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To All Members of the RAF Butterworth and Penang Association

9th December 2020

Dear Members,

It has been announced that Isle of Wight Tours ceased trading in October and although both the RAF Seletar and RAF Changi Associations appear to have known about it, the details were not made known to any BPA committee member until last week on receipt of an automated reply to an email sent to Shirley Winn to organize a meeting with the committee to confirm all was well for May 2021.

Immediately, I asked Len Wood to raise cheques from Association Funds to repay deposits to those known to have made bookings for the May 2021 Reunion and AGM. These have been raised and are in the post today. Len is preparing a collective claim from the Bond Holder and the amount recovered will be paid back into BPA funds in due course. If the money isn't recovered, the Committee has agreed that we have sufficient funds to stand the loss. We have also received confirmation that there is no penalty for the BPA from the Midland Hotel in Derby as a result of cancellation of the Reunion and AGM.

The BPA Committee met on Zoom on Tuesday 8th December and, because of the continued uncertainties caused by the virus and possible delays and complications of the vaccination process, decided it is best that we cancel the Reunion and AGM in May 2021. This relieves Len Wood from the immediate problem of reorganizing the Reunion amid the continued uncertainties caused by the virus.

Looking ahead to October 2021, your Committee agreed that we should take the opportunity to mark the 50th Anniversary of the final withdrawal of the RAF from Malaysia and Singapore in October 1971 and that we should plan for the weekend of 16th and 17th October or on an October date acceptable to the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA). We would invite the other Associations to help plan a joint event at the NMA, with a service and assembly at the FEAF Memorial followed by a function dependent on the NMA capabilities at what will undoubtedly be a busy time as they catch-up with events postponed during 2020. If an RAF Band can be booked as an official attendance and a fly-past arranged, so much the better. The NMA event would then be linked, before or after, with our own rescheduled Reunion and AGM at a venue yet to be arranged.

We are all deeply sorry for what has occurred through no fault of your BPA Committee and hope that you will support the actions taken and that you appreciate our efforts to make a go of it in October when hopefully, we will be a bit closer to normality. We hope to have a plan ready for the next edition of the RAF BPA magazine

These details are also being placed on the website.

Best wishes for a safe Christmas and the New Year as we look forward to a brighter 2021.

Tony Parrini

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