



The Surrey Acorn

The Newsletter of Surrey Wing Air Training
Corps

New Series 4

Autumn 2002

EDITORIAL

During the course of this summer there have been changes to key personnel in the Air Cadet Organisation both at national and in particular at wing level. After a period of some two years without a Wing Administrative Officer since the retirement of Wing Commander McMichael; we are fortunate to have posted to us Squadron Leader Winston Forde.

Squadron Leader Forde began his career in the RAF as a Flight Cadet at RAF College Cranwell between January 1960 and December 1962. He served in the Admin (Sec) Branch at home and overseas at Squadron, Station, Group and Command level and at the Ministry of Defence. Squadron Leader Forde attended Junior Staff College in December 1980 (psc). He retired in the rank of Squadron Leader in December 1994.

After retiring from regular service, Squadron Leader Forde held a commission in the rank of Squadron Leader in the RAuxAF from June 1997 to August 2002. During his service with the RAuxAF, he was SO2 Reserves at HQ STC responsible to DCOS Ops for Reserves, Training, Manning and Resources and was instrumental in the formation of six new Operational Support Squadrons of serves. He was appointed OC Admin Flight LATCC(Mil) on the 2nd August 2001, and as

FTRS(FC) from August 2001 to August 2002. Having transferred from the RAuxAF to the RAFR, Squadron Leader Forde was appointed Wing Administrative Officer from the 2nd August.

At national level, we in the Air Cadets have a new commandant.

Air Commodore Chitty took up his post in May. A/Cdre Chitty began his RAF career after attending Imperial College, London from 1971 to 1974 leaving with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. He then undertook officer and specialist training at RAF College Cranwell. His first posting was to RAF Kinloss as OC Armament Serving Flight.

Postings followed to RAF Gutersloh, Wattisham and a period as an instructor at DSGT Cranwell. A year later he left on promotion to go to RAF Coningsby. Thereafter a series of tours followed to RAF Stanley (Falkland Islands), HQ Strike Command and back to RAF Wattisham. In September 1989 he returned to Strike Command to lead the Tornado Role Office. His involvement in the fleet support and modification programmes for the Tornado squadrons involved in the Gulf War led to his award of the OBE in the Gulf War Honours List in 1992.

After his attendance at Advanced-Staff College at Bracknell, other appointments and postings followed. A/Cdre Chitty's last posting prior to his appointment as our



Air Commodore J P Chitty
OBE, MA, BSc, CEng, FRAeS, FRGS,
ACGI, RAF
Commandant Air Cadets
Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD

commandant was at the newly formed Defence Ordnance Safety Group.

John J Tunesi of Liongam
Pilot Officer
Editor

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GENERAL INSPECTION AT 1254

On Thursday, 12th September 1254 (Godalming) Squadron held their Annual Inspection.

The reviewing Officer was Major General William Robins, CB, OBE. Major General Robins spent his army career with the Royal Corps of Signals. Until 1993 he the Director of Command Control Communications and Information Systems (Army). His last appointments after being promoted Major General in 1993 were: Assistant Chief of Staff (CIS) 1993 - 95 and Director General Information and Communication Services 1999 - 98. Although he retired from the army in 1998, Major General Robins is currently the Colonel Commandant, Royal Corps of Signals.

Prior to the demonstrations of various aspects of cadet training within training centre compound and the formal review parade, a reception was held in the ACF building during which a welcome address was made by Flt Lt Paul Hatch, OC 1254.

The formal review of the squadron took place during the second half of the evening with Major General Robins inspecting the parade and thereafter making the award of several trophies, prizes and promotions; followed by his address to all those assembled.

During the course of the evening, the squadron's civilian committee held a short AGM to which all parents and guests present were invited to attend.

Also in attendance were Wing Commander Osborne, OC Wing and Squadron Leader Forde, our new Wing Administrative Officer.



Flt Lt Paul Hatch, OC 1254 (Godalming) Sqn and his son Sgt David Hatch of 1408 (Cranleigh) Detached Flight pose with the Archer Trophy after Sgt Hatch's third consecutive year winning the individual category in the Wing Aircraft Recognition Competition beating his father's record of two consecutive wins in the early 1970's

Photo: Ptl Off Tunesi

CADET BEATS FATHER'S RECORD

Flt Lt Paul Hatch's thirty year old record was beaten at the recent Wing Aircraft Recognition Competition held at 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron by his son Sgt David Hatch (see photo above).

During the years 1971 and 1972, whilst a cadet at 350 (Carshalton & Wallington) Squadron, Flt Lt Hatch had won the Wing's individual aircraft recognition competition known as the Archer Trophy.

David has now won the Archer Trophy for the third consecutive year thereby consigning his father's long standing record to history.

David began his air cadet career with the Australian Air Cadets in Adelaide when his father was seconded to Australia by his firm for the period 1997 - 99. When the family returned to the UK in August 1999, he enrolled with 1408 (Cranleigh) Detached Flight. The following year,

David won the Archer Trophy for the first time. He was subsequently promoted to Corporal in January 2001 and later in October of the same year to Sergeant, as well as lifting the Archer Trophy for a second time equalling his father's long held record.

Earlier this year, David completed a Gliding Scholarship with 618 VGS at RAF Odiham. He is currently a Senior Cadet and has passed his Staff Cadet Examination Part 1 and is planning to take Part 2 in the near future. David is at present a student at Godalming College studying for his A Levels.

AWARD OF CADET FORCES MEDAL/ CLASPS

In the last issue of the *Acorn* a couple of errors inadvertently crept into the list of recent awards of the CFM and Clasp. The two entries concerned should have read as follows:

2nd Clasp: AWO S Mansfield.
1st Clasp: Flt Lt A Cleeter.

323 HOSTS WING COMPETITIONS

On Friday , 6th September 323 (Epsom & Ewell) Squadron played host to the Wing Aircraft Recognition, Aero Modelling and Photographic Competitions. The evening was well attended by some seventy cadets (and their staff) from sixteen squadrons from across the wing. At the end of the night the certificates and prizes were presented to the winners and runners up by OC Wing.

The Aircraft Recognition Competition run by Flt Lt Richards of 1034 (Surbiton) Sqn tested both the participants mind and eye to the fullest extent. The results were as follows:

Individual Winner

Sgt Hatch - 1408 Sqn
(see story & photo on p. 2)

Individual Runner Up

Sgt Cocks - 1408 Sqn

Team Winners

1408 Sqn
Sgt Hatch, Sgt Cocks,
Cdt Blundell-Pound

Team Runners Up

1924 Sqn
F/Sgt London, Cdt McCarthy,
Cpl Turner

The Aero Modelling Competition was well supported this with many and various models being entered. The results were:

The Avro Anson

Winner

Cpl Nackmanson - 144 Sqn

Runner Up

Cpl Turner - 1924 Sqn

Over 16 - Any Aircraft

Winner & Runner Up

Cpl Turner - 1924 Sqn

Under 16 - Any Aircraft

Winner

Cdt Blundell-Pound - 1408 Sqn

Runner Up

Cdt Baron - 144 Sqn

Diorama

Winner

Cdt Claringbold - 285 Sqn

Runner Up

Cdt Saull - 135 Sqn

Adult

Winner

Flt Lt Cleeter - 18F

Individual Adult - General

Winner

Flt Lt Gaywood - 97 Sqn

Runner Up

AWO Ronaldson - 135 Sqn

Individual Adult - Aircraft/ Aviation

Winner

CI Lacy - 135 Sqn

Runner Up

Flt Lt Cleeter - 18F Sqn

Individual Cadet - Aged Over 16 - General

Winner

Sgt Young - 135 Sqn

The Photographic Competition attracted a number of good quality entries which was encouraging for the future as the competition has not been held for at least four years. The results were as follows:

The editor should like to place on record his thanks and appreciation to Sqn Ldr Skinner, the Wing's former PRO for judging this particular competition.



Aircraft Recognition Competition Team Winner 2002 - 1408 Sqn
From Left to Right: Sgt Hatch, Cdt Blundell-Pound and Sgt Cocks
Photo: Plt Off Tunesi

WING PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2003

With just under a year to the next competition, now is the time to start to think about taking your camera on all manner of wing events in order to take the winning shot. I look forward to receive your entries next year. *Editor & Wg CCO*



Aero Modelling Competition Adult Winner 2002
18 Squadron's 'BJ' Chinook
by Flt Lt Cleeter - 18F Sqn
Photo: Plt Off Tunesi

OBITUARY

Flt Lt Tom Smith RAFVR(T) Ret'd

Early this summer Wing Headquarters learnt with great regret of the death of Flt Lt Tom Smith.

Tom had served as a squadron officer on both 1075 (Camberley) and 1254 (Godalming) Squadrons, finally serving Officer Commanding at 11F (Brooklands) Squadron.

Tom was a lively and conscientious officer involving himself in all wing activities, especially shooting, where his expertise in both marksmanship and range work was of benefit to both members of staff and cadets alike.

He retired as an officer in the RAFVR(T) in 1986, but kept his interest in and an involvement with the corps for a number of years after retirement.

Tom's funeral took place at

Woking Crematorium on Friday, 12th July attended many of his friends and colleagues who knew of his service to the wing.

WEBMASTERS WANTED

Are there a couple of cadets out there who would be interested in being co-opted as members of the wing's new website steering committee to be known as *The Acorn Group*?

The committee currently consists of Sqn Ldr Silver (Chairman), Flt Lts Yee and Stubbs (Technical Support), Plt Off Tunesi (Wg CCO) and CI Tunesi (Secretary). The group wishes to receive applications from cadets interested in web page design to assist in the building of the wing's new web site and acting as reviewers thereafter.

Please apply with a sample of your work to:

editors@acornsonline.co.uk

The web site is due to go online on the 1st January 2003.

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WING DIARY OF EVENTS

October 2002

- 5th - L&SE Region Swimming Championships & Elsworthy Trophy Weekend
- 6th - L&SE Region Drill Final plus Air Rec & Aero Modelling Competition
- 13th - L&SE Region Field Day
- 18th/20th - Bray Competition, Longmoor
- 20th - 1408 & 97 Annual Inspections
- 27th - L&SE Region Council Meeting

November 2002

- 3rd - Inter Wing Junior Soccer & Junior Hockey Competition at Dulwich
- 6th - Sqn Chairman's Meeting at 323 Sqn
- 10th - Remembrance Day
- 15th/17th - Wing JNCO Course
- 17th - CI's Information Day, Pirbright
- 17th - Wing Shoot
- 22nd/24th - Wing AT Challenge
- 24th - Wing Cross Country & Inter Wing Senior Netball & Senior Rugby, Grays Essex

December 2002

- 15th - Wing Shoot

COPY DEADLINE FOR WINTER ISSUE

11 November 2002