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NOAH'S ARC

The Club of the 14th/20th King's Hussars

Chairman: Bob Harrison Vice-Chairman: Mick McGowan, Secretary: Bob Harrison, President: Brian Draper

Shy Talk
The NEWSLETTER of Noah's Arc
The Club of the 14th/20th King's Hussars

Dear Members of Noah's Arc,

This is an impromptu issue of *Shy Talk* to tell you about a change in location for our 2012 Reunion and beyond. Our committee have been very busy over the last few weeks looking at alternative accommodation for our reunions. We are pleased to announce that our next reunion will be held:

20th/21st April 2012

at



54-62 Queens Promenade | Blackpool | FY2 9RP | Telephone (01253) 352723

Why change?

We have recently held our third reunion at *The Savoy Hotel*, Blackpool – equalling the longest stay we have had at any of our former hotels – and a feeling has emerged that ‘it’s time for a change’. Over the three years too we have experienced many bookings discrepancies, poor housekeeping and, this year, disappointing fare – breakfast particularly. This year we were also somewhat crowded out by the presence of two wedding receptions sharing the hotel’s facilities.

That said, we have written to the management of *The Savoy* to thank them for hosting our parties and providing an excellent function setting, amenities and entertainment.

The Alternatives

We have looked at a total of twelve hotels – located from Cumbria, through Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales. At an early stage we eliminated those hotels that could not meet our price structure demands, or were considered to be too far out, or could not host a party of our size.

Our final visits were made to three hotels that met our criteria and that we felt were worth a visit to further negotiate detailed terms. This number was soon reduced when one of them was inflexible on certain pricing aspects. At a subsequent Committee Meeting we then went on to discuss at great length the merits of the two remaining options and unanimously came down on the side of **Hotel Sheraton**. A second vote also saw **The Sheraton** come out on top of **The Savoy**.

Hotel Sheraton

The Sheraton has a commanding position on *Queens Promenade* overlooking the Irish Sea. It will be the first time that we have chosen a family-run hotel (since our days at *Atherton Arms*) and we can already see benefits – management are not constrained by large Group policies, for instance – and we have been warmly welcomed by them. There is already an air that they are out to please in meeting our needs.

In the last few years the hotel has begun a major refurbishment and this can already be seen in the public rooms on the ground floor. They are spacious, tastefully decorated, clean and comfortable. We are happy that they will provide the sort of environment to ensure the future success of Noah's Arc.

Refurbishment has also begun upstairs in the accommodation areas, but it is ongoing. In January 2012, and each January beyond, further work will be carried out – the Hotel closes for a week – and so standards will improve during our stay. The hotel is rated AA**RAC and committee members have examined many of the bedrooms, finding them to be perfectly acceptable for our purpose. They are clean, comfortable and many have upgraded bathrooms. In addition to the main hotel there is a lodge (adjacent to the side) with a further 22 bedrooms (making a total of 104) and so the Hotel can easily accommodate our numbers.

We believe that we have negotiated an outstanding deal with the Hotel that includes: excellent 2-night and 3-night (£99) rates with no premium for Superior or Sea View rooms; discounted bar, and all the facilities we look for. Since our Members have not pre-booked anywhere for 2012 we urge you now to take advantage of these rates – **the hotel will allocate according to length of stay and then on a first-come first-served basis**. For further details please see the enclosed leaflet and brochure.

Let's show them what we're made of – please get those bookings in right away.

Note: Further details about the Reunion, with Tickets details and Order Form, will be with you later in the year.