



1909 – 2002

SM2 SUNSHINE SQUADRON REUNION

13th Anniversary - Held on Sat 01st March 2014.

Once more you have proved to be a giving bunch of 'Roughy Toughy Softies', as you did last year, you again went through the £1,000 mark in takings, a magnificent £1021.42. Once again I'll keep £100.00 back to help kick-start next year's Reunion which will be Saturday 07th March 2015.

I have written to the Steward of Weston Mill Oak Villa Sports & Social Club (the venue) thanking all the Staff (both front of shop and behind the scenes), the Catering Staff once again excelled - a most sumptuous choice of buffet food.

They charged us £5.00 per head which to me is them making a loss, however, in the trade, it's what is termed as a 'lost leader', what they lose on dry side (food), they make up on the wet side (alcohol). When I go to the bar to order a drink(s), each visit, I either offer a drink to the bar person, or tell he/she to put £1.00 in their 'Tip Jar', I suspect most of you do likewise, but, in case some of you don't, I send a 'Tips Bucket' round to collect a wee bit more loose change for the Staff.

I'm not sure what the Bar Staff do with their share, but I do know that the Catering Staff gives theirs to their chosen charity, this year, the 'Tips Bucket' yielded £193.86 - a BZ to all who contributed.

“HUSTON, WE HAVE A PROBLEM”

Our chosen charity was to be [The Blue Plaque Initiative](#), a curved ball was thrown at me in the shape of a deceased family member (sister) of an X-Craft Submariner donated a lump sum of £7,500 from her Estate which obviously fully funded the pot for the cost of the remaining [Blue Plaques](#). As this money was ring-fenced in a separate account, solely to pay for the project, £7,500 pays for more than was needed, 14 VC winners at £500 each = £7,000, one had already been catered for, plus donations to date £????

I received this e-mail from Keith Bishop :-

Hi Billy,

I was pleased to read on the SM2 Sunshine Squadron website that you intend to donate the proceeds to the Blue Plaque Fund. I feel it only right to let you know that the Association has recently received a donation of £7,500.00 to the fund, from the estate of the sister of a submariner lost in X craft operations.

We now have more than enough in the fund to complete the project.

I am going to propose to the NMC that any surplus be held for use to maintain or update the Submarine Memorial at the National Arboretum.

Best regards,

Keith

This kind of makes me feel a little uneasy because I've heard conflicting stories about the current sad excuse for a Submariner Memorial and the proposed new Submariner Memorial to be erected at the National Arboretum. It is causing quite a bit of angst among the selected Study Group chosen to look at all options for the upgrading of the memorial.

I personally think that it's unwise to put money into a project that isn't a cast iron nailed on certainty, which leaves me with a dilemma - where should we put our magnificent £921.42?

It must be Submarine Fraternity orientated, because this was the rule under which we initially set out to raise monies for. I don't know if you're aware, but one of my guests was none other than the author of the book "Hunter Killers", Iain Ballantyne was his name. He through his publishers, organised two signed copies of his book to be placed as prizes in our Main Raffle and a further six signed copies which I sold at a reduced price (£15) with the proceeds going into the Chosen Charity. All copies sold (£40 worth of books to Main Raffle Prizes and £90 worth of books to the charity - I thank you Iain for your generosity).

What I therefore propose to you is that we open an avenue of choice by yourselves to make suggestions of a chosen charity or Ideas where the monies can go toward, with a closing date of **MONDAY 12th May 2014**.

I have one suggestion, that being the purchase of an up-market bench to be placed in the **National Memorial Arboretum**.

- The National Memorial Arboretum is a national site of remembrance at Alrewas, near Lichfield, Staffordshire, England
- This little beauty Idea belongs to Brian Reeve of the Nottingham Branch of the Submarine Association.



I just wonder what it would cost in marble (one can dream).

Come on lads, get your thinking caps on, go to www.sm2sunshinesquadron.co.uk with your Ideas (can be put on the "Guestbook" page)

Billy Dobson.