

**THE BLYTHE SAPPERS**  
**63<sup>RD</sup> MANAGEMENT MEETING**  
**1100hrs Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011**  
**THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, LONDON**

**Those Present:**

Sapper Idris Pearce	Chairman
Sapper John Moore-Bick	Vice Chairman
Sapper Bill Woodburn	Chairman Designate 2012
Sapper Hooky Walker	Chairman Delegate 2013
Sapper Charles Holman	Honorary Membership Secretary
Sapper Roy Wilsher	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper John Wilks	Honorary Auditor
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Link Member
Sapper John McLennan	Honorary Secretary

1. **Item 1 Introduction.** The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance. He especially welcomed Sapper Hooky Walker to his first meeting.
2. **Item 2 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Colonel Sean Harris Regt Col, Sapper Brian Pearce.
3. **Item 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Blythe Sappers Management Committee had been published on the BS website for a month. The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed.
4. **Item 4. Matters Arising.** There were No Matters Arising.
5. **Item 5. Finance.** Sapper Roy Wilsher referred to the revised Blythe Sappers Budget sheet and is attached at **Annex A.**
  - **Grants.** The Hon Sec reported that we had received three letters of thanks from the Forces Children's Trust, The Army Widows Association and Not Forgotten Association each to who we gave £1,000.
6. **Item 6. Corps & TA Report.** This had been circulated before the meeting and is attached at **Annex B.**

The Regt Col's report on the Corps is attached to these Minutes **at Annex B.**

- 7 **Item 7. Casualties Since Last Meeting**

**Deceased.** Sapper Ronald Frederick Hughes, Sapper Vernon Smith,  
Sapper Archie Mackenzie, Sapper Knobby Reid, Sapper Tom McMillan.

**Resigned:** Sapper Ossie Radford

8 **Item 8. Nominations for New Members**

<b>Nomination</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Captain Michael Gostick	Sapper Ian Stewart	Sapper Shaun Murphy
Colonel John Pelton	Sapper John McLennan	Sapper Charles Holman
Michael Rainbird	Sapper Alan Gillett	Sapper Idris Pearce
Maj Gen Roy Wood	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper John McLennan
Lt Col Roger Morton	Sapper Inge	Sapper Walker

All Approved

9. **Item 9 Attendance & Arrangements for Today's Luncheon**

Principle Guest: **General The Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL**

Total number Attending **120**

Number of Guests **30**

Those to Rise **0**

10. **Any Other Business**

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 11 **Christmas Lunch Baroness Boothroyd**

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** 1100hrs on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 the Christmas Lunch**  
under the Chairmanship of Sapper Idris Pearce.



**Sapper Idris Pearce**  
Chairman  
The Blythe Sappers

**Sapper John R McLennan**  
Honorary Secretary  
The Blythe Sappers

Dec 11

Nov 2011

***Annex A***  
***The Blythe Sappers Trial Balance 2011***

**TRIAL BALANCE BLYTHE SAPPERS ACCOUNT AS AT 30  
SEPTEMBER 2011**

**PREPARED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Item	Debit	Credit	Notes referring to the Debit and Credit items
Cash at Bank 01 January 2011		4,899.06	
Lunches	9,755.50	16,058.50	October Lunch invoice not yet rec'd
Lunch refunds	162.00	-	Spr Jessop
Dinner Night	4,285.74	4,184.00	Fees so far received
Dinner refunds	126.00	-	Cotter, Nowers
Guest Lunches	324.00	-	Guest Spkr, Hon Sec, Hon Treas Mar + Jun Lunch
Subscriptions	-	3,165.00	312 members paid so far
Overpaid subs	-	30.00	Sprs McAlpine, Sandburg, Wilson M
Joining fees	-	30.00	Warburton, Welch, Melvin
Sweepstake	300.00	708.00	Tickets sold to date
Adv Trg Fund		-	No grant this year to date
Sundries	48.91	0.01	Engraving, past Chairman salver
Mtg Room Committee exp'e	209.54	-	March and June Lunches
Bank Interest	-	-	Nil so far this year
Donations	3,000.00	173.50	8 Members contributions
Hon Treasurer Expenditure	134.91	-	Postage, travel, printing
Hon Secretary Expenditure	262.63	-	Postage, travel, Draw tickets
Debtors	-		
Creditor A&N Club		5,595.58	Estimated cost of October Lunch
Cash at Bank 30 SEP11	11,335.36	0	
<b>TOTAL &amp; BALANCE</b>	<b>29,944.59</b>	<b>29,944.59</b>	

**Annex B  
Corps Report**

**CORPS UPDATE AS AT 22 AUG 11**

**HEADLINE ISSUES**

- **Manning (Army Personnel Statistics Report, as at 1 Jul 11).**

	Held strength	Army Liability	Difference	Held Strength as % of Army Liability	• TA Manning (RE TA) – RE TA unit manning as at
Officers	1,330	1,202	+128	111	

	(DE – 980, LE – 350)			
Soldiers	8,350	8,204	+146	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,680</b>	<b>9,406</b>	<b>+274</b>	<b>103</b>
Of which: Females	160			
Foreign & Commonwealth	475			
QGE Soldiers	400	297	+103	135

Jul 11 was 229 officers (72% manned) and 2408 ORs (62% manned) an increase of \* + 75 since Jan 11. Under planned Army reorganisations,

the wider-TA will increase in strength to 32,000 of which the Corps' six TA regiments will be reinforced from the regular cadre.

## OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS

- The Corps remains as busy as ever with every squadron committed to the Operational Commitment Plot.

Capability	HERRICK 15 (Oct 11-Mar 12)
TFH	20 Armd Bde
Engr Regt	35 Engr Regt
TALISMAN	32 Engr Regt (77 AES)
C-IED TF	25 Engr Regt (Air Sp)
Search	36 Engr Regt (2)

**Middle East Operational Infrastructure.** A number of operational infrastructure reces and construction tasks are ongoing at SEEB, MINHAD and Al-UDEID as part of the ongoing Op ZACH (ME routine infra sp) tasks. An Air Support recce and advisory visit continues at Gioia del Colle (GDC - Italy) in support of the successful Op ELLAMY (Libya) campaign.

**Engr Regt Gp.** The Relief in Place (RiP) has occurred with no loss to output and 24 Cdo Engr Regt are already heavily committed to supporting the full range of tactical activity in TFH – 35 Engineer Regiment prepare to rouse in the coming weeks. A substantial redevelopment of the Patrol Base infrastructure is underway.

**C-IED TF.** The CIED TF is providing significant levels of EOD and Search support. Find/strike ratios are improving, as are strike pr hour and percentage attendance assets.

## People

- **Redundancy** – The RE requirement for Tranche 1 was slight with LCpl (33), DE Maj (6), LE Capts (11) and Maj (4). Tranche 2 is looking at larger numbers and the recent SofS announcements of reductions to the regular component will see further losses.

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL ENGINEERS (CHATHAM)

- **Corps Activities.** The Corps prepares to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Brompton with a series of commemorative events. 2012 also marks the Centenary of the REA and separate events are planned to mark this occasion. It is hoped to dovetail the Corps activity with that being planned by local authorities – to include: 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dickens' birth; 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Corps Museum; World Heritage status for the Great Lines; City Status for Medway; HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the 2012 Olympics.
- **RE Museum, Library & Archive**
  - **The Fortifications Gallery.** The Museum has begun the major refurbishment of the Fortifications Gallery. Several units have provided artisan support and work is progressing well. The Gallery will be opened as part of the Corps Memorial Weekend (17/18 Sep 11) along with the Corps Today Gallery.
  - **Grounds.** The high quality perimeter fence is complete adding significantly to the overall impression of a commercial

and therefore non-military complex. We have also had delivery of a No12 Scissor Bridge for the CH AVLB – it is mounted and looks splendid.

## **CORPS SPORT**

- **Paragliding.** The Corps was well represented at the Joint Services Paragliding Championships by EinC(A), Maj Cackett and Capt Rudd.
- **Rugby League.** RE defeated REME to win back the Lawson Cup for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in 17 years to become the 2011 Inter Corps champions.
- **Football.** The Corps football team won the Quadrangular tournament and only narrowly missed becoming Army champions.
- **Boxing.** This has been the Corps most successful season – ever! Four boxers (Jones, Leigh, McCarton and Passarelli) were awarded Army colours. Whitfield, Sadler and Passarelli achieved international level representation. 26 Engr Regt won the Army major Units trophy – Spr Marharjan was named Army Best boxer.
- **Winter Sports.** CO 28 Engr Regt will now begin to focus the Corps efforts for the coming season.
- **Cricket.** The Corps won the Plate in the Inter Corps 20/20 competition and the Inter Corps 50- over competition.
- **Golf.** The sapper team triumphed over the REME in the final.
- **Orienteering.** In the Long Distance team event the Corps swept the Board and is Army champion at both Senior and U25 level.

S P F HARRIS

Col

Regt Col

Mil: 94661 2034

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