

The 223 Craft Apprentice Entry (RAF Halton) Reunion



Well, the middle of May arrived and those members of the 'small but deadly Scorpions' together with their better halves, descended on Doncaster for our biennial reunion, or as those from North of the border would say ... 'The gathering of the Clans'.

As if the sight of huge quantities of grown men wearing flat caps, the 25ft Yellow "Y" at the side of the Great North Road, confirmed we had arrived in Yorkshire, or as I prefer to call it 'Durhams Back Garden', but onto the main reason for being in 'Sunny Donny' - The 223 Craft Apprentice Entry (RAF Halton) Reunion.

Upon arrival at the lovely Mount Pleasant Hotel, most of us checked into our rooms and in the true tradition of the Scorpions, headed to the Bar, only to discover the remainder of the group had checked into the bar before their room. Some habits die hard!

There were 40 of all ranks and their partners attending the first night, followed by a slightly lesser 33 on the final night. Unfortunately, due to business commitments or ill-health, 3 of our number were unable to attend, but kindly sent donations totalling £250, those being Steve Farmery £100, Roy Davidge £100 and Carl Reynolds £50. Those figures added to the £262 raised from the Raffle gave a total of £512 to be donated to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

A special mention to Ian Hovey (Pompey) for his usual avid efforts in selling the raffle tickets on the night (I'm sure Pompey could sell sand to the Arabs and Ice to the Eskimo's) - well done Mate! Another Thank you to Jane Kerr for expertly taking all the Reunion photos on her new camera. Well done Jane.

Of course, we cannot gloss over the amazing efforts of Rob & Yvonne, without their unstinting efforts and encouragement these events would not take place. A huge thank you from us all,

Friday included Yvonne's quiz which was, as usual, an excellent affair only marred slightly by the competing teams inability to correctly mark each others papers, resulting that the winning team changing 3 times But as the great Bard said "All's well that ends well"

On a personal note, it was a pleasure to see Phil Scott after all this time, as I still have embedded in my head, the memory of the day we used him literally as the point man in a 'flying wedge' to break the three lines of Thames Valley Riot Police after previous failed attempts. I forget how that particular afternoon was described on our timetable, but I like to think of it as being "Oy, you lot, this afternoon you're going to be the 'toys' the Regiment play with"! At least, it was better than the Gas Chamber session!

Finally, it has been a pleasure and an honour to do this write-up, I only hope it meets with your approval, and I look forward to seeing you all in two years.

Blemings 998