

# THE BOND

July 2011 Volume 16 Issue 3



Newsletter of :-  
The Federation of C&E and Revenue  
Retired Staff Associations &  
The Retired Members Section of the  
RCSL .

## Editor.

By the time this issue is out the RMS Web page will be up and running and members will have received a Newsletter explaining access (also see below). Accordingly THE BOND and Focerrsa web page (<http://www.focerrsa.blogspot.com/>) will no longer have the role of carrying notices and reports on RCSL Events, although the brief Sports Programme Diary may still feature.



Regards Paul J Houghton (PJH)

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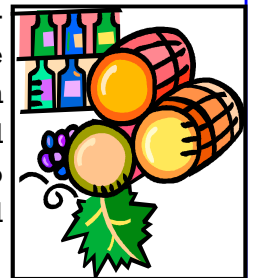
**Ted Wingrove writes:-**“Members of Revenue & Customs Sports & Leisure (RCSL) should have received a Newsletter in April 2011 explaining how to access the new web site [www.rcsl.info](http://www.rcsl.info) . Access to this site is restricted to members, because of concerns regarding the security of people attending these events and uninvited publicity. Details of the username and password can be obtained from the member's Regional Secretary (Retired Members Society or RCSL), or e-mailing [rcsl@rcsl.info](mailto:rcsl@rcsl.info) , by providing your name and post code, or other evidence of membership.

The web site contains details of both National & Regional events, contact details of RMS Regional Reps, and the AGM minutes and other information relating to the Retired Members Society of RCSL. It will also include results and other items likely to be of interest to members of RCSL. The web site will also be available to serving members, who are unable to access the HMRC intranet site.”

**Liverpool Cerrsa Autumn Break 2011** We have now arranged a 4/5 night Autumn Break from **Sunday 30 October 2011 to Thursday 3 November 2011** at **£42.00 per person per night half board** for a Double Room. There are 4 Single Rooms without Supplement and a further 2 (two) at £20.00 per night Supplement after that Singles will be charged at Double Occupancy. Those wishing to book please contact the Hotel Reception direct with a £25.00 per Room Deposit quoting “Liverpool CERSA Autumn Break 2011” and the number of nights required. The Windermere Hydro Hotel, Helm Road , Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria LA23 3BA. Tel:- 01539 444455, [www.windermerehydro.co.uk](http://www.windermerehydro.co.uk) All welcome.

**Prompted by Geoff Travis's item in the April BOND Steve Wallis** (Tel: 01964 612355)

writes :- " The bonded warehouse to which Geoff Travis refers was Hull No 31 BOND. It was directly across the road from the Black Boy (no P.C. then) pub in high Street ..... Hull was staffed by a number of oddball officers in those days I think I joined the ranks on fixity! The two officers George ..X and Bill ... Y were my instructors in the art of bonded warehouse training. They were a right pair of nasty, rude, cantankerous individuals as you would hope to meet, but they were good at their job!! When I arrived at the Bond they were working on registers and ledgers. I didn't like to interrupt. Almost as one they said, "Got a tongue in your head? Good morning wouldn't go amiss!" Sometime later Bill was instructing me on how to read a hydrometer. "What can you see boy?" I gave him a reading he replied, "Rubbish! Read through the bloody meniscus as I told you or you are a total bloody fool." If the Surveyor arrived without an appointment one or other would say to him, "You can p....off! We're too busy to see you." The Deputy Collector would be greeted with something similar. The only thing I can write in their defence is that thanks to their tuition I was able to carry out my duties competently. Fools in their relationships, YES, but fools in their work they were certainly not. .... **As background Steve writes...** "I entered C&E in Hull in January 1959 as an U.O. retiring in March 1996 as a Senior Officer. Fixity came in 1966 as a Bond Officer in Hull No 8 . In 1970 I transferred to be newly formed enforcement unit in Hull (vetted) with responsibility the purchase tax and then VAT. In 1973 I transferred to HCO liaison officer duties and in 1974 became RFCO. On the road to retirement I served as an instructor in the road fuel discipline and my last three years had responsibility for the booze and tobacco teams. My memories of 38 years frequently come back to make me laugh and I did wonder sometimes if I was in the madhouse and who was running it. Happy days"



**Dave Simm writes:-** Our Autumn Break this year will at the Carbis Bay Hotel, St Ives Cornwall.



Commencing on Tuesday 4th October for 3 or 4 nights.

Bed, breakfast and evening meal @£70 per person for doubles/twins and £90 per person per night for singles. **Contact:-**Dave Simm on 01202 517672 or e-mail to [simm362@btinternet.com](mailto:simm362@btinternet.com)

<http://www.carbisbayhotel.co.uk>

Visit the Eden Project



**Prompted by Geoff Travis's item in the April BOND Kenneth Akroyd** (Tel: 01204301088)

Writes: "Well, I remember Bill ...Y and George ...X in Bond 31 , Hull, in the late 1950's and early 1960's but **my** memories contradict those of your previous correspondent.

I was a U.O. in 1959, did my warehouse training in Bond 31, and considered myself fortunate to be taught by such experienced and knowledgeable Officers. Subsequently I returned to the bond to assist Bill and George and always found them helpful and courteous in their dealings with me and each other. They did, I recall, have an ongoing dispute with the then Surveyor and they did have the habit of nodding off after lunch (as I do today)



From my perspective as a twenty five year old they seemed immensely old but they were in fact 'only' in their mid-sixties - ten years my junior as I write this! Bill and George were uniquely idiosyncratic and individualistic 'characters' in the best possible sense, but they were by no means 'fools'.

## Colleagues Remembered.

**Dennis Walton 1933 -2011**

**Peter Webb writes:-** “Dennis died from a heart attack on 8th April having been unwell for some time. His funeral in Southend was attended by many ex-colleagues and friends



Dennis was born in Newcastle and excelled at school and at his many pastimes. He played rugby, cricket, swimming and boxing and still had time to become a King's Scout and attend two Jamborees. He played the clarinet in the school orchestra and spoke French and German.

He joined HM Customs and Excise in 1953 and, as happened to many, was posted to Dover as an Unattached Officer. Those who experienced those days may well remember Dennis for his motorbike, his dexterity with the badminton racquet and, of course his moustache. He showed his badminton skills by winning both Singles and Doubles Championships in Kent.

There were so many customs officers in Dover that of us that a back room in the Albion Pub was used as an unofficial club room - where Dennis's musical talents were deployed in singing various rugby songs and where he also drank the occasional pint. The Outdoor Service was, in those days, an all male pre-

serve except for six ladies and Dennis persuaded one of those ladies, Sylvia, to be his wife. A marriage that celebrated its fiftieth anniversary last year and produced Clare and Marcus.

During his National Service, Dennis had been in the RAEC as an education instructor and perhaps partly because of this he became a Core Instructor for a new tax called VAT. He devised the VAT controls many of which are still in use today and have been copied by other countries .

Dennis was put forward for accelerated promotion and took the Civil Service Board assessment (CSB) - a two day highly competitive exercise that only about 1 in 300 got through. Needless to say Dennis was successful and, indeed so successful that he was loaned to the Civil Service Department for the next two years so that he could be an Assessor to help run the scheme.

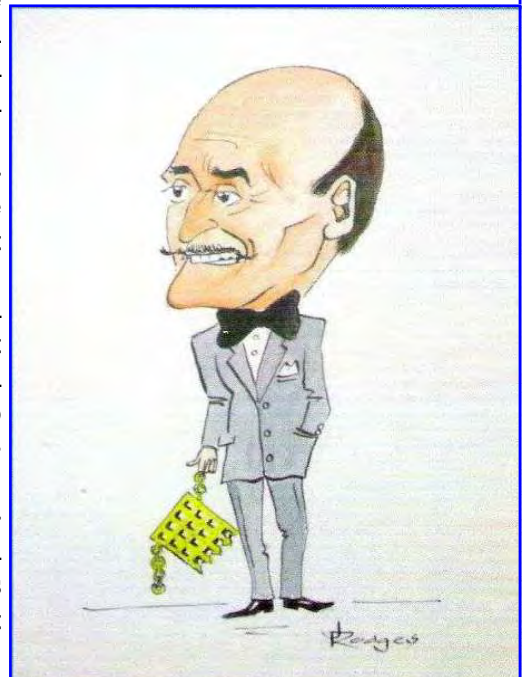
On his return to Customs he became Head of the Training and Staff Development Division in Southend with the responsibility for designing the training for some 28,000 customs staff - a difficult job which he made look easy. Among the many innovations that he introduced was setting up a film unit for making training films. A few years later the film unit was so successful that one of its films won the “Palm D’Or” for making the best training film - beating John Cleese into second place. On the lighter side Dennis took his clarinet to parties where his expertise and the volume of his playing increased in direct relation to type and quantity of liquid consumed!

With VAT HQ being based in Southend, many people were posted there leaving their partners and children behind and Dennis and Sylvia had that uncanny knack of knowing when an invite to a meal at their home would help relieve the stress and boredom of living apart.

Dennis moved to London to the Personnel Division looking after Promotion and Selection - another difficult job. He set up the assessment centre for the selection of middle managers that was also copied by other Government departments.

There are so many stories and memories of Dennis's 40 years in Customs that one could go on and on, but by any standard it was a very successful career. Apart from work, he was elected Chairman of the Customs and Excise Sports Club, the Club prospering under his lead, winning a number of championships.

Dennis was a one off, an individual larger than life. Highly intelligent and gifted , with a great sense of humour, and above all a kind and genuine person. He will be greatly missed by all his friends and our thoughts are with Sylvia, Clare and Marcus at this sad time.”



## **THE GRAVESEND WATERGUARD REUNION**

The Reunion will be held in the Function Room at The Old Prince of Orange, 1 Old Rd East, Gravesend, DA12 1NJ. Tel: 01474 365753 on **Friday, 9th September, 2011**. Invitations will be sent to known addresses. All former Waterguard Officers, no matter where they served, are welcome.

The GWRA is a National Association & all are welcome with their ladies. Waterguard wives are invited to meet for pre-dinner drinks in the main bar of The Old Prince of Orange, at 6 p.m. where Shirley will greet you and where hopefully you will meet old friends. Dinner will be taken in the Carvery which is a few steps from the Bar. Further details from Ivor and Shirley Davis, at **Tel. 01474 352894 Email : [ivorjdavis@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ivorjdavis@blueyonder.co.uk) or Mail to 16 The Rise, Gravesend Kent, DA12 4BX Ivor Davis. Honorary Secretary, G.W.R.A.**



# **HM Waterguard**

(Rootswob.com list : [hm-customs-waterguard-request@rootswob.com](mailto:hm-customs-waterguard-request@rootswob.com) )

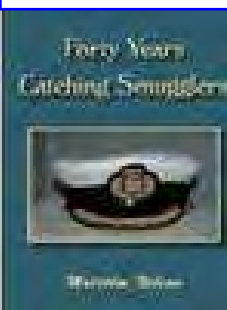
**Malcolm G Nelson Books [www.whsmith.co.uk](http://www.whsmith.co.uk) - Forty Years Catching**

**Smugglers** £8.99 with free store delivery

“ It could have

been called Confessions of a modern day Customs Officer". Malcolm Nelson's story through 40 years of working for HM Customs Excise is sometimes exciting, sometimes sad, sometimes hilarious, but always supremely interesting. It lifts the lid on some of the secrets of an occupation that has always held an air of mystery, and it answers many of those questions that passengers have asked themselves over the years:- "Just how do they decide who to stop".

(Extract from web advertisement.)



## **SOUTHAMPTON WATERGUARD REUNION ASSOCIATION**

The next Luncheon will be held on **Thursday 13th. October 2011**, and our marvellous Secretariat, MIKE JACKSON (Tel. No.01579--363699) and/or DAVE LEAKEY (Tel No. 023--80846922) will be pleased to take your call.

Those already on our mailing list will get their invitation letters automatically in September  
With best wishes to all of you.

Brian Searle Chairman.

**Holiday home Scotland** Boat of Garten, 8 miles from Aviemore, modern holiday villa to let, sleeps 8 (10), 4 bedrooms (2 en suite + 3rd bathroom), separate bed settee, lounge, kitchen, dining room, FCH, off road, huge garden area, available all year, rates negotiable.

**Phone:- 01479 821700**



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.....**Dick Stone 01304 853860**

## BURNS NIGHT – A Sassenach's view

What links 'The Winning Post' public house in Whitton (about 1 mile from Twickenham Rugby ground) and Scotland? That is, apart from that being the pub where Harwich RFC celebrated Andy Hancock's try for England against Scotland in 1965 (I was there). Now a better answer is that it was the location of an excellent Burns Night Dinner organised by London Airport & District CERRSA Branch, which several members of the London Area Branch attended. The evening to celebrate Scotland's greatest poet was a great success, thanks to the organising committee, ably led by Mike Nolan and Norman Shackley with Gordon Hodson in the chair.



The spirit of the evening was set by a 'Pete' (Pete O'Shea) cartoon in the menu and programme. Pete's cartoon in the programme.

Our thought was 'How cruel, but how accurate for a group of former C&E People'.



We were all welcomed by Pipe Major Haynes in full Highland dress, and he then led the distinguished guests (including Valerie and Ian Strachan) into the dinner.

### Pipe major Haynes

Proceedings were in the traditional format, and began with The Selkirk Grace:-

Some hae meat and canna eat,  
And some wad eat that want it;  
But we hae meat, and we can eat,  
And sae let the Lord be thankit.

**Wikipedia** provides some helpful translations:  
sonsie = jolly/cheerful;  
aboon = above;  
painch = paunch/stomach;  
thairm = intestine.



This was followed by Mike Nolan's addressing the haggis. His skilled and flamboyant delivery made sense of what might otherwise have been incomprehensible to many in the audience, as the Wikipedia extract above shows.

Naturally we ate the traditional main course of haggis, served with tatties (mashed potatoes) and neeps (swede).

Mike's polished performance in addressing the haggis gave Valerie Strachan a hard act to follow in proposing the toast to 'The Immortal Memory'. Not surprisingly she entertained us with appropriate references to the poetry and Burns's departmental career. The toast was followed by highly professional demonstrations of individual and group Highland Dancing. These accomplished people then led less the experienced in a 'Cumberland Reel' and 'The Dashing White Sergeant'. Under their expert tuition, reasonable performances were produced. For those old enough to remember Richard Hearne as Mr. Pastry, the dancing here was considerably better.

There was no time for melancholy, but several of us had the thought of 'absent friends' and how much Stuart & Rosemary Stredwick would have enjoyed the evening. Gordon said that he felt he was very much "standing in" for Stuart. We can only say that Gordon did great credit to Stuart and the Branch.

This was the first time that the branch has organised a Burns Night event. We hope it is the first of many and would thoroughly recommend it. Please accept this as an early application for next year.

**Barry and Sally Atkinson**

SOUTHAMPTON WATERGUARD REUNION ASSOCIATION  
LUNCHEON AT EASTLEIGH 30TH. MARCH 2011.

**Brian Searle** ([brian.searle@btinternet.com](mailto:brian.searle@btinternet.com)) writes:- "A splendid day for weather marked the 59th. Luncheon of the Southampton Waterguard Reunion Association in the Red Carpet Restaurant at Eastleigh College on Wednesday 30th. March 2011. Forty one veter-

ans of the old Customs & Excise Preventive Service sat down to a most enjoyable meal, and with several regulars absent ( in fact we have lost four old and valued friends and colleagues to the ageing process since Christmas), we were most pleased to welcome Malcolm Smith, Gordon Hodson, Graham Buck, Mike Melpass and Roger Hiatt as first timers. We hope that they enjoyed themselves, because we pride ourselves as being a friendly group, the food is excellent, and we are always well looked after by the College Restaurant staff and students. As for nostalgia, the air is thick with it for several hours, and it all adds up to a rather splendid occasion not to be missed.



The next Luncheon will be held on Thursday 13th. October 2011, and our marvellous Secretariat, MIKE

JACKSON (Tel. No.01579--363699) and/or DAVE LEAKEY (Tel No. 023--80846922) will be pleased to take your call. Those already on our mailing list will get their invitation letters automatically in September With best wishes to all of you."



**Harry Corben** ([harry.corben@talktalk.net](mailto:harry.corben@talktalk.net)) writes: .....In the Dockyard I examined Duty

Free stores going on to H.M. Submarines and other H.M. Ships. At the behest of the Senior Naval Supplies Officer (S.N.S.O.) I arrived to examine the Queen's Land Rover when the R.Y. Britannia arrived at Portsmouth for the first time in 1954 and H.M. was off on a foreign visit. I arrived at the quayside with the proper carnet to be met by two Naval Officers who said 'We hope you do not mind but we have loaded the Land Rover and Her Majesty the Queen has expressly asked that nobody else should go on to her ship until she has seen it for herself. Will you accept our word that it is correct?' I was taken by surprise and agreed. In retrospect I wish I had said 'No I do need to see the Land Rover and if you do not tell H.M. that I have been on board then I will keep it a secret too'. Move on 56 years and my wife and I have been on a cruise round the U.K. and Ireland. My nephew has retired to Orkney and we enjoyed a trip with him round all the sites there. On to Invergordon and then Edinburgh where we anchored in the Forth near the Railway Bridge and by tender and coach visited the Royal Yacht at Leith and this time went on board. Well organised and well worth while. A shore side lift makes it possible to visit each deck without climbing stairs and we had a good lunch on board. The Land rover-an 09 model-is now parked alongside so I was able to examine it without offending Her Majesty."



## Focerrsa Reunion Great Yarmouth (May 2011) What weather!! Sun/Sun/Sun.

At the Burlington Palm Hotel Peter Trevett, Doreen & Ken Davis (The Organising Team) smile in recognition of the weather on the Sunday of arrival. 39 others arrived on Sunday.



**Monday.** Saw the arrival of 22 to take the numbers up to 64 or so. All were greeted by Doreen & Peter with Doreen's superb Info Pack and the inevitable squiggle pen. ...suitably endorsed. "Focerrsa Reunion 2011". The Sunday arrivals spent the day variously but all sat down to dinner together at 7.00 pm, when Peter & Doreen filled in some background to the planned activities. Chat and "music" in the bar followed.



**Tuesday.** Doreen's Walk featured in the morning and was acclaimed by all. Mary Todd from Manchester was particularly pleased to do a simple "out and back" on the route and sight the avocets twice! After a lunch at the pub where the walk started it was off to Horning to make up the 30 for the Broads Cruise on a paddle boat. Still sunny!



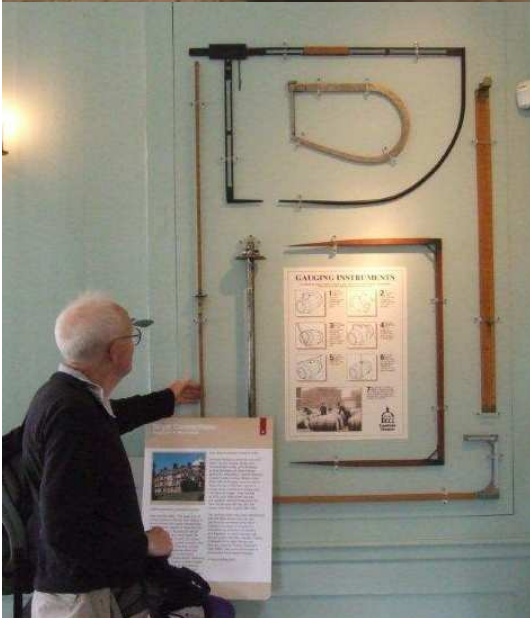
Back for 6.00 pm and a well attended AGM and another excellent dinner. A splendid quiz arranged by Nick & Daphne Pugh followed with a case of wine for the winning team of six and Lavender rock for the "Boobies" (me and others).



Queuing for the boat again in bright sunshine.. How did Peter & Doreen fix this weather?



**Wednesday** The coach trip ( 42 taking it up) to Kings Llyn and Sandringham filled the day.



Roy checks the gauging instruments at the Custom House Kings Llyn. Norman & Mena pose in front of Sandringham while Fred & Anne enjoy the cars in the Museum there. The grounds were beautiful..



A long but altogether another good & sunny day.



**Tuesday (again.)**  
The Broads and the Walkers (Thanks to Brian Holder for the photo's.)

**Wednesday** Dinner and with coffee .. the raffle, with prizes galore and spread around. Thanks Doreen and ticket seller Mary Todd of Manchester.

**Thursday.** It's "Goodbye see you at Matlock Bath".

Peter, Doreen & Ken and the Hotel & Staff our thanks for another great Reunion. **Paul Houghton**



### **Minutes of the AGM of the FOCERRSA held at Burlington Hotel, Great Yarmouth**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Federation held at the Burlington Hotel 1800hrs on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 with Peter Trevett in Chair and 47 members present.

**1. Apologies:-** A. Cross-Rudkin (Liverpool)

**2 Minutes.** Minutes of the Meeting at Raven Hall April 2010 were accepted as a true record.

**3. Matters arising.** None except elsewhere covered.

**4. Chairman's Report . (The web pages and to all affiliate contacts/reps.)**

Gave notice of his intention to step down in 2013, pointing out that by 2012 both he and Doreen Davis would have had organised 4 reunions.\*\*.

**5. Secretary's Report (The web pages and to all affiliate contacts/reps.)**

The Secretary advised that the RMS at last had its own web pages on an RCSL site access to which is restricted to RMS members. Links remain on the FOCERRSA site and the June BOND would also carry details.\*\*

**6. Treasurer's Report (The web pages and to all affiliate contacts/reps.)**

Treasurer (John Lloyd) advised a current balance of £2465.95 and a recommendation for a 2010/11 affiliation fee of £25.00 but indicated that consideration could be given for sliding scale in the future based on membership.\*\* **(\*\*The Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer's reports were accepted.)**

**7. Election of Officers & Appointment of Examiners.**

The Chair advised that at the earlier Committee Meeting in the absence of nominations to the Secretary for Officers & Examiners it was agreed to take forward to the AGM nominations as follows: **Chair** Peter Trevett, **V/Chair** Doreen Davis, **Secretary** Paul Houghton, **Treasurer** John Lloyd, **Examiners** Les Ashplant & Peter Bown all who were willing to serve. In the absence of further nominations from the floor the above were declared elected.

**8. Other Business.**

- The Reunion in 2013 needs organisers with the standing down of the Chair /Vice Chair. Doreen Davis (V/C) outlined the simplicity of the job once the venue had been arranged and offered to give advice based on her experience of several events.
- The Chair advised that bookings for Matlock (2012) already advertised in the BOND & on the web were going well.
- The suggestion of an honorarium to recognise the work of the Chair & Vice/Chair at this reunion and the next was noted and appreciation of their work recognised. The contribution of Ken Davis was also noted. It was agreed that payment of their expenses would suffice.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 18.15 hrs

**Paul Houghton**

## FoCERRSA Reunion 2012



The reunion next year will be at the New Bath Hotel Matlock Bath, Matlock Bath Derbyshire, from Monday 23 April to Thursday 26 April 2012. The cost is £47 bed, breakfast, and dinner per night and the same rate will apply to those booking the Sunday and or Thursday night's I have secured eight single rooms at the same rate. There are also eight ground floor rooms. Regency style Hotel which was built in 1802 and is set in five acres of grounds overlooking the breathtaking Derwent

Gorge. The hotel boasts an outdoor pool ( open weekends during May to September) and an indoor heated plunge pool both fed by natural thermal springs. Situated on the border of the peak just districts National Park the hotel enjoys a countryside location with all the benefits of good transport links to a nearby Derby Nottingham Sheffield and the M1. Chatsworth and Haddon Hall country houses are nearby and Gulliver's kingdom and the Heights of Abraham or walking distance from the hotel. Alton Towers theme park is a 45 minute drive away.

**Peter Trevett writes:-** The bookings are going well and I should tell you something that I missed in my first notice, which is that there is no lift. This is because the Hotel is a listed building and they are unable to get permission to install a lift. **NB staff will help with taking luggage to rooms.** There are 9 rooms on the ground floor accessed by external route from the main entrance of approx 50 meters or guests can drive around and park outside their room.

### Bookings

When booking you should quote Customs and Excise Retired Staff Association and or reference 525456. A deposit of £40 is payable per room contact details are: —

Tel: 01629 583454

e-mail: [Rebecca.marsden@brook-hotels.co.uk](mailto:Rebecca.marsden@brook-hotels.co.uk) ( Front of House Manager)

New Bath Hotel, New Bath Road, Matlock Bath,

**Malcolm Nelson** ( [malcolmgnelson@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmgnelson@gmail.com) ) gives a taste of his book (See page 4) with some "Pete" Cartoons:-



1. The Dover Baggage Hall 1966. The only place with more arrows than the Battle of Hastings.

2. Jock Rainnie boarding a BEA flight in 1972.



**Paul Houghton writes:-**Another spectacularly sunny day at Morley Hayes for the 9th Annual Centenary Shield and the McNally Shield Competition. The field of 19 was played as a Stableford Competition in two Divisions with 18 H'cap being the line between them.



John Barber (H'cap 16) with 36 points took the Centenary Shield and Chris Caldwell (H'cap 19) also 36 points took the McNally Shield. Presenter Terry Bell.



Ron Smith (left) took nearest the pin in 3 on the 18th & John Gough (centre) took longest drive on the 13th, while Chris Caldwell smiles with them in the sun coming off the 18th Green . See also <http://rcsl-rms.blogspot.com/> Appreciation of support from the RMS was recorded.

## Association contacts/ reps 2010/11

AYR	Ann McgGiveron
DORSET	Dave Simm
EAST MIDLANDS	Alex Walker
HEATHROW	Norman Shackley
LEEDS	Sylvia Sharpe
LONDON AREA	Barry Atkinson
LIVERPOOL	Rita Harraghy
MANCHESTER`	George Bennett
NERO Secretary	Jennie Baker
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	Daphne Pugh
SURREY/HANTS	Peter Trevett
WEST MIDLANDS	Eric Hudson

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[jenniebaker@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jenniebaker@blueyonder.co.uk)  
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[p.trevett@btinternet.com](mailto:p.trevett@btinternet.com)  
[erichudson@btinternet.com](mailto:erichudson@btinternet.com)

**If you live in the area contact them for their programme.**

### **Federation Of Retired C&E and Revenue Staff Associations**

#### **Chairman :- Peter Trevett**

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#### **Secretary:- Paul Houghton**

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#### **Treasurer:- John Lloyd**

144 Denbydale Way, Royton,

Oldham, OL2 5TE

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E-mail: [johnlloyd144@sky.com](mailto:johnlloyd144@sky.com)

### **Retired Members Section of RCSL**

#### **Chairman :- Bill Coghill,**

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#### **Secretary:- Ted Wingrove**

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E-mail: [ted.wingrove@ntlworld.com](mailto:ted.wingrove@ntlworld.com)

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[www.hm-waterguard.org.uk](http://www.hm-waterguard.org.uk)