

ROCA Trophy –73 Squadron

73 Squadron Air Training Corps have been presented with a new cadet achievement trophy by the Tuesday Club of the Royal Observer Corps Association. The trophy is to commemorate ex Chief Observer Mavis Hedger BEM who died of cancer in 2006. The presentation was made at a special parade in the squadron's headquarters in RAF Brampton. Flt. Lt. Heather Pateman received the trophy depicting Battle of Britain RAF aircraft from George Hedger the husband of Mavis, ex Observer Lt. John Simmonds and ex Observer Officer Edwina Holden MBE.

The cadets were told about the very close link between the Royal Observer Corps (ROC) and the RAF that existed right up until the ROC were finally 'Stood Down' at the end of 1995. In the final four years the ROC provided 15 teams of personnel trained to carry out Nuclear, Biological & Chemical plotting and reporting at key RAF stations. One of these being at RAF Brampton. Mavis Hedger joined the ROC in 1963 and initially served in the underground Group Control building in Bedford during the Cold War period. Mavis then completed her service in 1995 with the NBC team at RAF Bentley Priory. The NBC team at Brampton were represented by John Shere (now an instructor with 73 Sqn.) and Peter Plant who both served as supervisors with the ex ROC team.

The trophy is due to be presented to a cadet for the first time at the January Awards Evening.