

The Funeral of Derek (Pete) Goodwin MBE

Report by Dave Welsh

Derek, Pete to his friends, passed away after a fall in September. For everyone who knew him, it has been difficult to get used to the fact that Pete is no longer with us. He was the senior member of the Spirit of Coltishall Association and the Curator of the RAF Coltishall Memorial Rooms at the RAF Air Defence Radar Museum (RAF ADRM). He was also Chairman of the Kingfisher Angling Club and a star player at the Ten Pin Bowling Club.

Pete's funeral took place at St Faith's Crematorium, Norwich, on the 13th October 2014. There were some 150 people in attendance both seated and standing in the aisle with many having to stand outside. The hearse was led by a lone piper and five Standards from RAFA and the RBL. A guard of honour was mounted and followed the hearse to the chapel: but Pete certainly had the last laugh as the day was extremely wet and he did not like a fuss!



The Service was led by the Reverend Andrew Lane, who was at RAF Coltishall for five years, with a family eulogy by Ron Fraser, a close family friend and Dave Welsh, SoCA Chairman who covered Pete's other activities for SoCA and the Museum as well as his many other social activities including the Tuesday Nite Club.

The wake was held at the Wensum Valley Hotel, a place that Pete loved and had attended many SoCA functions including Balls, Top Table Lunches and Rock & Roll Nights. Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Graydon RAF (Rtd), known as 'the boss' and who always had great respect for Pete from a time when they were both on No11 Squadron, said a few words about his time on the squadron with Pete who was his Engineering Warrant Officer. He reminisced over one or two stories that made us all smile as we could relate these to Pete. Finally it was announced that the room that reflects the Operational aspects of RAF Coltishall in the RAF CMRs at Neatishead, is to be named 'The Pete Goodwin' room.

