



SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION BARROW-IN-FURNESS BRANCH NEWS LETTER



The May Word



Along with all of my other roles it's been a busy month first there was our Forty Fourth Annual General Meeting, it was good news that Barrie Downer was re-elected as our Secretary, and it was good that John Houlding was able to present Life Membership Certificates. Unfortunately it appears that some members have slipped through the net and are actually entitled to Life Membership and was not presented with anything on the night. This is due in part that but the some of our older records and branch minute books do not accurately indicate the true membership status of some members, for this oversight the Committee apologises wholeheartedly, and will take steps to set the records straight and present Life Membership all who are entitled under our current rules. Then there was the evening at the Friar's Public House organised by the Crew of HMS Astute to fund raise funds for the families of the two crewmen of HMS Tireless. There was the trip with Mick Dack to Birmingham for Paul McCann's funeral. I had to cancel at short notice my appearance at the Annual Dinner Dance, and apologise for the inconvenience it may have caused some members. I must take my hat off to those members that undertake Standard Bearers Duties on a regular basis I have done it twice this month the funeral and St Georges Day Parade last Sunday. I have and also taken two school assemblies where I have told the children about the Submariners Association why we

have a Standard also demonstrated how we march with a standard: how we dip the standard. There must be a trick to it because my right arm has never been so stiff. Yesterday along with some other members I became a guide on Submarine Onyx as part of "Bring Your Child To Work Day" and that was good end to the month.

Regards Jonsey

HMS Trenchant

HUNTER killer submarine HMS Trenchant has been stalking the lochs of Scotland as she testing her proficiency with the torpedo.

The Devonport-based Trafalgar-class submarine headed to the BUTEC British Underwater Test and Evaluation Centre ranges at the Kyle of Lochalsh to fire a number of specially-modified 'fish'.

Warheads were removed from Spearfish torpedoes the standard wire-guided weapon used by Fleet submarines against surface and sub-surface targets – and replaced with 'recording devices' which gathered data from the torpedo's run.

Trenchant fired a number of these modified torpedoes on the BUTEC range against a mixture of targets above and below the waves, demonstrating that both her crew and her weapons systems were fit for front-line duties.

The boat spent 2006 in Devonport undergoing an overhaul, but is making up for the time alongside in 2007 with strenuous activity.

She is currently being put through her paces by the team of the Flag Officer Sea Training in Faslane who oversee all operational training for Britain's Silent Service.

HMS Astute



Mrs Johnson, Councillor Johnson, Ken Dodd, PO Wharrie, Lt Cloney, PO Jones.

The first visit by the Ship's Company to HMS Astute's affiliated town of the Wirral took place 01 April 2007. The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor Peter Johnson and Mrs Johnson) invited members of the Ship's Company to the Ken Dodd variety show at the Floral Pavilion Theatre in New Brighton. This was the last show at the theatre before it was closed in order to be rebuilt and the event was sold out. A highly entertaining evening was had by all and it was a wonderfully light hearted way to begin Astute's affiliation with the town of the Wirral.

The Editor

Paul McCanns Parents thank you all for your thoughts and phenominally kind actions. A Charitable Fund has been setup in Pauls name the Paul McCann Fund For Needy Children, which will go to benefit Both the NSPCC and Childline.

John Houlding apologises that there is no Branch Rules article due to him being busy but will definately include a third article in the June issue

Ben Britten

Social scene for May



On April the 14th we held the Annual Dinner Dance at the Lisdoonie hotel. 83 members and their guests attended, and the entertainment was provided by Shindig which consisted of our own Billy Daniels and his Oppo Brian, they were excellent!

Our guests for the evening were our former long serving chairman Kenny Collins and his wife Lilian. John Houlding provided us with an entertaining account of Kennys time in office and Ken responded in kind. The speeches concluded with our President John Hart presenting Ken with an honorary certificate for services to the branch. I hope that all who attended and supported the branch had a good time, next year will be the 45th Anniversary and will be a special do and will be at the Lisdoonie on the 26th April 2008, I originally booked the Forum 28, but after extensive research and feedback and assurances from the Lisdoonie that they can comfortably accommodate larger numbers the committee have agreed to book the Lisdoonie.

We were due to go down to Twickenham next weekend for the annual Army / Navy rugby match, but unfortunately we couldn't get the numbers this year. This is a great weekend so we don't want to see it slip of the social calendar; we'll try again next year so mark your diaries for the 1st weekend in May!

The list has now been started for the Summer Barbeque on July the 7th (Note change of date) at the Vickerstown Institute. I am conscious that social costs are an issue and I am doing my best to maintain the cost at last years level of £7 a ticket for food and entertainment. I need early numbers so that Brigham can plan the catering. The list will be passed around at the May meeting so get your names down early for yourselves and any friends that

you may wish to bring, Raffle, and the Rum barrel will be in attendance, it's a good bash and with a bit of luck the weather will be as sunny as our shirts!!!

To date I have attended two car boot sales to raise funds towards the 45th Anniversary, progress is slow but money is being raised, I've still got a garage full of items but it is falling slowly. I am also looking at getting badges and mugs to commemorate the Anniversary samples have been received and I'll keep you posted on how it's going.

The list for the annual reunion in October has begun and will be passed out again at the May meeting, get your bids in early if you want to go; the organisers need to know numbers for confirming reservations.

Well that's it for this month, don't forget to book your tickets for the BBQ!!

Colin Hutchinson - Social Sec.

Paul McCann's Funeral

Mick Dack and myself travelled down to Halesowen parish church situated in the town centre on the outskirts of Birmingham. To attend the funeral of Paul McCann who had been killed alongside a fellow submariner Anthony Huntrod in a tragic accident on HMS Tireless. We set off from Barrow with plenty of time to spare but after a nightmare journey of delays and a diversion caused by two accidents, coupled to slow moving traffic our ETA was getting progressively tighter the further south we travelled. The upshot being we arrived at the centre car park with minutes to spare, and we had to hotfoot through the street leading to the church that was already packed with people, the churchyard was lined with Naval Personnel and at the entrance was a dozen or so various Association Branch and British Legion Standards under the command of the

National Standard Bearer. So I fell in still assembling our standard, fortunately the funeral cortège was delayed so I was able to recover my breath and some semblance of order before we processed into the church. The church was full to overflowing with family friends; civil dignitaries; and even more naval personnel. The Local Vicar Dave Homer conducted the order of service and the Reverend Mike Meachin the Royal Naval Chaplain gave the funeral address, because he had personally known Paul when they were serving in HMS Raleigh. There were several tributes read out during the service that painted a picture of a man that made a mark in whatever he undertook. So I was particularly proud of the fact that our Barrow in Furness Branch Standard played a part in the tributes to such a young Submariner Crossing the Bar.



There has apparently been an issue within the Association as to the correct wearing of Dolphins on our Submariners Association Blazers. The Official word from National Conference is that the Dolphins are to be worn on the right hand side four inches down from the shoulder seam - Or as one Admiral put it no medal ranks higher than the well earned Dolphins of Submariners.



Secretary's 'Dit'



Well April was quite busy, wasn't it? It is normally one of the busiest months of the Barrow Branch year what with the Annual General Meeting, the Annual Dinner Dance and the St George's Day Parade. At the first you were kind (?) enough to re-elect me as your Secretary for the next three years. Thank you for that and I hope to be able to keep up the usual service over the next three years. We also voted in John Hart as our National Council Conference Delegate for 2008 - he won't have to travel far - of course - as it's in Barrow next year! That will keep his expenses to the minimum!

Also the 'Ex Officio' Committee members were confirmed by the Members as David Jenkins, Alan West and Ted Budgen. However we still need replacements for Bill Cole and Alan Hoskins so we are looking for two members to step forward. Its not an onerous job your commitments are one Committee Meeting per month and the Branch Meeting and, of course it would be helpful if you could assist with organising the various Branch functions. And, of course, we still need a volunteer for the position of 'Slops Representative' to take over the reins from Alan Hoskins. So come on - step forward - and volunteer for one of these posts - you'll be quite surprised how much you'll enjoy it!

The second April event - the Dinner Dance went very well - a big thank you to Colin Hutchinson but he'll tell you all the details in his Social Secretary's Report.

The third event was the St. George's Day Parade and it was not so well attended by Branch Members this year but we were represented and all those that did attend seemed to enjoy themselves. There is a separate report on this in the Newsletter.

I must mention here the sad loss to the Submarine Service of the two Crew Members from HMS

TIRELESS who died in the terrible accident in the Submarine under the Ice Cap whilst on Exercise. The funeral of Anthony Huntrod in Sunderland on 4th April was well attended by Submariners Association Branches. A piper was arranged by the Sunderland Branch and Sunderland FC made their Stadium facilities available for the wake. Paul McCann's funeral in Halesowen on 5th April was also well attended by the Branches and the Barrow Branch was represented by the Chairman who carried the Standard and by Mick Dack. Alan Jones has provided a separate report on this. Also I must mention the magnificent efforts at fund raising made by the Ships Company of HMS ASTUTE. This included the Raffle and Auction at the Friars on 4th April. A list of the Prize winners of published separately in the News Letter but the efforts have, so far, raised over £18,500 for the Families - an especial thank you from me to all of you in the Branch who donated so generously.

Membership of the Branch continues to creep upwards and we expect a few more re-joiners shortly. Overall Membership remains at a high level of 150 - moving on upwards when the latest applications - including two recently received via the website - are processed.

Thanks to those who have kept us up to date with your correct Phone Numbers, Addresses and 'e' Mail addresses. More Members are now on 'e' mail and I know that several more are thinking about it. So if you get on the Net for the first time or if you change your service provider make sure you tell us as soon as possible so we have accurate and full records.

On 24th March the 2007 National Council Conference of the Submariners Association was hosted by Derby. Items discussed and agreed included:

(a) A re-issue of the Submariners Association Rules & Constitution to reflect changes

agreed at the 2006 National Council Conference and changes required following the change from FOSM to RASM. These will be issued to all Members when published.

(b) Ted Hogben being returned 'unopposed' for the post of National Vice Chairman.

(c) Bob Wishart (West of Scotland), me - Barrie Downer being returned as National Committee Members for another three years.

(d) The honorariums paid the some Members of the National Committee being increased in line with inflation on an annual basis.

(e) The Barrow Branch to host the 2008 National Council Conference and to host the 2008 National Draw coinciding with the 45th Anniversary of the Barrow Branch.

(f) The Beds and Hert Branch to propose the 'Toast' at the 2007 Reunion.

Well that's it from me this month over to the rest of the Committee for their contributions. I'll let you get on with reading the rest of this News Letter. See you all at the May Branch Meeting on 1st May don't forget it's at 1900 start this time not 2000 but for this one meeting only!

We will also have visitors at the Meeting and the Rum Barrel should be out!

St. Georges Day Parade 2007

By Barrie Downer

The 2007 St. George's Day Parade was arranged by the King's Own Royal Border Regimental Association on Sunday 22nd April 2007. The weather was not too promising being quite overcast but warm and, later on, the rain started - but not too heavy and we didn't get too wet. Three of the Barrow Team mustered at the Harbour just after 1200 for a fortifying pint before the events kicked off.

The Parade then formed up at 13.15 in the Town Hall Square where the Standard Bearers - there were sixteen Standards on Parade altogether - were presented with Roses by the Mayor of Barrow. The Barrow Branch Submariners Association Standard was carried by the Branch Chairman Alan Jones escorted by Barrie Downer and Bob Faragher. Also in the Parade was Alan West and we were joined at the Church by David Jenkins.

The Parade 'Marched Off' at 1330 - led by the Royal Marine Cadet Band arriving at St George's Church for the Service which started at 1400. The Service followed the usual format and included four popular hymns Praise My Soul, Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God, Jerusalem, One More Step and the National Anthem. The Vicar's address was a bit different from the usual but this was because she obviously had no military background at all but had made the effort to find out a few things military.

Following the Service the Parade formed up again and marched a short distance before 'Falling Out'. Most marchers went off to the Engineers Club directly in the coach provided but the SA Team returned to the Harbour meeting up with a few of the Army Associations before heading off to the Engineers where there must have been well over 100 attending the Social events with a raffle and entertainment laid on. All in all a very well organised event which continued later at the Steelworks. Thanks to all Branch Members who attended.

COLLINS CLASS SUBMARINE WEAPONS UPGRADE

Press Release by Prime Minister Howard below. This refers to the MK-48 ADCAP Torpedo and the AN/BYG-1 Submarine Combat System.

http://www.pm.gov.au/media/Release/2007/Media_Release24232.cfm

HMAS Waller - Replacement Combat System

Today I visited HMAS Waller, one of the Royal Australian Navy's six Collins Class submarines, to inspect the successful installation of the Replacement Combat System and new Heavyweight Torpedo. The Replacement Combat System enables the submarine to detect, acquire and track targets. The Heavyweight Torpedo allows it to engage both surface vessels and other submarines. Together these projects worth a combined \$921 million - ensure the Collins Class submarine is one of the most capable conventional submarines in the world. Both projects are within budget and on schedule.

The decision to acquire the Collins Class was taken by the previous government in the mid 1980s. A review in 1999 by John Prescott and the late Dr Malcolm McIntosh found that the submarines could not perform at the level required for naval operations; the underlying cause was "a myriad of design deficiencies and consequential operational limitations relating to the platform and combat system."

Since then the Government has taken a range of steps to bring all six submarines to full capability:

Enhancements to the hull to improve noise signature and new design propellers.

The replacement of the combat system with one based on the US Navy submarine system.

Improvements to safety aspects including fire fighting, hull valves and flexible hoses.

Installation of new communications masts and high data rate communications equipment.

Very close cooperation since 2001 between the RAN and the United States Navy has been the key to delivering these highly capable submarines. Through this arrangement Australia has gained

unprecedented access to US technology and capability. The United States has gained the advantage of Australian experience in conventional shallow water submarine operations.

This is another example of the benefits which flow both ways from our alliance.

The Australian Submarine Corporation has also played a key role. The 2003 Through Life Support Agreement with Defence fulfilled the Government's commitment for all full cycle submarine dockings to be undertaken in South Australia. This agreement is worth up to \$3.5 billion over 25 years.

I want to acknowledge the tireless and courageous contribution of our submariners - 'the silent service'. They are a very important part of our Navy and do not always receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

The Government is committed to recruiting and retaining high calibre submariners. We have introduced improvements to recruitment, including additional resources and establishment of a new Submarine Careers Team and have earmarked over \$100 million for a review of Navy Seagoing and Submarine Service Allowances, subject to independent Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal consideration

HMAS Waller





Branch Committee

Following the AGM last month there are places on the Branch Committee for two volunteer committee men to assist in the smooth and effective running of the branch affairs. If you are interested please contact Barrie Downer and he will let you know what might be expected of you as a committee man and invite you to attend the next committee meeting to get a feel of things. Come on it is not an onerous task give the branch your support.

Nation Council Conference 2008

Now that we have been given the honour of hosting the Conference in Barrow we need to agree on a few activities which we can progress in good time to ensure everything runs smoothly. Although March 2008 is still a long way off there are a couple of long lead ideas which should be discussed and planning put in place in the not too distant future. A number of branch members did agree to assist John Houlding in the planning of this event and we would be grateful if you can remind us who you are and John will arrange a get together.

The main long lead activities are:

- a) To identify and book a suitable venue for the conference.
- b) To produce a list of suitable accommodation for the assistance of travelling delegates and NMC members.
- c) To gauge the level of support we may get to putting on a social for the evening of the

conference. That will mean discussing what we are prepared to arrange and then producing a flyer to send out to all branch secretaries looking for estimates of interest.

If we can get those things done fairly soon we can then relax and wait for responses from the branches which with only monthly meetings and the holiday season approaching may take three or four months. That would take us to about September before we can really start detailed planning.

So please send in your names to John as soon as you can and let's get cracking.

Reunion 2007

We have a list of some of the members intending to attend the Reunion this year which will be in Coventry on the weekend commencing Friday 12th October 2007.

John Houlding has agreed to act as the contact man for the arrangements and payment of deposits etc.

The information we need is:

- 1) Which option do you require to be booked :-
 - a) F/S/S 3 nights Dinner B&B at £130 pp
 - b) F/S 2 nights at £110
 - c) Sat 1 night inc Dinner £100
 - d) Reunion Dinner only £30
 - e) Entry only £5
- 2) Then are you Stag or with Lady and what type of accommodation do you want ?
- 3) If stag are you prepared to share a room saving the £10 single supplement?
- 4) If there are sufficient numbers on the same deal, do you want transport arranged?
- 5) There are three optional coach

trips being so we will need to know if you and/or your wife would like to go on any of these.

Contact John Houlding asap to discuss and confirm he has your name and requirements and of course to pay him your money in full or a deposit sometime during May and preferably before the June meeting.

Treasurer

COULD I ASK THOSE WHO STILL HAVEN'T PAID THEIR SUBS FOR YEAR 2007 TO PAY UP NOW BY SENDING IT TO ME AT MY HOME ADDRESS OR BY CONTACTING ME AT HOME OR WORK TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PAY UP. ALTERNATIVELY THEY CAN FORWARD THE MONEY VIA OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

We now have 151 members but I have resigned RWE Anderson (Edward) who has gone to Canada owing this and last years subs.

So we are back to 150 including Smudge Smith from Canada who has not been in touch since his application form was completed and actioned.

Submariners Association Annual Draw 2007

The Submariners Association Annual Draw this year is to be hosted by the Lincoln Branch at the RNA Club, Coulson Road, Lincoln at 2000 on Saturday 30th June 2007.

Tickets stubs and cheques for sold tickets to be returned to myself or Barrie by Sunday 17th. June 2007 to allow for collation and sending to Lincoln for the Draw on the 30th. June. Unsold tickets to be returned as soon as possible so that they may be sold or reallocated.

Address for return of tickets;

Mick Mailey
4 Jesmond Avenue
Barrow-in-Furness
Cumbria LA13 9AW

Early Start

A reminder that the May Branch Meeting is on Tuesday 1st May and we have brought forward the start time of the Monthly Meeting by one hour - it will now start at 1900. Can you all make a note of this new start time - its for one Meeting Only and we will revert to usual Start Time for the June Meeting.

Can you all make sure that all of our Members who are not on E Mail are aware of this change of Start Time.

Also please note that we will be having some visitors at the meeting - a visiting party from the Nuclear Reactor Course who are also visiting Sellafield on Tuesday and BAE on Wednesday. I'm sure we will all make our visitors welcome.

See you all on Tuesday evening!

Barrie

Falklands W/E set up within BAE 9th/10th June

See Attached Map at the back of the newsletter

You will see that the main centre will be in the Top Yard at the Head of Berth where all manner of attractions will be available on the Sat & Sun. 9th/10th June. fairground; Absail tower; Super Zip Line; RN Simulators; Climbing Walls; Hot food; Ice Creams; Bouncy Castles; Parade Square for marching Bands and Dancers etc; Trade fairs; etc.

The concentration of visiting Ships will be in Buccleuch Dock. Personnel will be bussed from top yard to Bucc Dock.

Ships in Bucc Dock will be HMS Lancaster (astern of Onyx; HMS Exeter (Forwd of Onyx) two small ships Biter and Charger. Only HMS Exeter will be open for visitors. HMS Onyx will only be open to Invited Guests as detailed by the Owner and Paul Rose.

SHC will have a small souvenir table on the Jetty close to ONYX. Joan Cole and Joyce Tull are assisting Alan Jones. Any other wishing to assist will be gratefully accepted.

Between the top yard and Bucc Dock visitors can view a miscellaneous collection of armaments in the workshop en the route between those two places.

Entry to the top yard will be by ticket, details of which will be posted next week we hope.

On the Sunday early pm there will be a Drum Head Ceremony where a VIP will hand out Vets Badges to those qualified to receive them. There will be an article in the local paper shortly explaining how the presentation will be handled. All those serving in the Armed Services up to 1984 are eligible to receive a Badge This includes Merchant Navy personnel.. It is hoped that the Barrow SA will support this ceremony on the day.

If you need more info please contact me.



HMS Tireless

Below is the list of Raffle Prize Winners from the TIRELESS Fundraiser. Events to date have raised in excess of £18.5k and counting is still going on. A list of the main Donors will be available in due course.

Raffle Prize Winners

Holiday apartment in Spain & flights
Mick Lacey
Mountain Bike: Ian Collings BAE
Car CD radio: Roger Marley BAE
Stollers mirror: A Kelly BAE
x6 bowling ticket: Mr Coulson
£40 meat voucher butchers
J Long BAE

Meal for 4 in friars
Anne Sutherland BAE

Digital camera
Someone in friars won

£10 haircut: Kev Hulsh
Virgin mobile and rucksack of goodie
Pam Cairns

Little Tonys MOT : Andy Jeffrey RN
Cannons gym 4 day passes
Phil Boyd BAE

2 day pass at white water leisure centre
G Sharpe

£5 gift voucher for wilkinsons Buster
Mottram BAE

3 Bottles of Lusso Liquer :Little Tony
Submarine museum tickets
Barbara Lee BAE

Owl and Pussycat meal: A George
Tesco voucher :Julian Oswald
Apollo cinema tickets : Ollie Oswald
HMS Astute fleece and zippo
Lorraine BAE

Free round golf at Walney
Andy Jeffrey RN

4 hour clean of house and top of
fridge :OZ

Soccer AM tickets on telly
Steve Chapman

2 tickets to Wigan RLFC
Greg Wood Furness golf club

O2 Wireless Headset
Graham Smith BAE
Portable DVD player: Maz

Bottle of champagne
Razor Sharpe BAE.



**A quick
Chaplain
Thought
when a
picture
paints a
thousand
words**



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& Hon. Chaplain

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News Letter

Contact Information

Do you have a story to tell or have information you feel should appear in the news letter then ring Ben Britten on 01229 820265 (evenings) or if you wish to send me an article please ring for postal address. or send your contribution by e-mail to:
ben_britten89@msn.com

Constructive suggestions about the news letter are very welcome. The news letter will be published in the last week of each month IE last week of May for the June 2007 issue please try and have any information with me by the **15th of each month**. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition.



www.rnsubmus.co.uk



Members Birthdays

May 2007

Smith. D	06/05
Evans. A	09/05
Barlow. D	09/05
Emms. S	10/05
Hildrew. N	12/05
Carter. G	16/05
Brumby. K	17/05
Jackson. J	18/05
Madin. C	21/05
Spurling. T	22/05
Walsh. I	25/05
Britten. R	31/05
Lowden. N	31/05

OBITUARIES



Norfolk Branch

FS(Fred) Rising
3rd April 2007
Petty Officer Electrician
O/N C/JX 177208
Aged 83
Submarine service 1943 to
1953 in Sunfish,
P1314, Thermopylae, Teredo,
Trespasser and Aeneas



Cheltenham Branch

Charles A (Alan) Wilson
April 2007
EM1
O/N D/MX 895644
Aged 74

Submarine service 1954 to
1955 in Tiptoe and Alcide

Open Weekend

