

## 208 Squadron 'Valley Wings' Article - April 14

The summer has finally arrived (well I saw some sunshine and got a little burnt on the bank holiday weekends so that counts). Captain Pugwash Gingerbeard Bradley has suddenly developed a horrific medical condition which is only curable by an early stack and a quick paddle about on his sailing boat. It's strange that this condition is only prevalent when the weather is perfect and the sea is calm. With the med centre unable to comment on Captain Concordia's medical status, all we can do is warn all Rhosneigr kite surfers and boogie-boarders to be wary of the small Pirate Ship, *The Naughty Nauti* and her very ill commander, Bradders.

TW78, made up of the ab-initio students Chalkers and Deeno and the returning Reaper reprobates Dan and Mike have finished the lengthily SAP planning and practice planning, to move into the Air Combat arena. The mad mans mutterings down the corridors of the Officers Mess is nothing to worry about; it's just the boys reciting the endless 2v1 comm or Phil converting it into binary so his brain can understand it. Mike recently moved his wife and 2 young children across the country to sunny Lincolnshire. Some say this is preparation for his up-and-coming Flt Cdr tour at RAFC Cranwell, others say he couldn't face the early morning feeding sessions and the endless sleepless nights; we all know the real reason - Mike wanted to move back into the mess with his one true love, Dan Granger.

Having enjoyed more than their fair share at air combat, the ex Tin-cano Creamie Clowns now have the end of the 2v1 phase insight and seem to be drooling at the prospect of dropping 3kg terror bombs in/at South Wales. The most likely explanation to their keenest in getting off the AD phase (other than it being the AD phase, with the associated 3 hour debriefs) is that Pembrey Range closes nice and early on Friday afternoons; assisting their weekly commute back to York. Make hay whilst the sun shines guys, the SAP phase has many options for last minute land-aways and late Friday afternoon finishes.

Our current IDT course, V146 Kuwaiti Air Force, have all completed their first solo and are progressing steadily through the GH and IF phase, with the exception of Yousef who has completed his Progress Check. He's currently enduring the Nav phase, enjoying the beautiful British landscape, but loathing the ever changing British weather. Don't worry buddy, your course will soon catch up and you'll get to re-join them on the Formation Phase [pun not intended].



V146/ TW81 KAF

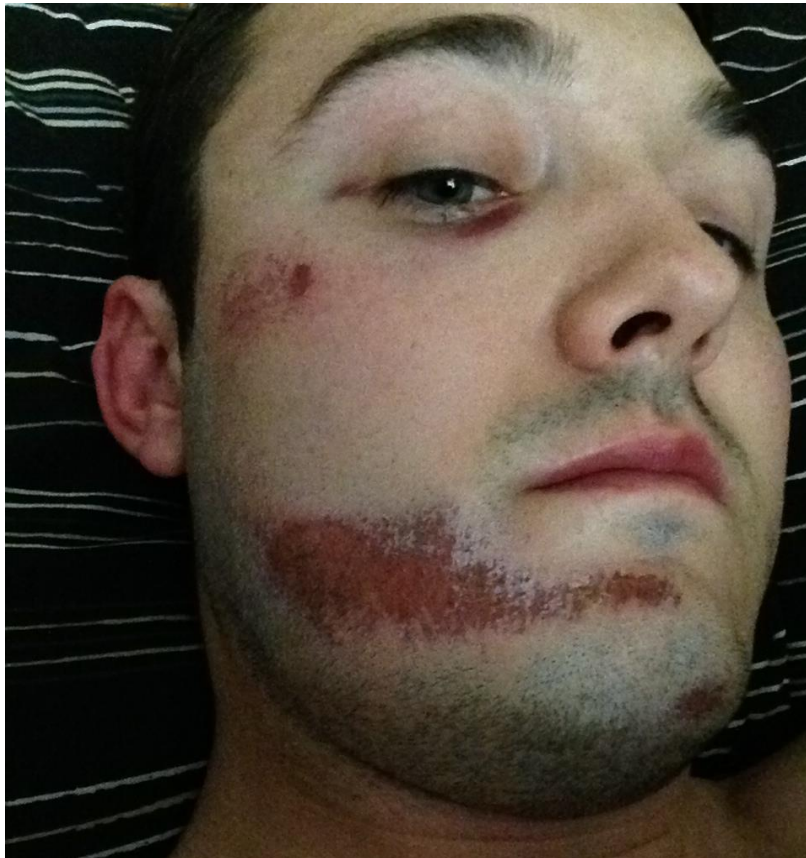
Finally our current Brit AFT course have the end in their sight. Stu Bong+Roberts has been soaking up many top tips from the Creamie Clowns including: how to skilfully attack every avoid in LFA 4, 101 Junta excuses to be used in any debrief and finally, the most important skill of all; telling everyone how amazing you are. Stu, all these tips will come in handy for your [unconfirmed] Creamie tour; sorry Deano, you're out! Don't worry though, CFS groundschool isn't too bad, but you will have to put up with Sawley's constant nibbling on your B2 workup. Steve, don't smile too much, Tac Wpns is a hard course, even worse as a singleton, so we might just cream you too.

The Sqn would also like to welcome 3 new members of staff: James Mander (some of you long termers at Her Majesties Pleasure: Valkertraz, will remember him from some years ago), Paddy Kershaw from *The Mighty Fin* and Emmet Cox who couldn't handle the gentle lifestyle of Linton and *volunteered* to venture across to the windy Isle. Gents welcome to the Sqn, and hopefully we can get you trained up in time for the Sqn Det to Cyprus (mainly as Auth/ DP as the Junta crew would like some flying!).

In the mean time, Creamie Clown 1, a.k.a Kingers, decided to avoid flying with CFS Exam Wing (Trappers) by conducting a double back flip with a tuck under on his cycle back to Rhosneigr. It must be added that this was incredibly unsuccessful; Kingers' face managing to cushion his fall. With his pride in tatters, Kingers was picked up by the MPGS (many thanks for sorting him out!) and sent on his way to Bangor hospital. With the grazes down one side, he has earned several new nicknames including: *Two-Face*, *Scarface* and *The Elephant Man*. It must be added that our Creamie dimwit was luckily wearing his helmet, which took most of the brunt and most properly saved him from a worse fate. On a somewhat brighter note, Sgt Palmer is beaming with joy at programming *Scarface* for all the DP/ Auth slots she can muster.

As Kingers was carefully cycling back home, his house-mate come life-partner, Bradders, was on the F3 love fest+OTF to Germany with S/L Arlett, F/L Battersby and the token OFT slave, Duds (Cremie #2). As with all gatherings of ex-chariot drivers, I shouldn't have asked for too much info: the stories given from this weekend are sketchy and dodgy to say the least!! Duds did a remake of *Freddie got Fingered*, Bradders, well, was himself and Neil Battersby proved he does actually have a friend even if he was the German exchange pilot on the F3.

With the first jets starting to come off the major line, plenty of students/ refreshers coming through, nice weather on the horizon (maybe?) and the Sqn Det to Cyprus coming up, the summer looks good for the classic fleet at 208. To the rest of you guys, keep safe and don't forget your helmets!



This year's No make-up Selfie+Winner