



**SM2 SUNSHINE SQUADRON 1909 - 2002**

**2ND SUBMARINE SQUADRON**

**14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015**

Firstly, let me say a very big thank you to each and every one of you that attended this year's reunion. We are growing year on year in numbers attending, the food orders are on the increase (from 34 meals last year to 44 this year) which could mean more people are travelling from further afield than just being local and hungry. I would also like to thank the following 'Helpers on the Door', they being Ken Barlow, Vic Cavell, Arry Hartnett, Charlie Payne (Grant Fox and Pitt K standing by as reliefs) - they all worked extremely hard.

Grant, also for his donation of more cap tallies for sale toward the Submarine Affray Memorial Trust Fund,  
Martin Allen for his donation of the Poppy lapel badges with the 'Kissing Kippers' underneath,  
Baz Craker for his donation of "He knows what **wink wink**", also going towards the Submarine Affray Memorial Trust Fund, and,  
to the many of you kind hearted 'Roughy Toughies' who donated bottles various as prizes for the Marathon Main Raffle.  
Also, the other prizes that I managed to acquire from **HMS Raleigh WO&SRs Mess Pres and the Vice Pres (both SM2 Chappies)** for: **bottles of Port, St Mellion Golf Club, a fourball game of golf on the Niklaus Course plus two free buggies and four Ham, Egg and Chip lunches.**

**Two freebie tickets to a Plymouth Argyle Home Game with a signed Mini Pennant, there was also a ball supposed to be with the prize but sadly it wouldn't fit through the letter box Ha!**

**Franchisee Luke McKernan (new attendee) free Ladies or Gents wash, cut and blow dry at Toni & Guy Plymouth worth £40,**

**Two paperback signed copies of Hunter Killers by Iain Ballantyne (author), and the following five books making one prize, they being: **Sea Wolves** by Tim Clayton (author) the extraordinary story of Britain's WW2 Submarines (a good first-person story, with all ranks well represented).**

**32 Years Man & Buoy** by Ian Atkinson (author) Cold War account from POV of rating/senior rating who was there and also part of SM2.

**War Beneath the Sea** by Peter Padfield (author) a very good account of WW2 under the Sea, all theatres and nations - epic in scope.

**The Hunting Submarine** by Ian Trenowden (author) story of legendary British Submarine Captain who joined as a rating and distinguished himself in WW2.

Lastly, the famed **Das Boot** by Lothar Gunther Buchheim (author), a gritty amazingly honest novel based on the author's experiences in U-Boats on three patrols from the German side in WW2. People may have seen the TV series of the movie, but this is the original and it should appeal to anyone who served in Diesel boats. These five books were bought from last year's held over money.

### **Facts and Figures :-**

Takings in the door entry pot £413.70 rounded up to £414 indicates 207 paying attendees however, subtract £17.70 that was put back in the door entry pot from last year's held over £100 and that equates to £396, or a total of 198 people present, there was 139 ticked off in my **blue book** plus 55 new attendees filling in first time attendance forms.

The mathematicians amongst you can see that 139 plus 55 only amounts to 194 people through the door and not 207, that is because throughout the afternoon, there was a presence of 4 females in attendance.

Coupled with £600 from the Main Raffle = £1014.00, of which I'll keep the usual £100 back to kick-start next year's reunion = £914 to our eventual chosen charity.

The "All in - All out" Money Raffle raised £832 broken down into the five following prizes of £400, £200, £150, £50, £32. The chap who won the "£200 gave me £50 pound to place into the "Jeremiah's Journey" local children's charity which I still have to do, he doesn't wish for his name to be disclosed (Anthony 'Ollie' Hoyle), but does want the SM2 Sunshine Squadron to be named. I'll word it that I would like a receipt naming both he and the SM2 Sunshine Squadron, he said that he was leaving with more money in his pocket than what he came with, so would like to donate to a worthy cause that was close to his heart, nice genuine man.

I took the 'Tips' bucket round later on, this is for the bar staff and the catering staff. I managed to rope in some old boy to help me count it - I should be more careful of my choice from now on!!

At a previous meeting, I had the help of a lad called Stevie Blunt (absentee this year). We had all the money counted in neat piles when he fell off his chair, grabbed the table knocking all the money onto the floor.

This year, the chosen table to count the money on was highly polished and was slightly unstable, but with a notepad pushed underneath seemed to be just right. Oh! how wrong could I be Ha! £30 in notes, easy, £2 coins didn't stack up to much, the £1 coins were monstrous, putting them in stacks of ten. My counting chum was an ex CPO Stoker from the Diesel boat world; a lovely chap. He didn't look drunk, but he did want to spin a few tales, had a belly bigger than mine and, when he started to laugh at his own story, it bumped the table spilling all the stacks shooting off the table onto the floor. It took ages to count and record the money & I had lost the will to live by the time we had counted every last penny.

From what I'd counted and what he'd told me he'd counted, this amounted to £85.49 which I gave to Dot Spencer, the club Secretary, to be split between both sets of staff.

A little while later, Dot asked to see me in a quiet corner and said that she counted the money, which was slightly different to what I had declared - she said it was £204.57 (we were quite close with the odds Ha!)

The bar staff kept their tips, but the catering staff put theirs into the local South West Children's Hospice (£102.28). I'm going to buy them a jar of sweets to share amongst them.

Their food presentation was magnificent and the food orders reflect the increase of attendees, 10 more meals ordered from last year.

We were also selling some poppy lapel badges, Submarine cap tallies and sets of Dolphins at the door for the Submarine Affray Memorial Trust Fund and the running total for that now stands at £168.

On Thursday 16th April 2015, not too sure of the time yet, there will be a Wreath Laying Service held at the Memorial Stone just to the left hand side of the landing ramp of the Gosport Ferry (approx. 150 yards), well in sight of her Alma Mater, formerly known as HMS Dolphin.

See you next year

Billy Dobson