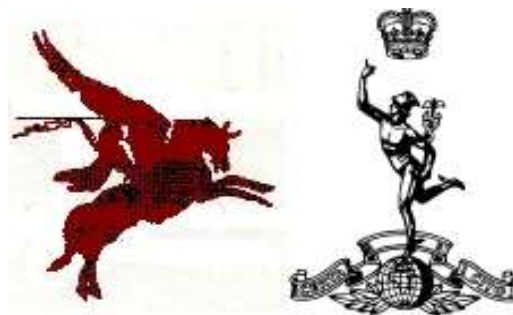


# **The Parachute Signal Squadron Old Comrades Association**



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*OCA/10*

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*1<sup>st</sup> December 2005*

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## **REUNION 2006 – THE SCOTCH CORNER HOTEL FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY TO SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**

We now have confirmation that the Hotel is, to all intents and purposes, full. Taking count of those stopping elsewhere we look set for a first-rate turnout in May next year. Once again the Hotel will be occupied solely by our members for the duration of the weekend. Staff expect us to start arriving Friday lunchtime with the bar area being open for the purchase of food and drinks. We have a clear statement from the General Manager that, throughout the weekend, bar prices will be reasonable and certainly not in excess of the norm. If you plan to arrive on Friday and wish to take your evening meal in the Hotel Restaurant you are asked to register the fact with Reception on arrival. Breakfast Saturday will be served between the hours of 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. and the weekend will come to a close with breakfast on Sunday morning between 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Checkout is to be extended until 1.00 p.m. We have negotiated a reasonable discount: £30.00 per person per night for bed and breakfast (normally £90.00). Sorry chaps but they insist on a £10.00 surcharge for singles. If you didn't manage to get into the Hotel, the following alternatives are but a short walk away and will be happy to take reservations:

Travel Lodge Skeeby Hotel  
A1 Northbound Scotch Corner  
Skeeby  
DL10 5EQ  
0870 191 1675

Vintage Hotel  
Scotch Corner  
North Yorkshire  
DL10 6NP  
018748 824424 or 822961

We must now confirm numbers for Saturday evening's buffet. To that end, perhaps you would be kind enough to complete the attached proforma and send it to Ralph along with a cheque for £22.50 in respect of each individual planning to eat. Please make your cheque payable to 'The Scotch Corner Hotel'. Feel free to post-date it but do ensure that 1 May 2006 is the latest date you use. The hotel

guest list is reassuring but – at this stage - we can only guess at final figures. Your return will enable us to deal with the Hotel on a more positive basis. It would be helpful, therefore, if you aim to get your return to Ralph by mid-January.

Once again, thanks for your messages of support and good will. Thanks also to those who have offered advice and assistance and – particularly – money! As to that, in past years a raffle on the night served to cover overheads accrued during the 2 year period between reunions. It has to be said that we sailed a little close to the wind in 2004, making our target by only a few pounds. Postage has, until recently, been our biggest outlay but the website is increasingly more expensive to run and threatens to become more than can be handled under existing informal arrangements. In the past, Keith Weller felt able to call on the good offices of his friend Ned Able who runs his own IT business. For little remuneration of note, Ned established a site that constantly draws much favourable comment. Spiralling costs, internet protocol and the fact that Keith's buddy simply needs to make a living have driven us to look carefully at what we must do to ensure that the site continues to develop and provide a service. There are two issues; the need to properly finance the operation and the need to ensure that the webmasters readily gain access in order to plan, manage and maintain the site. Recent software changes effectively denied us this and the website now suffers a lack of movement. Following email and telephone conversations Keith, Ned and I propose to get together on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2006. We hope to come away with a workable plan. The mere act of getting together will cost and we must be reasonably sure that we can sensibly finance the project - at least for the next 2 years. I am sorry to rabbit-on but you will, quite naturally, want an explanation to support the following request. I first raised the matter in my April letter but now ask that you consider, along with the overall cost of the weekend, a further amount up to a maximum of £5.00 per individual (not to include partners) which would be forwarded along with your cheque for the Saturday buffet. This particular cheque would be made payable to Ralph Porter personally. Your donation will be properly managed by Ralph and along with others received, provide funds to help with the type of expense under discussion. When added to the proceeds from the raffle on the night, we stand a chance of remaining solvent until reunion 2008 at least.

Catterick Golf Course has been booked and in similar fashion to last year, ours is a 1½ hour slot from 1000 to 1130 on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. During this time a maximum of 36 guys/gals can tee-off; Jimmy Campbell is to run things once again. A section of the proforma is set aside for this and you should complete that part if you wish to play.

Many will be pleased to hear that Jake Mateyawa hopes to be at Scotch Corner next year. He wrote to tell me that the Royal British Legion is considering assisting him with the otherwise prohibitive cost of a return flight from Fiji. Wonderful organisation, let's hope they come through for Jake!

Have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We look forward to seeing you in May 2006.

