



33 Squadron Association supports the Michelle Jurd Memorial Trust Fund Raising Ball

Many of you reading this edition of 'Loyalty' will remember Michelle Jurd and that wonderful smile, which lit up many an SH crewroom and deployment. After retiring from the RAF to spend more time with her family, we were all shocked to hear that she had been killed in a car crash. Michelle's husband, Neil, an Army officer who she met in Belize, set up a Trust in her name and since 2010 he has organized an Annual Fund Raising Ball, the most recent being last Saturday, 18 November. The Association donated a couple of prizes for the auction, a bottle of Centenary whisky and a visit to the MSHATF, which raised £1 000. Neil has been kind enough to send us an advance copy of the Press Release:

"More than 130 guests attended the 8th Annual Michelle Jurd Memorial Trust (MJMT) Ball that was held on Saturday night at the Netherwood Hotel in Grange over Sands.

The MJMT was founded in memory of Michelle Jurd, a mother of 2 and former RAF helicopter navigator who was killed in a collision in 2009. Since then the MJMT has raised over £125,000. The money raised goes to promote adventurous training and arts based extracurricular activity for young people, and also makes large donations to military charities including the RAF Benevolent Fund and Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Ball guests arriving at the Netherwood were welcomed by the Corps of Drums of Lancashire Army Cadets, who lined the very grand steps up the Netherwood Hotel's imposing entrance. The MJMT has previously made donations to both Cumbria and Lancashire Army Cadets. Once inside guests were welcomed with champagne, before a bugler played to announce dinner.

After the 3 course dinner Neil Jurd spoke to guests about the purpose of the charity, and thanked Ball organiser Alison Read for her hard work and dedication. Guests then saw the short film that the MJMT has produced, showing the work of the charity.

The auctioneer, Mr James Leeper hosted the auction of a number of very special prizes, including a private tour of Windsor Castle, a trip in a flight simulator, a VIP tour for the Aston Martin factory, dinner for 4 at Holbeck Ghyll Hotel and a helicopter flight over Windermere.

Next year's ball will be on the 24 November".

Neil is always on the lookout for donations, assistance, auction prizes for the Fund Raiser, and people who would like to attend the Trust Ball. Information on Michelle's Trust, and a donation page link, can be found at www.michellejurdtrust.org.



Sam Dawson, Alison Read, Neil Jurd and Jane Sampson