

208 Squadron 'Valley Wings' Article - September 2014

So it turns out that August decided to skip the usual summer heatwave and turned to *Autumn* for some weather advice. 208, confused by the Anglesey weather after basking in the Mediterranean sun, underwent a Welsh acclimatisation course (hillwalking in some horrendous Snowdonian weather) before they could take on the flying training onslaught the Red Arrows and 100 Sqn had given them.

Red Arrow refreshers Mike %Bog-eye+Bowden and Tom %Grey-man+Bould completed their hawk conversion on 208 before joining the rest of the team at Scampton. Gents, enjoy the next few years on the display circuit.

Maj %Kip+Rodgers has also completed his refresher/ full hawk conversion, after taking up his exchange post with 100 Sqn. After his back-to-back tours on the F-15E out of Lakenheath, Kip is determined to spend most of his USAF career based out of the UK. Have fun wit te lads in Yorkshire.

Wg Cdr Sagar has completed his hawk refresher and C to I (TW) work-up and has moved to across to Cranwell to replace Wg Cdr Darren Arch as Wg Cdr CFS. IV Sqn, we hope you enjoyed your recent *Trappers* visit?

C Flt continue their relentless pressure on the baby QFI\$. Sophie Polwin (the happier but much sleepier side of the Polwin Contingent at 4FTS) has made steady progress through the AFT syllabus, only hampered by the Boss and Sawley taking leave for the whole of August. Luckily, our lone CFS representative, the current MT land speed record holder, Richard %Heavy Pedal+Frick, cancelled his sailing Exped and took on this training task.

James Mander and Paddy Kershaw have completed their SAP and 1vs1 Phase and have become the Sqn's newest QFI\$; Paddy congrats on your B2, James welcome back to the world of trimming as a TW C to I.

TW80, the gruesome-twosome, having recovered from their fame and fortune of Cyprus (if you haven't seen the coverage look on YouTube, the BFBS website, RAF homepage, RAF News the list goes on) have continued with their TW course. Stu and Steve are now at the end of the SAP phase and will re-live the AD nightmare when they return to the aerial ballet with the 2v1 Phase. Press on through guys, this is your future - except for you Stu; 3 more years at Valley awaits!

A warm welcome back to all 4 students from V146 KAF, after all returning to the UK after going home for their Eid celebrations. Initially only 2 returned due to flight delays which caused Kingers a moderate level of grief! Youself Al-Senan returned as both a newly promoted Captain and as a Father. Congratulations on your promotion; you're allowed to socialise with the course again, but more importantly congratulations to both you and your wife on the birth of your first child! The guys are now at the end of the course, with the end in very near sight [potentially completed]. Gents, enjoy the warm, loving care of B Flt and good luck with the rest of the course.

Finally the Sqn would like to welcome V149. Andy %Macca+McEwen and Adam %AK+King-Adams join us after 18 months of playing with the RN; driving boats, being the permanent %Officer of the Watch and constantly choosing to hot bunk - Adam %Minesey+Vines and Tim %Breecey+Preece; actual RN buoys, join us from Linton and their RAF BFJT course. Gents we welcome you to the mighty Hawk T1 on the premier Sqn at Valley.

In other Sqn news - Staitey has given birth to his first child (although he's looked pregnant for years -). Congratulations to both you and Emily and we welcome little baby Clark into the 208 family - Kingers is on his final countdown to flying again; it hasn't come around soon enough. If you've met his Duty Auth persona, you'll know what I mean - The Sqn has clocked up another 100,000ft of its **Ex Million Feet** challenge bringing the total to well passed 900k feet (well into Low Earth Orbit) - Neil Battersby was seen to smile, once - Bradders, Skids, Stu and Duds managed to get to Oulu Airshow, Finland and recover without a **big** international incident. Ask Skids about the **banterous** songs he sang at the Germans - and finally we bid a farewell to SAC Hannah Plamer (and Bella the dog!) who has been posted to RAF Coningsby for a Station Ops job. Thanks for all your hard work and have fun in Lincolnshire.