



CORNWALL FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
Number 100 - October 2024
www.cfrs-rma.org



100 Not Out!

A century is one of the holy grails of the Cricketing World. Scoring one hundred runs in an innings is an achievement worthy of the record books. I wrote this a few days before Joe Root scored his 33rd and then 34th Test century against Sri Lanka thereby securing his place atop the record books of English Cricket.

Our achievement ladies and gentlemen has been won over a longer time frame than the five days of test cricket but I believe is worthy of record. We have, with this issue of your newsletter, managed to survive, perhaps even thrive, for one hundred issues.

I believe in the early days the newsletter was edited by FT Le Macreadie. I say this because I recall Mac coming to BHQ at Old County Hall where he would seek out Pam Vickers, the Chief's Secretary, as she then was. Copies of the newsletter would be produced ready for distribution.

I'd like to dwell for a moment on the outstanding contribution of Frank Hadfield. Frank maintained his place at the crease for many newsletters. Indeed the first surviving newsletter we have is one of Frank's, issue 29 from which I have pulled this cricket related joke!

One of our members told me a risqué story of the woman who is having an affair. Her husband comes home unexpectedly so the lover hides in the cupboard where he discovers that her nine year old son has also taken refuge. "It's dark in here" says the boy "er yes it is" agrees the man. "I've got a cricket ball" continues the lad, "would you like to buy it?" "No" replies the man. "My dad's outside" says the boy, and eventually sells the ball to the hiding man for £150.

A week later, the husband, clearly suspicious, is home early again and once more the man finds himself in the cupboard with the nine-year-

old. "It's dark in here" begins the boy, and goes on to sell his cricket bat to his mother's lover for £300.

That weekend the father suggests to his son that they play cricket in the garden and the boy has to admit that he sold his bat and ball. "How much for?" asks the dad. The boy tells him. The father is outraged. "That is appalling" he says. "Overcharging your friends like that. That is much more than those things were worth, I'm going to take you to church and make you confess to your sin of avarice."

The father drags the boy to church, puts him in the confessional and sits outside. "It's dark in here" says the boy. "Don't start that nonsense again" snaps the priest.

Frank's writing kept us informed, educated and entertained through to issue 55 of the newsletter.

Steve Emery and Dave Crewes stepped up and from issue 56 to 76 gave us twenty memorable issues.

Then it was my turn to have at it for a while. Hopefully you have enjoyed the stories I have shared during my tenure. Thank you for your patience and occasional contributions. You have put up with me for long enough. I'm heading to the pavillion.

It is time for our next newsletter editor to pad up and take to the crease. Phil Martin needs little introduction since many of you will have met him at our gatherings over the last few years.

With 364 runs in an innings, Len Hutton holds the highest number of runs record. He achieved this playing against Australia at The Oval, London, England on 20 August 1938. That number gives us quite a target to chase!

I look forward to reading the news under Phil's editorship.

Signing off with thanks to you one and all!

Andy Renals.

Baton Handed Over to Safe Hands

Our September RMA lunch turned out to be one of the best kept secrets of the year. Our outgoing Chair was renowned for having his finger on the pulse but the clandestine and meticulous planning of his successor and those close to him ensured his surprise party remained a secret.

Members gathered early at Perranporth Golf Club on Friday 6th September awaiting the arrival of Frank Renals for his first post-Chair lunch in the RMA. Over forty members and guests turned out, with former colleagues travelling from far and wide to celebrate Frank's achievements and his service to the RMA.

New Chairman, Jan Sturges welcomed Frank and Anne and thanked them both for their unwavering effort and support for the RMA over many years. A collection from members enabled Jan to present Frank with an Amazon voucher for £380 to buy himself a gift of his choice as a thank you from colleagues. Both Jan and Kath Billing also presented Anne with bouquets of flowers as a special thanks for her unwavering support.

Chief Fire Officer and RMA President, Kath Billing then thanked Frank on behalf of members past, present and future for his sterling work in keeping the RMA a vibrant and important part of the Service's fabric. CFO Billing presented Frank with a certificate acknowledging his work as well as gifts from the Service and her senior management team.

Frank responded with a brief and unprepared speech, acknowledging himself that the surprise had left him almost speechless for the first time in many years! Frank thanked all for attending and for his gifts, he also thanked Jan Sturges for taking on the role and wished him well in taking the RMA forward.

Thankyou Frank, you can now relax and just come along to enjoy the social side of events without having to worry about the preparation and organisation.



Frank receiving his certificate from Chief Fire Officer Kath Billing

Franks Stand Down Lunch



Rodney Smith

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of our wonderful friend and former colleague Rodney Smith.

Rodney was a great supporter of the RMA and accompanied by Rosemary he was a regular lunch attendee making the journey whenever possible.



***Leading Fireman Rodney Smith
on the Cliffs at Newquay***



***Newly Appointed Station
Officer Rodney Smith in 1972***

In memory of Rodney, we are pleased to share this story and poem sent in by Rosemary, something to make us smile as we remember him.

During his years in the Fire Brigade, Rodney was called to a number of animal/pet rescues, and to the amusement of many, there were varying degrees of success!

Quite often by the time he arrived at the HQ to do his day job, a little poem would be sitting on his desk.

The following was composed by Pam Vickers, the then Chief Fire Officer's Secretary:

Our Hero

A call was received for a rescue at Hayle,
For a cat that was lost, a very sad tale.
The owner distraught, a cry could be heard.
From the brambles it came, it's a cat, not a bird.
Once again came the cry of who can we send,
Who do we who that would act as a friend,
Someone renowned, his fame spread far and wide,
When an animal is lost, you need him by your side.
It's got to be Rodney, who else can it be,
With his fags and a Map Ref, the cat is good as free.
He looks at the brambles, they didn't seem too high,
With a brave look at the owners, he steps forward with a sigh.
As he stood in the pit with the brambles over his head,
He thought back a short while to when he was tucked up in bed.
He fought his way forward, what drives this man on,
Not far into the future there's a RSPCA Gong.
From a rabbit hole could be heard a cats' plaintive cry,
We hope he will get him; we know he will try.
He pulls out the cat, which shoots off in flight,
Off like a rocket, a clear black and white.
The owners are waiting, the end is in sight,
As Rodney, our Hero, appears in the light.
The woman in tears, the sight had unhinged her,
That was not her cat, hers was a GINGER!
The Moral of this story is quite plain to see,
For a goose at Calloose, to a monkey up a tree,
Whatever is rescued, there's no need to fret,
Be grateful and thankful, and keep what you get!

(and he never did receive a RSPCA gong)

Chair's Report

Greetings to you all from me your new Chair. I am honored to take over from Frank and know that I have some very big shoes to fill, as well as attempting to carry out the role which respects the legacy and standards that he has attained during his amazing 20 years in the position. I would like to thank Frank for his guiding hand over the past 6 months as well as his welcoming friendship since I joined our Retired Members Association in 2019. All I can promise you all is that I will do my best to serve you and I am always here for a chat and support when you need it. I too want to thank the Committee for their continued support and hard work to ensure that our Lunches, Christmas Lunch, Newsletters, Membership Fees, Correspondence, Facebook and Website are all organised, arranged and managed to support you all as the Members. I thank you all for your kind encouragement to me on the road ahead as your Chair.

The Lunch in September dedicated to our Frank, was a great testimony to him and enabled us all to share both ours and the Services thanks to our past Chairman. With Speeches and gifts from you and Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service, it was a fitting tribute to Frank and Anne. I am amazed that we all managed to keep it quiet and the look on Anne's face when the Chief Fire Officer arrived carrying the Services gift and flowers was priceless. The penny was dropping and Frank, who is not usually lost for words, was for the first time truly surprised and humbled by the occasion and I know that your donations of over £400 is greatly appreciated. It contributed to Frank's Gift Voucher, Card and Anne's Flowers. A great time was had by all with a very nice lunch and venue supplied by the Perranporth Golf Club (I think we will be returning there in the future).

So onwards to the next lunch at Tricky's in Redruth where I hope to see and speak to as many of you as can make it. Christmas is around the corner and I am delighted to inform you that our Steve Emery has secured for us, the Penventon Hotel, with a very scrumptious menu, so please book early.

Over the coming months I hope to be able to speak to as many of you as possible, so as to get your opinion and any ideas as to how and if we

can appeal to those personnel who have left the Service but not yet joined our Association. Also, I'd like to hear your ideas for anything or anywhere you would like to add to our social calendar. I myself attend some other groups of serving and retired fire & rescue personnel and I will be asking and inviting them to join us for a lunch.

Finally, I want to say a fond farewell to our Friend, past colleague and member Rodney Smith. Fair winds and a following sea. Stand easy friend, your watch is done. Our thoughts are with you Rosemary and the family at this difficult time.

Jan Sturges

They Don't Build Them Like They Used To

Cornwall County Fire Brigade workshops were renowned for their ingenuity and skill in building fire appliances to meet their specific needs.

The appliance pictured was built in the Camborne workshops in 1990 for Polruan to meet need for a small fire engine to replace their 6 wheel Range Rover with a vehicle that could navigate the narrow roads whilst still being capable of carrying a wide range of kit.



After serving Polruan for many years, the appliance was sold to the Isles of Scilly Fire Brigade for use on the island of Tresco. It remained there for many more years until eventually being replaced in 2021.



That isn't the end of this incredible appliance though. After being taken in part exchange by the company who provided Tresco's replacement appliance, it was given a refurbishment before being exported for use as a front line appliance with the Guyana Fire Service on the North Atlantic coast of South America.

I think our workshop staff can be rightly proud of their work on this beauty, still serving communities 35 years after first being built.

Vacancy for the position of Honorary Secretary of the Cornwall Fire & Rescue – Retired Members Association

This position has become available due to our current Honorary Secretary wishing to stand down and hand the reins onto her successor.

Rosemary is willing to continue for a short time with the assistance of anyone who is willing to take over the position, and a transfer of the role to the new Hon Secretary would officially take place at the next AGM of the CFR-RMA on Friday 7th March 2025.

Can I ask that anyone interested in this position and would like to find out more about the role and what is involved, please contact me via email Jan Sturges - Chair of CFR RMA jandeb88@icloud.com

Selection of Stations Wordsearch



Callington
 Delabole
 Padstow
 Truro

Launceston
 Falmouth
 Saltash

Mevagissey
 Helston
 Bodmin

Wadebridge
 Newquay
 Hayle

Tolvaddon
 Polruan
 Bude

Around the Mess Table

1. If one door closes and another one opens, you are probably in prison!
2. I am at the age where responsible drinking means 'don't spill it!'
3. If 70 is the new 50, then 9pm is the new midnight.
4. When I say 'the other day' it could be anytime between yesterday and 15 years ago.
5. I remember being able to get up without sound effects.
6. I had my patience tested, I'm negative.
7. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took three days but whatever.
8. I don't mean to interrupt, it's just that when I remember something I get really excited.
9. I hate it when I hear a couple arguing but don't hear the beginning, so I don't know whose side I am on.
10. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like 'east' and 'west'.

Future Dates and Lunch Venues	
1200 1st November	The Borough Arms, Dunmere nr Bodmin PL31 2RD
1200 <u>Thursday</u> 5 th December	Christmas Lunch. The Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth <i>Menu and reply slip on last page of this newsletter</i>
1200 3 rd January	The Inn For All Seasons, Treleigh, Redruth, TR16 4AP
1200 7 th February	Goonhavern Garden Centre, Newquay Rd, Goonhavern, TR4 9QQ
1100 7 th March	AGM 1100 followed by lunch at 1230 The Seiners Arms, Beach Road, Perranporth, TR6 0JL

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How to Pay Your Subscription

Bank Transfer

Account Name: Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service RMA

Sort Code: 30-98-76

Account No: 00505943

Payees will need to use their surname as the reference and then notify the Treasurer by email or text.

By Cheque

Payee CFRS-RMA

Sent to the Hon Treasurer (Please note receipts will not be posted out) as follows;

CFRS RMA Hon Treasurer Mark Boeck

Ynys Vargh, Rope Walk,

MOUNT HAWKE,

TRURO TR4 8DW

Tel: 07779 334621 e: markboeck@gmail.com



warm bread rolls

~

Winter Vegetable Soup
Herb Croutons

Ham Hock Terrine
Caramelised Red Onion Chutney, Toasted Sourdough

Classic Prawn Cocktail
Lemon Wedge

Charred Watermelon & Vegan Feta
Pomegranate, Rocket

~

Traditional Turkey
Roast Potatoes, Festive Vegetables, Pigs in blankets, Apricot Stuffing, Turkey Gravy

Roast Topside of Beef (gf)
Roast Potatoes, Festive Vegetables Pigs in blankets, Stuffing & Rich Gravy

Oven Baked Salmon Fillet (*gf)
Hollandaise, Roasted New potatoes, Braised Leek

Roasted Root & Puy Lentil Lattice
Roasted new potatoes, Vegan Gravy

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Traditional Christmas pudding
Crème Anglaise

Clementine Cheesecake
Yuzu & Ginger Gel

Yule Log
Vanilla Cream

Coconut & Mango Pannacotta
Cinnamon Crumb

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Tea, Coffee & Mince Pies

Christmas Lunch
5th December at 1200
2 Courses £25pp or 3
Courses £30pp

Booking and menu requests to Phil Berriman please – email: phil.berriman@outlook.com

Name		
Starter		
Main Course		
Desert		
Any special dietary requirements?		