Vice Chairman
Mr J.R.Williams

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Mr H.W. Purdue.

Treasurer
Mr K.Clark

H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

June 1990

Dear Members,

Another year has flown by leaving memories of another very enjoyable re-union and memorial services.

Our guest of honour this year was none other than our old shipmate Dixie Dean, who had doubts as to whether he could perform the duties, much to everyones surprise he did us proud. During the course of his speech he said how proud he was to have been chosen and recited a poem which he had written, of course it was all about our 'Hood'. When presented with a ships bell by our President Bob Tilburn he was like a dog with two tails, it must be said that he was sober at the time, the poem will be promulgated at a later date.

Without fear of contradiction it can be said that a good time was had by all, the organist was superb he had us all singing the old songs that we know so well and shaking a wicked hoof when our aged parts allowed.

One high light of the evening was the presentation of a 5½ft model of our 'Hood', to the Association by the maker Mr R Fletcher, it is a first class model at least I could not find fault with it, as you will imagine the question of finding a home for it arose. Lt A.E.Briggs approached the Naval Museum without sucess, our Vice Chairman Bungy Williams was in touch with the Royal Sailors Home Club who was only to pleased to take it into care if we would have a show case made for it. Hopefully, in the not too distant future it will be displayed somewhere in the entrance of the club.

The raffle exceeded all expectations and raised £166 for our funds, thanks must go to all those who were so generous in donating the prizes, and to Tom Hooper and his brother-in-law Jack who operated the raffle. The table decorations were as usual made by my daughter Brenda and when auctioned raised another £40, sad to say 5 disappeared before the committee could collect them, thank you for your efforts on our behalf Brenda.

For me it was a fantastic day for prior to the re-union I was married to a very charming Lady, the widow or our old shipmate Tom Shearsmith. To date we are very happy and would like to take this opportunity to thank all ex 'Hoods'who turned up for the Wedding.

The Church parade Sunday morning was everything one would expect on Whale Island, with flags flying and band playing from the Main Dockyard Gate to St Ann's Church. We marched under strict orders from the parade marshall Lt Roy Dumbleton who once again came from Cornwall with shipmate Moffat to be with us.

On Sunday May 20th found us once again at that wonderful old Church at Boldre, where we always get such a good reception. The visiting Padre and the Rev. Julian Richards gave us an appropriate memorial service, as usual the Church was bursting at the seams extra chairs had to be found to cater for the overflow. We extend our thanks to Rev. Julian Richards and his parishioners for the hospitality shown to us.

We now start thinking of next year the 50th anniversary of the tragedy, you may remember that at the 1989 A.G.M it was decided to purchase a new standard, which we now have, at this years A.G.M it was proposed that the old standard be laid up and the new standard dedicated at Boldre, it was also proposed that if possible this special occasion should be held on the Sunday following the re-union (26th May) in order that members that travel a long distance could attend without making another trip, to date we have aproached The Rev. Julian Riachards who is only to happy for the laying up and dedication to take place at Boldre, although he has yet to obtain permission from the Church Council. Who else could conduct the service but our own Padre The Rev. Ron Paterson who has served us so well in the past.

Transport has been looked into a 53 seater coach can be laid on picking up and dropping off at the Home Club, at a cost of £2-50 a head, Obviously before we go ahead with arrangements we must have enough response and bearing in mind the lenghth of time required to make the bookings would those wishing to visit Boldre by coach for this never to happen again occasion please submit names to me as soon as possible , closing date 20th July.

Lt. Ted Briggs has taken charge of another project for the 50th anniversary this will be a first day cover signed by himself and Bob Tilburn.

The suggested routine for the next re-union is,

Sat. 25th May at 17.00 A.G.M

Sat. 25th May at 18.00 for 19.00 re-union

Sun. 26th May approx 09.30 coach leaves for Boldre, service at 11.00.

Help us to make this a memorable weekend and to convince others that we do not forget.

All orders(with cash to
K.A.Clark

Harry W. Purdue.

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