



The Royal Air Force Servicing Commando and Tactical Supply Wing Association



Representing a Common Heritage

Mini Newsletter Summer 2021

Chairman's Introduction (hastily re-written!)

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I hope this Summer 2021 Newsletter finds you in good health. The last year has been particularly challenging for everyone with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic being felt far and wide. Our way of life has been forced to change beyond recognition with long periods of lockdown and isolation for many. It's during times like these that we really appreciate the support of families and friends, including the Association Family.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 Pandemic has once again foiled our plans to hold the AGM and Association weekend. We had hoped that the lockdown rules would have been relaxed by now allowing the event to go ahead but it is not to be. We considered delaying the event; however, this would have meant putting all the arrangements on hold again, trying to find suitable dates with the Mess for dinner and would have pushed the weekend closer to other events in August. Reluctantly, we have decided to cancel the event and concentrate our efforts on the Memorial Unveiling and President's Dinner, which are both due to take place in August.

Behind the scenes, the Committee have been working tirelessly to continue the provision of welfare support to Association Members in need. We have continued to plan events and then re-plan them due to lockdown rules changing, we have a new Association web-page under construction, new merchandise has been sourced and sold through Facebook and other social media and we've sold and posted over 200 copies of 'Cold War Hot Peace - 50 Years of Tactical Supply (1970-2020)'.



Alan Matthews deserves a special mention for his dedication and generosity in writing, assembling and funding the first batch of books. Profits from the book have gone towards the Memorials and into the Association funds, to be used for welfare purposes. Alan, on behalf of the Association, thank you for an outstanding effort!

One of the highlights for me in this strange year has been the fantastic response to Fred Hammett's 100th Birthday. As one of the few RAF Servicing Commandos still alive, it was wonderful to see the deluge of cards, letters and presents that he received. Fred has joined the Association and will hopefully be joining us later in the year at the memorial unveiling, together with the other surviving RAF Servicing Commandos. Unfortunately, this good news has recently been tempered by the very sad news of the loss of one of our other veterans. Ernie Deighton (3207 SC) sadly passed away on the 10th June 2021. Our thoughts are with his wife, Cynthia, and family.

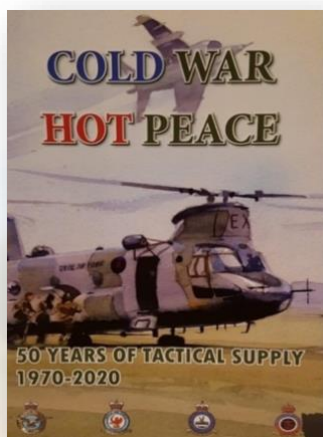
Looking forward, the Committee and I are excited by the events that we have planned during the remainder of the year. Again, depending on the relaxation of restrictions, we plan to unveil the new RAFSC and TSW Memorials at the National Memorial Arboretum on Saturday 21 August 2021, which will be followed by the President's Dinner. Then on Sunday 14 November 2021, the Association will have a marching contingent at the Remembrance Parade in London. All being well, all three events will go ahead!

Due to the cancellation of the Association weekend, we have decided to hold the AGM electronically. Details of the arrangements, the Survey Monkey Agenda and a copy of the Association Accounts are all included in this newsletter. Details will follow by email. In the meantime, enjoy the beautiful weather, stay fit and well and look forward to 'Freedom Day'.

John

Chairman

Two 'Cold War Hot Peace – 50 Years of Tactical Supply' books made their way across the world to New Zealand, proudly modelled here by Cam McDonald and Pat Davies.



Association Chaplain

Those of you who served on the Wing around the late eighties will perhaps recall the name Jim Horton, who served on non-Cadre and was well known for his wit and humor. As a Committee we are delighted to inform members that Jim recently got in touch, generously offering his services to be the Association Chaplain. The Committee would like to extend a warm welcome on behalf of the Association and share Jim's story.

Storeman to Clergyman

I'm Jim Horton, Honorary Chaplain to the Association.

Originally from South Wales, I joined the RAF in March 1983, after Swinderby and Hereford I was posted to RAF Brady and after a couple of years to Belize, both of which I loved.

Despite having a 'choice of postings' after Belize, I ended up (like all good storemen) at Stafford. The sheer thrill of a twelve-hour shift loading and unloading lorries bound for exotic places like Leeming or Finningley. Passing the night shifts with motorised pallet truck races around the DAC!

Then came the day, TSW non-cadre. Suddenly, join the air force and see the world come true, ok I was seeing it stinking of avgas, in a tent and working all the hours God sent, but I was definitely seeing it, Turkey, Denmark, Germany and Northern Ireland.



After the RAF I trained as a psychiatric nurse at St George's in Stafford. I fell over (yes drunk) and severely broke my arm and due to this, ironically, had to spend most of the last year of my training working in the substance misuse unit, this set the scene for the next twenty years. I worked in various jobs; outreach, rehab, counselling, detox, finally ending up managing the drug services in East Sussex. I loved working in this field but, having been a lay minister since my RAF days, I couldn't put off the call any longer.

In 2012 I went into full time ministry in Chichester Diocese and am now Priest in Charge of the Parish of St Nicholas Saltdean in Brighton.

I'm looking forward to meeting old friends and to making some new ones. Feel free to get in touch.

Jim

THE BIG CHARITY CHALLENGE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

They've done it! 837 miles by walking, running, and cycling, and a whopping £3,360.87 raised for Cancer Research UK. Hot Poop – the RAFSC & TSW Association donations amounted to some £2000 of this total!



Samuel, Josh and Archie out clocking up the miles.

From Archie, Samuel, and Josh a HUGE THANK YOU for your incredible support, generosity and messages of encouragement, it meant a great deal to them. In fact, they were rather overwhelmed by the support you gave them; they were really grateful as they never believed they could raise so much money.

And from me a very heart felt and personal thank you all for your support. It was Neil Cromarty's idea to share the 'Just For Giving' link with Association Members so a huge thank you to Cromo as well, and the results speak for themselves. I cannot tell you the positive effect and strength that your donations and kind messages of support in my battle with cancer have given me. The knowledge that you are out there 'gunning for me' is a massive boost to my morale and has really helped. I'm doing ok at the moment, the Chemotherapy is giving the cancer a damn good stuffing, and fingers cross will continue to do so. The outcome is anyone's guess, but for the present I'm getting along just fine.... well, apart from having to cut the booze out, I really didn't know you could survive without whisky!

The 3 boys are really 'chuffed' at having completed such a challenge, not bad for 3 thirteen-year-olds who fitted miles in between school and various lock-down restrictions, and even more by the tremendous support they have received. My son Archie was born during my final tour at TSW so your generosity is also very personal to him as well.

So, thank you again from the boys and me and all the very best to you all.

Yours Aye

Nick Atkinson

Website Update

The new website is currently going through its final stages of build and review, we hope to have this completed in the coming weeks. Members will notice that all the old site's content has been migrated across, only now with a fresh look and feel, and some new functionality which we hope will enhance user experience.



The new site will allow users to purchase membership, merchandise and pay for events direct, simply adding these products to their basket before clicking through to checkout once ready. Moreover, the site will also allow members to contact the committee direct via the 'Contact Us' page, rather than the need to send an email, although this will still be available should you prefer.

2020 Treasurer's Report

Despite the slower pace of life in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Treasurer's life has not been quiet thanks to the work of those curating the new Memorial and fundraising thereof which has seen a plethora of payments from many sources into, out of and between accounts - which can only be a good thing for the Association!!

You'll see from the Statement of Account that turnover has been unprecedented in 2020 compared to 2019 (and also compared to previous years that I have the records from). The large sums being paid into and out of the account saw a closing balance of £17,948.38.

As per the notes on the statement of account, the closing balance of £17,948.38 seems very healthy however it should be recognised that £3,100 is money from Members who have paid already for the Reunion Dinner and £10,923.38 remains to be paid to the Stone Mason for his work on the new memorial leaving what I call a working balance at the end of 2020 of £3,925.38.

What is also worth noting with the working balance is that at the end of 2020, payments were made out of the account for polo shirts and not all payments for these polo shirts had been recouped in 2020. As of mid-April, when this report was made, the working balance was at over £8,000 with additional monies to come in from new fundraising sales (T-shirts, books and mugs) and annual subscriptions putting us in a healthy position to run whichever events can be held in 2021.

It was originally planned to pay for elements of the maintenance and insurance requirements for the memorial equaling approximately £6,700 in 2021. However, as we were not able to fund or subsidise any social events such as the Reunion Dinner, Presidents Dinner and Post-Cenotaph Parade get together, we

were able to fully fund the entirety of the memorial, a new bench and other upgrades to the site which puts us in a great position going forwards with no large outstanding payments needing to be accounted for.

As you will expect, the fundraising for the new Memorial is what has dominated and, dare I say, complicated the account in 2020 with monies being paid into our savings accounts but needing transferring out to the current account to make online payments and vice versa for payments being made into the current account for the memorial and this is what the transfers lines in the statement represent.

I'm sure I will not be the first one to thank both Wayne and Chris for their sterling efforts in fundraising sales including monopoly tickets, cufflinks, clothing, coins, badges and ties (to mention just a few). We hope the new website which will contain an ecommerce shop will make sales of merchandise slicker and even more accessible in 2021 and beyond.

Finally, a plea regarding subscription payments. On 1st June 2020, and in line with the AGM vote, subscription payments for TSW members were increased to £15 (£16 if paying by PayPal to account for fees). In 2020 alone, approximately 140 members were still paying the previous rate of £10 and while we have caught up with some members throughout 2020 and into 2021 we have at least 100 members still paying at the old rate of £10 leaving us approximately £500 short of what we would expect for subscriptions. We will circulate a list of those still making the £10 payments with the AGM notes but this is a plea for you to check your subscription payments.

In addition, whilst we still offer the ability to pay by PayPal, I would like to "promote" the preferred use of online banking payments if possible. Feedback from those trying to amend PayPal subscriptions is that it is difficult to change your payment amount and reoccurring payments have had to be cancelled and reinstated so now may be the time to move away from PayPal for which we incur a fee and which will cost you £1 more. To encourage ANY membership payments, I am still happy to accept cash or cheque, as well as standing orders/reoccurring online banking payments and will facilitate anything I can do to accept your preferred payment method – just get in touch with me. Again, the new website will have an online membership payment facility to open up wider options.

Many thanks to all members for their ongoing financial support via their Membership payments and support to the fundraising efforts and future events and to my fellow committee members for checking my math's and for reminding me what all this money is for! Cliff and Wayne are invaluable support in my role and my utmost thanks to them for "bearing with me"!

Libby MacKinnon

Treasurer

RAF SERVICING COMMANDOS AND TACTICAL SUPPLY WING ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT

| Receipts and Payments Account as at 31 December 2020 | | | | Receipts and Payments Account as at 31 December 19 | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|--------------------|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance of Current Account at 1 Jan 2020: | | £ | 1,129.34 | Balance of Current Account at 1 Jan 2019: | | £ | 1,287.87 |
| Balance of Savings Account at 1 Jan 2020: | | £ | 4,431.19 | Balance of Savings Account at 1 Jan 2019: | | £ | 4,428.98 |
| Balance of PayPal Account at 1 Jan 2020: | | £ | 737.39 | Balance of PayPal Account at 1 Jan 2019: | | £ | 991.82 |
| Opening Balance | | | £ 6,297.92 | | | | £ 6,708.67 |
| Plus RECEIPTS | | | | Plus RECEIPTS | | | |
| Paypal Subscriptions | £ | 1,703.00 | | Subscriptions | £ | 3,105.57 | |
| Annual Subs | £ | 4,790.00 | | Presidents Dinner | £ | 2,608.00 | |
| Bank Account Subs | £ | 4,591.91 | | Reunion | £ | 1,445.00 | |
| Reunion Dinner Money | £ | 3,100.00 | | Remembrance | £ | 1,325.57 | |
| Memorial Fundraising | £ | 28,669.38 | | Donations | £ | 50.00 | |
| Transfers Into Accounts | £ | 23,326.00 | TOTAL IN | Sales & Raffles | £ | 1,023.00 | |
| Interest | £ | 6.05 | £ 66,186.34 | Interest | £ | 2.21 | £ 9,559.35 |
| Less PAYMENTS | | | | Less PAYMENTS | | | |
| Merchandise Purchases | £ | 4,745.10 | | Reunion | £ | 3,585.90 | |
| Postage | £ | 650.00 | | Presidents Dinner | £ | 2,600.00 | |
| Memorial Payments | £ | 20,750.00 | | Memorabilia | £ | 384.00 | |
| Subs Refunds | £ | 15.00 | | Welfare | £ | 720.00 | |
| Deposit Refund (Normandy) | £ | 100.00 | | Postage | £ | 145.00 | |
| Committee Expenses | £ | 98.62 | | Newsletters | £ | 296.70 | |
| Presidents Award | £ | 100.00 | | Presidents Award | | | Paid in 2020 |
| Izettle | £ | 22.80 | | Storage Case | £ | 175.50 | |
| Wreaths | £ | 87.00 | | Remembrance | £ | 1,704.00 | |
| Website | £ | 91.99 | | Refunds | £ | 568.00 | £ 10,179.10 |
| Paypal Fees | £ | 95.37 | TOTAL OUT | | | | £ (619.75) |
| Transfers Out Of Accounts | £ | 27,780.00 | £ 54,535.88 | | | | £ 6,088.92 |
| | | | £ 17,948.38 | | | | |
| Profit/Loss | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Represented by: | | | | Represented by: | | | |
| Balance of Current Account at 31 December 2020: | | £4,483.58 | | Balance of Current Account at 31 December 2019: | | £1,129.34 | |
| Balance of Savings Account at 31 December 2020: | | £13,173.78 | | Balance of Savings Account at 31 December 2019: | | £4,431.19 | |
| Balance of PayPal Account at 31 December 2020: | | £291.02 | | Balance of PayPal Account at 31 December 2019: | | £737.39 | |
| Closing Balance | | £ 17,948.38 | | Closing Balance | | £ 6,297.92 | |
| <i>Note: £3100 held in deposits for Reunion Dinner Payments</i> | | | | | | | |
| <i>£10,923 still owed for Stone Mason</i> | | | | | | | |
| Therefore: £3925.38 Working Balance | | | | | | | |

2020 (electronic) AGM

7th July 2020

Venue: Electronic AGM (Survey Monkey) Agenda

1. Agenda and Results from 29th June 2019, the Committee seek approval that it constitutes a true and accurate record.

YES/NO

| ANSWER CHOICES– | RESPONSES– |
|-----------------|------------|
| – | 100.00% |
| Yes | 51 |
| – | 0.00% |
| No | 0 |
| TOTAL | 51 |

2. Matters Arising:

- a. The Treasurer was to have liaised with the Editor of the Newsletter to ensure Accounts through to 31st December 2020 accompanied the June 2021 'Mini' Newsletter. DONE
- b. The Website, Articles of Association and TOR were to be reviewed and updated. CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: Following discussions at the Autumn 2019 Committee Meeting, it was decided this task would best be addressed following accession of the new Chairman. CARRIED OVER
- c. Mr Hank Hancock had suggested a link be created on the new website to permit narrative contributions (with editorial scrutiny!) to be uploaded. It was further suggested that these could form part of the contributions to the "History of TSW Book, fathered by Jim Coleman. CARRIED OVER

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: Recent discussion have produced a sub-committee of willing Members, keen to advance the work. The Committee now seeks approval from Members that they are happy to permit a sub-committee to take existing work, add new contributions and develop a themed document capable of publication.

YES/NO

| ANSWER CHOICES– | RESPONSES– |
|-----------------|------------|
| – | 100.00% |
| Yes | 51 |
| – | 0.00% |
| No | 0 |
| TOTAL | 51 |

3. The Council & Officers of the Association. Point 12 of the Articles of Association – The Chairman, Treasurer, Membership and Welfare Secretaries are to offer themselves for re-election every two years. All Committee Members have been in post less than 2 years except:

- a. David Packman (Welfare & Publicity). “Gp Capt (Retd) David Packman was standing down as Welfare and Publicity Member, Geordie Lumsden having picked up the reins last year. The Chairman thanked Gp Capt Packman for quite exceptional support, wise counsel and friendship to the Association”.
- b. David Orr (Chairman). “Wg Cdr (Retd) David Orr was standing down as Chairman and it was proposed the post be passed to Sqn Ldr (Retd) John Andrews, who was considered an exceptionally suitable candidate. On receipt of a majority approval vote, Johnny Andrews would assume the responsibilities of Chairman of the RAFSC & TSW Association.”

YES/NO

| ANSWER CHOICES– | RESPONSES– |
|-----------------|------------|
| – | 100.00% |
| Yes | 51 |
| – | 0.00% |
| No | 0 |
| TOTAL | 51 |

Please note. The Committee Secretary proposes each of the above agenda items and the Chairman seconds each proposal. Due to the unprecedented nature of COVID there will be no AOB on this occasion.

2021 Electronic AGM

Venue: Electronic AGM (Survey Monkey) Agenda (Details regarding vote process to follow by email)

1. Agenda and Results from 7th July 2020, the Committee seek approval that it constitutes a true and accurate record (Please see above).

YES/NO

2. Matters Arising:

- a. The Treasurer was to have liaised with the Editor of the Newsletter to ensure Accounts through to 31st December 2020 accompanied the June 2021 ‘Mini’ Newsletter. **DONE**
- b. The Website, Articles of Association and TOR were to be reviewed and updated. **CHAIRMAN’S NOTE:** Following discussions at the Autumn 2020 Committee Meeting, it was decided the task of moving ahead with the new website would commence following appropriate market research and Committee sign off for the most suitable quote. The remaining matters will be addressed following the end of COVID restrictions when the Committee can come together again.

3. The Council & Officers of the Association. Point 12 of the Articles of Association – The Chairman, Treasurer, Membership and Welfare Secretaries are to offer themselves for re-election every two years. All Committee Members have been in post less than 2 years except:
- a. Cliff Whiteley (Membership). “Cliff Whiteley is standing for re-election as Member Secretary. It is proposed Cliff will continue his valuable services to the Association. On receipt of a majority approval vote, Cliff would assume the responsibilities of Membership Secretary of the RAFSC & TSW Association.”
 - b. Libby MacKinnon (Treasurer). “Libby MacKinnon is standing for re-election as Treasurer. It is proposed Libby will continue her valuable services to the Association. On receipt of a majority approval vote, Libby would assume the responsibilities of Treasurer of the RAFSC & TSW Association.”

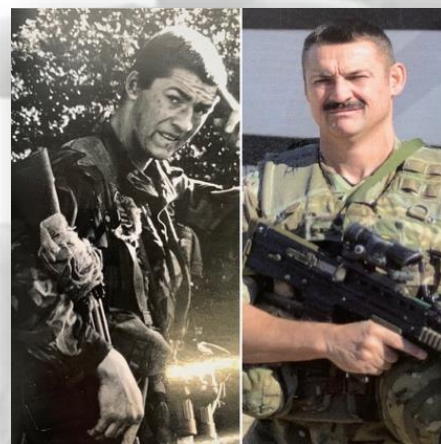
TSW Update from the Wing WO

The last 15 months

No doubt the pandemic has affected us all in different ways and it has been no different for TSW.

At the very start of the pandemic, we said goodbye to the Wg WO, WO Gaz Barlow who has now retired from the RAF after a long and distinguished career. His career has predominantly been at TSW, seeing him serve at every ‘rank’ on the Wing and in just about every theatre of operations over 35+ years. I was fortunate to replace Gaz back in early 2020, having been in the ‘Chair’ before, covering most of the RAF Centenary year in 2018, while Gaz earned another medal somewhere in the middle east and a Chief of the Defence Staffs Commendation for all his efforts.

Equally, there has been a big changeover within the officer cadre, recently seeing Wg Cdr Jon Smith taking up the reins as the new Commanding Officer from Wg Cdr Tom Stevenson, and he will be with



us for the next three years. Sqn Ldr Pete Burrows has returned to the Wing for the third time, on this occasion as OC TFS and Sqn Ldr Matt Cox is on his second tour back on the Wg, now as OC HQ. The good news is that they all have previous, so the Wing is in good hands moving forward.

Elsewhere, the troops have been busy, maintaining strict discipline to ensure a Covid-19 safe working environment and ensuring TSW sustained an unrelenting operational footprint. This has seen the continuance of deployments to West Africa, working alongside the French,



providing MOB and FRP capabilities for UK CH47, French assets and some 'fixed wing' platforms. The Team has continued to support the Falkland Islands, providing fuels expertise to MPA, assisting with barge replenishment to remote sites and maintaining a permanent footprint at Fox Bay. TSW has also been supporting a wide range of tasks across the Op SHADER AOR, seeing our people deployed to some pretty hot places in the continued fight against insurgencies.

At the start of the pandemic, TSW deployed in support of Op RESCRIPT, seeing TSW teams travel to remote areas of Scotland, providing FRP cover for the Air Ambulance and Defence assets. Elsewhere, the usual Defence exercise program was initially curtailed and since the lifting of the initial lockdown it has been sporadic, but this year it has seriously gained in momentum. This has seen the troops travelling up and down the country supporting every type of JHC asset and all three services. More recently, there has been some rare opportunities, seeing a TSW team refueling Typhoon at Wittering, with another team supporting the fuel task for the G7 summit! Looking forward and overseas, training in Kenya and Oman is being resurrected, with Norway still a firm fixture in the calendar. This is great news for the team as it maintains interest and our operational competence.



As we all now cautiously move through the Pandemic 'Recovery' phase, the Wing is focusing on celebrating our 50th Anniversary. After many delays, rearrangements and cancellations we are hoping to revitalise

previous plans. The plans include an all-ranks dinner, a visit to the 'Old Shades' to present a plaque and potentially putting a historic display in one of the Staffordshire Museums. The TSW Heritage Room is really taking shape and we have finally got our 50th Anniversary 'work of art', to the Printers. This was courtesy of Sgt Ads Harrison, and we are hopeful the Masterpiece will be ready in July. Finally, top of the Bill is the RAFSC & TSW Assn Presidents



Dinner and the unveiling of our joint memorial, plus the opportunity to socialise after such a challenging 15 months.

So, stay safe and all being well, we can all get back to 'pulling up sandbags' soon!

Chaz McKnight
Wg WO

In Remembrance

We record with sadness the passing of the following members:

3207 SC

Mr Ernie Deighton

Died 10th June 2021



As part of the preparations for the memorial unveiling in August the Committee have recently collected the refurbished plaque with the names of our comrades of the RAF Servicing Commandos who never made it home. The plaque will be added to the new memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, which will be unveiled in August.

Your Committee

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Chairman | John Andrews | Email: chairman@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Treasurer | Libby MacKinnon | Email: treasurer@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Membership Secretary | Cliff Whiteley | Email: membership@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Welfare Secretary | Geordie Lumsden | Email: welfare@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Secretary | Dave Christophi | Email: secretary@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Events Secretary | Wayne Shelton | Email: events@tswscdoasn.co.uk |
| Merchandise Secretaries | Chris Ryan & Sarah Bosworth | Email: webshop@tswscdoasn.co.uk |