

The Parachute Signal Squadron 1948 - 1977 Old Comrades Association



OCA/9

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REUNION 2006 - THE SCOTCH CORNER HOTEL FRIDAY 12TH MAY TO SUNDAY 14TH MAY 2006

A short update to let you know that matters are progressing insofar as next year's reunion is concerned. Ralph Porter and I met at the Hotel on Friday 18th March and discussed all that had been agreed during our initial visit in August last year. I enclose a copy of their letter of September confirming all detail; note the level of charges for accommodation (£25.00 per night down on their standard charge) and the fact that they fully expect many to arrive on the Friday and make a full weekend of it. Clearly, those who can only make the Saturday will also benefit from the reduced accommodation charges. You will wish to be aware that we have negotiated a further reduction on the Saturday evening buffet which is now set at £20.00 per head and not £22.50 as stated in the letter. Note finally, their clear undertaking to keep bar prices at a reasonable level.

As I said in my last letter, we propose to run things in the same way as in previous years; you book your own accommodation and we call for payment for your buffet tickets, by cheque payable to the Hotel, in good time to be lodged with Ralph by January/February 2006. Many of you reserved your accommodation immediately following receipt of my letter. If you have not done so, you can still book on telephone number 0870 013 0218 (central bookings) or direct with the Hotel on 01748 850900. Credit/debit card number only at this stage, you will not be billed until you check out on Sunday 14th May. Once again, we have guaranteed the hotel management that we will take every room. In this way we were able to come up with the extremely competitive room charges. Ralph has the job of monitoring bookings as they come in since, at this stage, only in this way can we get a stab at overall interest as things progress.

Those who have been to past reunions will know that we have hitherto managed to cover all overheads by holding a raffle over the weekend. It has to be said that, whilst we just about made it in 2004, it was a close-run thing. I hope, therefore, that you will agree to pay a further £5.00 per individual ex-Squadron member attending over the Reunion Weekend 2006. I emphasise that this charge is for members only and not spouses/partners etc. In this way, we can cover all admin cost; postage, telephone and web site charges and (hopefully) carry a little forward each year into the next function's coffers. We will ask you to forward a further cheque for this amount, to Ralph, when you send your buffet booking fee early next year. Our golf competition continues to be popular and we intend to run it again in 2006. My next letter will arrive in December. It will call for money for buffet and for minor overheads and should answer any additional questions you may have at that stage.

Finally, I have to tell you that George (Dinger) Bell died late last year. Dinger attended the May 2004 reunion and was evident, throughout the weekend, enjoying the company of his good friends Geordie Robinson and Geordie Hill. I understand that Dinger's death came suddenly and our heartfelt condolences go to Jean at this time. I will leave you on that sad note but please keep in touch. I am afraid that I still suffer from a lack of landlines in our far flung region of España and the above mobile is, as often as not, inaccessible. However, Ralph can be easily contacted on (01748) 884684. In addition Keith Weller, who continues to manage the website, can be contacted through keith@weller75.fsnet.co.uk Should you have any address changes or the like, either call me in Spain (probably expensive) or let Ralph have the information and he will get it to me. Look after yourself and see you in 2006.

Regards Steve