



Broadsword Association



Newsletter

WINTER 2010

This appeared in May's edition of Navy News

One of a kind?

HOW unique is this?

During my 25 years I served on two warships that had the same pennant number – F88.

Ship number one, from 1962-63, was HMS Malcolm, a Type 14 anti-submarine frigate, operating with the Fishery Protection Squadron serving the Icelandic area, 310 feet, 1180 tons, crew of 140, conditions so bad that hard-lying money was paid, plus it rolled on wet grass!

The most exciting time during my draft, apart from eating lots of really fresh fish, was being diverted towards Cuba when the missile crisis was starting to kick off – and us with two 40mm Bofors and Limbos for anti-sub killing! Real frightener.

Ship number two, from 1978-80, was HMS Broadsword, the first of the Type 22 A/S frigates.

All metric, 131.2m (430 ft) 4,400 tons, crew of 220, all mod cons and computers. Total contrast, you could walk two abreast along the Burma Road.

The most excitement was leaving Devonport with a very distinct list (for listing trials) to head up the rescue force for the Fastnet race which bad weather had hammered.

However, one other commonality in these two very dissimilar vessels was that both were fitted with two WW2 40mm Bofors anti-aircraft guns.

We certainly knew how to recycle everything!

– Stan Smith, ex CRS

Reflections on Chester 2010

From the Captain's Table

I felt that I should record my reflections on Chester while they are still fresh in my mind and I have sent a copy to the 'Can Man' for inclusion in this Newsletter.



First of all, I would like to reiterate my thanks to the Committee who put the whole evening together. I got the clear impression that the event was universally enjoyed; indeed, one or two members said that, in their opinion, it was the best ever. Well done the Committee.

Secondly, my thanks to everybody who made the effort to get to Chester, especially those who made it from their 'foreign drafts' Again, well done.

And my final thanks to those newly elected Committee members who have volunteered their services to perform an irksome but vital job if the Association is to survive. Thank you Geoff for taking on the Chairmanship and I am grateful also to Kevin the 'Can Man' for assuming the mantle of the Editor of the Newsletter.

Have I left any names off the list? ...

For my part, I also felt that the evening went well. I enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and of course, the company. Crucially also, the Lord Mayor and his Lady fitted in perfectly. And, as I said at the time, the Crowne Plaza did us proud.

The difficulty for the future as I see it is to what extent we maintain our links with Chester. Whatever we may feel, there is a certain umbilical link with the City that I would not wish to see severed (and echoed by the Lord Mayor in his speech). On the other hand, economics will clearly influence the Association's thinking on venues for future reunions and it would be understandable if we gave Chester a miss from time to time (as we have in the past). This will be a difficult decision for the Committee who will need all the help we can give them in deciding where next to reunite.

On a separate track, I was relieved to hear that there had been an unofficial approach from the COVENTRY Association regarding a possible get together with us in May 2011 in Coventry as I always felt that there might be a touch of residual 'frost' between the two ships. If this idea does take root, I will obviously speak to my 'oppo'.

It only remains for me to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and very best wishes for the New Year in the unlikely event that any newsletter gets published by then – as this would be asking a lot of the new Editor

Bill C

Chester Reunion 2010—more pictures available on the website.

Photo's courtesy of George Roche.



From the outgoing Chairman

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE
WHO ATTENDED THE AGM**



I wish to thank all of you who contributed to my gift and my wife's bouquet of flowers on the occasion of our Reunion Dinner.

The latter got me out of a hole as I had forgotten to order some for our 46th Anniversary on the 7th November!

My gift was very nice and will replace my plastic travel alarm. However there is one major problem ... it's battery operated and although I did a five year Electrical Apprenticeship I can't install the battery as Health and Safety regulations say I must be certified to do so. My wife said that I should have been certified a long time ago!

Sue and Dave Bracken did us proud in their negotiations with the Crowne Plaza Hotel and they provided a very nice meal for us and I thank you both.

Those members who did not attend missed a very good weekend especially as many attended who had not done so for some time.

Please support your new Chairman and Committee in the future.

Peter

Retiring Chairman

A note from the new Chairman

It was good to see you all at Chester especially our Captain who I would like to thank for his attendance and for the speech he gave at the dinner.



Thanks must also go to Dave and Sue Bracken for organising the dinner and the layout of the dining room.

Shipmates, as I embark on this very new task, let me just say that I feel honoured and blessed that you voted for me and indeed, I thank you for the confidence you have shown in me and I hope I have the ability to take our Association and the membership into a bright and fun filled future.

I also thank the outgoing Chairman, Mr Peter Philips for his hard work and dedication to HMS Broadsword and our association.; not forgetting Kevin the Can Man for stepping up to the plate as Newsletter Editor, please help him out with items for inclusion.

There is a lot of planning to be done for the 30th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict in 2012. The Committee will be working hard to ensure that our reunion will be a proper and fitting commemoration of this important and landmark anniversary. Please remember that the Association was formed for YOU and your views and suggestions will be not only welcome but will be taken seriously and will be put to the membership before action by the Committee.

I am excited about the possibility of a joining the survivors of HMS Coventry in Coventry next year at their reunion and am looking forward to receiving more details about this possible event. Keep your eye on the website for information as it comes in.

I am stepping down from my role as Welfare Rep but please still contact me if you or anyone you know , needs assistance.

Good luck to all of you and you families and have a happy and blessed Christmas

Aye

Pedlar

From the Editor

Much has been said about the 2010 reunion in this issue and it was without a doubt a resounding success

We had the informal side, a get together in the Pied Bull on Friday (all day!) with the bonus of being able to participate in their Beer Festival with more Real Ales than you could shake a wicked stick at and which made for a few thick heads on Saturday morning with some worse than others! And I understand someone (no names, but you know who you are!) ended up sleeping on a rancid old mattress in the back yard as he couldn't get his key to fit in the lock of the front door after staggering back from a night club!

The AGM on Saturday afternoon was another chance to meet up with old mates who couldn't make it on Friday and was followed by a formal dinner in the evening and gave the lads and their partners an opportunity to show that given a bit of time, they scrubbed up pretty well! Look on the website for photo's

And in my humble opinion, this is the way to go. It was a great evening and should become the format for the two-yearly reunions, leaving the disco and buffet events for those mini reunions which will hopefully occur in the years between

What failed to make the weekend perfect was those of you who, for whatever reason, couldn't attend — we missed you guys! And you missed out on a great weekend!

This Association will survive only as long as the members want it to and that requires commitment, not just from those who are running it but from you, the Ships Company of HMS Broadsword! So let's make it happen in the future and keep this Association alive and moving forward.

There are talks in the pipeline of an informal get-together at HMS Coventry's reunion in Coventry next May, again check our website which has a link to the Coventry's website for details.

And finally, I want to try and make this newsletter interesting and informative so if you have any items for inclusion, please contact me. My details are on the back page.

Kevin the Can-Man (aka Ed.)

HMS Broadsword Association

Committee members 2010/2012

Captain W R Canning *DSO MBE RN*—President

Mr Geoffrey Palmer—Chairman

Mr D Cooke—Secretary

Mr S Bullock—Treasurer

Mr George Roche—Membership Secretary

Mr Kevin O’Kane—Newsletter Editor

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