

ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1/96

18 FEBRUARY 1996

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the First of my newsletters. In which I hope to keep the Association Members informed of your committee's progress, minutes of Association meetings, the Way ahead and important dates for your diary's.

As you are all probably aware the Association was in dire straits last year. We were unable to form a full committee nor generate any enthusiasm among Serving Members, this all came to a head last November when we were on the verge of disbanding after 40 years of existence. It is fair to say that this situation was not unique and over its long reign there have been many periods of ups and downs, but never one that actually threatened its very survival.

Thankfully in December last year we managed to form a new committee, one that is dedicated to rebuilding strong links with all its Members and in doing so, proposing new ideas to meet the **Objectives** upon which the Association was formed. I hope that 1996 will see the Association enter a new era of prosperity, well into the next decade and beyond. If we fail this year; then, the alternatives are not worth thinking about. As I have already mentioned, the

committee is a strong willing band of men, which includes new young blood, mixed with old steady heads; making a knowledgeable, versatile team. That is not to say they can do it all themselves, they would be the first to agree on this point. We **NEED** your support, help and ideas please.

The biggest challenge set before me, comes from Serving members. Especially the young Petty officers who regularly say, "Well it is just an old mans drinking club at Dryad. Why should I join and pay £5 for an Association which does nothing for me at sea or when I am drafted outside the Portsmouth area?" I would like to try and answer some of these questions. Firstly, we are **VERY** lucky to have such a strong contingent of **EX** Serving members who live in the Portsmouth area, who regularly attend the monthly committee meetings in **DRYAD** and yes, in the past these Members have outnumbered and occasionally have been the only Members other than a reduced Serving Committee team to turn up. But who's fault is that? However, since the new committee have taken over and actually started to promote these meetings on a personal one to one, the attendance levels have increased. Last month the attendance make up was 75%

Serving, 25% **Ex** Serving Members. It was a very enjoyable evening and several members wives and girlfriends came along, some food was laid on by "OGGIE", which enhanced the evening greatly. Our aim is to double the numbers next month and hold a social on completion of Association business. Cheap drink, fine company, soft music and excellent food, what more could you ask for? So why not come along and give it a go, you may actually enjoy yourselves!

Addressing the Second question, "What do I actually get for my subscription." Well may I turn the question around and ask you, what do you actually receive for your (on average) **£4** a **MONTH** Mess Subscriptions? Free Tea/Coffee, subsidised socials, papers? Now what do you actually receive for your **£5** a **YEAR** from your Association: Newsletters and a Seamaster twice yearly, subsidised social events, Annual General meeting when ASW updates/briefs are given including Association business (free tea & coffee biscuits), not to mention Esprit de Corps amongst an elite family of friends. You will also notice that in last months committee minutes, we are proposing to increase these benefits to include: a death benefit, christmas bonus and

loyalty bonus to name just a few (Hopefully something for everyone, although I can not please everyone all of the time). So in fact, I believe the benefits of joining the Association far outweigh the disadvantages and also out number the benefits you receive from your mess subs. Is £5 a year really that difficult, especially now we have made it easier to pay using our new standing order mandate

Now may I move on to the AGM and Dinner/Dance, which this year will be held in HMS DRYAD on Friday 27th September. Venue will consist of starting 0830 Cook debriefing room, opening speech by the Capt, followed by ASW briefs/updates, 1030 Association business, 1230 Drinks available with the Capt in the club house, 1330 Ex serving members tour relevant ASW buildings/equipment to include Wall map room, wardroom. 1930 for 2000 Dinner/Dance in WO and SR's mess, it is hoped this years guest of honour will be The First Sea Lord, Sir Jock Slater, GCB, LVO, ADC and Lady Slater, I have already contacted his PA and a formal letter is to be dispatched shortly. The cost of a ticket is expected to be around £20-£25 per head. Limited accommodation is available with the Mess on a first come bases, to be booked via the ASWT's committee. The Treasurer is taking your money now, this can be paid in Full, Deposit or monthly instalments (new idea this year) this is to allow you to spread the cost over a few months. All monies must be paid in full by September. Please make a note on the reverse of your cheque "Dinner/Dance." Any subsidy made to the total cost of your

ticket is to be announced nearer the time and will only apply to fully paid up members of the Association and spouses, Non-members will not be subsidised by the Association, and will therefore, pay the FULL price, which is expected to be in the region of £5 per ticket difference. I am very keen to establish a stronger link with our Devonport Members and to this end Bob Burton has kindly volunteered his services as point of contact. He was voted in as the Official Devonport Rep at the last meeting, he will also have Full Voting powers with that seat. Devonport also holds monthly committee meetings and a social programme is being produced. I am also keen to dispel the common idea that this is a different part of the association running in competition to Portsmouth, this is NOT the case, we all belong to the ASWT S Association and abide by the same rules.

This brings me nicely onto the subject of the 'Association Rules.'

These are now all agreed on at committee level, the next step will take place in March when you will receive your copy of the proposed changes to the rules. You will have the opportunity to vote on these and return your ballot papers to me, therefore registering your wishes. In order for this postal vote to work, it is important that all members take the time to read and vote. If by the 1st May, some 2 months after being sent to you, we do not receive your ballot papers, it will be judged as an abstention. You will also be asked to vote on a new name for the Association, Under Water Warfare Instructors Association 1995. I am

personally in full favour of this change because it brings together all aspects of ASW which includes TASI's, ASWT's, Sonar/Minewarfare and more importantly the New warfare branch, a Petty Officer will now be rated PO(UW).

Now a plug for the 'Seamaster', which is next due for publication mid May. Start thinking about writing those story's/dits; jotting them down and forwarding them to us here in Dryad. I would also like to place Members advertisements in the back of the book, you may wish to advertise your Pub/Hotel or any business you are personally involved in either as an employer/employee. All we ask is that you consider making a Voluntary donation to the Association. I would like to thank all Members who have made donations in the past.

Membership cards are in the process of being designed and produced by Muzz Cowley and his team. Membership cards will be issued on a yearly bases upon payment of subscriptions. These cards will contain a place for a passport size photograph, the current rules of the Association and the expiry date. All previously issued membership cards will become void on the 31st December 1996. The new cards will insure that only paid up members receive Association benefits iaw the rules and become valid upon receipt. All letters addressed to me, will receive a personal reply, it may take a little while but I will endeavour to reply as soon as possible. Do not worry, I promise it will not be as long as this Newsletter!!

ANNEX A

MINUTES OF THE 72nd ASWI ASSOCIATION MEETING **HELD AT HMS DRYAD 12 DECEMBER 1995**

<u>Members Present:</u>	CPO Rhodes CPO Walsh CPO White CPO Lewis CPO Moss CPO Stevens CPO Gleave PO Emmerton PO Pearce PO Howells Mr Snelling Mr Adams Mr Bekker Mr Walton
<u>Apologies:</u>	Mr Dennett

Meeting Opened 1933

1. Introduction

The Chairman began by thanking all members present for attending. He apologised for there not being a formal Christmas function this year and explained that this was due to the problems that the association had encountered in previous months. The Chairman went on to say that many of these problems had been ironed out since the last meeting. One of the issues that he mentioned was that of Chairmanship, CDR (UN) has disapproved of the idea to make chairmanship a billeted position, therefore it remains a voluntary post. The Chairman pointed out that out of approximately 250 letters sent out to members to explain the dilemma that the association was in, only 24 replies were received. These replies included only 3 from serving members. A reply has been sent to all members who sent correspondence.

2. Committee

The Chairman explained that moving the committee to Plymouth was no longer a feasible option therefore the committee will remain in Portsmouth. There are enough willing volunteers now in Portsmouth to form the committee. The Chairman asked for a vote to be taken in favour of the following members to form the committee:

Chairman	CPO Ted Lewis
Vice Chairman	CPO Brian Walsh
Treasurer	CPO Sterling Moss
Secretary	PO George Emmerton
Social Sec	Gapped (awaiting volunteer)
Sea Master Ed	Mr Ted Neeson
Plymouth Rep	CPO Bob Burton/ CPO Paz Parry
ExServing Rep	Mr Sam Snelling

The new Committee was proposed by CPO White and seconded by Mr Tony Walton. The vote was unanimous in favour of the new committee. CPO Dusty Rhodes wished the new committee luck and said that he had enjoyed his spell as Chairman.

3. Address by New Chairman

The New Chairman thanked Dusty for his sterling efforts as the Chairman of the association, he also thanked Knocker for his time and effort as secretary and Sea master Editor. The association wishes them both safe and happy crossings in their next ships. The Chairman stressed that the association now has a strong fighting committee that are willing to have a go at taking the association into the future. This however would all depend on the support given by members of the association. He pointed out that there are a few options open to the association and they are as follows:

- 1 The association can trickle over as it is now.
- 2 The association can Amalgamate with the PRI/ GI Associations.
- 3 The association can be handed over to the ex serving members for continuity.
- 4 The association can undergo radical changes that will be beneficial to all members and bring it out of the past into the future. The Chairman discussed some ideas for the association with the members present, these ideas are not by any means official but they are a possible way ahead. All members will be canvassed with these proposals early in 1997. The proposals come under the following headings:

- a. Name Change for the Association
- b. Interaction with the MineWarfare branch
- c. Issue of membership cards with membership number
- d. Application for membership
- e. More benefits for members ie Death Benefit

The Chairman stated that the committee would be meeting on a 2 weekly basis to sort out association business and would now be operating on a one to one basis to get the association up and running. The Chairman also pointed out that he proposes to make the production of the SeaMaster more formal.

4. Correspondence

The Chairman pointed out that all letters that had been received from members post last meeting would be available for perusal after the meeting. CPO Walsh read out a letter from the Royal Tournament telling us that one of the themes for the 1996 tournament (hosted by the Navy) is to be Naval associations. To take part we need to provide a marching party of 3 members with colours etc. The committee will discuss this issue at a later date.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30th of January in the ASWI clubhouse at 1900 for 1930.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2030

ANNEX B

MINUTES OF THE 73rd ASWI ASSOCIATION MEETING **HELD AT HMS DRYAD 30 JANUARY 1996**

<u>Members Present:</u>	WO Hood	
	CPO Lewis	(Chairman)
	CPO Walsh	(Vice Chairman)
	CPO White	
	CPO Mercer	
	CPO Moss	(Treasurer)
	CPO Horrell	
	PO Emmerton	(Secretary)
	PO Oggiano	(Social Secretary)
	Mr Neeson	(SeaMaster Editor)
	Mr Ovenden	
	Mr Adams	
	Mr Bekker	(Ex Serving Rep)
	Mr Walton	
<u>Apologies</u>	Mr Snelling	

Meeting Opened 1937

1. Chairmans Opening Address

The Chairman began by thanking all members present for attending. He went on to report the sad loss of Mr Drabble an ex serving member who passed away on New years day. Flowers and a card have been sent by the Association to Mr Drabbles widow. CPO White represented the Association at the funeral.

2. Previous minutes

The chairman requested a Proposer and a Seconder for the Minutes of the last meeting.

The Minutes of the last meeting were proposed by Mr Bekker and seconded by WO Hood.

3. New Social Secretary

The Chairman stated that at the last meeting when the new Committee were voted in there was no nominee for the post of Social Secretary. Since then PO Oggiano has volunteered to take on the post. The Chairman asked for a Proposer and a Seconder for PO Oggiano to be the Social Secretary. CPO White proposed and CPO Horrell seconded the motion. A vote was held and the result was unanimous in favour of PO Oggiano.

4. Devonport Representative

The Chairman reported that CPO Burton has volunteered to be the Devonport Rep for the Association and Requested a Proposer and Seconder for CPO Burton.

The Proposer was Mr Adams and the Seconder Mr Walton. A vote was held and again was unanimous in favour of CPO Burton. The Chairman added that he was keen for the Association to forge strong links with Devonport and that CPO Burton will be a voting member of the Committee.

5. New Association Vice President

The Chairman announced that the Post of CDR U has been filled by CDR Wilson of the Mine Warfare section. As one of his Commitments CDR Wilson is happy to be the Association Vice President and will attempt to attend the next meeting.

6. MineWarefare Senior Rates

The Chairman stated that he was keen to forge links with The Mine Warfare Branch and in an attempt to do this has written to all Mine Warfare Senior Rates inviting them to join the Association. To date there have been no replies but the Chairman will continue to pursue this link.

7. New Headquarters

In an attempt to regain a personal Identity for the Association The Chairman has endeavoured to find a base or Headquarters for the Association. With the assistance of the Warrant Officers in Lewin, room G9 (Lewin ground floor) has been allocated for use by the Association. There is a telephone extension with an answering machine in G9 and the number is Dryad 4786.

8. New Membership Cards

The Chairman has been contact with CPO Cowley at ADAC, who has pledged his services to design and produce new Membership Cards for the Association. It is hoped that these cards may be available by next months meeting. The cards will have place for a photograph and will be colour coded depending on type of membership. MR Bekker Queried the renewal of old identity cards used by Ex serving Members and the rules concerning the use of the new cards. The Chairman replied that these points were still under consideration and would be looked at more closely during the design process of the cards.

9. Subscriptions

The Chairman reminded all members present that subscriptions for 1996 are now due and he thanked all members who have paid up already.

10. Increase in Subscription fee

The Chairman stated that the Committee has voted to increase the subscriptions to seven pounds. This increase will take effect from 1997. For information the Chairman added that the GI Association subs were 15 pounds and that they received no added benefits. However those members who elect to pay by Standing Order will receive a Discount of 2 pound. This will apply across the board.

11. AGM/ Dinner and Dance

The Date of the AGM for 1996 is 27 September. To be held at HMS Dryad. The Chairman has sent a letter to the Captain requesting permission to hold the venue in Cook Debriefing room. The Captain will open the proceedings with an introductory speech. Approval has been received by the Chairman.

12. Association Rules

The Chairman reported that the Committee has been working hard on proposed new rules for the Association. The rules cannot be changed by the Committee as they stand now, but may be proposed and voted in by a postal vote. The Committee has 17 proposals for rules which include the following:
A name change for the association, objects of the Association, Membership, Withdrawal of membership, Funds, Duties of the Committee, The Committee, Annual Subscriptions, Notices, AGM, Amendment to the rules, Postal votes, Death benefits, Births and marriages, Christmas gifts and a loyalty bonus.

12. The Way Ahead

The Chairman set out some milestones for the rest of 1996 they are as follows:

Chairmans Newsletter to all members in February.

Tuesday 27th February = next monthly meeting including a preview of the new rules.

The beginning of March = despatch of postal ballot for new rules and name change to all members.

April = All dits to SeaMaster editor including advertising and donations.

May 1st all ballot papers to be with the Committee.

May = 1st SeaMaster of 1996 (including result of postal vote.)

August = Second Newsletter from Chairman.

September = AGM and Dinner Dance. (27th)

October = Dits to SeaMaster ed.

November = Second SeaMaster of 1996.

13. Correspondence

The Chairman commented on the response from the letters sent in December. He is overwhelmed by the number of heart rendering replies that have been sent from members showing strong support for the association.

14. The Treasurers Report (at last)

The Treasurer began by describing the problems that had been encountered with the audit of Association funds. The book keeping had taken a dive in the latter part of 1995 due to the Treasurer having two posts to keep in the Association at that time.

The present treasurer took the books under his professional wing and resubmitted the books to the audit team during the week of January 22nd. They should be back with the Treasurer soon.

The Association has changed the account that it holds from a Nationwide Business Investment account to a Lloyds Bank Treasurers account which allows the Association more flexibility with its money, an Unrestricted cheque paying in facility, Standing Order facility and allows the association account to be central in HMS Dryad.

The Balance by the cash book and statement dated January 1996 was £1021.08

less liabilities (which includes £100 used to start the Lloyds Bank Treasurers account)

plus subscriptions and donations received to date of £165.00 giving a total of £1171.23p.

The Treasurer stated that he has started a subscription book to record all paid up members and he is endeavouring to send receipts to all those members that have paid subs.

WO Hood proposed a vote of thanks to the treasurer for his sterling efforts over the past months in getting the Association books in order. All members present agreed.

15. Social Secretary Report

The Social Secretary began by announcing that for all meetings in future he would endeavour to arrange victuals, he will be placing a donation box with the victuals for money that can go towards the cost of the food for future meetings.

He reported that he had searched many avenues in order to cost venues for the Dinner and Dance in September. These include the Home Club, Marriot Hotel, the Sandringham Hotel and the Senior Rates mess in HMS Dryad. By far the Cheapest and best option is to use the Senior Rates Mess for the function. Cost of two menus stated is either £12 or £12.50. The cost of staffing was quoted as £600 or £450. Wine will be added on top of this cost. The mess will cost nothing but Barmen will need to be paid. As a figure per head The Association is looking at between £20 - £25.

The Chairman added that Paid up members will be subsidised for the event.

The Social Secretary said that he will have a social program ready for the next meeting.

The 3 monkeys is hosted by ASWIS this year PO(S)129 are going to help to organise this prestigious event.

The Social Secretary is going to look at ordering Ties, Tie pins etc depending on demand for the said items.

16. Vice Chairmans dit

The Vice Chairman mentioned that the Committee has decided that the Association will be represented at Earls Court this year, details to be promulgated when received from the Secretary of the Earls Court Committee.

17. Any Other Business

Mr Walton proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their efforts.

PO Francis said "I'm Back"

CPO Horrell queried the costing of getting the Devonport Representative to meetings in the future, The Chairman replied that this matter was still to be ironed out.

18. Next meeting

Tuesday 27th February 1996, time 1900 for 1930

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2038.

ANNEX C

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH ASWI'S WEST COUNTRY MEETING HELD AT HMS DRAKE 13 FEBRUARY 1996

Members Present: WO Pete Brierly (FOST)
CPO Bob Burton (FOST)
CPO Jim Nelson (FOST)
CPO Paz Parry (FOST)
PO Ken Dodd (HMS Cornwall)

Apologies: WO Mick Preece (FOST)
CPO Yorkie Cunningham (HMS Raleigh)
CPO Malcolm Hutchins (HMS Raleigh)
CPO Ian Laurie (FOST)
PO Bill Bailey (HMS Raleigh)

Meeting Opened 1905

1. Welcome Address

WO Pete Brierly welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed regret at the low numbers. It was pointed out by the FOST sea-riders that, in future, ships reports could be angled to reflect attendance at monthly meetings!

2. Apologies

As above.

3. Letters

A letter had been received from PO Bill Bailey tendering his apologies for not making the meeting and thanking Pete for the cheque that he had received. He also updated the meeting on his next draft. (HMS Iron Duke in June.)

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes were passed as a true reflection of the last meeting. They were proposed by CPO Bob Burton and seconded by PO Ken Dodd.

5. Association Business

a. The meeting first of all worked through the minutes of the 73rd ASWI'S meeting held in Portsmouth. The FOST seariders were asked to distribute copies of the Portsmouth minutes to ships as they undergo Operational Sea Training. It was hoped that this would encourage attendance at future meetings.

b. WO Pete Brierley reported the death of ex- CPO(OPS)(S) 'Jimmy Riddle' over the preceding weekend. 'Jimmy' had collapsed and died of a suspected heart attack during a hockey match. Full details were contained in a short article from the Evening Herald.

c. CPO Bob Burton informed the meeting that he had taken over as the 'Plymouth Area Rep'. Bob then moved on to outline his plans for meetings in the area. It was hoped that, due to the number of members in HMS Raleigh, the occasional meeting could be held over there. CPO Yorkie Cunningham would be approached at a later date and asked to investigate the possibility of a venue. CPO Jim Nelson was asked to pursue this matter while Bob is absent (on ACT)

d. A general discussion then ensued on the subject of attendance at meetings. The intention now will be to monitor numbers over the next five months and then review the situation regarding the frequency and location of the meetings.

e. Bob went on to ask for contributions for the SeaMaster. The next edition is due out in May with April being the cut off date for articles

6. Any Other Business

Nil

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12 March (i.e. second Tuesday of the month) venue to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2020