



Reunion Report Great Yarmouth 40/08

Potters Leisure Resort was chosen as a last minute decision on the back of the cancellation of the Gibraltar trip because of insufficient numbers, which then made it too expensive for those of us who still wished to go.

Potters (Hopton On Sea) is situated right on the coast between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, it is a privately owned complex with many amenities, along with excellent access to a stretch of beach within the grounds.

FRIDAY:

On our arrival (Rose and myself) we found that everyone else, except Vernon and Pat Phillips, were already seated in the reception bar area! However, for good reason, it was not to be a good start as we had been upgraded to a shared family room in the Hotel with Don and Jeanette Maciver, with a promise that the room contained 2 private areas for couples. It turned out different: the family room was open plan, and far from private. Don and I had no problem sharing, as we had already shared a room in Cyprus in the 60s for 2½ years! Potter's resolved the issue

immediately and gave Rose and myself Bungalow accommodation, which turned out to be adequate (Rose's words!).

Meanwhile, Vernon and Pat soon joined us all at the bar area. Vernon verbalising what we all first thought: Hi de Hi and where are the Red Coats! Most of these thoughts would all be dispelled, once we had tasted the food and enjoyed the entertainment on offer.

The evening dining was to present another problem. The table (55) allocated to our party of 13 was 2 places short. Once again, this was quickly resolved with out much ado. The evening meal turned out to be first-class, with excellent waiter service.

Eventually we made our way to the Theatre, with the entertainment billed as a Comedy night with Frank Carson, Duncan Norvelle, along with Ian Sludge Lees. Although the Comedy was generally excellent, it was generally thought that 3 Comedians on one night was a bit too much - perhaps other acts in between Comedians (with shorter slots) may have been called for. After the show, with a Disco to follow in the Theatre, we left for a look at the live band bar, which was soon abandoned (noise) for our chosen seated area in the reception bar area. It would be late

before many of us got to bed this night!

SATURDAY: After a good breakfast, most of us decided to head by local bus to Yarmouth, although Bob and Mandy Killey decided to visit some Gardens, which turned out to be closed -which then saw them visiting a Garden Centre. Vernon & Pat Phillips went in search of the Holy Grail or at least a

place with no Children! To be fair, Potters had very few children in attendance; it was not that type of long weekend for them and, more importantly, School had their full attention. Those of us who went to Yarmouth did some window-shopping, that is before heading for the front. We certainly walked some distance along the Prom, certainly enough to convince us to head for a nearby pub in the town and take some light refreshment! We spent some time in the pub, reminiscing - some of those who did not intend (including the good/bad old DIâ€™s) must have felt their ears burning! Incidentally, those of us who had Bus Passes, on the account of being into the 6th decade, made

good use of them. Others, who had not yet applied for theirs, now considered doing so! On the dining table, Vernon placed the statuette of the airmen, shown alongside the Cosford crest, won at an earlier Reunion in a raffle.

Jokingly, he called the statuette Eric, no doubt after Eirc May, whose name always comes up on these occasions when not in attendance! After the evening meal, we all decided to play Bingo in the Theatre, this enabled us to secure early places for the evening entertainment, which was provided by Potters staff, and very good it turned out to be. Of course, we

eventually ended up in our adopted place, and drank to all of those who for one reason or another could sadly not be with us on this occasion.

SUNDAY: Steve Lister, along with Rose and myself, decided to go into Lowestoft for a couple of hours. The place turned out to be very pleasant, with a Prom that was not too typical of your normal seaside front, such as Yarmouth. Don & Jeanette Maciver made the decision to chill out back at Base Camp, whilst sadly Terry and Carole Winnett returned to Gloucester as they were unable to secure the extra night stopover after initial booking.. Bob and Mandy Killey managed to visit the Garden that had been closed the previous day - with a quick visit to Yarmouth, which left Vernon and Pat Phillips visiting nearby tranquillity - where there existed few little people! Ian Duckham, with his sister Doreen, because of strange billeting arrangements, had to change their accommodation so opted to remain on the complex. They reported they had to call out Security as they had problems getting their door key to work on their new accommodation. Someone suggested they had been in transit accommodation until this move on Sunday! The evening meal was a 5 Course affair, with wine provided - very nice, too, especially as we took the remnants of the wine (bottles included!) into the Theatre. The entertainment was A legend Reborn Concert consisting of Big Bopper, the Everly Brothers and Buddy Holly. We found ourselves sitting on the top balcony, although very close to the small bar, which was most handy! The entertainment was superb, although Bob Killey disappeared for a quick smoke (is his smoking pass upto date?) when Elvis came on, or any Elvis number was sung! Once again, after the show, we retreated to our area. Although this was not to be a late night as we would be hitting the road the next morning.

MONDAY: - During breakfast Steve Lister said his goodbyes and headed for Preston, with Don and Jeanette not too long after, heading for a one-night route stop at Harrogate - with still a long way to go to Stornoway. The remainder of us decided to meet at 0930 hrs for the usual goodbyes on these occasions, with firm promises to meet at the next Reunion in Sidmouth, Devon. Overall: The (Re-located) Reunion started with a couple of hic-cups, with expectations rather low (not helped by the understandably low turnout and questionable venue) but ended with everyone having enjoyed themselves amongst excellent company, good food and some outstanding entertainment. Once again, it is clear from this weekend that the spirit of the 40th is still very much alive. It now our sincerest wish for many more to be on Parade down Sidmouth 2009. Thanks to all of those, especially the lovely ladies, who decided to make this tour.

Stand at Ease - Dave Stinson