

S/M2 SUNSHINE SQUADRON

1909-2002

NEWSLETTER 2012

£919.00 - A truly magnificent Figure, well done to one & all.

A quick breakdown of the financial side of things, I run a small **Income/Expenditure** book for your perusal at anytime if you so wish.

Carried Forward from our Tenth Reunion 2011 £79.21. 15 x 2nd class stamps/35 envelopes.

Income

26 x £7.00 Cheques/cash for Door Entry and Food	£182.00
2 x £7.00 Cash for Door Entry and Food (Pete Cobb/Billy Dobson)	£14.00
3 x £5.00 Cash for Food (Dave Burr/Grant Fox/Andy Manderman) paid for by Billy Dobson to be repaid on day at the Reunion	£15.00
2 x £5.00 Late, late comers for Food (Mark Roberts/Stewart Cox) paid for by Billy Dobson to be repaid on day at the Reunion	£10.00
2 x £7.00 Late, Late, Late comer for Food, Cheque (Bill Finlay and Son) Door Entry and Food)	£14.00
1 x £7.00 The Latest of all the Late comers. Cheque from Hugh Mackenzie Door Entry and Food (can't find the cheque, was in my jeans, possibly been washed, have put your Door Entry Fee and Bill Finlay's £4.00 into next year's pot)	£7.00

Grand Total £196.00

Post Meeting Note :- Hugh Mackenzie's cheque turned up (unwashed).

Figures in red **£40.00** I paid for, leaving £6.00 towards next year's pot having put £50.00 toward the Pewter Tankard.

Total Meals Ordered 36 £180, Paid £175 to Club Steward (receipts 8 + 9) and £5.00 by hand on morning of Reunion to the catering staff as arranged with June (head chef), no receipt, for Hugh Mackenzie.

Expenditure

1 Vistaprint

Order Date 22/09/2011 S/M2 Premium Business Cards £26.50

2 Easy Internet Solutions Ltd.

(Domain Name Renewal Fee Year 2 Years). Authorisation Date /Time 03/11/2011
12:14:37 sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk £12.59

3 Easy Internet Solutions Ltd.

Free Hosting Unlimited/year sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk

Authorisation Date/Time 17/11/2011 13:29:24 £13.19

4 Post Office Counters. Two books 2nd class stamps 09/02/2012

(Posted 18 2nd class envelopes (non e-mail members) £08.64

5 Ryman. Cloakroom raffle tickets 1 x 1000. 17/02/2012 £02.99

6 The Works. Cloakroom raffle tickets 5 x 500. 18/02/2012 £04.95

Leaving £10.35 in the float.

7 Coronet Engravers.

Pewter Tankard and Engraving. 18/02/2012 £73.24

Float now stands at **£62.89.**

£50.00 taken from Door Entry Fees on Income page

Float now stands at **£12 89.**

Billy Dobson donates £12.89 to 'Zero' the books.

Float now stands at £0.00.

5 Envelopes used for All In – All Out Raffle for prizes (12 left).

8 WMOVS&SC. 28 x £5.00 Buffet Meals 03/03/2012 (wrong date recorded). £140.00

9 WMOVS&SC, 7 x £5.00 Buffet Meals 01/03/2012 (latecomers for food). £35.00

THE REUNION ITSELF

Members present in helping setting up, Pitt K (Skimmerkiller), Vic Cavell, These two reprobates were ripping your hard earned 'Pennies' from you to purchase tickets for the two raffles, Vic Richards was busying himself posting the many posters throughout the venue, and my job was easy, I just sat at the entrance with my blue book and ticked you in.

Doors opened at 11.30, bar likewise.

I may be a tad biased, but I think a great day was had by each and everyone of us, as ever though, it was you yourselves that made the day, people really do put in the miles to make it to meet up with old shipmates and also to forge new friendships. **Long may it continue in that vein.** Each year, I'm asked for attendance figures, so here's an appraisal of attendance numbers, monies taken through the 'Booze Raffle', door takings, and even the 'Tips Bucket' in an e-mail that I sent to Pitt K:

Pitt,

After a couple of counts to reaffirm both your and Vic's maths, we agree on the total takings of £919.00, the only thing I've got to do is keep back some monies to kickstart next years bash, If I make a cheque to The Alliance Restoration Fund for £850, I reckon that they would be quite pleased with that, £50 up on last years donation. That would leave me with £75 to kick off next year's bash, because I've still got £6 left over from Door Entry Fees that was sent in with the food cheques.

When I went round with the 'Tips Bucket', I gathered a further £153.74, remember, that's over and above what we were giving them over the bar when we were up ordering our individual drinks, I know I was in a giving mood when I had a 'Jews Muster' in the morning Ha!

Attendance numbers as follows, 131 ticked off in my Blue Book, 46 new member's sheets completed.

Stop panicking, I have your Flag here at home, you left it on the seat.

I've posted off a letter to the Chairman of the WMOVS&SC thanking him and praising his staff and Catering team for looking after us extremely well, I've almost completed a newsletter of sorts to be posted on the site, I've received quite a few 'Thank you' messages for the team and myself for the well organised day which is pleasing, well done, roll on August.

B. Dob.

The cheque is going off today.

One story that I have to offer from the day was that of Stevie Blunt, it was the first time that I'd had the pleasure of his company Ha! Quite memorable, It'll stay with me forever, once I'd been round with the 'Tips Bucket', we had counted all the money out, it was all in neat little piles on the table, when Stevie decided to fall off his chair, to which in an attempt to lessen the impact of landing on the deck with a bump, he chose to grab the table, yes, it was a re-count Ha!

We did of course have a marathon 'Booze Raffle', I'm just astounded at the amount of unclaimed tickets we ditched, maybe you'd given up the will to live, mind, having said that, lesson learned from this one, get the lighting sorted previously, I felt for Capt. John Edgell OBE RN (ComDevFlot), I thought he done wonderfully well, he sent me an e-mail the following day

Billy,

I was about to burst into print and say thanks for all you did to make the SM2 bash a great day when your e-mail arrived. It has been a slow day - like you I stayed much later than I planned but you can't walk away when some one who remembers you insists on buying another drink. Anyway great for the Alliance fund and also a good submariner's re-union. I am aware of a couple of no-shows and will try and encourage better support from the sea goers. What was interesting was that there were 20 plus relatively recently time served Sonar Senior Rates and some had travelled a good distance. I thought that was good to see and hopefully the word will spread.

Anyway thanks again and well done.

Make sure you tell the national branch that we in Plymouth continue to be the centre of submarine social excellence.

Regards

John

I think in John, we have a very committed member who just so happens to be the President of the Plymouth Branch of the Submariners Association also, he's by far the most active President that we've had over the last ten years or so.

I must also give a special mention to people who contributed to the 'Booze Raffle'.

Pitt K, a bottle of High Commish Whiskey, Pete Chaston, a bottle of Grouse, Vic Cavell, a bottle of Red Wine, There was a miniature bottle of Whiskey left over from last year, Harry Hartnet (Our Mystery Man in the Sailor Suit), a bottle of Grants Whiskey and a bottle of Captain Morgan Rum, Brian Hall, a bottle of Peach Schnapps, Taff Nutty (alias 'The Queen's Harbourmaster of Looe') an in joke betwixt us Ha!, a bottle of Captain Morgan Rum, Alan Jones, a bottle of Jamieson Whiskey, Ron Vickers, a bottle of Courvoisier, a bottle of Gordons Gin and a bottle of Cockburns, I dropped in a bottle of Canadian Club. Thank you gents, much appreciated.

The **ALL IN – ALL OUT** Raffle didn't generate as much that I'd hoped it would, but, it was a first time trial, next year I'd love it to hit the £1000 back in prizes of 1st £500 (50%), 2nd £250 (25%), 3rd £130 (13%), 4th £80 (8%), 5th £40 (4%). Obviously, if more money was taken, then the five prizes would obviously increase, the %'s extant.

Because The Mystery Man 'TOT' was not won, it was only right and proper that he be given the 'TOT', and it would've been very remiss of me not to join him, unbeknown to me until I was told, we had a birthday boy among us (WreckerL), Baz Craker's ??????th I too got him a TOT, and yes, not wishing him to drink alone, I had one with him.

My third and last TOT of the day was the one I shared with you all in remembering our 'Brothers of the Deep' who'd Crossed the Bar, I called for silence and you quite rightly gave it, I know that some other Reunions read out the names of those friends and shipmates that have Crossed the bar in the previous year, I just find it difficult to list them as sure as eggs are little eggs, I'd somehow miss one or two, and I'm fearful of upsetting you, so I'm of the frame of mind for you the individual, to remember your own personal buddie(s), hope this sits well with you.

A quick mention of those people who requested Black shirts with the Plymouth Branch Logo, etc; the order has gone in, when they're done, they'll be sent to me for distribution, I'll get Charlie Payne (treasurer of the Plymouth Branch of the Submariners Association) to pay for them, all you need to do is make a cheque payable to us, that's the easiest way to do it, I'll let you know the cost, when the shirts are ready and will arrange to get the shirts to you. While I'm talking of the Plymouth Branch, if you live local-ish and wish to join the Association, on the reverse side of the Sunshine Squadron Business card I gave out to you on arrival at the Reunion just gone, is the name of our Membership Secretary Mr David Williams Esq, e-mail address fathomsdeep@aol.com drop him a line and take it from there (one of my other hats that I wear is that of Chairman of the Plymouth Branch). We meet every third Friday of the Month, we have quarterly meetings May AGM, Aug, Nov, (in Dec we have a wee drinkee session, money out of the funds) and Feb, all the in-between meetings are classed as socials, we just gather in the RBL at Crownhill in 'Submariner's Corner' 19.30 onwards, spin dits and embellish stories with untruths Ha!

For all of you that came from afar (and I know there was quite a few), I hope you all had a safe journey home, I do know from visiting the website of the Submariners Lounge, that Herbie Lott experienced a snow blizzard on his way home.

My thanks to all the people who sent personal 'thankyous for a great day,' I, and I'm sure that I'm correct in speaking for my helpers, we all get a perverse kick out of seeing you all have a good time, otherwise, we wouldn't do it, plus, lest we forget, we too have a great time, here's to an even bigger attendance next year, same place, same time and the date for your diaries is Saturday 02nd of March (the day before WreckerL's Birthday) 2013. Hope to see you there.

Stay safe, stay well.

B. Dob.

PS. If you're in the area, our BIG BROTHER, the Diesel Boat Reunion is due on the Saturday 04th August 2012, same venue, same time, Pitt K runs this one since taking over from Ken (Slinger) Woods, he's got a hard act to follow, but with the 'Team' of willing helpers, we'll get there.

In closing, let me remind you of the Website for the Sunshine Squadron, it's yours, there's a 'Guestbook' section to utilise, get in touch with 'Oppos', if your wish is to post a dit such as this, you can, just get in touch with the Website Manager, Mike Pitt (note, this is not Pitt K).

E-mail him on mike1p@hotmail.com or via www.sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk

I THANK YOU ALL.

Stay well and stay safe

Billy Dobson