



## Notes from the Gen Sec

### Busy Times

It can't have escaped your notice that ADW is working at a time that to say the least is busy. Having returned from a fantastic summer holiday to dive back (sic) into an organisation that continues to work at pace that we all have paraphrased, whenever you worked at ADW (PTS), as 'just getting on with it', reminds me what a great workforce looks like. It is worth note that those of us that have worked in other sectors in the 'real world' can confirm that this pace of work reflects extremely well on a workforce that continues the tradition of been part of a high performing team.

**Amendment to the Constitution.** You will see on page 6 a proposal to amend the Canopy Club Constitution. Could I ask that you read the proposal and vote accordingly. I am more than happy to receive your vote by E-mail.

## What a month!

As ever there is a lot going on across the Wing, please do reply to the Constitution and Golf competition requests later in this Newsletter as applicable. I am please to start with some good (but not great) news is that we have finally got the approval for the purchase of £400,000 worth of PJI clothing and equipment including hearing protection. This is not 'great' news as it is just a one off spend at the moment and we still need to work hard to get replacement/obsolete schedules in place if this is going to endure in the longer term. The figure looks high due to the lack of proper investment in the clothing/equipment items in recent years. However, I am confident that ACE 2/17 starting next month will be suitably supported and that the PJI ACE in Jan 2018 will see PJIs having suitable equipment and clothing to help us get the best from this intense training exercise.

The month of August normally comes with a welcome respite to the busy tempo and an opportunity to catch breath before a new season of activities starts in autumn. Well this month has not quite reflected that; apart from RAF Falcons activities (the article below being just one of them), we have continued to run a BPC course and completed/prepared UK and overseas based exercises. Leave for the majority has been slotted in around this busy programme. However, the most significant aspect of the month has being a final realisation that it had become the norm to use a significant amount of ancillary kit that did not have the full dose of clearances that is expected. This equipment varied from GoPros to parachutists knives. This issue, that has probably been unconsciously bubbling for sometime, finally came to a head, leading me to pause parachuting again (only for half a day, but long enough to disrupt some ITF trg) while the issue was elevated and owned by the Duty Holder

**Toot Baldon.** For those that attended the Toot Baldon Service you will be please to know that the temporary ensign has now been replaced with one that is the correct size.

**Golf.** The details of this year's Golf Day, including the Tatton Silver Competition are on the last page.

**Finally,** could I please use this space to say a big thank you to all the area reps who continue to support, in a wide variety of ways, those members who live in their area. They continue to do so much good work that many of us are aware of. THANK YOU



Promotions/Postings:

Flt Lt Graham Rose - Poole  
wef 21 Aug.

FS Lennie Gillis - Support  
Sqn wef 26 Sept.

Sgt Danny Ball - JATEU wef  
4 Sept.

(Station Commander).

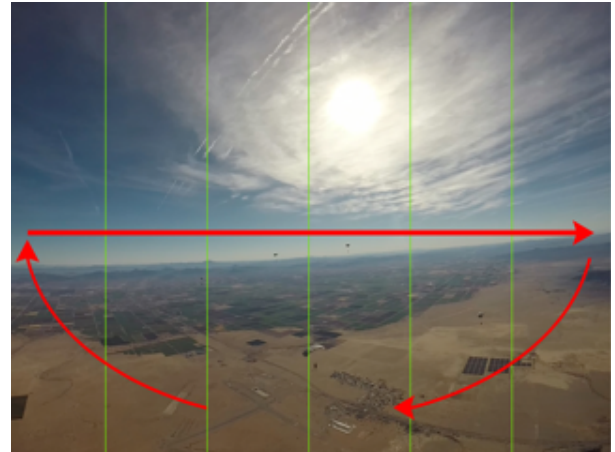
This has proven to be another groundbreaking moment in ADWs development. The result is a significant win for ADW, over 20 items of equipment are now being used under a temporary authority whilst the C17 Project Team (they oversee para equipment procurement issues) work on providing the necessary clearances to allow the parachutists and supporting PJIs to operate within a known operating envelope. One would think 'surely we should be doing this anyway?', well the awkward reality is that we haven't but I believe it is a positive reflection of an improving safety culture that staff feel they can expose this (most of the kit had been in use for years) without fear of retribution. In the future the questions like 'is this cleared or not?' or 'ask the FS he used to work at JADTEU' or 'I've seen XX use it so it must be cleared' will be a thing of the past as the kit and operating parameters will be clearer for all to see and understand. More to follow on the progress of this as we get it.

ITF and in particular Sgt Tony Brookes have made great strides with codifying 'lookout' training and rolling out a very professional 'train the trainer' training package that helps address situational awareness issues surrounding canopy collisions and near misses. I think this strengthens our ability to deliver world class training and is in keeping with the latest situation awareness thinking in other areas of parachuting and flying. I look forward to seeing this develop in our delivery to troops in the coming months.

On wider matters, it is great to see PJIs involved in the BPA championships and bringing back some silverware, well done to all involved. Ye Droppe Inne continues to prosper with an excellent night hosting the Stn CO's Cup quiz night and a new pool table will be arriving imminently (to replace the old one which came from RAF Lyneham - how old?!). Some more social events are planned monthly so I hope you can attend some of them in the weeks and months to come.

Wg Cdr Jamie Simmonds

An example of the bracketed scanning techniques



### Commonwealth Games Baton Arrives at RAF Brize Norton

On the Wednesday 16th August the Queen's Commonwealth Baton completed its 7800 mile journey from the Falkland Islands to RAF Brize Norton to begin the UK leg of its round the world tour, its final destination being Australia's Gold Coast on 4th April 2018. However, this was no



ordinary arrival. The Queen's Commonwealth Baton was entrusted to the Officer Commanding the Parachute Training Squadron, Squadron Leader Ruairidh Jackson. Supported by the RAF Falcons Parachute Display Team and Warrant Officer Paul Floyd, it was delivered to the awaiting reception committee by parachute from 12,000ft.

The Queen's Commonwealth Baton was designed to symbolise the past present and future of the Commonwealth. Constructed of macadamia wood, native to the Gold Coast region, reclaimed plastic from the ocean and waterways surrounding the Gold Coast and with a polished stainless steel stringer engraved with the names of all of the Commonwealth countries. The Queen's Commonwealth Baton was safely packed into a rucksack worn by Squadron Leader Jackson during the descent before being delivered to the Officer Commanding Station Operations, Wing Commander Nick Worrall, at RAF Brize Norton and the awaiting dignitaries from the Commonwealth Games Committee, including the Australian High Commissioner.

At 9.40am on the Wednesday 16th August the RAF Falcons, Squadron Leader Jackson and Warrant Officer Floyd left the C130 ac at 12,000ft and over a mile from the landing

point on the sports pitches at RAF Brize Norton. This display was the first C130 display for the RAF Falcons this year and the first with an accompanying parachutist. Once their parachutes had opened the RAF Falcons built their non-contact stack and completed another superb display. However, on this occasion another canopy could be seen in the sky above them. The distinctive white RAFBF parachute used by Squadron Leader Jackson allowed the waiting crowds to easily identify the location of the Queen's Commonwealth Baton, which if they so wished could be tracked via its internal GPS system. Another faultless and accurate landing by all involved saw the RAF Falcons, Squadron Leader Jackson and Warrant Officer Paul Floyd land in front of the waiting crowd of invited station personnel and local service personnel's families. The Queen's Commonwealth Baton was then formally handed to Wing Commander Worrall who then, on behalf of the RAF, presented it to the waiting dignitaries from the Commonwealth Games Committee accompanied by a flypast from the C130 from 47 Squadron at RAF Brize Norton.

The event was a huge success and attracted national and international media attention, showcasing the professionalism of all those involved from RAF Brize Norton and particular Parachute Jump Instructors from the Airborne Delivery Wing. It also served as a fitting and spectacular way for the Queen's Commonwealth Baton to arrive in the UK.

### **Up coming ADW and Canopy Club Social Events.**

Wed 13 Sept. Ye Droppe Inne - Beer Call/Horus 7's AGM.

Thurs 21 Sept. Ye Droppe Inne - Race Night.

Thurs 26 Oct. Ye Droppe Inne - Beer Call celebrating Promotions/Postings.

Fri 27 Oct. Officers Mess - Canopy Club Reunion Dinner.

Thurs 23 Nov. Ye Droppe Inne - PJI Graduation.

Thurs 14 Dec. Ye Droppe Inne - Christmas Draw.



### August 2017 in Photos



Clockwise from Top Left: WO Chris Headley Striking a Pose on a hot and sandy DZ far, far away; The team as photographed by Cpl Neil Chapman who won the Open Image category at the RAF Photo Comp. Flt Lt Charlotte Dooley (PJI) says good bye to the Commonwealth Baton in the Falkland Islands; The Baton at Brize Norton; RAFSPA AA (including our own Sgt Brook Stabbings & Cpl Hodgeson) on their way to GOLD!!; Horus 7's players and fan enjoying the sun at their last tournament of the season.

## Canopy Club Constitution changes

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware 8 Army personnel qualified as PJIs and are now working on static line round parachuting duties here at ADW.

Our constitution states, under 9a, that Full Membership of the Association is open to those who have qualified as **RAF** PJIs. Given that the Army personnel wear the same brevet as RAF PJIs, it is proposed that the constitution be amended to read '**Full membership is open to those who have qualified as a PJI at PTS/ADW**'. This will allow these guys to fully integrate with us socially as well as professionally.

Please cast your vote by **Return Email** to me stating: I am/I am not (delete as applicable) content for the constitution to be amended to read '**Full membership is open to those who have qualified as PJI at PTS/ADW**'.

Alternatively, if you wish your vote to be anonymous please send it to me at: 17, Bryony Gardens, Carterton, Oxon, OX18 1JN.

Link to Canopy Club Constitution [here](#).

Gen Sec

Voting will close on **Mon 9 Oct 17**.

**Tatton Silver Trophy 2017**

This years Tatton Silver Trophy will be held on Friday 27 Oct at Wragg Barn GC. Details for the event as follows:

**Wragg Barn Golf Club, Shrivenham Rd, Highworh, Wiltshire, SN6 7QQ**

**0845 arrival for Bacon Baps an Coffee**

**0932 First tee - Stapleford format - Full Handicap**

**Presentation to be at the Reunion Dinner in the evening**

**£30 entry fee**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CANOPY CLUB GOLF DAY 2017**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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Contact No \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Cpl Bobby Menarry at ADW by 20 Oct 17.  
[robert.Mennary100@mod.gov.uk](mailto:robert.Mennary100@mod.gov.uk)