

Old Dux Association

Newsletter



Compiled by A. McRae

Summer 2002

Sorry for the delay in getting a newsletter out earlier but other matters have kept me pre-occupied but here is a catch up edition!

Annual Dinner

Banquet, sup, feast, blow-out, spread, beanfeast, meal, super-supper, call it what you wish but we call it our Annual Dinner and it's time to book your places for it on the evening of Saturday 19th October. Cost per person is £28 which covers the four course dinner, wine, and as an extra, the 2003 edition of the Old Dux diary (Members only). A deposit or the full amount secures a place and should be sent to myself or the treasurer as soon as possible.

As in previous years I need to know what name is to appear on your place card, and if you have any preference as to who you would like to share a table with. I will try to accommodate your requests but we are guided by the mess who prefer only 8 to a table.

The mess is very flexible and can usually meet all our demands but I need to know in advance of any dietary restrictions or any other special requirements they may have to cater for.

Doors and the bar open at 7 pm and the dinner is at 8 pm, parking is allowed right outside the mess so it's not too far to go if the weather is bad, remember last year?

The usual raffle will be held and any donations to the prize list will be gratefully received.

Spitfire SL542

You may recall that in the last newsletter Bob Hope was seeking information as to the whereabouts' and condition of the ex-Duxford spitfire, well the good news is that it's been located and is being rebuilt.

Bob first heard from Harry Stenger, based in Bartow, Florida, USA who had started the restoration work on SL542 but had passed it on to Anthony Jurak based in Las Vegas. Harry has restored several spitfires in the past and is currently looking for funding to start work on BR601 which he believes to be the oldest MK9 on file.

The story then moves to Canada where SL542 is being restored for Anthony Jurak. One wing, tail, and fuselage have been completed and work is proceeding on the rest. Anthony, who took his private pilots license at 54 years of age, is also very friendly with a WW2 spitfire pilot living in Canada, Sidney Bregman

who is also taking a keen interest in the project.

A CD showing photographs of the restoration process will be prepared and Bob will get a copy from Anthony when completed. In the meantime keep sending any further information on SL542 to Bob, particularly it's pre-Duxford history.

MG Car

Another piece of nostalgia, Jim Garlinge has been approached by Harry Walker, retired Chief Tech, who is the current owner of an MG reg. number XG3842 whose previous owners listed in the log book are a F/O Bryett & and F/O Lunn who were stationed at Duxford circa 1957. Give any information on them or the car to Jim who will pass it on to Harry.

Membership

As of 30-7-02 the total of fully paid up members stands at 247. This would have been more but sadly we have had to terminate membership of 15 members for non payment of subs. This action was only taken after George Poole had written several 'reminder' letters that did not get a reply.

Taff Wilkins has suggested that we include in the newsletter a regular "Where are they now" item whereby members who are trying to make contact with former colleagues can publish what details are known about them in the hope that someone can offer clues as to their current whereabouts.

What do you think?

Newsletter Editor

I have been compiling/editing this newsletter for the last seven years and feel it may be a good time to ask if anyone else would be interested in taking over the task from me. Apart from the obvious need to have a computer and to gather items for inclusion in the newsletter, including your own input, a source of multiple printing will be required.

I use a local branch of Staples that is convenient to my home, are reasonably cheap and secure, and also supply the envelopes and stamps. The cost of printing and postage, including the airmail costs to our overseas members, is reimbursed by George Poole on production of the necessary receipts. If anyone would like to have a go get in touch with me so we can get something organised.

The Old Dux Association

September 2002



Dear Member

Annual Dinner

There is still time to book a place at this years annual dinner to be held on the evening of the 19th October in the old Officers Mess.

We currently have 110 confirmed places , but places will be available up to the beginning of October, after which time we have to close the list and send the details to the Mess together with a large deposit.

On the subject of money, would all those who have yet to settle the full amount please do so by the end of September, as this will help to pay the aforementioned large deposit! It also means that George Poole can have a relaxing time without the need to collect money on the night.

Still with the finance theme, a message from George

"My thanks to all those who pay on time, sign their cheques and notify changes of address etc. Thanks also to those who have phoned enquiring about Direct Debit facilities. Sadly this is not a viable option, however you can through your bank arrange a standing order. If you do this let me know and I will stop sending reminders. On the subject of reminders, this year I have sent out about 200!! and apart from the postal costs, a couple were sent to deccased members that could have caused distress to relatives.

To avoid this happening in the future I will only scnd two subscription reminders after which a member will be presumed to have resigned and no further correspondence or the newsletter will be sent.

Finally I look forward to mecting as many of you as possible at the dinner or at the meeting on the 20th."

Note

Would all members who are staying in local accommodation overnight please let Bob Hope know so that where practical he can arrange some transport to and from the dinner. The fare for this is payable direct to the driver of the mini-bus

Meeting.

Bob also needs to know your vehicle registration number and occupants names so that a list can be compiled for Duxford security. This same list acts as check against payment of the meeting fee, which goes to the museum, of £2.50, payable to George at the meeting which as usual starts prompt at 1pm.

Any queries regards the dinner or the meeting call me on 01604-491836 and I will try and answer them!

Allan McRae (Secretary)

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Air Chief Marshal
Sir Richard Johns
GCB CBE LVO

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