their social club and obtained permission from the committee to hold our soirées in their premises in Newcastle city centre. I think the subsidised prices appear to have been acceptable at these occasions, to the point that 2 have joined as associate members (Rod and Polly) and Paul Stewart, who also joined the police following his time joined as a full member.



Our Third North East reunion in November 2018 at the **Northumbria Social Club** with a meal in Don Vito's. 9 attended and 7 partook of the restaurant facilities on the floor below the club. Myself, father and son Paul and Graham Stewart, Rod Clark, Paul Hunt, Kenny Peers, Gary Pollard, Keith Bryce and Bob Mossom

Don Vito's restaurant





Second North East reunion in the **Mile Castle, Newcastle** in February 2018, 9 attended.
Myself, Phil Cook, Tony French, Paul Hunt, Rick Taylor, Gary Pollard, Kenny Peers, Paul Stewart.
Not in picture Norman Hudson.



First North East reunion at the **Northumbria Social Club** in October 2017
5 attended, Gary Pollard, Paul Stewart, Paul Hunt, Rod Clark

This last photo includes the usual motley crew of myself, Rod, and Paul who seem turn out to welcome all our visitors.



On this occasion having advertised the occasion of the European Rugby Cup Final in May '19. We had 4 first time attendees to what I would now consider our current home..... not to say we're not willing to travel further afield should the interest be there. Kev Norris, Jack Dilley and John Pulford arrived at lunchtime on the Saturday and following the end of the game Mark Philp popped in. The usual banter ensued...

At this juncture I'd like to offer my thanks to the officials of the Northumbria Social Club for allowing us use of their facilities and to everyone who has attended for giving me the encouragement to continue organising these soirées. It's been a pleasure to bring you all together and may this be the start of something regular.

P.S. any thoughts on dates or venues for gatherings would be gratefully received and anyone willing to attend would be very welcome to join us, whether from the North East or other regions.

Mal Broom.
NE Region Secretary
malcolmbroom@talktalk.net

RAF PTI Reunion/AGM/Golf – Heads Up

3-4th April at The Holiday Inn, Telford. Details will follow shortly so watch out for this. Please do not email the secretary prior to the official notification requesting a place/places be held, bookings will be accepted on a first come first served basis with a cheque and completed proforma.

Shout Out

Ian Hill has emailed requesting for information about Members of 17 course graduating 1956 from Cosford

Eric Henry has emailed asking does anybody know what happened to the following and what their current whereabouts might be?

- Wing Commander Leighton Jenkins
- FS Peter 'Dustbin' Davis (Mountain Rescue and OAC Llanrwst)
- Cpl Claud Morrison (gymnast)

Frank Egerton looking for the whereabouts of Dave Francombe

If you have any information concerning the above or you have lost contact with a colleague and you are trying to trace them, please email the secretary ptisec@outlook.com

Appeal for Volunteers – Denise Street Brown

I have to inform you that George Whitecross is standing down as the Scottish rep and we still have no Standard Bearer following the retirement of Roy Rigg. The current committee have been in situ for quite a few years and we do need to put in place some kind of "succession plan", whether that be supporting and 'shadowing' the current committee/ office bearers, or volunteering for vacant roles.

I would therefore be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to Volunteer their services in any capacity. ptisec@outlook.com

PTI Association Area Reps

Scotland	Vacant	
Wales	Ron Houghton	ronhoughton1@aol.com
London & SE	Ian Swindale	swin.theclub@gmail.com
North West	John Gallagher	gallagher227@gmail.com
North East	Mal Broom	malcolmbroom@talktalk.net
West Midlands	John Weedon	mrjohnweedon@aol.co.uk
East Midlands	Dominic O'Sullivan	Sully6189@googlemail.com
South West	Graham Hughes	hughesy56@sky.com
East Anglia	Paul Bryant	paulbryantart@virginmedia.com
Overseas	Sue Zwart Woodward	aa.zwart@quicknet.nl