



2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT **TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

This report was prepared by the Secretary on behalf of your Committee and was ratified as an accurate account of the past years Association's business at the 2009 Annual General Meeting in Plymouth on April 4th.

Once again it has been an interesting and busy year for your Committee, who have deliberated on a wide range of issues, none more so than the "Fly Navy 100" celebrations of which the Association is an active participant.

1...GENERAL OFFICERS

The following, elected under Rule 7 a-d (Duties) have led the Committee throughout the past 12 months - John Sheldon (Chair) Peter Imrie (Vice-Chair) Ian Williams (Secretary) and Peter Jays (Treasurer)

2...COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following, elected under Rule 6 a-e, have served in Committee from April 2008-April 2009: Ray Higginson, Alf Kitwood, McR. Jay O'Donnell. George Gardiner has assisted the Committee from within the Aircrewman fraternity at Culdrose and Yeovilton respectively. Again, we have been well supported by our Patron, Andy Barnwell. Ian Williams was elected in Plymouth to serve another 3 year term as general Secretary and Membership.

3...MEETINGS

The 2008 AGM (ACA31) took place at the Plymouth Holiday Inn on April 5th '08. The Committee held their autumn interim meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nottingham on September 13th '07. Your FN100 Reps (Harry Worth and Andy Barnwell) have attended various meetings of that organisation throughout the year.

4...OTHER ASSOCIATIONS and ORGANISATIONS

We have continued to maintain strong social links with the following sister FAA organizations and regularly exchange correspondence and magazines; The FAAOA (Officers), FAAHA (Handlers), FAAAA (Armourers) RNR Air Branch and the TAGA (Telegraphist Air Gunners) We also support and maintain a cordial working relationship with the RNHF. We continue our link with the Royal British Legion in that the Association marches past the Cenotaph every November at the RBL Festival of Remembrance (see Note 8) As stated earlier, and we have an active seat on the Fly Navy Federation Committee which have met regularly in the lead up to 2009.

5...FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer furnished the AGM with a rundown of the Association's accounts for the past 12 months and they were accepted as a true account. An inspected audit of our accounts took place prior to the AGM.

6...MEMBERSHIP

Since the last AGM we have added 22 new members made up of 18 Full, 1 Overseas and 1 Associate. Two Full Members and one Associate Member have passed away over the past year. All Members now have their own numbered ACA Membership card and everyone was issued with a new car sticker. Following a decision made at the 2006 AGM and endorsed by the Committee at successive meetings, all incorrect payers do not receive any Member benefits. We currently have 7 pending applications to join.

OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (as at 01.04.09) STOOD AT:

FULL (Pay correctly)	247	
LIFE	29	
ASSOCIATE	12	
OVERSEAS	39	
HONORARY	19	<u>TOTAL = 346</u>
<u>PLUS:</u>	FULL (Paying £10)	64 (includes 4 Associate)
	FULL (Paying £5)	5
	EX MEMBERS (Paying NIL)	53

GRAND TOTAL = 468 (346 bona-fide + 122 incorrect payers)

7...RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY

All Committee Members are committed to promote the ACA with a view to increasing our profile and Membership. POACMN Jay O'Donnell, (824 Squadron) has overseen all matters at RNAS Culdrose and WOACMN George Gardiner (JSATO) represents the Association at RNAS Yeovilton. Sam Norris, with the RAF at Odiham, helps with all matters inter-service. The Association currently boast 72 serving Aircrewman. ACA goodwill and promotional visits continue to take place on the Squadrons and at the major Air Stations. Future social events will continue to be advertised in and around the FAA. Joining forms are available to all serving Aircrewmen within the Fleet Air Arm. We have continued to support our station reps with communication and recruiting and our Membership from within the serving Aircrewman community is still on the increase. TACAN is now distributed to all Squadron crewrooms regardless of ACA Membership therein.

8...ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

In December 2005, your Committee applied to the RBL for the right to take an active part in the Whitehall and Royal Albert Hall ceremonies annually in November. This was granted and, for the third year running, a contingent of ACA Members took part in the Remembrance march past in London on November 9th. We also paraded our Standard at the Lee-on-Solent celebrations over the same weekend. Our current Standard Bearer is Ray Higginson.

9...FLY NAVY 100

FNF Rep Harry Worth, Chairman John Sheldon and Andy Barnwell have attended meetings on behalf of the ACA in the planning and lead up to this years FN100 celebrations. There are various events going on to celebrate the centenary of Naval Aviation. These and other items of news are published in 2 (so far) FN100 Newsletters which are published and sent out free of charge to the listed Membership of all federated FAA Associations. Under the terms of the Data Protection Act, members addresses are not divulged to third parties and are kept within the confines of the FN100 office at Yeovilton and the MOD.

FN100 website - <http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/server/show/nav.7027>

10..TACAN

This is the Association's main financial outgoing. Annual cost to produce is around £1190 and postage costs approx. £260 per annum. Edition 38 was despatched to Members at Christmas '08. This edition contained more colour content, and as a result, there has been a slight increase in production cost. The magazine now costs approx £1.95 per copy. In

accordance with a decision made by the AGM some years ago, Members in arrears with their subscriptions do not receive TACAN. Due to the continued close electronic communication between the Treasure and Secretary, we now encounter very few TACAN returns. Those that we do encounter are quickly found, either by word of mouth or through the 'lost souls' page of the website.

10...ASSOCIATION WEBSITE (www.aircrewman.org.uk)

During the course of the year, Harry Worth and Alan Ashdown have continued to develop the Association website. With Internet access now widely available, it is satisfying to know that most applications for Membership come from the website via the on-line joining form. We remain committed to support and develop this resource as a key to our future communications strategy. The current annual cost to maintain our site is £102.49 (Registration is £25 every 2 years and hosting is £89.99) We have now found our way onto various MOD, Naval and other Service Association links pages.

11...SPORTING EVENTS

John Sheldon continues as FO Golf. The 2008 Golf Championship was held prior to the AGM in Plymouth where he (JS) took the crown at the China Fleet Club. John Sheldon retained his crown at the 2009 Golf meet.

12..FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next Committee weekend will take place on October 24th in Liverpool. This is to co-incide with a CVS visit to that city which is part of the FN100 celebrations. The 2009 AGM voted to remain in Plymouth for the foreseeable future for it's Annual April gatherings.

IAN WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
APRIL 2009