

Seamaster



Christmas 2013



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Committee as of 5th October 2013 AGM

Chairman: CPO (UW) Tansy Lee
Vice Chairman: CPO (UW) Anth Greening
Treasurer: Mr Bill Bailey
Serving members rep: CPO (UW) Gary Crouchman
West Country Rep: PO (UW) Lee Dudman
Social Secretary Portsmouth: Mr Pete White
EX Serving member rep Mr Andy Gleave
Webmaster: Mr Bob Burton

Draft minutes of the AGM can be found at <http://aswi.co.uk/pdf/2013agminutesfinal.pdf>

This Seamaster was edited by

Jules Lee a CPO (UW) working as a UW Instructor currently based at FOST SOUTH in Devonport assisted by Bob Burton (Webmaster)

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRMAN



Friends and Fellow Members,

The year of 2013 has been an incredible 12 months for the association. We have gone through a period of change which I feel is necessary to for us to continue to progress, however, we have also experienced a renaissance of sorts, with former comrades renewing their membership and coming back into the fold, and over 10 serving personnel joining the association, all positive stuff I think you'll agree.

It is an absolute honour for me to be lucky enough to be given the opportunity to become Chairman of the ASWI Association and it is a role that I take very seriously. A special thank you must now go to Peter White who has served us all as members well for many years at its head, and still does so every month, in his new role as the Portsmouth Area Social Secretary. A unanimous vote at the AGM afforded Peter with the privilege of life membership, thank you Peter once again. More latterly this year Andy Gleave has had to leave the committee due to other commitments, thank you Andy for your continued support, I look forward to seeing you at one of our events in the future.

The AGM was attended by over 30 people this year, and the Portland Heights Hotel did us proud once more. With beautiful views over Chesil Beach during the day from the Bar, to nice rooms at competitive prices; with this in mind it has been provisionally booked for next years event on the last weekend of Sep 2014, RNTM to follow next Spring and of course follow the website and the popular Facebook page for more details.

As a circumstance of the AGM, membership of the association has been extended to all serving LS (UW) and ASW Aircrewman. This decision was based upon the increased responsibility and workload afforded to those personnel during these times of lee manning and increased operational tempo, which has seen the work that they do at sea be at times equal to that of a Petty Officer of days gone by. I am pleased to inform you that this offer has already been taken up by LS (UW) Laura Hull of HMS NORTHUMBERLAND, Welcome!

At the AGM I set a small number of targets, and I am pleased to announce that the first of those has already come to fruition, with the official affiliation between the West Country Branch of the association and the WO and Senior Ratings Mess in HMS DRAKE. The inaugural social was held on Thu 21 Nov and I am pleased to inform you that the event

was attended by over 20 people including a large amount of serving personnel (photos of the evening are available on the website) a big well done and thank you, to the West Country Social Secretary Petty Officer Lee Dudman for organising the event which included a raffle, music, and scrum, watch this space for the next event expected in late January 14.

Looking into my crystal ball for 2014 I can already see an opportunity for more get together's and possibly even the re-invigoration of the "Three Monkeys Trophy" with the GIs and PRIs (There is certainly interest within FOST for this to happen) however, the PRI association seem to have gone quiet across the BOP table! (Please see correspondence between myself and the GI Association later in this edition).

With the Plymouth Half Marathon on the last Sunday in April and the Army v Navy Rugby match the following weekend I immediately identify at least two events that could be capitalised upon by our membership!

After the success of the earlier release of "Seamaster" magazine in October I am constantly on the look out for articles, stories, dits, stitch ups, and photographs and will continue to do so. It is my intention to publish the next edition prior to Easter Leave 2014. Can I hereby request that all details are sent to NAVYOPTRG-FOSTSUW5@mod.uk by no later than Feb 28th?

I am keen to get moving on this and will except e mails with the word "seamaster" in the subject line immediately.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, wherever you may be?

Tanzy.

Yours Aye,

Jules Lee.
Chairman.

ASWI SLOPS

A limited supply of ASWI Association slops is available



www.aswi.co.uk/slops.htm

Life as an XO



By CPO (UW) George Langton

Life onboard a P2000 for a CPO(UW)

I joined HMS Dasher in January 2013 taking over from Smokey Funnell. Smokey kept on telling me what a good draft it was and one of the best he has had in the Mob.....

Well, after a week onboard I had Staff Covered Continuation Training, basically a dummy OST but worse!

Having taken my UW hat off I now had to put my XO, MO, SA, Caterer, Reggie, ITSO and USO hats on. SCCT is only two legs long but they cram a lot into two days. The first forenoon is an Admin inspection (I have a lot of logs onboard!!!) and then a day and a half of Fires, Floods, MOBEX, MBDD, Blind Pilotage and Index berthing for the CO and myself.

In fact during the next couple of months I had even had a few more inspections from H&S and Security audits and then even Base Logistics Inspection?

The next major event that occurred was my first Sea weekend with the students, and my first experience of going shopping for a group of 16 personnel for a weekend. If you don't enjoy shopping with the wife this is not the job for you!

The sea weekend starts on the Friday when the students come down and prep the weekend passage on the charts. We then sail Saturday morning and normally head for some port on the west coast. The students do Navigation Training which includes them doing OOW, QM and putting fixes on. In amongst this I will throw in a MOBEX and Fire or Flood exercise just to keep them on their toes!

Once alongside the students will do a wash-down and cook evening meal before going ashore. One member of the Ship's Company remains onboard with the duty student's

whilst the rest head off to their hotel (which has been previously booked by me).

We then sail back to Devonport on the Sunday morning doing more training en route.

During any training year we conduct two “deployments” the first is around Easter (3 weeks) and a summer one (6-7 weeks). This is where I witnessed the job for what it was. Summer deployment in 2013 saw us do over 30 different stops, some of the places I had never previously heard of before which indicates the diversity and variety that the deployments provide. The deployment is split into 3 phases whereupon the students swap for each part. Some of the places we visited during summer were as follows Helgoland, Enkhausen, Vlissingen, Bruges, Shevenigen and many, many more.

As a P2000 is only 50 tons and 20 mtrs long we can get into some really small marinas and ports where you will never normally go on a “pussers” grey, however the down side is they roll about in the slightest sea state, so if you suffer from sea sickness avoid a P2000!

So far I have had a busy but enjoyable year on HMS Dasher and look forward to my deployments next year and of course hopefully getting back into the ASWI world early 2015.

All the best,

George

ASWI PINS

Free when you set up a standing order (£10) to the ASWI Association www.aswi.co.uk for more details. Pins can also be purchased for £4



(details on website)

Our Youngest Member



LS (UW) Laura Hull
HMS NORTHUMBERLAND

Hello, I am LS (UW) Laura Hull otherwise known as 'Ships' to the girls of the 26 man mess! I joined the Royal Navy in June 2008 and joined HMS NORTHUMBERLAND in March 2009 after completing core UW branch training.

After completing numerous TAPS activations, trips to sunny Scotland, BOST, Calash 2010 we went into a refit in Rosyth. After many months and subsequently moving back onboard and conducting sea trails, I was given my Local Acting's in April 2012 prior to BOST to act as the fifth LS (UW). I was then selected for killick in May of the same year. The ship then undertook another deployment. Currently, I work for the CPO (UW) (Big Red McEwen) as the TAS party LH and I am also the LHOM of my mess deck.

In my spare time, I like to constantly drag my boyfriend "Ollie" around shopping centres, read and watch Doctor Who.

Telling tales in the Playground

“The secret of teaching is to appear to have known all your life what you just learned this morning.” Unknown

Good afternoon from the Underwater Warfare Training Element (UWTE) at the Maritime Warfare School (MWS) at HMS Collingwood. That's quite enough abbreviation for a preface so I'll keep the rest of the article simple. The current incarnation of TAS/S/UW training has taken place here at the home of the WE's for the last ten years. Cook, Cunningham and the ASUAT are dead! Long live the Maritime Composite Training System (MCTS) which has given us a 40 year leap ahead in capability in technology and capability. All our simulators, classrooms and the 'Section' are located in Warspite or Cunningham depending which half of the building you are in. Oceanography is taught in the HM Section in Lewin (home of the Gollies and PWO Training).

The section itself is a shadow of its former self but only in the sense of the reduction of Manpower. WO1 Gary Malcolm is the OiC with myself (S2087, Advanced ASW Course and Battle Managers) and Soapy Watson (DepCo and POQC's) are the two Chiefs at present with Clare Rayner joining in January. Jase Price, Rob MacColl, (S2087) Lenny Lyons and Rocky Hudson (S2050/S2091 and Action Picture Supervisors) are the PO's with Les Leslie as the tame RP; our instructional team is supplemented by ex CPO(S)'s Bob Riches, Paul Baker and Paul Devine and last but not least ex CPO(R) Jack Wyld as the resident TMA expert.

Now you've all recovered from remembering Establishments then whole floors full of Fleet Chiefs, CPO's and PO's this is the modern navy and it works. Although working in one section; sub specialisations are still catered for and there is plenty of banter between the Active and Passive Rates (Instructing S2087 I can swap sides at will!) Below is a summary of courses we instruct:

Officers / Senior Rates (Duration of Course)	Junior Rates (Duration of Course)
Advanced ASW Course (4)	AB (WS) (UW) Foundation (3)
T23 Officer FFTA (2)	S2050 Operator / Controller (3) (1)
ASW Battle Manager (4)	S2087 Operator / Controller (5) (4)
ASWD TEM (3)	AcPS (All Command Systems) (3)
PO (UW) Career Course (17)	S2091 Operator (2)
S2087 Director (4)	Passive AIO / TMA (3 Days)

As I type we have one PO's qualifying course rolling through, as well T23 Officer FFTA, S2050 Operators with a S2050 Controllers course starting shortly. We also conduct continuity training for Ships Teams and Commanding Officer Desig Courses; recent visitors have come from 45Reconnaissance Squadron Royal Air Force and the Royal Norwegian Air Force as well as the Submarine School and the Royal Netherlands Navy.

Instructors when not employed in UW work carry on with the usual trappings of Service life; Divisions, Duties, Rounds, Inspections and Visits as per usual. Turn around in the Section stands at about 15-24 Months, for instance I joined from Northumberland in May and am not due to move on until 2015. Next year promises to be busier with a ramp up in

S2087 courses with our very own Chairman coming back through the school in Jan (Stand by Tanzy!). There will be further tales from the school yard in later editions, so I will wish you all a Merry Xmas and a prosperous New Year whether at home or deployed, and remember as they say *"Another day, another Doppler"*

Yours Aye

Anth

Advanced ASW Course 1301



Rob MacColl receives his certificate from DACOS(UW) Captain Pollock RN



CREW NOISE KILLS



The lads are still going strong in Royal Navy Unit DAMNECK and have now uploaded an EP of cover versions onto SoundCloud. Please go online at www.soundcloud.com and leave them your feedback.

There is a change to personnel in the near future and we here at SEAMASTER have the sensational news that their new lead singer is now going to be our one and only LS (UW) Spud Murphy who reliably informs me that singing is in his blood and is a birth-right because he's Welsh! Yo CNK, You rock fellas!!! A big Boom, Brrapp, and Oooosh to all of you.

WHERE IS YOUR OPPO

To all of you who want a "where is your oppo" section, please note that giving information about the location of serving personnel is now not as simple as it once was due to operational security and the internet, indeed valuable lessons can be learned from what we do or don't post onto social networking sites and the impact that it can have upon people and/or organisations. Ex serving Where is your oppo is available <http://aswi.co.uk/members.htm> let me know if there are any omissions.

OUR MAN IN VALPARAISO



Buenas Dias Compadres,

As some of you may be already aware the Chilean Navy and the Royal Navy has had a Close relationship for almost a hundred years now and indeed if it was not for the closeness of that relationship history shows that Chile wouldn't be the country it is today.

The Chilean Navy is assessed as the 4th largest within the Americas behind USA, Canada and Brazil and they have just had S2087C SONAR fitted to CNS FF Condell (Formerly HMS MARLBOROUGH).

To that end I visited Chile as part of a FOST team to assist them conduct their first ACT ASW during Dec 2013. This exercise included a Scorpene Class SM (OHIGGINS), 2 x MPA, and 2 x Maritime Patrol Helicopters.

The exercise followed a similar format to the UK ACT ASW and was a mixture of that and The FOST ASW Weekend with a few local variations. For a starter the depth of water in the Chilean Exercise areas varies between 500 all the way down to 6000 metres, so Those of you with an understanding of Oceanography will obviously recognise that it is a Far more challenging waterspace to operate within than the SWAPS or the GOO!.

I am not at liberty to discuss any further specifics of the exercise but let me tell you this, the FOST TART have come away having identified many lessons (which we will endeavour

to Feedback to the S2087 Community in due course via DLMS). And the words very long range Convergence Zone Detections will be prevalent!

On a more light hearted note I can also let you know that yes, the Scandanavia Bar is still Open in Valpo (albeit we did not attend), and the Wine and Pisco in Chile is still very Strong!

Adios Amigos!!!

SOCIAL SCENE



Christmas Jumper Run Ashore Devonport Serving ASWIs, Mutley Plain, Dec 2013.

See website for photographs of other past ASWI Association events

DATE 2014	VENUE	EVENT
Thursday 23 rd Jan	HMS Drake	Social Evening
Saturday 25 th Jan	Portsmouth Club House	Burns Night
Tuesday 28 th Jan	Portsmouth Club House	American Supper Night and Raffle
Friday 25 th Feb	Portsmouth Club House	Valentines Supper Evening (Self Catering)
Tuesday 25 th March	Portsmouth Club House	American Supper Night and Raffle, Quiz Night
Sunday 27 th April	Plymouth Hoe	Plymouth Half Marathon
Tuesday 29 th April	Fareham Go Bowling	Bowling
Saturday 23 rd May	Twickenham	Army Navy Rugby
Tuesday 27 th May	Portsmouth Club House	American Supper Night and Raffle
Saturday 27 th September	Portland Heights Hotel	Annual Dinner and AGM

Further details of the Army V Navy Rugby and the 2014 dinner will be posted on the website nearer the time

For further information in your area contact
Portsmouth [Pete White](#)
Plymouth [Lee Dudman](#)

Return of the PRGITASI “Three Monkeys”



History: Information supplied from an article in a previous issue of the *Seamaster* from TASI Ian Burns.

HMS Terror Singapore March 1962. The mess bar was a popular place for the senior rates of the Radar, Gunnery and TAS Branches, however each tended to keep to their own parties. That was not to say that parties were not gate crashed from time to time. After one particularly hectic gate crash it was decided that we should do things properly and make it a proper do.

All ships carrying an instructor on the Singapore station was contacted and a committee was formed.

The first get together was held in the Mess Hall of the POs mess HMS TERROR, the guest of honour was the Captain of HMS Terror and the three base commanders of the TAS, Radar and Gunnery branches were also invited.

The 'Three Wise Monkeys' was chosen as a symbol of the branches; "See no Evil" for the PRI, "Hear no Evil" for the TASI and of course "Speak no Evil" for the GI

The Trophy has been fought for annually by all three associations at an event competing against the other association. The last time the event took place was in 2000 and the TASI Association won the event and remain the present holders.

The present Trophy is the second trophy dating from 1976 (Pictured above)

Please find below E mail traffic between The ASWI and the RNGI Association, once again all promising stuff. This has also been printed in their association periodical.

All suggestions for events on a post card please to both our social reps mesrs Peter White and Lee Dudman.

-----Original Message----- -----Original Message----- -----Original Message-----

From: NAVY OP TRG-FOST S UW5 (Lee, Julian CPO)

[<mailto:NAVYOPTRG-FOSTS UW5@mod.uk>]

Sent: 26 November 2013 11:56

To: mikesmudge@ntlworld.com

Cc: Peter White; Bob Burton

Subject:

Del, (Chairman of the GI Association

I have been forwarded your message by Peter White after having now assumed the role from him as Chairman of the Anti Submarine Warfare Instructors Association (ASWI) in Oct 2013.

May I be the first to continue to extend the hand of friendship between our associations and thank you personally for continuing to allow the ASWI to regularly use your Clubhouse in HMS EXCELLENT as a venue for the Portsmouth Branch of our association to hold socials for our membership in the area.

The West Country Branch have recently held our Winter Social (Thu 21 Nov) in the WO and SRs mess in HMS DRAKE (which we have recently taken up an affiliation with) for serving members in the Devonport area, and I am pleased to announce that it was a very successful start with over 20 serving personnel attending. We have our annual AGM and Dinner Dance at the Portland Heights Hotel, in Portland on Sat 27 Sep 2014.

Our association has recently gone through a period of change with 4 serving UW SRs now being on the Committee and a re-invigoration of member numbers with 22 new joiners since Aug 13, both old and new, and an extension of membership qualification criteria now being extended to serving LS UW (based upon the increased responsibility and workload afforded to those individuals during this period of increased sea time and manning churn).

I have also in my possession a trophy known as the "Three Monkeys" which is a legacy from when members of the GI, PRI, and ASWI used to compete in a sporting fixture for it to be awarded (with a combined social event on completion) and I am hereby asking if you would like to see if we could revise this event in the near future and possibly re-commence this annual occasion. I was thinking a less than serious sporting fixture such as Volleyball or Bucketball perhaps or even the Cliff and Chasm Challenge taking place in MWS/RNLA respectively next summer, with drinks and food on completion.

Unfortunately I have searched both the internet and social media and at this time I am at a loss as to the confirmed location or organizers of the (now possibly disbanded PRI?) Are you any the wiser?
via our association website , chairman@aswi.co.uk,

I trust that this e mail reaches you in good faith and look forward to hearing from you in the near future. Kindest Regards, Tanzy. ASWI Chairman.

-----Response Message----- -----Response Message----- -----Response Message-----

From: MWS-WTG-OICAWWTE

Sent: 05 December 2013 15:09

To: NAVY OP TRG-FOST S UW5 (Lee, Julian CPO)

Cc: 'mikesmudge@ntlworld.com'; 'derekrea@hotmail.co.uk'

Subject: Release-authorised: New ASWI Chairman

Tanzy,

Many thanks for the e-mail.

It is great news to see that the ASWI's are gaining in membership and momentum. The hand of friendship is of course duly accepted with the realisation that Associations such as ours are not only a significant mainstay for the veteran community, but also the arbiters of a legacy that we hope to be eagerly picked up and continued by the current crop of serving personnel who are joining in their wake. Affiliation and solidarity with other Associations' must become common place and is vital for survival. It is pleasingly prevalent with the GI's Association (embracing the Ganges Association, Household Division, Royal Engineers and ASWI's) and long may it continue.

I have spoken to a couple of members regarding the 'Three Monkeys' Trophy and there is a growing enthusiasm to participate for the award once more. However, the more physical pursuits are perhaps beyond many of our elder members (and I include myself in that statement) but I am sure that other, more social pastimes may be contested whilst enjoying a 'scoop' or two at the same time. Time for the Social Secretaries to get their thinking caps on methinks. That said, and most unfortunately, the PRI's seem to have fallen by the wayside.

Many thanks once again for making contact and 'Testing Comms' and I look forward to meeting or hearing from you in the near future.

Regards

Del

In the next edition

It is intended to release the next edition in time for Easter Leave.

I look forward to seeing you all next year and hope that 2014 is as good for the ASWI as 2013 turned out to be.

Less We Forget:



“To promote Esprit de Corps

Amongst all members

of the

Anti-Submarine Warfare
Instructors Association

wherever they may serve”

Anon.