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Station Commander's Foreword

Wg Cdr Seanor

One Team, Training People for Defence

FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY WATCHING SPORT IT'S BEEN A BUMPER SUMMER OF BACK-TO-BACK EVENTS INCLUDING WIMBLEDON, THE TOUR DE FRANCE, EURO 2024, THE OLYMPICS AND THE PARALYMPICS.

The Station has been equally busy with its own plethora of sporting and social events whilst continuing to deliver first class training and support to training.

The Annual Formal Reception for members of the local community showcased the RAF and Station at its very best, opening with a fantastic fly past from the Red Arrows and concluding with an impressive sunset ceremony thanks to the marching contingent from IFPT and musicians from Halton's Voluntary Band and the Pipes and Drums Band. Some last-minute rescheduling of timings meant those England football fans working at the reception were able to get away to catch the majority of the England vs Netherlands match!

I would like to thank the many volunteers who have organized and worked at the numerous events which have taken place over the last few months including the large summer social functions (which you can read about in this edition), Families Day down at the airfield, the RAFA Summer BBQ and the Heritage Families Day at the museums. Our dedicated team of heritage volunteers will once again be celebrating RAF Halton's rich heritage and history on 8 September 2024 when Halton House, the Trenchard Museum and the James McCudden Flight Centre will be open to members of the public as part of the National Heritage Open Days taking place across England in early September.



In addition to holding our own events for the RAF Halton community it seems at times like everyone else in the RAF, from the Senior Leadership Team to the luge team, want to come and use the fantastic facilities we have here at Halton for meetings, conferences, formal dinners, sports matches, team building and even weddings. Over the summer months the Station has provided support and accommodation for Service personnel carrying out ceremonial duties at the State Opening of Parliament, hosted Air Cadet Camps, delivered training on the high-ropes for UAS students and reservists and supported many of the RAF sports teams which Halton is a 'home for'. These activities and many others which have taken

place require coordination by the Stn's Events Team and rely on personnel from across the whole force, many of them volunteers such as our ACLOs, to enable them to run successfully. I am fortunate as Station Commander to regularly receive letters of thanks from people who have visited Station and been looked after so well by the team here at Halton and am extremely grateful to those personnel across the Station who paint RAF Halton in such a good light.

With so much going on, I hope you have managed to take some well-earned leave over the summer and return refreshed to continue contributing towards the tremendous output RAF Halton delivers.

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EDITOR'S FOREWORD

From The Editor

As I sit in my office baking in the late summer 30-degree heat, I ask myself – 'how are we already at the autumn edition of Mainpoint?!' And – 'where was this weather for the summer edition?!' Just two of my daily unanswered questions.

Welcome to the autumn edition of Mainpoint! I hope you'll enjoy the plethora of content on print. This edition covers station activity from the end of May to the end of August, which includes a particularly impressive range of sport! Olympic fever must certainly have been in the air...

As ever, thank you to the Deputy Editor, Flt Lt Aimee Martin for the help putting this edition together.

Thank you to all who were brave enough to contribute articles and thank you to the network of Road Reps who get the magazine out amongst the RAF Halton community.

The winter edition will be my last, as I depart RAF Halton on assignment in the new year; to that end, please get in touch with Flt Lt Aimee Martin (Aimee.Martin253@mod.gov.uk) if you'd like to get involved with the magazine. Like many pillars of community engagement, the existence of the station magazine relies on keen individuals who are happy to give time to an enjoyable secondary duty.

Enjoy the read!

Flt Lt Kate Tobin-Gale



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JUNIOR RANKS SUMMER PARTY

Cpl Ritchie, RTS

On 18 July 24, the Junior Ranks Welfare Committee hosted a lively summer party for all serving junior ranks at RAF Halton. The team worked tirelessly in the months leading up to the event, ensuring it catered to all attending. The event featured a live local band, 'Twist of Rock', which kept the energy high by playing an upbeat mix of rock, pop and indie hits.

All junior ranks who signed up for the event were treated to free food and drink vouchers. A major highlight of the night was Loretta's Kitchen, serving mouth-watering smashed burgers which were a hit amongst the crowd. Additionally,

attendees received complimentary cocktail vouchers redeemable at the Bar Brothers pop-up stand. The refreshing cocktails were enjoyed as the sun created the perfect setting for the summer festivities.

Throughout the evening, guests could snap memorable photos with the hired photobooth whilst enjoying complimentary homemade cookies from Baked by Mel, adding a sweet touch to the night.

The event was organised to thank the hard work and dedication of the junior ranks stationed at RAF Halton, offering them a well-deserved break and an evening to remember.



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Mainpoint Questionnaire



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Mainpoint Autumn 2024

HALTON HOUSE OFFICERS MESS SUMMER BALL 24: 'AN OLYMPIC NIGHT TO REMEMBER'

Sqn Ldr Paul Giblin, PMC

Despite the best efforts of the great British Summer's seasonal Downpour, the Officer's Mess Summer Ball organising team demonstrated true Olympic spirit in preparing Halton House for this Year's Summer Ball event which took place on the evening of July 5, 2024.



RAF Halton House Officers' Mess was transformed into a vibrant celebration of sport, culture, and camaraderie as it hosted the much-anticipated Olympics and Team GB-themed summer ball. With a remarkable turnout of 250 guests, the event was a resounding success, bringing together Mess Members, their families and friends for a night filled with Olympic spirit and global flavours.



As guests arrived at the beautifully decorated mess, they were greeted by a dazzling display of Olympic rings, and spectacular gymnastic hosts skilfully serving Prosecco whilst spinning in a giant Olympic

ring and a backdrop celebrating the athletes who have made their mark in sporting history. The atmosphere was electric, infused with excitement that hearkened back to the grandeur of the Olympic Games and was exemplified by the Black Acrobats Troup who performed amazing feats of strength, agility and flexibility, even coaxing a few willing volunteers to take on the limbo!

One of the night's highlights was undoubtedly the innovative cocktail menu, featuring a selection of Olympic-themed drinks that delighted guests with their creativity and flavour. Each drink honoured a sports star or a memorable Olympic moment: - the 'Brandy Wiggins': A rich and velvety concoction paying tribute to cycling champion Sir Bradley Wiggins, perfectly blended to honour his gold medal triumph. - the 'Simone Aperol Splitz': Named after gymnastics star Simone Biles, this refreshing cocktail combined the zestiness of Aperol with fruity notes to embody her dynamic spirit. - the 'Usain Bolt': This energizing drink, inspired by the world's fastest man, was a vibrant mix of tropical fruits and rum, providing a delightful boost as guests danced the night away and finally, the 'Ginford Christie': A clever twist on classic gin cocktails, this tribute to sprinter Linford Christie was infused with hints of citrus and herbs, offering a refreshing taste that evoked memories of Olympic victory.

A culinary journey across continents accompanying the themed cocktails was a sumptuous culinary experience that spanned five continents, reflecting the diversity of cultures



represented in the Olympic Games. Guests indulged in flavours from every corner of the globe, from spicy Asian delicacies to rich African dishes, and savoury Australasian fare to the bold tastes of the Americas. Following the buffet, guests were transported to the Parisienne Café to sample a dazzling display of desserts and ice-creams.



Celebrating Sporting Excellence throughout the evening, guests enjoyed an array of entertainment that complemented the Olympic theme. Two exceptional sets of live music from 'The Dukes of Havoc' kept everyone on the dance floor and in between, guests were able to throw some shapes in the silent disco. A more relaxing atmosphere was enjoyed in the main bar with Jazz sets by Andy Smailes.



For the more competitive guests, a video shooting gallery, 'hands on' horse racing and the return of the dodgem cars provided entertainment throughout the night. As the evening drew to a close, it was clear that the RAF Halton House Officers' Mess Summer Ball had successfully captured the essence of the Olympic Games. The night was a celebration of the bonds formed through teamwork and a shared love for sports. The Summer Ball hopefully wetted the appetite for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic games that followed. The combination of themed cocktails, global cuisine, and a strong sense of community

made for a truly memorable evening – one that will surely be talked about in the years to come. A massive thanks must go to the team that worked tirelessly to make the Summer Ball a success.



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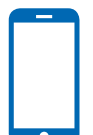
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SCAN
ME WITH
YOUR
CAMERA



WOSM SUMMER 'MESSTIVAL'

Sgt Charity, IFPT

The Sgts' Mess held its summer function on Fri 28 Jun 24, and like its recent comedy night, it was not in line with how summer functions normally run; it was in the format of a festival. So, it was aptly named the Summer Messtival and was one of our (WOSM's) big 3 official mess functions and the dress code was set to festival attire.

mess has never had one of these before), some funfair stalls consisting of darts tin can alley (but the venders had made it near impossible to win any prizes) and a test of strength stall which got well used, a test of 'macho-ness' for all.

'Add to Events' was again well used in sourcing what we needed as well as a local



Planning for this event began back in early March with (ProjOs) Sgt Watson and Sgt Charity starting the ball rolling. We decided to split it down the middle and Clair took to researching and booking bands, tribute acts and other smaller entertainments acts. I took the other side of sorting out the fairground style entertainment as well as a photobooth with props and all the paperwork that had to go with getting the festival off the ground. About a couple of weeks passed and we got together to compare notes to see where we were. Clair managed to book a band called White Lights (really good) and a Pink tribute act (also good but a bit crazy) as well as face painters a stilts band called Top Bananas who we have had at previous events. I had managed to book a Ferris Wheel (to his knowledge the

contact who did a bit of the leg work for us (bonus). The rest of the WOSM's Ent's team got involved in helping bring this function together by sourcing smaller items and making up treat bags and handing them out as the guests arrived, also pouring arrival drinks of Prosecco or Bucks Fizz depending on what the guests fancied. Putting up decorations and helping me put up the thing I hate to put up the most: the Station Cinemas stretch tent (think we need to lose that tent somewhere).

The day of the event arrived; the weather was good to us as it was a nice sunny day, the final touches of setting up were completed. The guests arrived at the mess and put on their festival passes (our way of knowing they were meant to be here as well as a nice souvenir for them). Then the place came to life



with the Ferris wheel getting its first customers - although seeing the speed that it was moving, it was not what I had in mind for how a big wheel moves, (there I was thinking it was nice and slow so you could take in the views... how wrong was I). The Top Bananas were out on the green on their stilts singing songs and having a good time (always amazes me how they can stay on them). We had a fire act, another stilt performer, a balloon modeller as well as face painters, formal photographers and a comedy photobooth. Not forgetting the external food stalls consisting of Mexican, German and Italian foods (Pizza) and finally, Mr Whippie even made an appearance. Sodexo supplied the Breakfast wraps which went down well late at night as the alcohol took hold, and the guests got the munchies. The funfair stalls were also well visited and of course the music provided by the White Lights band, the headline act, but ably supported by the Pink Tribute act. Most of the guests were up dancing and singing along to the music and having a great time. The day culminated with a silent disco which was very funny, watching people dancing around with headphones on and no sound of music with three different channels to choose, all doing different dance moves to whatever song they were listening to.



Finally, Clair and I would like to thank everyone on the Ent's team who helped us to get this function and previous ones up and running. This was our last function before we stand down. However, we are assisting on the next function.

The committee are looking for any volunteers to take over as Head of Ents. If you are interested in it or want to be involved on the committee speak to the CMC WO Smith or Mess Sec FS Worrall for further information. The next event being organised is the Battle of Britain DIN which is on 6 Sep 24.



HALTON HOUSE: THE BILLIARD ROOM

Trixie Brabner, Halton House Archivist & Tour Co-ordinator

The Billiard Room is the most highly decorated room on the ground floor of Halton House. The large windows look out onto the turning circle.

Apparently having a Billiard Room in what is a stately home and during the Victorian era was essential for the enjoyment of one's guests. The gentlemen would congregate in the Smoking Room, next door, awaiting their turn to play.

Behind the curtains by the windows are wooden shutters. These still work and, on the inside, they are highly decorated. These would be shut when Alfred de Rothschild was not in attendance in the House, so no one could break in and steal any of his paintings or other valuable belongings. Though probably not as expensive to decorate as the 'Gold Room' (Smoking Room), it is even more decorated. There is wooden panelling, large mirrors, (the reason that Alfred de Rothschild could have such large mirrors was the improvement in glass manufacture at the time), and highly decorated mouldings. When some of the plaster mouldings were repaired some years ago, it was found that they were either plaster or very fine linen papier mache, not using the newspapers that many of us used as children to make papier mache models. There is a story, whether true or not, that the Dentists that used to train at Halton practiced their plaster work skills repairing some of the mouldings at Halton. Who knows!

The ceiling is also highly decorated, models of cherubs, swags, highly decorated versions of the Rothschild emblem, the five arrows, and different examples of Alfred



The Billiard Room around 1884.

de Rothschild's, initials. These are all over the House in different forms and here they are in another style. I did once try to count the different versions and number of Alfred's initials, because of the different scripts and every so often you notice another set, so I gave up.

There are four doors to see in the Billiard room, one to the Main Hall, the Salon, one to the Smoking Room and two others, all decorated to match. The two other doors are there purely for show and symmetry. Alfred was into symmetry, and everything had to match. Do have a look,

when visiting Halton House, behind the two 'extra' doors, all you will find are shallow cupboards (less than a foot deep) used for storage. They may have been storage for extra cues. There were of course stands for the cues in use. The cues survive and are still used, the stands were renovated a few years ago with the ubiquitous pineapple on the tops.

The Billiard Table was in the centre of the room, photos of the time show sofas and chairs around the table for spectators. The floor was parquet, with occasional carpets, probably expensive. The original parquet is still there, in remarkable condition, considering it is now 140 years old.

The Billiard Table is now in the Boudoir, which in the past was the room used exclusively by the Ladies, it has travelled



The Billiard Room looking towards the turning Circle 1890's



The Billiard Room, it is believed this photo was taken in the 1940's.

around the House in its day. It is the only piece of original furniture left in the House. In the Probate Book for Alfred de Rothschild's will, the table is shown, and under the entry it says, 'left in the House'. Every other item of furniture, paintings, and china etc. was removed by Lionel de Rothschild to whom the House and the

estate was left by his uncle Alfred in 1918.

One could suppose that anyone who has stayed at the House and written their name in the 'Visitors Book' will have used the Billiard Table. This would include Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, and later King Edward VII (1901 to 1910).

The Billiard room is now called the 'Function Room' used extensively for dinners, parties etc. A claim to fame now is that the Billiard Room has been used for filming, a couple of scenes from 'Downton Abbey' and the scene in the 'Kings Speech' where Edward VIII gives his abdication broadcast in 1938. It will be noticed from the

photographs shown that the white marble fireplace is not in the room. In the National Archives, in papers that are available, it is mentioned that Lionel de Rothschild was given permission to remove the 'Mantlepieces', after the sale of the House to the then War Office, this terminology is the old word for fireplaces. It is not known where the fireplace went. It is presumed it went to 'Exbury' in Hampshire, the House Lionel bought with the proceeds of the sale of Halton House and the estate. Research is ongoing to trace the fireplace, just for my own satisfaction.

The wood panelling surround of the original area is believed to have been carved and made by the early apprentices at Halton, no records have been found that prove the truth of this or not.

A short description of the most decorated room in Halton House, I hope the history of the room makes it more real.



The Billiard Room in April 2023.

WOODEN WINGS

Francis Hanford, Trenchard Museum



The Trenchard Museum is fortunate in the number of donations it receives and a recent we received one that dates right back to the very beginning of Lord Trenchard's Aircraft Apprentice scheme at RAF Halton. Although he intended to use the workshop facilities that had been built up and developed late in WW 1, he was not prepared to put his 15-16-year-old boys into the rickety wooden huts left over from the conflict. Thus, the first 4 entries were trained at Cranwell and the 5th was the first to arrive here, in January 1922. Amongst these 390 young men was Sydney Bryne who trained as a Carpenter/Rigger, to work on the airframes of the time.

Unfortunately for Sydney and his fellow apprentices their new barracks were not ready and they found themselves in the North Camp huts for their first 6 months. These were sited past Halton House on the left of the road to Tring, making the marches to and from Workshops rather more challenging. Legend has it that, when they were able to move to the new blocks 6 months later, they piled their

kit onto their iron bedsteads and trundled these down the main road. How the wheels on the beds fared is not recorded.

After the initial drill, equipping and other basic activities Sydney got down to learning his trade. Tools were issued and put into use on basic tasks to practice their use and develop hand skills. Then each apprentice had to make a wing rib, shaping and bending the timber as necessary. Construction of spars followed and a then a complete wing structure assembled ready to be covered with linen fabric. Alongside these tasks was the construction of the fuselage, carpentry in the main but with many metal parts to cut out and shape and the splicing of wire cables too.

With all this emphasis on hand skills and plenty of good quality timber around it is hardly surprising that he spent some of his leisure carving and RAF style wings were a natural subject. In the centre, instead of the RAF initials, he made a recess for a small photograph. This we have filled with his portrait for display purposes and to give credit to a young man who came within the top 10% of his Apprentice Entry and was part of his Flight's football team.



AN RAF POLICEMAN RETURNS TO HIS BEAT

Francis Hanford, Trenchard Museum

On 1 August Bruce Wallace turned ninety and to celebrate this his wife and daughter arranged a surprise visit to the Trenchard Museum. Born and raised in India, he came to Britain in his early twenties and was promptly called up to do his National Service. Trained as an RAF Policeman, he was posted to Halton where he and his fellows had to maintain the station's security while trying to curb the excesses of some 2,000 apprentices. In particular, he remembered the



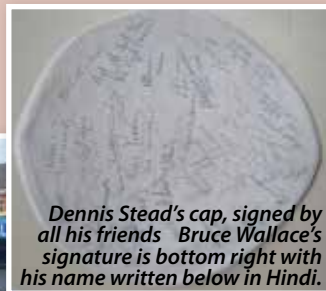
Dennis Stead reading orders in the Maitland Guardroom

constant playing of current popular music over the Tannoy loudspeaker system as he patrolled outside the apprentices' barrack blocks. He was surprised to learn that the instigator of this was one of his fellow policemen, "Slim" Turner, of the Special



Cpl Slim Turner (centre) - disk jockey

Investigations Branch. This led us to show him the cap of another of his colleagues, Dennis Stead. When Dennis had completed his National Service, he retained his RAF cap and its white cover as a souvenir and got all his friends to sign the top. Sure enough, Bruce's signature was there, complete with the Hindi version below. However, the highlight of Bruce's service was his meeting LACW Doreen Cleaver, a storewoman in the Supply Squadron, who became his wife. It was she and her daughter, Alison, arranged this fascinating visit.



Dennis Stead's cap, signed by all his friends Bruce Wallace's signature is bottom right with his name written below in Hindi.



Bruce, Doreen and Alison arrive at the Trenchard Museum



Bruce Wallace in 1959



Bruce and Doreen on their wedding day

SECURITY FLIGHT WET'N'WILD TEAM BUILDING DAY

LCpl Ralph, MPGS

One section of MPGS and members of the RAF Police Security Flight at RAF Halton were long overdue a break

After a few more grunts and groans, we were finally ready. We lined up for the safety brief, and then we were off! LCpl Ralph and LCpl Lynch were the first to dive in,

inflatable pillars that required a fair amount of hugging to get around, awaited us. Pte Collinson and LCpl Buxton led the charge, making it look deceptively easy. But soon enough, chaos ensued: bodies to the left of me, bodies to the right, all with looks of utter defeat. After another swim to the climb-out point, we gave it another go, and this time most of us managed to get across—well, all but one or two. Unfortunately, LCpl Rai 084 twisted his knee and was unable to continue. After

This next obstacle was a real beast: a 30-foot jumping platform we had to scramble up. By the time I reached the top, Cpl Certus was already eyeing up the drop, followed closely by LCpl Lynch, Cpl Westwater, Pte Collinson, and Cpl Froggatt. Cpl Certus was the first to leap, followed by LCpl Lynch, all captured on my chest-mounted GoPro. Cpl Westwater needed some encouragement to jump it clearly wasn't easy but hats off for overcoming his fear and taking the plunge. Next up were Pte Collinson,



The walk down to the water.

from their routine duties of safeguarding personnel on Station. To shake things up, they embarked on a team-building day, featuring a trip to Willen Lake Aqua Park and a BBQ at the RAFA Club. The day kicked off with the usual meet-up at the main guardroom, followed by a headcount and loading into the vehicles. The drive to Willen Lake, a breezy 45 minutes away, is well within range for any department on Station that might feel inspired to follow in our soggy footsteps.

Upon arrival, we booked in and collected our wetsuits, blissfully unaware that this would be the day's first battle. I headed into the changing room, where the sound of grunts and gasps echoed as the lads wrestled with these skin-tight torture devices. After what felt like a gymnastic routine, we all emerged—each of us now sporting a wetsuit, though most looked more 'miss' than 'fit'. Scanning the group, I noticed one suit stood out, not because of its brand, but because someone had put it on inside out, with the size label boldly displayed. Realising their mistake, they reluctantly headed back for round two.

immediately hit by the shocking cold. The rest of us followed suit, greeted by a chorus of yelps as the icy water made its presence felt. After a heroic attempt at mimicking Olympic swimmers, we reached our first obstacle, dragging our now freezing bodies out of the water.

With confidence—or perhaps misplaced optimism—we launched ourselves at the challenge. What followed can only be described as a scene from a First World War movie: bodies flung themselves forward, only to be cut down in their prime by the merciless inflatable. There were splashes everywhere, followed by even more howls as the cold water claimed its victims.

Eventually, we managed to haul ourselves over, absolutely shattered. The next challenge,

being helped by LCpl Ralph and Cpl Froggatt, he was handed over to the safety team. Another 10 minutes passed, and after tackling various other obstacles and losing Cpl Gurung to an accidental kick to the chops, we were on to the next stage.

Cpl Hayton, and Cpl Froggatt, who handled it with ease.

Then, to my surprise, I felt a tap on my shoulder. I turned around to find Pte Cheung, our oldest platoon member at 59 and just three days away from retirement, eyeing



View of the Aqua park from on the water.



Cpl Froggatt and LCpl Buxton pondering their next move.



Cpl Hayton after resurfacing from the water.



LCpl Ralph exiting the Aqua Park.

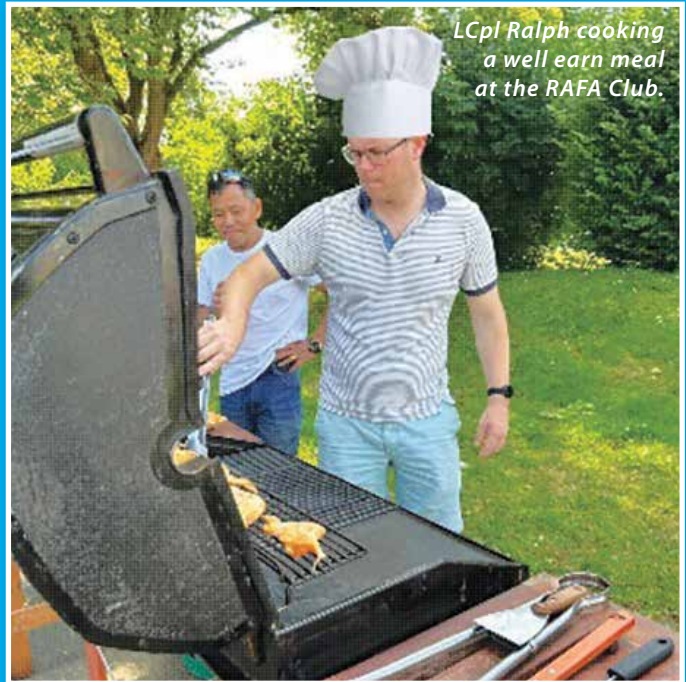


View looking back towards the start.

up the drop with a look of sheer determination. After a brief chat, he stepped up to the edge, picked his landing spot, and proceeded to perform a backflip! We could hardly believe our eyes as he descended like a peregrine falcon targeting a pigeon. Unfortunately, the landing wasn't quite as graceful—he hit the water hard, with a face plant leading into a full belly flop. You could almost feel the collective wince, followed by the customary "OW!" echoing across the park. The eagle had landed, taking his final flight of the day.

After a few more jumps from the group, the signal was given to move on to the next stage. We sat on the inflatables, exchanging glances that needed no words—we were ready for the end. The Ferraris that had started the day now resembled a bunch of old Reliant Robins.

We gingerly tackled the last few obstacles and collapsed on the decking at the finish point. With the Aqua Park behind us, it was time to head back to camp and get ready for the evening's BBQ.



LCpl Ralph cooking a well earned meal at the RAFA Club.



LCpl Lynch



Pte Cheung just before his Olympic medal attempt, encouraged by Cpl O'Connor.



Pte Cheung



Graduation





Round Up

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LODGER UNIT OF THE ISSUE: REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE RAF HALTON

WO Sibley, RMC RAF Halton

RAF Medics are arguably one of the most diverse roles within the Royal Air Force. Especially here at RAF Halton!

Amidst the rigorous training schedule of Phase 1 training, RAF Medics are indispensable, ensuring the health and wellbeing of not only our recruits, but also RAF Halton personnel and their families.

Come rain or shine, every day starts with a morning sick parade where RAF Medics play a crucial role in triaging a multitude of medical complaints, and if within their scope of practice, treating to ensure that recruits are fit and healthy to continue training safely.

At RMC RAF Halton, you will find RAF Medics embedded in nearly every department and responsibilities extend far beyond routine patient care. They manage a plethora of administration

processes, ensuring all records and documentation are meticulously maintained. They also ensure that all the medical equipment is functional and ready for use at a moment's notice. Not an easy feat when you think about all those serial numbers to check!

One of the more unique tasks of a Medic at RAF Halton is supporting EXERCISE BLUE WARRIOR, the initial force protection consolidation exercise during Phase 1 training. Here they provide essential medical cover on the ground, ensuring recruits can enjoy their field exercise safely. Although they don't sleep under a bivvy sheet, RAF Medics are away from their family and usual home comforts for the duration.

Every couple of weeks, RAF Halton hosts graduation ceremonies. Very rarely seen by friends and families in the stands, RAF Medics are always on the side-lines, ready to provide immediate care if needed. This final act of support underscores

an enduring commitment to the recruits as they pass out of RAF Halton. In summary, the work of RAF Medics at RAF Halton is diverse and demanding. They are essential in maintaining the health, wellbeing, and readiness of recruits and personnel. They are prepared for any eventuality and their multifaceted role is a testament to their dedication and critical support provided to RAF Halton.

RECRUIT ADMIN

Have you ever wondered what medical preparation might be involved for our Phase 1 trainees arriving at Halton? Wonder no more! There is a small, but very capable team called Recruit Admin who hide upstairs in the Medical Centre. A few weeks before the recruits are due to arrive, we receive a list of their names from RAF Cranwell. Our job is then to register each recruit so that they can access the medical facilities provided by the RAF. This may sound simple enough, but there is a lot to check to ensure

we have the right person and that they have been passed as medically fit to join.

The recruits are asked by Cranwell to submit their vaccination histories, via email, to the Recruit Admin multiuser account where these are printed and uploaded to their medical records.

On their first day at Halton, the Medical Officer (MO) will review all the recruits' medical documents to issue their JMES. Just over a week later, all the recruits will attend at the medical centre where blood samples are taken for groupings and any required vaccinations are administered. This is co-ordinated by us, ensuring smooth flow and transition between clinics.

Results of blood grouping tests are subsequently entered onto medical records when they are received. There are, of course, various other small tasks involved that support the main tasks of registering and coordinating – but we won't bore you with those.

ROYAL AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION SUMMER BBQ

Sgt Duthie, RTS

The RAF Halton, Royal Air Force Association Liaison Officer's Committee (RAFALO) provide vital assistance to individual fundraisers of the Royal Air Force Association, as well as group fundraising as part of a wider committee each year through various means such as collections, bake sales, fun runs/competitive events, and charity fundraisers whilst maintaining a close relationship with the local Halton and Aylesbury Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) Branch.

This year was to be the much-anticipated rejuvenation of the RAFALO's BBQ, which

is a chance for the Station Committee to reach out to the members of the local branch and station personnel to get together for an afternoon of food, drink and family fun while raising funds for an all-important cause, our RAF Family. The event was attended by approximately 50 guests which included RAF veterans, serving personnel and the RAF Halton Station Commander.

Headed up by Sgt Duthie (Recruit Training Squadron) and closely supported by all the staff at the Halton and Aylesbury RAFA Branch, FS Gillian Stephenson (Recruit Training Squadron) and AS1 (T) Samantha Bale

(Dental Centre), the team meticulously planned the event to include a well-stocked BBQ menu with all the usual edible suspects and a slush machine which was a highlight for all in attendance not just the children. The team provided a plethora of fun which included a coconut shy, badminton, five a side football and many more summer activities with of course...sugar fuelling in the form of sweets, drinks, cakes, and popcorn to continue the all-important fun.

Families also had the opportunity to participate in a name the bear competition which was won by Isabelle Stephenson. The team

managed to raise approximately £100 on the day which will go towards their end of year fundraising targets.

The final verdict on the event from those in attendance conveyed that they thoroughly enjoyed the day. Despite the clouded outlook the rain held off making the event a resounding success.

Any station personnel wishing to get involved in fundraising as a member of the RAFALO committee can contact Sgt Shaun Duthie or Sgt Nikki Briscoe, the team are always on the lookout for budding organisers wishing to build upon their professional profile.

Treat Yourself to a Retreat - Armed Forces Retreat to Douai Abbey

Padre Ashley Mitchell

A retreat took place at Douai Abbey in Berkshire 25 – 28 June 2025 for a broad cross section of personnel from the Armed Forces and Civil Service within the MOD. It was led by Padre Ashley Mitchell from RAF Halton and Padre Neil Galloway from RAF Digby.

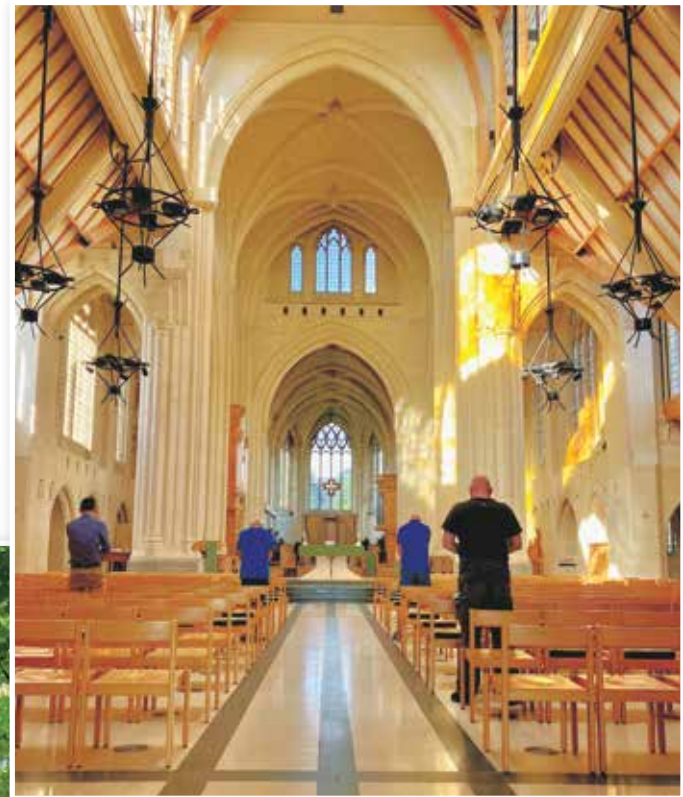
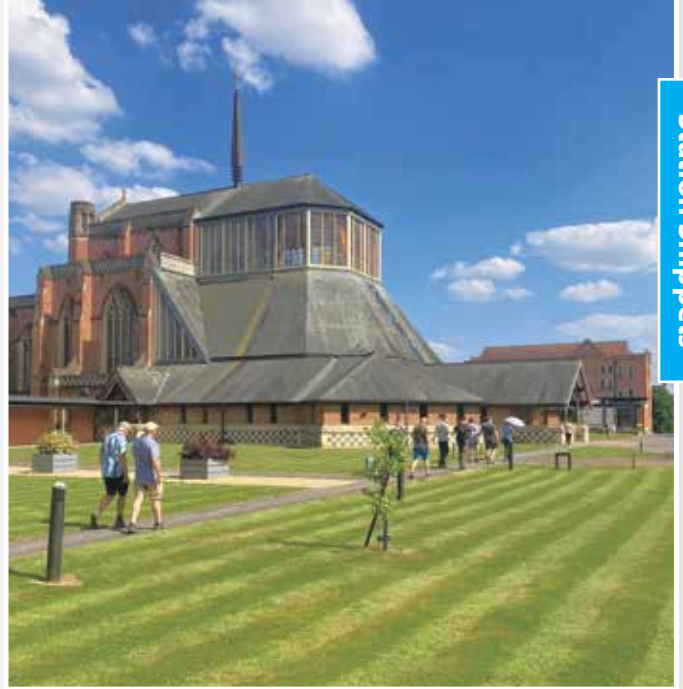
The theme was the 'Journey'. A number of spiritual exercises were undertaken by the retreatants as well as 2 meditative walks in the beautiful Berkshire countryside which surrounds the Abbey. All were able to reflect upon their spiritual lives as a journey towards God.

As expected the hospitality extended by the monks of

Douai was outstanding and the weather wonderful. All who attended appreciated the time and the space to simply 'Be' and 'Reflect' on their sense of calling and vocation as in a military context.

Two further opportunities exist this year for Armed Forces personnel and MOD Civil Servants to attend an Armed Forces Retreat: at Worth Abbey 14 to 17 Oct and at Ampleforth Abbey 11 to 14 Nov. For further information, look at '2023DIN01-128-HM Forces Bishopric Roman Catholic Retreats 2024' or to express your interest, please contact jeremy.wynne109@mod.gov.uk.

So why not treat yourself to a retreat!



90 MILE CHALLENGE ACROSS THE CHILTERN RIDGEWAY – A JOURNEY OF PAIN, BLISTERS AND PURPOSE

Cpl Rushton, RTS

The Chiltern Ridgeway, an ancient trail immersed with history and natural beauty, stretches across some of England's most scenic landscapes from Wiltshire to Buckinghamshire. It meanders through rolling hills, woodlands, and quaint towns and villages, giving keen walkers the opportunity to engage with nature and history. For a group of 5 walkers from Recruit Training Squadron, this trail was the setting for an arduous 90-mile challenge...

The 90-mile walk across the Chiltern Ridgeway was not just an ordinary walk; it was part of a

fundraising effort for the Royal Air Forces Association. The charity, dedicated to providing life-changing help and support to Service Personnel, Veterans and their Families. This had inspired the participants to push themselves to show support for RAFA. The event involved 5 members of Campion Intake, Recruit Training Squadron: Flt Lt Tobin-Gale, CT Peatman, Cpl Rushton, Cpl Caizzo-Powell and Cpl Lake, with incredible support from Sgt Jones from the Stn Dental Centre and SSgt Wild throughout.

The Chiltern Ridgeway is more than just a scenic route; it is a path that has been travelled for

thousands of years. Originating in the west at Avebury, near the ancient stone circle, and extending eastward to Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire, the Ridgeway is often referred to as Britain's oldest road. This ancient route has witnessed the footsteps of traders, pilgrims, and armies, each leaving their mark on the land. For the charity walkers, the Ridgeway represented both a physical and mental journey. The path's rugged terrain and the outstanding views it offered served as a constant reminder of the challenges and rewards of their effort. But the Ridgeway's charm also opposed the difficulties that lay ahead.

Day 01

The group set off from Avebury, Wiltshire at 0900 on a fresh Sunday morning, full of enthusiasm and energy. The first day's walk took us through the stunning hills of Southern England, walking at a

respectable pace past historic landmarks such as Barbury Castle, Uffington Castle and the Famous White Horse chalk figure, which dates to the Bronze Age. A full 26 miles and 8 hours later we arrived at our first campsite in the scenic Sparsholt Firs, Wiltshire, where many of us were already feeling the effects of a long day, with weary legs and the beginnings of blistered feet; there was a sense of accomplishment as we set up camp and tucked into a few beers before heading to bed.

Day 02

The morning of day two met us with the aches and pains of the previous day, however this would not stop us from persevering with the second day. Covering 25 miles from Sparsholt Firs to Wallingford, Oxfordshire we set off at 0930. Soon the ailments of the previous day began to settle as we maintained a good pace. A popular area for Horse Racing we walked through the Gallops alongside long ribbons of well-maintained grass racecourses. Approximately 19 Miles into the walk and really feeling the aches and pains, we made it to Streatley where an obligatory trip to the pub and chemist were well received by all those taking part before continuing northbound another 6 miles along the



River Thames to our second campsite in Wallingford. Having passed the halfway point during this leg spirits were relatively high as we again set up camp, utilising the cold shower facilities we were able to freshen up ahead of another days' hard walking.

Day 03

51 Miles had been covered and the first victim of the Ridgeway had unearthed themselves. No amounts of Compeed could remedy the agonising blisters as Team Leader Cpl Rushton bowed out of the walk and was whisked away by the faithful support team. The challenge however had to continue as the rest of the team set off on the 21 Mile Walk from Wallingford to Wendover, Buckinghamshire. On this leg of the team were greeted with more challenging hills and gorgeous woodland, teeming with wildlife. This proved a challenging stretch for the team as the walk ended several miles shy of the next campsite at The Plough at Cadsden Pub just outside Princes Risborough, known for it's frequented visits by Prime Ministers and MPs being a stone's throw away from Chequers. The team were collected and driven to their next campsite just outside Wendover woods with impressive views of the Buckinghamshire countryside, and more importantly, a hot (5 minute) shower!

Day 04

The final day of walking had arrived as the tired walkers packed away their camping gear and donned their walking shoes for the final 17 miles to Ivinghoe Beacon, Buckinghamshire. The walkers were swiftly collected and returned to where they finished off the previous evening at The Plough Pub (they were not getting away with those lost miles). The last leg of the trip took the walkers again through lush woodland, Wendover Highstreet, and the Grand Union Canal.

The shorter day allowed for the walkers to have a more sophisticated lunch in Wendover before barrelling through the final miles. It was on this leg that the Chiltern Ridgeway claimed it's second victim just miles from the finish line! Unfortunately, Flt Lt Tobin-Gale, with a sprained foot, was not able to continue and was promptly collected by the support driver. As the final miles loomed the remaining team members ascended through the remaining hills of the Chiltern ridgeway before arriving at Ivinghoe Beacon, where they were met with the rest of the team to celebrate the success of a very long 4 days across southern England. After completion the team reconvened at the RAFA club for much needed drinks and celebrations.

Conclusion

The 90-Mile walk across the Chiltern Ridgeway tested us in ways we perhaps were not expecting and was an incredible feat and tremendous effort by all those who participated especially those who completed the full walk: CT Peatman and Cpl Caizzo-Powell. Perhaps the walk was initially underestimated by the team on the premise of "how hard can walking be?" But despite the aches and pains and the days of recovery that followed we remember the reason for completing the challenge. It was an effort to raise money for RAFA, of which a modest £500 was raised which will no doubt go towards those within the RAF community who need it most. The walk would not have been possible without the committed support of our support drivers, Sgt Susan Jones and SSgt Lisa Wild who made the whole walk possible with the movement of kit and collection of casualties. Lastly, I would like to put a shout out to Giselle, CT Peatman's dog who completed the entire walk with the least amount of whining, whinging and moaning, well done!



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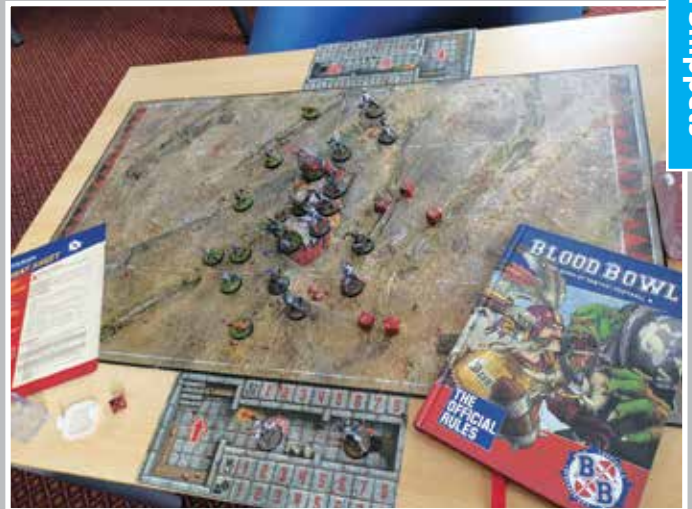
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RAF HALTON TABLETOP GAMES CLUB NEEDS YOU!



Do you want to lead an army of super soldiers and battle for the fate of the galaxy?

Could you manage a team to glory in the Blood Bowl final?

Or perhaps explore a dungeon with friends in search of riches and fame?

The RAF Halton Tabletop Games Club members currently play Warhammer, Blood Bowl, Star Wars Legion and Dungeons & Dragons.

Founded three years ago, the club provides a social space for personnel to enjoy a vast array of games. Recently expanded through a grant from the Station Welfare Fund, we now have three gaming tables with terrain and a great selection of board games.

The club is located in Room 61 of Kermode Hall with game nights held most Thursday evenings, 18:30 until late. Members also have access to the facility outside of game nights for pickup games and tournaments.



Our club is always on the lookout for new members to grow as much as possible. Whether you're a tabletop games veteran or a complete beginner, we are the place for you. If you want to try out something new, our members can run introductory games and recommend where to get started.

For more information, an invite to our Discord server or to arrange an introductory game, please contact Cpl Mike O'Connor at michael.oconnor504@mod.gov.uk.

Proj ATTRACT

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE

Career versatility, structure, flexibility and reward! RTS offers it all. If you have a genuine interest in having a positive impact of the future of the RAF then RTS is the place for you.

RAF Halton has long been synonymous for excellence in the transformation of civilians to military personnel. The Recruit Training Sqn is one of the two delivery Sqns that form part of the Aviator Training Academy (AvTA). Aspiring trainers have the respectable responsibility of shaping recruits into competent, confident and skilled Aviators before they move into the wider Royal Air Force.

Having the ability to encourage the raw potential of the future of the RAF is an extremely rewarding role! But you may have heard the dreaded RTS myths...

Myth busters:

No time for AT, FD or sport

- During module two of BRTC there is ample time to get involved in a variety of CPD opportunities outside of the workplace.

You always work long hours'

- There are busy periods during the Basic Recruit Training Course, but it's up



to the intake staff to manage. Some people will be tempted to 'over deliver' however, if there's no clear gain for the Recruit or the organisation then there is no requirement to do so.

'You can't say/do anything to recruits anymore'

- Of course you can but you must stay inside the policy set for you. If it's justified, meets a training objective, is proportionate and is in line with policy then you can do it.

'Recruits have all the power'

- So are we saying that you want the 'power'? What is the 'power' you speak of? No-one should have 'power' over any recruit. You are not there to overpower them. You are there to train them in, not select them out.

Yellow Cards

- There was rumour that recruits were issued with a 'yellow card' that they could use to stop an instructor shouting at them. This is completely false and never happened.

'You can't take Leave...'

- False. Engagement with line management at the earliest opportunity is required, no different to any other job role. Leave needs to be de-conflicted with the training programme & other staff.

ALWAYS SUBMIT LEAVE, even if you know it will be rejected!

"Going out-of-trade/ profession impacts your career negatively"

- On the contrary, staff employed at RTS (and ACS) regularly feature on their respective promotion boards. SJARs reflecting the employment role here demonstrate a more rounded NCO who can operate outside of trade/ profession boundaries. Promotion Selection Boards routinely recognise what our staff are doing in respect of 'giving something back'.

What's in it for you...

The chance to hone your leadership style, enhance your command skills and develop your instructional capability. All these things will advance you professionally

and personally, making you more promotable long term. Whatever your profession the instructor role will provide you with opportunities to gain confidence and valuable abilities which you can then utilise in your future career whilst in the RAF and beyond.

The reality is, as an instructor at RTS you have a direct impact on the formative years of a recruit's career. Your personal military experience, guidance and leadership can be used to inspire and equip them with the mindset and attributes they'll need to thrive in the RAF. Due to the length of each course your efforts are tangible, seeing the civilian transform into a member of the HM Forces. The pride of Graduation day, seeing how your commitment and efforts have encouraged individuals to grow and succeed is unparalleled.

If you are ready for a challenge and want to be involved in the future of the Royal Air Force then register your interest on SCIO, update your aspirations, preferences and objectives and contact your CM, complete AP3392, Vol 2, Lft 1572, Annex A and email it to: Air-COSPers-CMGTAAnyMIbx@mod.gov.uk



RAF HALTON GOLF SOCIETY - STATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Flt Lt Thrussell, RTS

As the sun rose over Aylesbury Vale Golf Course, 17 members of the RAF Halton Golf Society started their bid to become crowned the "Champion Golfer of the year."

The day consisted of an opening 9 holes followed by a short pit stop comprising of a bacon roll and coffee to refuel, then a further 18 holes of Stapleford golf.

At 0900 FS Pete Flynn, as the reigning champion had the honour of starting the championships splitting the fairway with a monstrous drive which set the standard and tone for the day - of no surprise FS "Tiger" Flynn also took the longest drive prize, thumping a 310-yard drive on the 10th hole, incredible scenes!

Prior to the event, all competitors were loaded onto the "Gamebook" App which is a live score board, allowing all involved to track and monitor their progress and where they were positioned in the overall standings. WO John Sanderson was frequently seen diligently perusing the App eager to see where he was!

Throughout the day the course was impeccably presented which led to some great golf for some, more inconsistent for others! Although they do say you should use every part of the

course, with some taking this advice to the extreme... that said, the day as always was full of fun and smiles as the RAF GS provides come rain or shine.

Of course, the main purpose of the day was to identify the winners...

Sgt Tom Hanlon from the PEd Flight at RTS flaunted his physical fitness and mental resilience by grinding out the win and subsequently crowned "Champion Golfer of the year." His consistency and accuracy made it difficult for the others to match and congratulations to Sgt Hanlon.

WO Mark "Dodge" Rodgers from CTS was crowned the overall Net winner playing some sublime golf with approach shots to greens we can only dream of - of note WO Rodgers took the closest to the pin award with a fantastic approach into the 17th green only feet away from the holy grail "hole in one" club.

Thanks to WO John Sanderson and Sgt Mike Gray for organising a fantastic day for all involved. The RAF Halton Golf Society is open to all, we encourage all ability levels to come and join us to build camaraderie, improve and socialise. If you are interested, please contact OIC Golf, Flt Lt Leon Thrussell via email or call on 0300 168 0420.



RAF 2ND PLACE AT WOMEN'S INTER-SERVICES CRICKET

FS Eli Dey, RTS

1 5th July marked the Women's IS40 tournament week at United Services Cricket Club in Portsmouth. The atmosphere crackled with anticipation as the RAF won the toss and elected to field first against the Royal Navy. Despite valiant efforts, the Navy struggled to find their footing, ultimately posting a total of 67 runs, all out, in 24.3 overs. The RAF's innings started with gusto, but a sudden downpour interrupted play, halting the action with the RAF at 20-1 after 3.4 overs which resulted in the entire match to be played again on Thursday. The tournament's narrative took an intriguing turn as the Army clinched victories over both the RAF and the Navy on Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, ultimately securing triumphant victory in the interservice tournament. Renewed with determination, the RAF once again won the toss and elected to field against the Navy. The Navy, spurred on by their previous defeat, displayed resilience, crafting a total of 158 runs, all out. However, the RAF's response was a masterclass in skill and determination,



reaching 159-3 by the 20th over, cementing their well-deserved 2nd place in the tournament.

AS1 Molly Rebanks (RAF Coningsby) stood out in the RAF v Royal Navy match and was named player of the match. However, Cpl Emilee Steel from RAF Halton stole the show, earning the prestigious title of Player of the Tournament. Well done, Emilee!



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NORTHWOOD (& HALTON) TAKE ON THE 'WALK OF THE WORLD'

Fg Off Benjelloun, JIAG

In July 24, a strong team of 12 from Northwood HQ (and RAF Halton) did what any sensible Brit would do when presented with a heatwave: they marched over 100 miles in it.

For those unfamiliar, the Nijmegen Marches (or Vierdaagse, as the locals cheerfully call it) is a four-day endurance event held annually in the Netherlands that attracts 45,000 participants each year, 8000 of which are military. Participants cover 100 miles of Dutch countryside, navigating through charming towns and high streets, endless fields, and not-so-quiet residential areas. One could say it is like a pleasant Sunday stroll, except it's ten times longer, 20 degrees hotter, and with way more opportunities to frantically wave at cheerful Dutch youngsters offering out bowls of sweets and chopped vegetables.

To prove our capabilities to the British Military Contingent (BMC), the Northwood team headed by Wg Cdr Simpson and made up of a mix of experienced veterans and naïve newbies, had to complete a 2-day march of 80km across the rolling hills of Wolverhampton in Apr 24.



This involved us forming up at 0600 on a rainy weekend at RAF Cosford to head off on our first and second 25 milers as a team. After the completion of day two, we successfully showcased our ability as a team to march the required distance (and cope with the inevitable blisters!) and thus were awarded our 'RAF WARMA (RAF Walking and Road Marching Association)' medal that deemed us ready for the Nijmegen 4Daagse.

As time neared closer to the Nijmegen marches and after many countless practice marches in our own time along the Grand Union canal, we made our way to Northwood HQ for a 0530 departure to the Netherlands on Wg Cdr Simpson's 'happy bus'. This long journey saw most of us catching flies whilst our team leader took on most of the driving. Upon arriving at a very muddy Camp Heumensoord, we located our tents and were united with the other thousands of military marchers of this year's 4Daagse.

Ahead of the upcoming challenge, we acclimatised by spending a couple of days in Nijmegen and the surrounding areas of Arnhem and Oosterbeek, soaking up the rich history of the area by visiting the John Frost bridge (the bridge too far) and its museum. The atmosphere in Nijmegen was already lively. Thousands of visitors had already made their way to the buzzing city ahead of the week's celebrations, as well as DJs, tribute acts and brass bands.

Day one and at 0230 we were up! This day saw us setting off with high spirits, meticulously taped up feet



and 10kg of dead weight for the males in our team, ready to conquer the first 25 miles. We excitedly made our way out of Camp Heumensoord and were immediately greeted by crowds of Dutch locals who had woken up at 0500 to cheer us on, either on the streets or through their windows at home. The roads began to fill up

very quickly as we met our civilian counterparts on the streets, racing to get to the next checkpoints. We simply could not believe our eyes. Supporters and spectators of all ages clapped and applauded us along every stretch of road and their energy was exhilarating. We received a standing ovation through every small village which pushed us onto the next mile and so on and so forth. The vibe was electric, everywhere we marched.

Day two's theme was 'Pink Wednesday', the day where the crowds of civilian marchers wear pink clothing to show their support to the LGBTQ community. However, this day was, as expected, the moment when things got serious. Temperatures may have been rising, but so was the team's determination. We



CONTINUED P-30

battled through, fuelled by camaraderie and the music out of a US Army soldier's speaker that kept us upbeat for a good two hours. The crowds of yesterday had not faltered and were out in full force, with neighbours on the same street playing different music through their own speakers, all celebrating the marchers from 0500 until the day's end. Upon the return to camp, we were all beginning to hobble and ache. Fortunately for one of our teammates, Wg Cdr Simpson was delighted at the opportunity to crack open the infamous 'crevasse cream' he had packed in his first aid kit.

Day three and the notorious 'Seven Hills of Groesbeek' awaited us. By today, the initial excitement had been replaced with steely determination, blisters had doubled in size, and muscles I didn't even know existed were making their presence painfully known. Today was certainly the hardest day. But yet again, the Northwood team pressed on, cleverly placing ourselves in the slipstream of other swifter Danish marchers who used the tip of their flag to make their way through the crowds. Again, the Dutch locals cried out gleefully in support of our marching, cheering us on from the sidelines, with their young children racing us down the street, pleading for stickers and other bits of UK Armed Forces memorabilia.

The final day dawned with the realisation that the finish line was in sight - along with a nice cold drink and a sit-down. We were almost done! As we were one of the faster marching teams, we were given this day as a late starter, however, much to our annoyance, we were rudely awoken by the tannoy in the tent playing a rock song called 'This is your wake-up song' at 0230. In return, as a bit of a morale-booster, our team leader kindly led us on a diversion to a café that sold an excellent cherry pie just before checkpoint one.



Eager to power on through, spirits were again lifted by the festivity that lined the streets, the happy praise from the Dutch crowds and from the thought of not having to walk another 25 miles the next day. This day was by far the longest, but luckily, it certainly did not feel like it.

At kilometre 41, we made it into the finish line to be awarded our medal of completion. However, not

so fast, for we still had our 5km march along the Via Gladiola where we were greeted as heroes with our well-earned Dutch Nijmegen medal by approximately 100,000 spectators. 168km later were finally done! Here, we proudly hobbled into the centre of Nijmegen alongside the other Brits and were met with smiles, high-fives, flowers (gladioli, hence the road name) and a well-earned cold beverage.

On our journey home, reflecting on our adventure, we concluded that although it was a brilliant laugh and great fun, it would cost an extremely high price for us to go through that again, unless you've caught the bug, much like Wg Cdr Simpson, who I'm sure is tempted to complete as a civilian next year. So, here's to the Northwood team, for our remarkable feat in the heat!



RAF HALTON VICTORY AT NETBALL 7'S COMPETITION AT RAF COSFORD

Sgt Briercliffe, RTS

On 25 Jul 2024, 3 members of the RAF Halton Station Netball Team travelled up to RAF Cosford to take part in the annual Inter-Stations Netball competition. Hosted by the RAF Netball Association, this yearly competition sees avid netballers from most RAF Stations take part to attempt to win the coveted trophy and be announced Inter-Station Champions for 2024.

Sgt Kayleigh Briercliffe, having set up the Station Netball team just 2 weeks prior, and only having completed 2 training sessions together, encouraged Sgt Sarah Oliver and Cpl Jen Davis to look forward to a full day of netball to put in to practice the basics and get used to playing a decent level of netball in a competition environment. Our goal for the tournament was to keep focussed on the basics of strong passing, maintaining composure under pressure, and absorbing as much information as possible from the umpires and by watching other teams.

Upon arrival at RAF Cosford, we discovered that the RAF Odiham Netball team had been hit with last minute deployments and were also struggling to field a full team. We joined forces with the Odiham players and got stuck into a group warm up straight away.

The format of matches for the day was to play each Station once, in a 14 min match, split into to halves of 7 mins with a 1 min turnaround at half-time. Our first match was against RAF Wyton, which saw all the RAF Halton players take the court and taking the win by just a few goals. Sgt Oliver was strong in the Wing Defence (WD) position, forcing the opposition into mistakes, and Cpl Davis was accurate with the ball in Wing Attack (WA), feeding

the shooters Sgt Briercliffe and AS1 Addis from the Odiham Squad. A fantastic start to the competition.

Throughout the rest of the morning team ODI/HAL took on Marham, Brize, Boulmer, a Men's team and Waddington, taking victories in all! The Halton players worked seamlessly with Odiham, filling the positional gaps they needed and communicating effectively, combining into strong defensive and attacking units. We surprised ourselves with slick play up and down the court, challenging the best players across the RAF. At the end of the morning session, we all agreed we had nothing to lose and should certainly be challenging for the Title.

After a short lunch break and a tactical talk, we headed into the afternoon session with matches against High Wycombe and Coningsby and a game-plan we believed would see us through to the end. With patient play up and down the court and clean, classy play from our mid-court unit saw us take victories in the final 2 matches, which saw Team ODI/HAL unbeaten after playing all of the other Station Teams.

The afternoon session was played in a knock-out style. Winners stayed on. We had everything to play for, and the crowd cheered us on, as with each match we gained momentum and our hunger to win grew. The games were physical, and the heat in the gym effected all players on the court which caused us to make a few mistakes, but luckily we remained calm under pressure. Somehow, we just kept winning, beating incredibly strong competition, against teams with RAF and UKAF-level players.

It all came down to the final match. ODI/HAL vs Brize Norton. A team renowned

for winning, and dead set on retaining their title. They were clinical, physical and dominant in defence. We really had to concentrate, make the right decision and work as a close-knit unit to dodge and deceive their players, that were waiting for the opportune moment to fly for an intercept, leap for a rebound, or force us into error. Both teams were evenly matched, the game was goal-for-goal, and tired legs were affecting us all. We had already lost 1 of our players in the morning session to an ankle injury, so had few options for fresh legs from the bench. We had to dig deep. Just minutes before the full-time whistle, our Mid-Court Centre player went down injured and had to come off the court. Cpl Jen Davis took the bib, and after a re-shuffle of players we knuckled down to give our goal shooters as many chances as possible to score. The pressure was high, and both teams' shooters were missing, with the defenders taking control of the ball and sending it back up the court. It really was an end-to-end game. At the final whistle, both teams had no idea who had won, due to it being such a

hotly contested game. It was only when a spectator shouted over, that we realised Team ODI/HAL had won by just 1 goal! The team was ecstatic and came together to congratulate all the players on court, thank the umpires and celebrate together by lifting the trophy.

Team ODI/HAL are the RAF Netball Inter-Station Champions 2024. Thanks go to the dedicated players, and to Team Odiham for allowing us to join forces. It really was a winning combination. Commiserations go to the Brize team, they were classy from the start, and we look forward to meeting them again next year in an effort to retain our title. The RAF Halton Station Netball team needs more players. If you are interested in joining us, whether it be to get back into playing Netball, or if you're looking to develop your skills further, please get in contact. We will be holding regular training sessions on Thursday evenings in the Burnett Gym. Open to all Station personnel, contractors, and dependents.

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ROLE SUMMARY

Officer Commanding Accounts Flight

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Overseeing the accounts management of RAF Halton's numerous funds and messes.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE MILITARY?

I will have been in the RAF 10 years this coming November.

IF YOU WEREN'T IN THE MILITARY, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING?

Still working in the financial domain, ideally finding a job as a financial manager or controller if I'm lucky enough.

ARE YOU AN EARLY BIRD OR A NIGHT OWL?

Early bird, I'm awake at 0500 daily.

WHAT IS THE FARTHEST YOU HAVE TRAVELLED FROM HOME?

Holiday to America, Florida. Though I'm hoping to go to New Zealand in the near future.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO START/END YOUR DAY? I start my day with studies whilst I like to end my day with an early night and brew.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES DRAIN/ENERGIZE YOU? I would say I'm energised by an arduous resistance focused workout, and I usually require a recharge after staring at a computer screen for too long.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT? Personal development, whether that's undertaking a new educational qualification or trying a new sport for the first time.

WHO DO YOU ADMIRE MOST AND WHY? Arnold Schwarzenegger – He has constantly looked to develop himself and never let the fact he couldn't act, stop him from becoming one of the most well known leading men in cinema.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE:

BOOK – The Hobbit

TV SHOW – House MD

SPORT – Football

FOOD – Ribeye steak and veg

DRINK – Whiskey with water

WOULD YOU SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE? Yes

IF YOU COULD JUMP INTO A POOL OR ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Water



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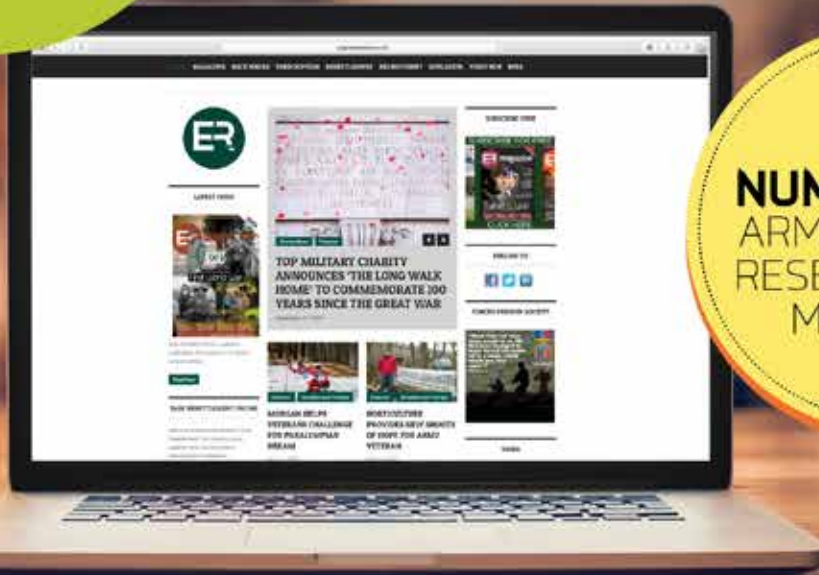
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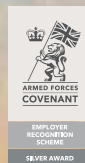
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