



ROA NEWS

July 2023

Message from Chairman – Geoff Heal



I do hope that you are all enjoying the summer with family and friends. Although at the moment it is raining here in Surrey, so that has dampened having a Bar-b-q this evening. These past few months have been fairly quiet in respect to the ROA. Although having said that the Committee is currently working at pulling together the AGM/Reunion, which this year is being held in Chester and I am looking forward to meeting a number of new members and seeing old friends again. My only regret is that more members do not attend. We do try to move around the country as much as we can to give all members the opportunity to attend.

The last Committee meeting was held at the new MDP Headquarters. I found the facilities to be very much state of the art, bringing MDP into the Twenty-First Century. I am aware that Wethersfield closing was the end of an era, and many were saddened at its closing, but the whole place was becoming very run down. For some considerable time, I have felt embarrassed when attending Passing Out Parades due to its shabbiness which I did not consider portrayed a good image.

I have attended several Graduation Ceremonies at Southwick Park and found the whole atmosphere to be more acceptable. To start with the buffet lunch far exceeds that of Burger and Chips, now the selection offered is of a very good standard. The Officer's Mess is utilized prior to the ceremony and after for the buffet, this allows those attending to visit the D Day Room. The MDP Dog Display Team as always give their best prior to the ceremony, but it is very sad that the MDP Museum does not display our history. It is very satisfying to see new officers joining the ranks. I know that many will not stay for long, but that is the story of every Force in the country. Retention is a big problem.

Well on that note I must close. I do hope that we can meet at some point in the future. The ROA is here for its members, and we do our best to support everyone. So, I do hope that you enjoy what is left of the summer.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to give a warm welcome to the following new members: *Deirdre Finn, Fraser Hunter, Richard Bell, Neil Lawrence, Stephen Baker, Terry Martin, Keith Reid, David Friend, Linda Friend, Robert Browning and Julie Browning.*

We look forward to meeting you perhaps at future Reunion/AGM gatherings.

Visit to Force HQ

Normally the Committee convene their meetings in London, however prior to his retirement CCMDP Andy Adams suggested that at some point we visit the new force headquarters at RAF Wyton, Cambridgeshire. In April we did just that by holding our meeting in the new modern state-of-the-art headquarters followed by a tour of the building. Very impressive with excellent facilities.

ACC Jason Gwillam was on hand to give us a warm welcome and thanked the association for their work in supporting retired officers.



Message from the new Chief Constable – Melanie Dales



Hello everyone, As you know from the last newsletter article written by CC Andy Adams, I took the mantle from him on the 14th February this year as the temporary Chief Constable. Since then, I have successfully been appointed substantively into the post and I am absolutely delighted to be leading the MDP. I have now been with the MDP for 17 months and the time has flown. One of my

main missions was to ensure that I really understood how the force was so different to the other police forces I have worked in and so I have been out visiting and speaking to people as much as I can. One thing I have learnt is that MDP really is a great place and I love working in an environment which brings something so unique from the routine home office policing I am used too.

I am supported by a very talented team of Chief officers who work alongside me and in the last week I selected a new Deputy Chief Constable. Kier Prichard joins me in September from Wiltshire where he was previously the Chief Constable. He is incredibly experienced and enthusiastic, and I know will be a real asset to the MDP.

In terms of the next 12 months, there is much to be done. You will have seen in the media, the national shortages in the labour market and Policing has been affected by this. This is at a time where the need for security in defence has grown whilst the financial envelope and resources to Police it, simply are not there. The staff are working extremely hard to fulfil all the tasks we have on going but obviously we need to find a longer-term fix for this and so we are currently doing a full-scale review of nearly every aspect of the force. By bringing in assets like drones and modernising the way we police, I am reassured that we will be able to meet the challenges ahead.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the forthcoming AGM where I will discuss this and more.

Force News

The MDP Dog Display Team entertained the crowds at RAF Wyton as part of this years Armed Forces Day celebrations. An excellent display and Secretary David King was on hand to capture the action.



Those who took part in the display were PC Jacqui Baxter with trainee PD Fae, PC Stephen Sweeney with PD Bria, PC Molly Irvine with PD Tomi, and PC Fred Jackson with PD Cerys.

Recruitment Update - The MOD have introduced a temporary pause on recruitment (Monday 10th July until Friday 04th August) to test that their workforce plans are affordable and reflect the changes they have planned for the future. MDP are naturally part of this process. At the end of the 'pause' further information will be forthcoming. Any information re the MDP will be updated through the ROA website.

ROA Liaison Officer – Supt Sandy Stewart who has been our liaison officer for over 8 years, will be handing over the role at the end of the year. His replacement will be confirmed in the near future. Sandy will attend his last AGM in Chester.

In Memoriam

Alun Stokes – 16th December 2022

Graham Scott – 19th December 2022

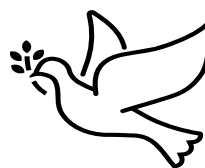
Bernard Dickerson MBE – 5th February 2023

Steven Coleman – 14th March 2023

Ben Round – 22nd March 2023

Robert Hutton – 8th June 2023

Joe Darby – 13th June 2023



When informed about a member's death we endeavor to publish an obituary on our website.

Membership Benefits



We are pleased to announce a partnership with the Hospital Care & Medical Association (HCMA). **An exclusive offer* to provide private medical plans for members of MDP Retired Officers Association has been arranged with HMCA, including a £50 gift card or £100 off your first-year subscription upon joining a private medical plan.**

If you already have a private medical plan, are you paying too much? You could save money by transferring to HMCA. Why not request a no obligation quote ahead of your renewal? You may transfer to HMCA at any age, without a medical examination and will receive guaranteed acceptance under our transfer facility.

This offer is also available to you if you do not currently have private medical cover. With hospital waiting lists at a record high, there has never been a better time to start a private medical plan.

HMCA offer four levels of private medical plans for individuals, family groups and companies as well as **dental plans, hospital cash plans, travel plans and vehicle breakdown recovery**. Our many years of experience ensures we have a plan to suit your needs at the best possible price. As an additional benefit MDP Retired Officers Association have agreed to offer you a further 5% discount if you join HMCA instead of them receiving a sponsorship fee.**

Who are HMCA

HMCA was established over 45 years ago and has grown to be one of the most successful membership benefit providers in the UK. HMCA membership is also one of the most exclusive as our plans are only available to the members of trade, professional and membership groups and subscribers of select publications. Therefore, HMCA is not on any comparison website. You will not see HMCA advertising to the general public and this means minimal marketing costs so we can arrange comprehensive and flexible medical plans that are great value for money.

For further information and quotations contact HMCA by telephone on 01423 799949 and quote **'MDPROA5'** or visit the exclusive HMCA MDP Retired Officers Association website here: <https://www.hmca.co.uk/mdproa>

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*Exclusive offer available to members of MDP Retired Officers Association and other selected membership groups.

** Applies first year only and applies to all plans except Travel and Breakdown plans.

Details of other benefits/services including PMAS, Charity for Civil Servants can be found on our website www.dpf.org.uk/roa