



Newsletter – Volume 3 - No 6 – Summer 2010.

**Opening comment:** - At the time of writing it would seem that summer has arrived; I only hope that my saying this does not frighten it away! It is about time we had a really good summer, so dare we hope that 2010 turns out to be a beaut! At the AGM the only committee change was the standing down of Brian Blackburn and as the rest of the committee were happy to continue as before, it was proposed, seconded and accepted that the remaining members be re-elected 'en bloc'. Below is listed the latest details; please keep this page for future reference. *Terry.*

**PRESIDENT.** Lt/Cdr David M Scott RN.

**VICE PRESIDENT.** Brien Harrison.

**CHAIRMAN.** John Wyeth,

**VICE CHAIRMAN.** Cliff Pell.

**SECRETARY.** Tony Mendoza.

**TREASURER.** Andrea Maynard.

**COMMITTEE:**

Terry Randall.

Ron Boniface.

Frank Hawkes.

Joan Willerton.

Vice Chairman Cliff Pell has undertaken to keep up to date our remembrance book, so anyone with information about the passing of any shipmate, would they please make sure Cliff gets to hear about it.

**Chairman's Corner:** - The landmark 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion has now passed and what an enjoyable occasion it was. The hotel was extremely comfortable, well appointed, with the staff helpful and polite at all times; they worked hard to provide all that we required to meet our needs. Grateful thanks are very much in order to Brien Harrison and Brian Blackburn for going along and sampling the Mollington Banastre and securing such a good deal. They managed to negotiate a much more realistic price, which was more suitable to our pockets and considerably lower than the hotel's normal rates. The food was tasty and we were given three choices for each course at dinner each evening, while the breakfast buffet was absolutely fabulous, allowing us all to fortify ourselves for the day ahead. The dining room was impressive, with the tables always excellently laid out and looking very inviting. The Sunday morning church service went well and was conducted by the Reverend Trevor Beckett, the Baptist Minister for Chester and Ellesmere Port; Frank and Leah Hawkes are to be congratulated for the arranging of this event. At the AGM which followed the service, it transpired that all the committee except for Brian Blackburn were prepared to stand again and so were elected 'en bloc'! Thank you Brian for all your past endeavours. At noon we had our traditional 'Up Spirits', with the rum flowing freely; I have no idea how many members managed to go round the buoy, some even managed 'missmusters'! and some were noticeably quite lively afterwards. The 'name badge draw'

then took place with the badges being placed in a bag and Jane, John McNeil's daughter, was asked to pick a winner; the lucky man was Jim Mumford who won a welcome bottle of whisky. The Sunday afternoon quiz went well with a good turn out of members and friends. There were six categories of 10 questions each: 1960's – Nautical – When Was It? – Mixed Bag – Inventions, Patents & Origins – General Knowledge. In the last category, the first letter of each answer formed an anagram. After a brief spell Brien Harrison solved it and won himself a bar of chocolate; *'incomplete'* was the winning word! For the third year running, Andrea's table was the overall winner with their reward being some Kit Kat; well done Andrea's team. Naming 20 faces proved to be a little more difficult than expected, but table 3 managed to get 17 of them! My thanks go to all who took part and to Rosemary and Terry for marking the answer sheets. Everyone who was there now knows that the Royal Clarence Victualling Yard at Gosport was once referred to as 'The Weevil Yard'!

To mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the association a special memento table card was produced by our Vice Chairman, Cliff Pell and if any member would care to have a copy and they send me a stamped/addressed C5 (162mm x 229mm) envelope, I will see they get one; my address can be found in the latest 'committee' list at the beginning of this newsletter. For now I say cheerio and I look forward to being contacted and future meetings,

*Best regards to you all                      Yours aye,                      John.*

**From the Secretary:** - At the AGM the question was raised whether we could order more blazer badges. Enquiries have revealed that if we submit an order for at least 20, we could send them out at a cost of about £7-50 delivered. Please get back to me ASAP with your order; I can be contacted per the details on page 1 of this letter.

*Yours aye,                      Tony.*

**Reminder from Treasurer:** - There are yet quite a few members who have not renewed their subs for the current year; due from May 1<sup>st</sup>. Would anyone who does not pay by direct debit please check whether they have sent in their payment or not, because we really do not want to see anybody drop out. After all, it is a very small amount especially when compared to many other associations and groups. *Andrea.*

**Sickness Update:** - Stan Schaufler has written in to say that his Mesothelioma problem is really laying him low. He does manage to get around a little with the aid of his 'buggy' and this is some comfort to him, also he enjoys following the fortunes, or otherwise, of the 'Ceylons'. He really did wish that he could have been with us at Chester! I am sure that you all will join me in sending him our best wishes and healing thoughts. *Terry.*

**Name Badge Draw at Reunion:** - Some years ago when Trevor was secretary, he produced a name badge for *all* members, the idea behind it being that it would be worn during the reunion. It was an excellent idea because it meant people could readily identify anyone who approached them. To ensure the return of these badges in order that they could be used at further functions, a draw was introduced in that during 'Tot Time' on the Sunday the badges went into a 'hat' and the name picked was the winner of a bottle of scotch. It appears that in the past some members have been a little lax in returning their badges, thus now finding they cannot be entered in the draw. Unfortunately this means they are not now in with the chance to win the bottle!

**Reunion 2011:** - As arranged a year ago and ratified at the recent AGM, next year's event will be held at the Inglewood Hotel, Torquay. Inglewood is the sister hotel of the Kistor and we feel sure that all those who attend will enjoy themselves. A booking form is reproduced at the bottom of page 3, so please cut off this portion and get your reservation in as soon as possible. At £99 per person for the three nights, *and* which comes with many extras included, the deal does take some beating!

**Walk the Walls at Chester:** - Barbara and I both felt that we just could not travel some 250 miles and not view Chester's famed 'city walls'. So on the Saturday morning of the reunion weekend we made our way into the city from the hotel and at 1000 arrived at the Blue Coat Hospital where nearby we found steps leading on to this well preserved piece of history. This was at the North-east corner of the old city and not too far from the cathedral area and right from the start we were very impressed! We walked along until we came to the 'North Gate' and then moved a little further along until we were overlooking the canal lock system, here we spotted a barge going through the locks. Our interest made us leave the wall, descend some steps and get a closer view of things; all very intriguing. It was a 'two-lock' system and the whole operation was over in no time at all, but a nice surprise was in store because just after the barge moved away to continue its journey along the canal, a vintage LMS steam engine hauling Pullman and other vintage coaches, passed nearby; what a treat!

Rejoining the wall walk, we walked a few yards further along and came upon a tower that had in its roof a 'camera obscura'; this was interesting and well worth climbing the steep steps to see. A little further along we came to the

Water Tower situated at the North West corner of the city and from here managed to take a nice picture of the water gardens below. Turning south we walked along until we arrived at the Water Gate and just beyond this viewed Chester's race course; a rather splendid view it was too! After crossing the main road, we saw to one side Grosvenor Bridge, quite a magnificent piece of architecture, while to other side there was the Castle. At this point we changed direction easterly and to our right noticed an attractive weir, but the natural beauty of it seemed somewhat spoiled by some modern and unsightly blocks of flats. The bridge here, known as the Old Dee Bridge, is where the river stops being tidal and just upriver there was an attractive suspension bridge. Bearing left at this point in a northerly direction, we spotted some interesting old buildings on the city side of the wall while on the outward side we had good views of the Old Roman Gardens, which were attractively laid out. The old city buildings of particular interest at this point, comprised a terrace of very old houses called 'Nine Houses', while next to them was an old pub called the 'Albion' which was well decorated with the English flag, having obviously celebrated St George's Day, the previous day. Just across the road from the pub was a perfect example of two old terraces with a narrow 'back-to-back alleyway between; all very well kept and probably now very 'des-res'! A short distance along from there the walk came to an abrupt end because a section of the wall was being urgently restored. This was in the 'Eastgate Street area' and conveniently gave us the opportunity to investigate an older part of the city in the cathedral area. We would have liked to tour the cathedral, but realising we did not have the time to do this we had to satisfy ourselves with a brief look at the entrance and the outside, before making our way to rejoin the wall walk, which was exactly where we had joined it at 1000.

Purchasing some sarnies we returned to the canal lock area and 'picnicked' and after which we felt it was time to think about returning to the hotel and resting up for a while. So making our way to the bus station information booth, we determined our bus stop and which bus to get and at 1435 caught a number 23 which dropped us off right outside the hotel just a few minutes later; the old bus passes came in handy!

All in all, a very pleasant day was had by us and we are pleased we made the effort.

**INGLEWOOD HOTEL**  
 BELGRAVE ROAD  
 TORQUAY  
 TQ2 5HR  
 01803 293800

**H.M.S. CEYLON ASSOCIATION**  
 REUNION WEEKEND

29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2011 – 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2011  
**@£99 .00 PER PERSON**  
 INC GALA DINNER  
 3 Nights Dinner Bed & Breakfast  
 Full Reunion Programme

**BOOKING FORM**

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 .....  
 .....Post Code.....  
 Telephone.....

Please reserve the following room/s

Single /Double /Twin Bedded

Special Requests.....  
 .....

Total Number of Persons.....  
 Deposit Required £10.00 per person

Deposit including cancellation protection £13.00 per person  
 (Please refer to terms and conditions as per our standard booking form available at reception)

TOTAL DEPOSIT £  
 Credit/Debit Card /Cheque /Cash

Bookings for the 2011 reunion can be made as from now; it is advisable if you are thinking of coming along to make your reservation sooner rather than later! The booking form has been reproduced on a smaller scale in order to cut

down on the extra cost of printing an extra page to accompany the newsletter, Sue at the Inglewood is happy about this. So just cut off the bottom part of page 3 and send to the hotel with your remittance; the insurance option is recommended.

So what does the rest of the 'Ceylons' make of the latest bit of 'sabre-rattling' that is taking place out in Korea? Nearly sixty years on and the political situation has not improved there one iota and the sinking of the Cheonan has been internationally accepted as a hostile act on the part of the North. Going on from there, it is quite amazing just how large the ROK Navy is; size-wise it is bigger than ours and they certainly have some fine looking ships. Well, I guess that an offer of help on my part would not be accepted, 58 years on and I just do not have the energy anymore!

And to finish off, just a quick smile or two: -

'Honestly some folk will take offence at anything; I met a bloke with no legs this morning while at the bus stop, all I asked was, "how are you getting on?"

'I failed my Shakespeare audition as Romeo through a misunderstanding over a stage direction.

In my script it clearly said, "Enter Juliette from the rear.'

That's all everyone; hope everything is clear to you - and dare we hope the weather continues?

***Terry.***

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Written & produced by Terry Randall ('50/'52)