

Valley Wings Jun-Jul 2003

The 208 Squadron article is experiencing a change of hand. When I first learnt that the honour of writing up our Squadron's misdemeanours had been bestowed upon me, my heart sank. But then I saw the February / March edition's article and realised that this was my chance to prevent any other foolish photographs of myself appearing.... And, more importantly, to start the campaign for 'Gingas' or 'Sunkissed peachy copper blondes' (as I prefer to be known) to take over the world. Start small, aim big. Once my campaign is under way, I shall return to the easier sport of 19 Squadron baiting.

On the Squadron, Jules upgraded to a B1 (once seen sporting copper highlights) and we have recently said a fond farewell... AGAIN... to the Big Heave, Steve Heaney. We think that this time he really has gone - he has certainly left the Country. Another man who can't seem to leave is Batty... although by the time you have read this he may have finally made his escape... and Dan Beard continues to bless us with a few new Italian words on Fridays. Johnny and Mandy Meikle had their final farewell at AKAs - an average kind of night I hear!

Student-wise we welcome V74, 75, 76, 77 and bid a farewell to V71, and the film starts of V72 and V73. We still await to hear conformation of the creamie rumours. Support-wise, we welcome SAC Alistair Nurse. He had the difficult task of replacing our beloved Claire, and has filled the role magnificently in more ways than one. He had the pleasure of Monte's SCT a few weeks ago, and Monte is considering suing for hearing damage - his screams certainly caused confusion in Gloucester's control tower! His comrade in arms, SAC Amy Goodyear, is soon to leave us, and we wish her all the best.

Despite the repeated banter from 19 Squadron (can you think of nothing new from one issue to another?) 208 Squadron has been socially busy in the last few months. OC A, Monte, Kesley and Binman manfully sacrificed themselves in the name of four students and their IF to venture across the water to Valkenburg. There seems to be a censor on the stories that returned... but the words 'banana', 'cream', 'women' and 'beer' along with dodgy grins from Binman seem to feature regularly. Kesley had to take the next week off to have psychological help - just take one day at a time mate. A further trip was planned for V75, but it had to be cancelled at the last minute. Three creamies (the usual A Flt suspects - Monte, Chiz and Kirsty) were willing, but no 'grown-up' was keen having seen the state of OC A on his return from the previous adventure! Did you know that the Dutch love the colour so much, that they try to die their hair auburn - 'for sure' - more ammunition to my cause.

After a poor week of weather and lack of flying, 208 Squadron had a rare 'Squadron Lunch', the main feature of which was Rob Manisty (a product of the ginger creamie) defying death, and kite surfing across the lake behind the Mess. We Weren't flying due to the high winds so there are rumours that he beat the World Water Speed Record. Unfortunately, there was no-one sober enough to act as official timekeeper.

Our final ents story comes from the Squadron Spring Party - a 'moider' mystery party in 1920s gangster style. It was a huge success, and the costumes were great - apart from Nicky Moore who got false information from his girlfriend and was the only one dressed as a 70's porn star / gangster... oops! I appreciate that the event was mentioned in the last issue, but Zane neglected to publish the fact that I won the 'Supersleuth' competition,

by correctly, but randomly, picking the murderer. It was the tie-breaking rhyming limerick that won me the title. Us ginger types are multi-talented you see.

Finally to a more respectable pastime - Jules came second in the Individual One Day Event at the Command Equestrian Championships, and the team won overall. Well done to you all... did I already mention that Jules once had copper highlights?!

As Dan Beard would say: "Arrivederca, vivas las Gingas!"