

**THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION**  
**OVERSEAS BULLETIN**  
**No: 5/13**

RAFA/MM2/3/1

1 October 2013

1 Overseas Membership

	1 Aug 2013	1 Oct 2013	Difference
Annual Members	1195	1293	+98
Life Members	1498	1480	-18
Honorary Life Members	39	39	0
Current Total	2732	2812	+80
Associate Members	856	912	+56
Lapsed Annual (2012) Members	212	100	-112
Lapsed Associate (2012) Members	109	73	-36
Grand Total	3909	3897	-12
Number Deceased (Annual/Associate) Members from 1 Jan 2013	92	118	+26
New Ordinary Members from 1 Jan 2013	50	59	+9
New Full Associate Members from 1 Jan 2013	87	124	+37

**In line with the Strategic Objectives agreed by the Central Council, Areas have been tasked to minimise the reduction in membership to no more than 2% overall – this applies only to Ordinary and Full Associate members - for the Overseas Area this equates to a reduction of just 46 members (2317 members as at 31 Dec 11 to 2271 (-2%) on 31 Dec 13. We currently have 2205 such active members (1293 Ord + 912 Assoc) – so we have to find at least another 66 members (not taking account of those who will unfortunately pass away). There is, therefore, a little way to go with 3 months in which to achieve it. A final concerted effort will hopefully see us succeed. **All the very best.****

2 Comparison of Membership Statistics Please find below membership figures comparing, for 2012 and 2013, the number of new members and the number of members who have passed away:

1 October 2012		1 October 2013	
New Ordinary Members	85	New Ordinary Members	59
New Full Associate Members	95	New Full Associate Members	124
Total New Members	180	Total New Members	183
Deceased	136	Deceased	118

We are slightly ahead with our recruitment of new members this year (+ 3), so I encourage you all to continue this excellent work and surpass last year's total of 191 new members. Also, please recover as many lapsed members as possible (still 173) – come on, **WE CAN DO IT!**

3 Branch Newsletter Competition Branches wishing to enter the 2013 Branch Newsletter Competition are reminded that their submissions should be forwarded to me no later than 21 January 2014. South African Branches are reminded that their submissions should come via their Area HQ. Submissions should include at least 2 examples of Branch Newsletters, together with a statement on how many issues there are per year and what the average distribution in numbers is per issue. The competition will be judged at the end of January 2014.

4 European Area Matters

a. Membership Statistics

	1Aug2013	1 Oct 2013	Difference
Annual Members	827	900	+73
Life Members	936	920	-16
Honorary Life Members	33	33	0
Current Total	1796	1853	+57
Associate Members	693	706	+13
Lapsed Annual (2012) Members	140	71	-69
Lapsed Associate (2012) Members	74	68	-6
Grand Total	2703	2698	-5
Number deceased (Annual/Associate) Members from 1 Jan 2013	61	77	+16
New Ordinary Members from 1 Jan 2013	29	36	+7
New Full Associate Members from 1 Jan 2013	48	56	+8

b European Area Autumn Conference - Guernsey, 5 October 2013 The European Area Autumn Conference will be held at The Peninsula Hotel, Guernsey over the weekend of 4-6 October 2013. The Guernsey Branch will be hosting the Conference and a warm welcome awaits us all!

**Branches (for their delegates) and all those attending are reminded that they are to pay for all their accommodation at the RAFA desk on arrival. Extra meals taken outwith the weekend Social package are to be settled with the hotel. Those eligible for 2 nights' accommodation expenses will be reimbursed with their**

**travel expenses. Also, be reminded that the Social package of £100 (sterling) per person must be paid at the same time as accommodation by UK cheque or UK cash on arrival at the RAFA desk in the hotel's reception area. Please note that only UK cheques and sterling are acceptable – Euro cheques or Euros cash cannot be accepted.**

- (1) Dress Dress for the Saturday night Gala dinner is Dinner Jackets with equivalent for Ladies. Serving personnel are requested to wear mess kit.
- (2) Agenda In accordance with Area Regulations, the final agenda for the Autumn Conference was issued on 6 September 2013.
- (3) Branch Reports European Branches wishing to table a report at the Autumn Conference are reminded to include a statement about their Wings Appeal fundraising, and should arrange to bring at least 30 copies of their report to Conference. Branches are also asked to e-mail a copy of their reports, as an attachment (and as '.doc' or '.docx', if possible, please), to the Area Director– thank you.
- (4) Expenses Branches are reminded that delegates and visitors are responsible for settling their own hotel bills as appropriate (also, see above at paragraph 4b). Area Councillors are requested to do likewise. Claims for expenses (travel and 2 nights accommodation) should be made in the usual way on Form 1 (will be in Conference folders, to be issued by Area Director at the hotel) and be handed to the Area Director by lunchtime on Sunday 6 October 2013.
- (5) Raffle Prizes Branch delegates attending the Autumn Conference in Guernsey are requested to bring one or more prizes for entry into the Grand Raffle to be held during the Gala Dinner on Saturday, 5 October 2013.
- (6) Autumn Conference 2014 - Benidorm The North Costa Blanca Branch will be hosting the 2014 Autumn Conference over the weekend of 10-12 October 2014. Delegates will be briefed further at the Guernsey Conference.
- (7) European Area 2015 Autumn Conference - Bids. There is one Branch interested in hosting the 2015 Autumn Conference, namely the Jersey Branch. A copy of their bid is at Enclosure 1. Delegates will be briefed further on the bid at the Guernsey Conference and a vote will be taken on whether to hold the Conference in Jersey in 2015.

- 5 Wings Appeal Returns Branches are reminded that Wings Appeal returns have to be made, via me, as soon as possible **but no later than Friday 15 November 2013.** Any monies received after that date cannot be carried forward into 2014. Any Branch that wishes to claim a Welfare Refund from their Wings Appeal collection must have a Form WA5 completed, also by **15 November 2013.** If Branches let the Overseas Director know of any refunds required, he will happily complete the forms on their behalf. If in doubt, please contact the Overseas Director.

*Simon Martin*

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Enclosures:

1 Bid by Jersey Branch to host the 2015 European Area  
Autumn Conference

European  
Branches, Area  
Council