



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB

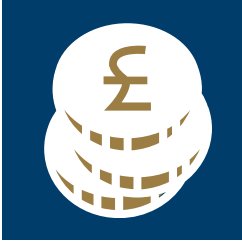
— FOUNDED 1918 —

The 2023 Impact Report



Presented by: The Board of Trustees

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A WARM WELCOME

Air Vice-Marshal
David Murray

Chair of
The Board of Trustees



Mr Miles Pooley

Chief Executive and
Club Secretary

We have much pleasure in presenting the Club Impact report for 2023. It will focus on 2023 and includes additional information on our work to fulfil our charitable objects and remain the best club in London for you, our members.

The last 12 months saw three long-standing Trustees leave the Board. In January, Mr John Fisher, Trustee and Vice-Chair, stood down after 14 years of service. In June, Wg Cdr James Hill, Trustee and Chair of the Membership Committee, stood down followed in December by Wg Cdr James Poynton, Trustee and Chair of the Arts & Heritage Committee, both after 8 years of service. Subsequently, Air Cdre Paul Higgins and Flt Lt Neeraj Kapur were appointed to the Board of Trustees as Chair of the Membership Committee and Vice-Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee respectively.

The Club has continued its work to grow the number of members currently serving by reinvigorating the Station Club Representative network which strengthens the Club's links with the currently serving RAF Officer cadre, both Regular and Reserve. This is very important to the Club as part of our Charitable objects. Each year, the Club sponsors several prizes and awards to various RAF organisations, and the Impact Report this year has a feature on the RAF Club Prize that is awarded to one cadet per course as they complete their IOT training at RAF Cranwell.

In August, the Club was honoured to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to the Club to both unveil a commissioned portrait and name a room after Assistant Section Officer Noor Inayat-Khan GC, a WAAF officer and SOE agent serving in Nazi-occupied France during WWII. Her incredible story continues to inspire us. A portrait of Corporal (later Flight Officer) Daphne Pearson GC has also been commissioned to be displayed alongside that of Noor Inayat-Khan. The Club also continues its discussions with Royal Advisers to seek the next Patron of the Royal Air Force Club.

In September, the Board approved the commissioning of an Environmental and Sustainability Carbon Net Zero plan to support the Club's Net Zero 2040 (NZ40) commitments. These results will feed directly into the capital expenditure projects planned over the next 10 years and beyond. The Club staff-led 'Green Team' has also implemented changes such as removing single-use plastics from Club bedrooms and working with suppliers to ensure we purchase locally sourced goods, to reduce our carbon footprint.

Financially the Club has now returned to "normal business" following the effects of the pandemic and has a Board-led strategy to increase the reserves fund as part of our risk mitigation process.

We are also pleased that for the first time in many years, a comprehensive membership survey was undertaken in 2023 to help us to determine and prioritise what our current and future members will need and want from the Club over the next 10 years and beyond. The results are exceptionally detailed and provide invaluable information to the Board of Trustees and the Club Senior Leadership Team.

In 2023, 945 discounted room nights (an increase of 52% versus 2022) were provided to serving RAF officers when they were in London on duty. The Club also worked to support growth in member-sponsored bookings, including reunion lunches and dinners, as well as weddings and family functions and we also saw an increase in RAF-related bookings. All of this activity underlines our commitment to the Mission of the Club to foster and promote the traditions of the Royal Air Force and accords with our determination to be the London club of choice for serving and retired RAF officers, their families and other members.

During 2023, the Club continued to win awards as an employer of choice, including achieving 15th place in The Caterer's Best Places to Work in UK Hospitality 2023. We are also proud to continue to exceed the London Living Wage for all of our staff.

Finally, the Board would very much like to express its appreciation to those members who have joined the 'Friends of the Royal Air Force Club' scheme which recently funded our new lobby and front doors as well as other projects.

With our best wishes,

Air Vice-Marshal The Hon. David Murray CVO OBE DL, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Mr Miles D Pooley FIH MI, Chief Executive & Club Secretary

CLUB GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



VICE-PATRON



PRESIDENT



TRUSTEES WHO RETIRED DURING 2023



CLUB COMMITTEES & OTHER VOLUNTEERS

All Trustees, Committee Members, Working Groups, Internal Auditors, Librarians and Club Archivists are unpaid volunteers, and it is estimated that around 500 volunteer days are given to the Club each year for the benefit of all Club Members. The Club benefits enormously from their considerable professional expertise and invaluable advice.

EVENTS Air Cdr Dai Whittingham Sqn Ldr John Peters Gp Capt Al Lockwood Ms Naomi Miles Sqn Ldr Stuart Quinn	HOUSE Hon. Gp Capt Jo Salter Air Cdr Dai Whittingham Wg Cdr Neil Cook Flt Lt Gary Hornby Sqn Ldr Mike Sewell	FUNDRAISING Air Cdr Barbara Cooper Gp Capt Al Lockwood Flt Lt Mike Stubbs Fg Off Joachim Wrang-Widen	SYSTEMS & IT Flt Lt Haig Tyler Mr David Alexander Mr Bernard Brown Miss Jocelyn D'Arcy Mr Joe Hardstaff	LIBRARIANS Mrs Jacky Atkinson Mrs Gaynor Cooper Fg Off Sandy Copland Mr Peter Elliott Wg Cdr Rob Stephens Mr Peter Thorne Sqn Ldr Gavin Turnbull
MEMBERSHIP Air Cdr Paul Higgins Wg Cdr James Hill Wg Cdr Paula Willmot Wg Cdr Louise Clarke Sqn Ldr Steve Potter Sqn Ldr Jo Rowe Flt Lt James Traynor	FINANCE Flt Lt Ian Melia Flt Lt Neeraj Kapur Mr James Calladine Flt Lt Jennie Kingston Mr Andrew Manning Mr James Nailer Mr Bernie Watson	ARTS & HERITAGE Gp Capt Jim Beldon Wg Cdr James Poynton Dr Michael Fopp Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert Mrs Sue Hutchinson Air Cdr Rick Peacock-Edwards Mrs Mandy Shepherd	CLUB ARCHIVISTS Mr Peter Elliott Wg Cdr Michael Gilbert Gp Capt Paul Stewart	

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM



WHO WE ARE



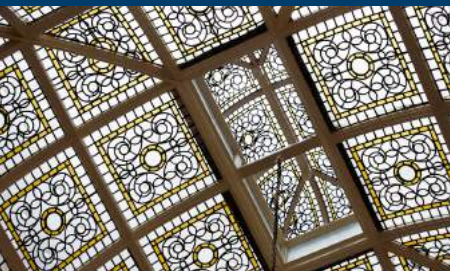
OUR HISTORY

On the 1st of January 1917, the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) Club opened its doors at 13 Bruton Street, Mayfair. Financed by Walter Bersey, whose portrait still watches over us in the lobby, it was a small residential club for RFC officers on leave from the Western Front.

We became the Royal Air Force Club on the 1st January 1919, with significant funding from Lord Cowdray, moving from Bruton Street to 128 Piccadilly in 1922.

MAINTAINING OUR MISSION

The Royal Air Force Club exists to provide high-quality and value for money facilities and services in Central London that are in keeping with the heritage and ethos of the Royal Air Force.



OUR VISION

To be the London Club of choice for serving and retired Royal Air Force Officers, their families and other members in order to preserve, promote and foster the spirit of the Royal Air Force.

OUR VALUES

RAF SPIRIT

RESPECT & INTEGRITY

SERVICE

EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY

COMRADESHIP

FRIENDSHIP

SUPPORT



MEMBERSHIP

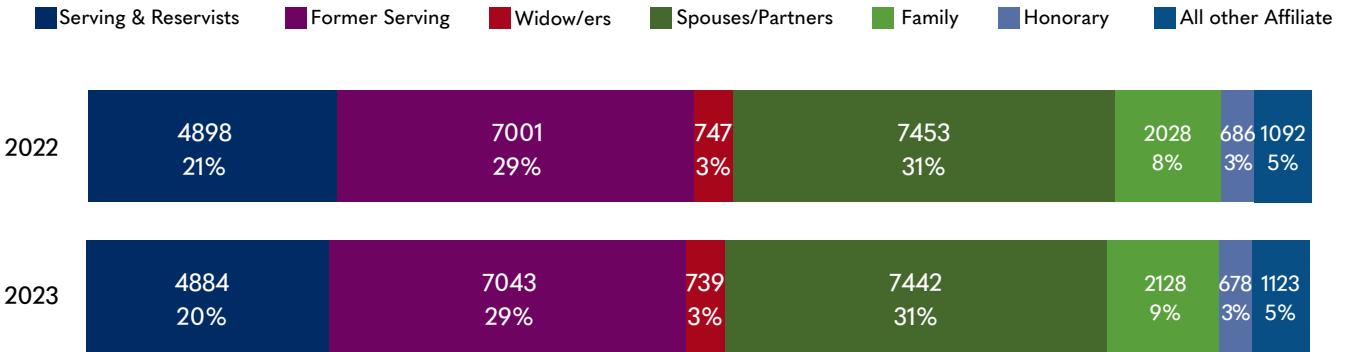
HOW THE CLUB AIMS TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF ITS MEMBERSHIP

- Providing quality affordable accommodation for those visiting London that meets or exceeds the needs of those staying.
- Offering sustainably sourced food and dining options in both a formal and casual setting.
- Having beautifully appointed event spaces available.
- Offering a range of Club organised Member related social events.
- Maintaining an aviation related library, with books available for loan.
- Having a complimentary Fitness Centre and Business Suite available for use by Members.
- Supporting newly Commissioned Officers by offering £1 per month membership for the first 5 years.
- Playing an active role in our local community.
- Social media.
- E-newsletters and a printed magazine.



YEAR-END MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

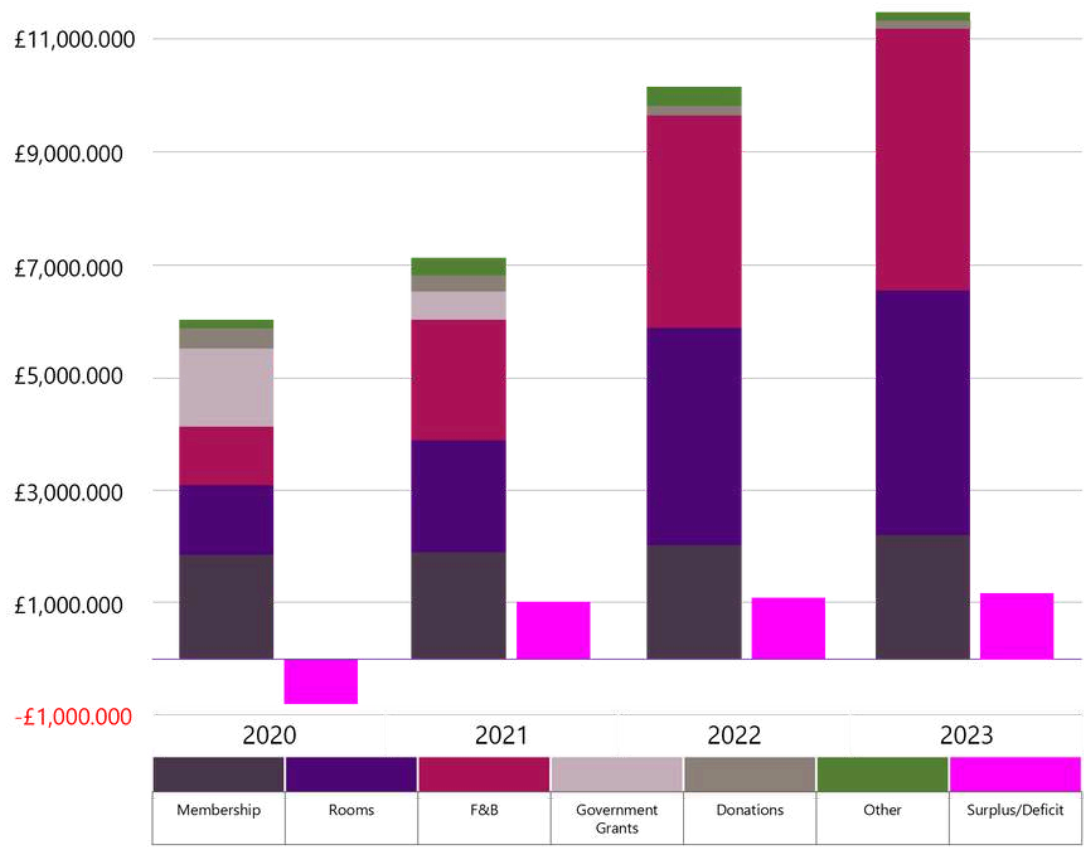
2023	2022	2021
24,037	23,905	23,779



Over 92% of the Club’s membership comprises of Serving, Reserve and Former-Serving officers, their spouses/partners and family members, and their widows/widowers.

CLUB FINANCES

TOTAL REVENUES AND SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2020 TO 2023



2022 VS 2023 ~ SPEND PER £1 OF REVENUE (INCOME)*

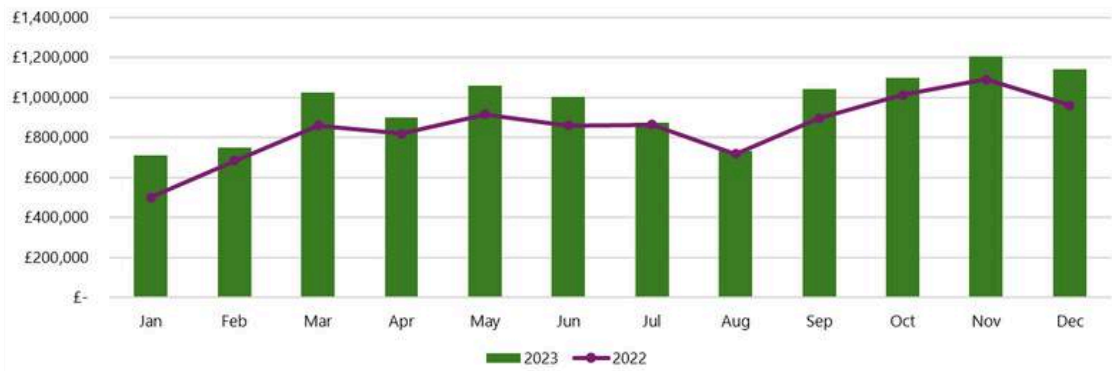


*excluding net (loss)/gain on investments

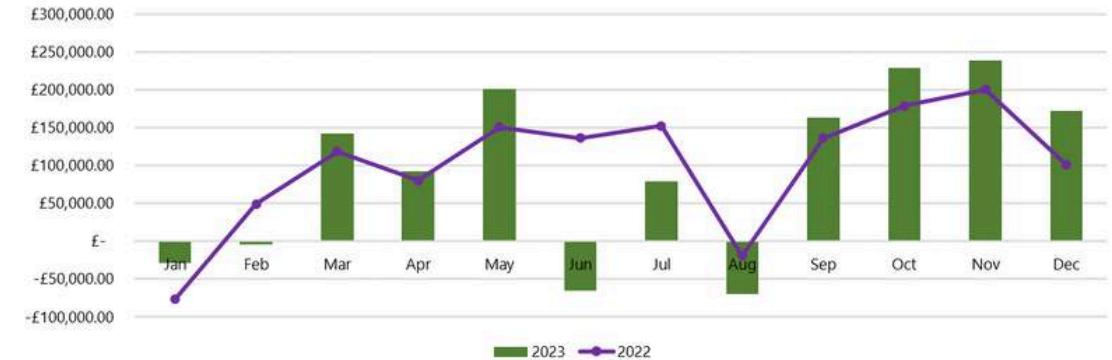
CLUB FINANCES

SEASONALITY

TOTAL REVENUE 2023 VS 2022 (INCLUDING DONATIONS)

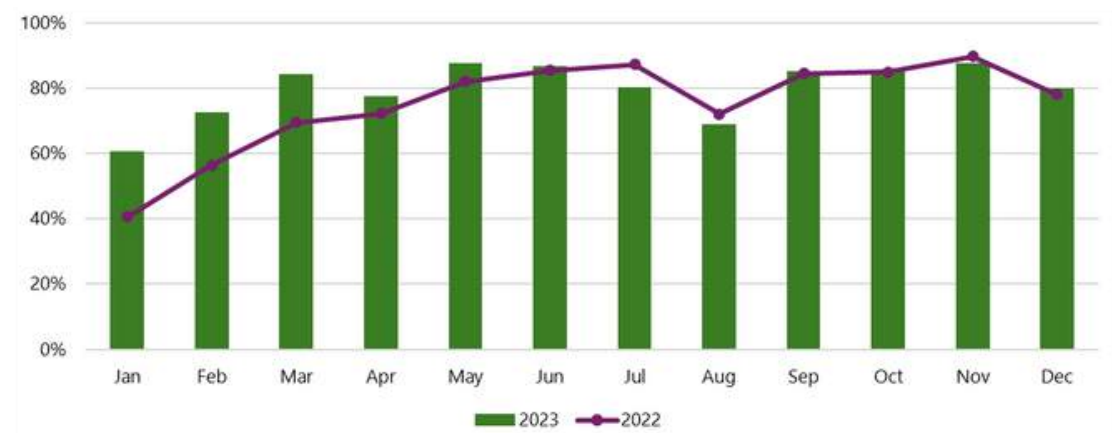


OPERATING SURPLUS/DEFICIT 2023 VS 2022 (INCLUDING DONATIONS)*



*Notes: Losses for January, February and August are seasonal.
The loss for June was due to an exceptional charge for emergency repairs to the building front façade. Please see page 9 for more information on the Club's Reserves Policy.

BEDROOM OCCUPANCY 2023 V 2022



The strong recovery that was experienced in 2022 continued into 2023 with the Club reporting a record total income of £11.5m. Occupancy for the year was 80% compared to a Budget of 78%. Additionally Food and Beverage revenues exceeded Budget by 2%. The Club, like many hospitality businesses, experienced the negative effect of rising general inflation. Despite this pressure, through the application of tight cost control and other measures the Club achieved a net operating surplus of £1.2m which exceeded Budget by £0.3m. The surplus has been applied in building the Club's financial reserves.

Cash provided by operating activities was £2.3m, up from £1.9m in 2022. Loan repayments of £0.4m were made against the Centenary Extension Loan. Capital expenditure accounted for £0.8m. The net effect was a year-end cash balance of £4.2m, which was an increase of £1.2m compared to the previous year.

CLUB FINANCES

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AND CASH FLOW

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2023	£k	% Change from 2022
Fixed assets - Net book value	£10,486	-0.7%
Cash	£4,128	35.3%
Centenary Extension Loan	-£3,779	-9.7%
Net Current Liabilities	-£751	82.3%
Net Assets - Financed by Funds:	£10,084	11.9%
General Fund	-	-
Fixed Asset Reserve	£10,012	13.7%
Designated Funds	£61	-70%
Restricted Funds	£11	53%
Total Funds	£10,084	11.9%

Reserves Policy: The Trustees reviewed the Club's Reserves policy in July 2023 as part of its annual review of strategy. Taking into account Charity Committee guidance and recognising the serious adverse financial impact of the global pandemic, the Board decided it was essential to better protect the long-term interests of the charity and its beneficiaries by setting an increased General Fund "free" Reserve target of £6m representing about 6 months of current operating costs. This unrestricted Reserve objective will provide financial cover for the key business risks such as business downturns and uninsurable and unexpected operational interruptions. At the time of the review, it was expected that it would take a number of years to reach the objective, as following completion of the Centenary Extension investment project, there is a priority requirement to build-up the Fixed Asset Fund to match the increased net book value of the fixed assets and to take account of funds required for repayment of the related loan.

Cash flow statement - year ended 31st December 2023	2023 £k	2022 £k
Net movement in Funds	£1,074	£1,214
Add back the depreciation charge	£891	£881
Change in working capital	£339	-£224
Net cash provided by operating activities	£2,304	£1,871
Capital Expenditure	-£821	-£102
Loan repayments	-£405	-£1,805
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	£1,078	-£36
Cash balance at the beginning of the year	£3,050	£3,086
Cash balance at the end of the year	£4,128	£3,050

RISK AND RISK APPETITE

The Board of Trustees, taking into account advice from the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and the Club Management, regularly review risk and risk appetite at the Club.

This includes addressing critical risks which have the potential for severe consequences and emerging risks, such as criminal exploitation of AI, that may become problematic in the future if not monitored closely.

For each inherent risk, mitigation measures such as financial control policies are evaluated and the net residual risk is calculated. The risk assessment feeds into the annual review of insurance cover for the Club.



TOP 10 RISKS

No.	Risk	Inherent risk	Mitigated risk
1	Cyber security breach	High	Medium
2	Loss of Senior Management Staff resulting in an adverse impact on service and functionality	High	Low
3	Negative impact of possible International Conflict	High	High
4	Terrorist Activity	High	Medium
5	Reputational damage by 3rd party and social media outlets	High	Medium
6	Significant loss of Club facilities through fire or similar disaster	High	Medium
7	Late/Incorrect filings to the Charity Commission and/or Companies House	High	Medium
8	Computer system failures or loss/corruption of data	High	Medium
9	Weak control of income and expenditure	High	Low
10	Weak control of capital expenditure and impact on cash flow	High	Low



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	2023	2022
Occupancy	80%	75%
Member satisfaction	4.67 out of 5	4.72 out of 5
Employee engagement score (The Caterer Best Places to Work)	15/30	7/30
Dining Room Breakfast (covers)	28,901	30,603
Dining Room Lunch and Dinner (covers)	17,392	17,514
Functions (Covers)	36,878	33,503
Cowdray Lounge (covers)	30,602	32,442

SUSTAINABILITY & OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OUR ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

Motion-triggered sensor lighting to avoid unnecessary energy usage	In-house cardboard baler to compact cardboard for recycled collection
Club furniture including beds is donated to the British Heart Foundation when no longer required or on replacement during a refurbishment	Old staff uniforms are donated to charities supporting unemployed members of the community in need of smart clothing for interviews
Refurbished bedrooms replaced baths with showers to save water	All batteries, light bulbs and cartridges from the Club are recycled

“Since 2016, when our partnership began, the RAF Club has generously donated furniture and beds to the British Heart Foundation. The sale of these items has helped fund life-changing research into all heart circulatory diseases. From everyone at the BHF, we thank you for your ongoing support.”

Charlie Walker, Store Manager, Wandsworth



FUNDRAISING

The Royal Air Force Club, a Registered Charity, has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable facilities and services for Club members in order to preserve, promote and foster the traditions of the Royal Air Force. Any surplus from the Club's operation is reinvested to improve the facilities and services for members, with capital projects augmented by individual donations and legacies.

FRIENDS OF THE RAF CLUB

To support our post-pandemic fundraising strategy and help fulfil our charitable aims, we launched The Friends of the RAF Club initiative in 2021 to acknowledge those members who provide financial support in addition to their valued membership.

The Friends have become a pillar of the Club's fundraising efforts. There are three levels of support: £120-£499pa (Bronze friend); £500-£2499pa (Silver Friend); and £2500+pa Gold Friends.

In 2023, the Friends raised funds to help renovate the facade of our Grade II-Listed 'home-from-home'. To acknowledge these loyal supporters, we hosted dinners with Club President AM Sir David Walker KCVO OBE DL in March and with ACM Lord Peach of Grantham GBE KCB DL in November, with rousing speeches from them both.



HIVE HEROES

As part of our passion for serving excellent quality food and our commitment to sustainability, we are very proud of our Club beehives situated on the roof of our building. Honey from the bees is used in several of the Club's food and drink recipes and is the star feature in our Honey Gourmet Dinner held each year.

In 2023, we asked Members to support our bees and become a Hive Hero with a £100 donation. The support from the Hive Heroes has enabled some new bee-friendly planting on the 5th floor roof terrace so we will have happy and healthy bees in the year ahead.



LEGACIES & DONATIONS



Legacies are a perfect way to give back to the Club to help others enjoy it in the future. For example, the iconic stained glass window on the staircase and the Centenary Wing were both made possible by Legacy gifts.

Leaving a Legacy can make a lasting difference and perpetuate your memory to future generations of Club members.

We thank all Club members who have left or pledged the Club a gift in their will.

If you would like to donate to the Club or leave a legacy, please contact claire@rafclub.org.uk

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS



THE NEW LOBBY

On Saturday 4th March 2023, we were delighted to open our new front doors and unveil our fantastic new lobby. The new doors enhance our security and blend well with our formidable façade.

The redesigned lobby, returning it to a similar layout of years past, reflects both the quality of our establishment and our commitment to our heritage.

We are extremely grateful to the Friends of the RAF Club whose donations have made this project possible.

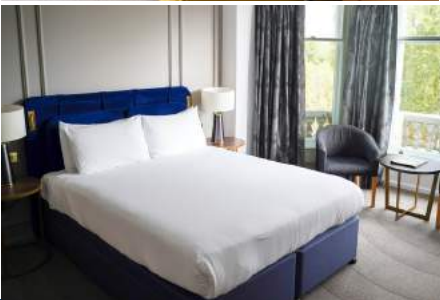
11 REFURBISHED BEDROOMS

Over 7 weeks from July to September 2023, 11 bedrooms were refurbished on the second floor of the Club.

The result is a refreshed and brighter atmosphere, boasting a more uplifting design that tastefully incorporates shades of our signature blue into the colour scheme.

As part of our commitment to sustainability and water conservation, we have also taken the initiative to replace two baths with showers in these rooms. This move aligns with our dedication to eco-conscious practices.

A project to refurbish bedrooms on the 3rd floor will begin in 2024.



FAÇADE

The renovation of our Grade II Listed façade took place from Spring to Summer of 2023 with the unveiling just in time to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to the Club on the 23rd August. The stonework façade was both cleaned and repaired during the renovation.

A substantial contribution was made from our Friends of the RAF Club fundraising scheme to help make this renovation possible.

CLUB EVENTS

Core benefits of Club Membership include the Club events organised by the Events Team. These included visits to places of interest, Club Lunches and Dinners, gin/wine tastings, gourmet events, and fascinating talks from inspiring speakers. There is truly something for everyone.

Below are just a few of the exciting events held at the Royal Air Force Club in 2023.

BURNS NIGHT



JUNIOR OFFICERS' DINING IN NIGHT



BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLUB DINNER WITH DILIP SARKAR MBE



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN UNVEILS THE NOOR INAYAT KHAN PORTRAIT

Since its inception, the Club has maintained close links with the Royal Family, which continued on the 29th of August 2023 when we were honoured to welcome Her Majesty The Queen to unveil a portrait of Assistant Section Officer Noor Inayat Khan GC, a Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) officer and heroine of the Special Operations Executive (SOE).

The purpose of SOE was to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in Nazi-occupied countries during the Second World War. Noor was recruited in 1943 from the WAAF and was one of only two members of the WAAF to be awarded the George Cross (GC). Alongside the Victoria Cross, the GC is the highest award bestowed for acts of the greatest heroism, or for the most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger.

Noor was the first woman SOE operator to be infiltrated into France, and was landed by Lysander aircraft on 16 June 1943. During the following weeks, the Gestapo arrested most of the Paris Resistance Group in which she worked. Despite the danger, Noor refused to return to England because she did not wish to leave her French comrades without communications and she hoped also to rebuild the Group. The Gestapo had a full description of Noor, whom they knew only by her code name "Madeleine", and in October 1943 she was captured by them. Despite brutal interrogation she refused to give any information away, either as to her work or her colleagues. She was imprisoned in the Gestapo's Paris HQ, during which time she made two unsuccessful attempts at escape, and was then sent to Germany for so called "safe custody". She was considered to be a particularly dangerous and uncooperative prisoner. On 12 September, she was moved to Dachau concentration camp where she was subjected to further brutal treatment, then taken to the crematorium and shot. Khan displayed the most conspicuous courage, both moral and physical, over a period of more than 12 months. The Royal Air Force Club was pleased to honour Noor Inayat Khan GC through the commissioning of this outstanding portrait and by Her Majesty the Queen officially opening the Noor Inayat Khan GC Room with this unveiling.

During Her visit, Her Majesty met Shaik Mahmood, Noor Inayat Khan's cousin, before unveiling the portrait by Paul Brason, a former President of the Society of Portrait Painters. Paul's paintings are held in many public and private collections, including the National Portrait Gallery.

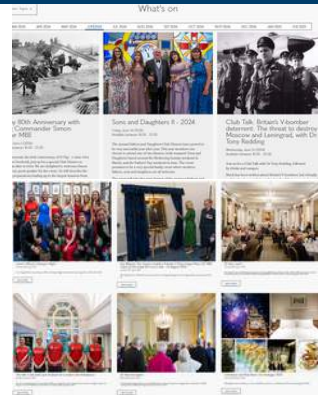
Following the unveiling of the painting of Noor Inayat Khan GC, the Club commissioned a sister portrait of Corporal (later Flight Officer) Daphne Pearson GC WAAF, again painted by Paul Brason, to be displayed alongside Noor Inayat Khan's. This new painting will be unveiled in April 2024.



ROYAL AIR FORCE CLUB WEBSITE



CLUB SHOP



SOCIAL MEDIA

CLUB STAFF



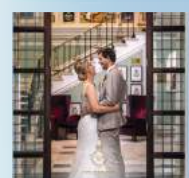
E-NEWS

If you are a member and do not receive these emails, please contact membership@rafclub.org.uk to be added to the list.



128 MAGAZINE & PRINT BROCHURES

RECIPROCAL CLUBS



SUPPORTING THE RAF FAMILY



Pilot Officer Tom Cambridge
Winner, March 2023

MODULAR INITIAL OFFICER TRAINING RAF CLUB SPONSORED PRIZE

The RAF Club Prize, comprising an engraved Club crystal decanter and a complimentary two night stay at the Club, is awarded to a deserving cadet at each graduation of the commissioning course at the RAF College Cranwell.

In March 2023, the prize was awarded to the cadet who, in the view of the College's directing staff, showed conspicuous grit and unwavering perseverance, meeting every challenge with enthusiasm, reflecting the RAF's most cherished attributes and the spirit of the RAF Club.

The prize winner, Pilot Officer Tom Cambridge, wrote the following to the Club on being awarded the prize:

"It was a privilege to win the prize for Modularised Initial Officer Training Course 18. It is prevalent how much support the RAF Club gives to freshly graduated junior officers through its actions including reduced membership fees, events run at the Club, and the generosity involved with the prize. All of this is very much appreciated by myself and my peers, as it makes this prestigious institution accessible to all and gives us a fantastic resource to use to network with our colleagues, catch up with friends, and attend events which further our understanding of the history and impacts of our Royal Air Force. I feel proud whenever I am able to bring guests along to the Club, as it is such a special place.

Since finishing Cranwell, I have gone on to undertake my Phase 2 training to become an Air Traffic Controller, a particularly stressful course, but I have booked the stay included with my prize for the start of the Christmas break, which I am sure will act as a fantastically relaxing start to the festive season."

Pilot Officer Cambridge.

COMMEMORATING FRENCH AVIATORS AT THE RAF CLUB

On Tuesday 10th October, the Royal Air Force Club was honoured to host an event celebrating the enduring partnership between the Royal Air Force and the French Armée de l'Air et de l'Espace. The event commemorated French aviators serving with the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

Attendees including Club Trustees Gp Capt Jim Beldon and Gp Capt Al Lockwood were welcomed by Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton KCB ADC FREng, Chief of the Air Staff, and Général d'Armée de l'Air Stéphane Mille, Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force. Insignias of the French Air Force and French Navy units enrolled in the Royal Air Force during the War were presented to the Club. Alongside this, a painting by Jame's Prunier was unveiled commemorating Commandant René Mouchotte DFC, who was shot down and killed 80 years ago in an RAF Spitfire fighting for the liberty of his country and his French and RAF comrades. Air Chief Marshal Knighton remarked that Commandant Mouchotte's skill, heroism and sacrifice served as a symbol of the bond between our air forces. We are proud to display this painting, and the unit emblems of the Forces Aériennes Françaises Libres that now complete our collection of French badges at the RAF Club.



INVESTITURE EVENTS

On Thursday 29th June 2023, members of King's Colour Squadron (KCS) of the Royal Air Force Regiment and RAF Music Services were honoured by His Majesty The King at a private investiture event at Buckingham Palace. They were individually presented with appointments within the Royal Victorian Order for their roles in the return to London and funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Following this, we were pleased to host the recipients at the RAF Club for a drinks reception to celebrate.

The RAF Northolt personnel were welcomed to the RAF Club by the President, Air Marshal Sir David Walker. Being both a former the Master of the Royal Household and Equerry to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Sir David expressed his gratitude to all the recipients and shared his personal reflections on the significant roles each individual played in the events following Her Late Majesty's death in 2022.

It was a privilege for the RAF Club to be a part of this special day and we congratulate all those who received awards.

SUPPORTING THE RAF FAMILY

The Royal Air Force Club is proud to be a charity that also supports the work of both the Royal Air Force, and other RAF related charities. The support given ranges from complimentary meeting room usage to donated prizes as well promoting and often partnering on specific projects and events.

RAF KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

Trustee Group Captain Jim Beldon took on some extra duties at the Club in 2023 to develop the Club staff's Royal Air Force knowledge and consequently deepen staff members' understanding of the Club's membership. The talks covered a brief history of the RAF, its roles, personnel, RAF ranks and the connection between the RAF and the Club.



ARMED FORCES DAY

On Sunday 25th June, the RAF Club worked with the RAF Benevolent Fund to remember the 55,573 Bomber Command aircrew who bravely gave their lives in the service of the Royal Air Force and Air Forces of the Commonwealth.

Following a remembrance service held at the Bomber Command Memorial, attendees crossed Piccadilly to the RAF Club. The RAF Benevolent Fund hosted cadets and veterans alike to come together for a delicious Club Lunch attended by the Chief of the Air Staff, ACM Sir Richard Knighton. It was an honour for the Club to be involved in this special day to remember the sacrifices that were made by Bomber Command.

ALLIED AIR FORCES

The Club is proud of its international links and encourages officers from allied air forces to apply for membership.

After the United Kingdom, Canada boasts the second largest collection of squadron badges at the Club.

On 4th December 2023, former members of the Royal Canadian Air Force's Air Demonstration Team, the 'Snowbirds', presented their Squadron badge to the Royal Air Force Club. Lieutenant Colonel Dan Dempsey (Retired), former Commander of 431 Squadron, presented the framed badge to the Chair of the Club Arts and Heritage Committee, Group Captain Jim Beldon.

Before its current incarnation as the Canadian equivalent to the Red Arrows, 431 Squadron had a distinguished history as a Yorkshire-based heavy bomber unit in the Second World War and as a Cold War jet fighter squadron.



CLUB STAFF

STAFF CELEBRATIONS

Staff were given the opportunity to relax and socialise at our Coronation Celebration, Summer indoor golf party and Staff Christmas Lunch.



SERVICE ANNIVERSARY LUNCHES

To celebrate long standing service, we introduced our service anniversary lunches. Each month, a three-course lunch was hosted by Club CEO Miles Pooley in the Club Library to celebrate the service milestones of our staff.



15TH BEST PLACE TO WORK IN HOSPITALITY IN THE UK

At the Royal Air Force Club, we were delighted to have been ranked as the 15th 'Best Place to Work in Hospitality 2023' by The Caterer magazine. It is incredibly rewarding to see this high placing in the order of merit, and it is an honour to be recognised alongside other remarkable organisations representing the finest of the UK hospitality industry.



WELCOME TO WORK

Each month, the Heads of the Departments teamed up to welcome staff to work for a treat on arrival.



EXECUTIVE CHEF MICHAEL DUTNALL SHORTLISTED FOR CHEF OF THE YEAR



Executive Chef Michael Dutnall MCA was shortlisted for Chef of the Year at the Foodservice 'Cateys' 2023.

We are very proud of Michael's incredible achievements, both as a Chef and as a leader for his team here at the Club.

MENTORING TALENT

WESTMINSTER KINGSWAY INTERNS

The Club works hard to promote both itself and the hospitality industry overall as employers of choice and partners with local schools and colleges to support this aim. Work experience interns from Westminster Kingsway College treated our staff to delicious éclairs on their last day of their placement as a gesture of thanks to the Club.



APPRENTICE CHEFS COMPETE AT THE INTERNATIONAL SALON CULINAIRE

Our talented Apprentice Chefs won several International Salon Culinaire awards following a week of competing at the Hotel, Restaurant & Catering event at the ExCeL London.

INFORMATIVE TRIPS

On 22nd June, 14 of our Club chefs embarked on an informative afternoon at our trusted butchers, Butcher and Edmonds.

The demonstration was led by knowledgeable butcher Christopher Gladman and included butchery training on how to break down lamb and a side of pork.



THE ROUX SCHOLARSHIP REGIONAL FINALS

We are extremely proud of Chef de Partie Harry Donnelly who qualified for the London regional final for The Roux Scholarship.

Harry is pictured with the judges: Brian Turner CBE, Michel Roux Jr and Andre Garrett MCA.



STAFF CHARITY COMMITTEE

The Staff Charity Committee, formed in 2022, is a volunteer group of RAF Club staff who organise staff social events and initiatives for staff-chosen charities. In 2023, the Committee raised money for the Army Benevolent Fund, Meningitis Now, London's Air Ambulance, Save the Children and Macmillan Cancer Support. In 2023, the Committee also welcomed our Marketing Executive Jemima Lywood as Chair and supported our Director of Fundraising Claire Dakin as Vice-Chair.

RAF CLUB STAFF QUIZ NIGHT

On 29th March, the RAF Club hosted a Staff Quiz to raise money for the chosen charities of our Meeting and Events Executive Charlotte Dennison and our Apprentice Chef Laurie Ballard as they prepared to run the London Marathon.

The Quiz night, which was hosted by the Club electrician and talented Quiz Master Steve, also included a fundraising raffle. Over £800 was raised, with funds being split between Meningitis Now and the Army Benevolent Fund.



WINTER WARMER CAMPAIGN

As part of Wrap Up London's campaign, we were pleased to drop off warm winter coats kindly donated by our staff to Soho Fire Station.

The coats were then shared amongst front-line charities helping people facing a cold winter.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Staff took part in National Christmas Jumper Day with proceeds going towards Save the Children.

BAKE SALE



For Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' our staff baked homemade goods for our baking competition and proceeds from the cakes were donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

STAFF FUNDRAISER FOR LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE

Five members of the RAF Club team cycled from London to Brighton on 10th September. To support the initiative, the Charity Committee organised an in-house bikeathon in the lobby as staff collectively cycled over 100 miles. Our CEO Miles Pooley also abseiled from the top of the Royal London Hospital. The combined effort raised over £2500 for London's Air Ambulance.

CEO MILES POOLEY ABSEILS DOWN THE ROYAL LONDON HOSPITAL



RAF CLUB STAFF CYCLE FROM LONDON TO BRIGHTON



From left to right: Darryl Patrick (Dining Room Manager), Jose Carvalho (F&B Manager), Kate Maniukhina (Meetings & Events Executive), Miles Pooley (CEO & Club Secretary), and Michael Dutnall (Executive Chef)

