

“THE OLD HAND”

THE QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER FOR RETIRED MEMBERS
MARCH 2017 (ISSUE 56) – FUNDED BY THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

NEW CFO APPOINTED – CHRIS LOWTHER

Chris (aged 44 years) married to Kerry with one daughter, Hope, began his fire service career in June 1997. His first posting was Victor Red Watch and was knocked into shape by Station Officer Tom Sidaway, comforted by Sub O Barry Powell and taught all he knows by L/Fm Steve Prudham and Dave Linsley he then began his rise starting as L/Fm November R/W, November G/W, Victor R/W, Sub/O BTC, Stn/O FP then a few DO positions, Commander at Sunderland and ACO at HQ.

Chris said:

As many of you may already know I had the honour on 2nd February 2017 of being chosen as the new Chief Fire Officer of TWFRS to replace Tom Capeling who will be retiring in April 2017.

You “Old Hands” have helped create a first class Fire Service and I am extremely proud to be given the privilege of leading such a fantastic organization.

I know there will be challenging times ahead but with the support from people working in TWFRS, we will continue to be one of the best Fire Services in the country.

As we wish Tom a fond farewell I look forward to keeping in touch with you over the coming years.



Chris

PRIZE DRAW DECEMBER 2016

PRIZE	WINNING NUMBER	NAME	LOCATION	AMOUNT
1st	1775	J Young	V	£7,000
2nd	400	G Taylor	K	£500
3rd	1220	D Punter	T	£200
4th	1285	D Purvis	Retired	£100
5th	1829	G Hagon	SHQ	£100
6th	202	P Addison	Retired	£100
7th	447	T Kirtley	SHQ	£100
8th	70	D Boyd	F	£100
9th	1120	P Bolam	K	£100
10th	1198	D Ellison	Retired	£100
11th	324	R Hope	Retired	£100
12th	158	T Sidaway	Retired	£100
13th	1278	M Witherspoon	SHQ	£100
14th	265	S Hall	V	£100
15th	298	G Wilson	Retired	£100
16th	453	N Beck	S	£100

PRIZE DRAW FEBRUARY 2017

PRIZE	WINNING NUMBER	NAME	LOCATION	AMOUNT
1st	389	A Breckons	FS Sth	£7,000
2nd	1039	D Dickson	SHQ	£500
3rd	1711	A Meredith	SHQ	£200
4th	364	S Icton	V	£100
5th	721	M Warren	Y	£100
6th	42	J Knox	FS Nth	£100
7th	1387	D Cowley	M	£100
8th	717	M Ward	BTC	£100
9th	460	S Burnip	SHQ	£100
10th	1410	G Butler	Retired	£100
11th	1473	G Forster	E	£100
12th	522	J McNestry	A	£100
13th	1710	D Dixon	V	£100
14th	1036	J Pearson	TSC	£100
15th	138	C Browne	E	£100
16th	953	C Collier	Retired	£100

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Name	Location	Date
Graham Smith	SHQ	01/12/2016
Shaun Thomson	E	05/12/2016
Jon Chadwick	OHU	31/12/2016
Eddie Cairns	Q	07/01/2017
John Young	V	22/01/2017
David Harvey	N	03/02/2017
Warren Mulvaney	Q	07/02/2017
Sean McKee	SHQ	13/02/2017
Anthony Weatherstone	H	28/02/2017

FORTHCOMING RETIREMENTS

Name	Location	Date
Gary Stubbs	G	08/03/2017
Susan Lewis	Control	31/03/2017
Susan Hewitt	SHQ	31/03/2017
Maree Fenwick	SHQ	31/03/2017
Malcolm McGuinness	T	19/04/2017
Alfred Moon	SHQ	17/06/2017

Thanks to Christine Svenson, Dave Harvey and Gary Stubbs who have all made a donation to the Firefighters Charity on the occasion of their retirement.

HADRIANS HIKE

This year's event will be held on Saturday 1st July starting from the normal venue of Twice Brewed Inn. To register your entry please go to www.twfire.gov.uk/news/news/hadrian-hike/

SPORTS AND SOCIAL TRIPS

20-21 May 2017 Drayton Manor/Cadbury World
£89 per adult, £65 per child
includes entrances and bed, breakfast & evening meal.

PRIZE	WINNING NUMBER	NAME	LOCATION	AMOUNT
1st	2825	J Hindmarch	Retired	£8,000
2nd	4081	K Wilkinson	J	£2,000
3rd	2194	B Ditch	Retired	£1,000
4th	1658	S Farrell	Retired	£1,000
5th	1657	A Alderson	Retired	£500
6th	4434	N Anderson	J	£500
7th	4612	L Sargeant	W	£400
8th	2179	A Thackray	J	£300
9th	229	J Yoxall	Retired	£300
10th	1002	R Johnson	Retired	£200
11th	4495	S Crawford	G	£200
12th	4835	A Emmerson	M	£200
13th	1613	J Taylor	Retired	£200
14th	267	R Pratt	Retired	£200
15th	2348	W Dunlop	Retired	£200
16th	2859	B Halliday	Sth Tyne	£200
17th	2614	D Brown	Retired	£200
18th	2513	T Vaughan	V	£200
19th	2722	T MacIntosh	N	£200
20th	3292	K Gingell	Retired	£200

If you want to join or increase your numbers contact us in Support Services on 0191 4441560.

Many thanks to the following recent car draw winners who have made generous donations to the Firefighters Charity – Ian Warbrick, Terry Havenhand, Eddie Grimes, Bill Dunlop, Kenny Smith, Bob Hope, Brian Ditch and John Hindmarch .

OBITUARIES

Name	Date of Death	Age
John Millions	21/11/2016	85
Alan Hood	25/11/2016	60
Walter Brisbane	04/12/2016	80
John Drummond	28/12/2016	76
Graham Breeden	06/02/2017	86

Our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences are extended to the families of our departed friends and colleagues.

CONTACT DETAILS

To hear of retirement functions, funeral services, events etc. please register your email address – send to peter.stonach@twfire.gov.uk Please remember to inform us of any changes to your contact details.

If anyone who watched The Chase on Tuesday 24th January expecting to see a fit, young Bill Stafford with a Magnum PI moustache and a Tony Hadley wedge would have been greatly disappointed. In his place was a slightly paunchy silver surfer with bags under the eyes big enough to pack a picnic. What you must take into consideration is the fact that a camera puts ten pounds on you and there were eight cameras on me. Following a rigorous, but thoroughly enjoyable audition in Newcastle, I was whisked away (all expenses paid) to Elstree studios in London. After a night in a Premier Inn I was picked up by a Chauffeur-driven car and taken to the studios where I met my fellow contestants.

To say we were "looked after" is an understatement. We had our own separate dressing rooms, make-up artist and wardrobe person to ensure we all looked our best in front of camera. The show takes up to three and a half hours to record with three shows a day on the agenda. They'd probably get four shows in if it wasn't for the antics of the brilliant Bradley Walsh.

Weeks after the show everything was becoming a blur. I could barely remember questions I'd answered, or didn't as the case may be. It was only when the show was aired did I realise how close to defeat we had been. Three of us had amassed a very respectable fourteen thousand pounds, unfortunately contestant number four didn't make it to the final.

Only three of us had made the final where we had scored seventeen steps ahead of the Chaser, Shaun Wallace (The Dark Destroyer) so we knew we needed pushbacks. The Chaser started superbly, reeling off answers with ease condemning us to an early defeat, or so we thought. Then he stumbled on a film question when Jeff, contestant number three, countered with a crucial brilliant answer. After that the Chaser stumbled on several questions of which we took full advantage. We were confronted with six push-backs and successfully executed them all to win by seconds.

If anyone ever fancies a go at a TV quiz show but their nerves have gotten the better of them, just do it! Win or lose it is a fantastic experience and one ticked off the bucket list. Look out Tipping Point!

Bill Stafford

GOLF SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017

The subscriptions for 2017 golf season are now due at £5.00, plus an additional £1.00 for those who wish to enter the Brigade Match Play Championship. Payment of subscriptions is required to be by cheque made payable to Tyne & Wear Fire Brigade Golf Society. **This form should be completed and sent with the cheque to CHRIS REAH, STN SIERRA or to Washington Community Fire Station, Glover Road, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE9 5BU.** Or done through Internet banking to: Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade Golf Society – sort code: 402204 – acc no: 91185969 – reference GOLF MEMBERSHIP. <http://twfrsgolfsection.weebly.com> is the direct link to the external website and your best reference for all things Brigade Golf related.

Chris Reah

I wish to join the Brigade Golf Society for 2017 season.
 I wish / do not wish * to enter the match play championship.
 Please find enclosed my cheque for £

*Delete as applicable

Name

Address.....

Email address

Tel No

Golf Club (if applicable)..... Exact Club Handicap