

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
65TH MANAGEMENT MEETING
1100hrs Wednesday 29th February 2012
THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Those Present:

Sapper Bill Woodburn	Chairman
Sapper Idris Pearce	Vice Chairman
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.
2. **Item 2 Apologies for Absence.** Apologies had been received from Sapper Hooky Walker.
3. **Item 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the 64th 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 Accounts.
 1. **SOFA.** The Audited account for 2011 was agreed by the Committee and the Chairman signed them -- this is attached at **Annex A.**
 2. **Budget 2012.** The Budget for 2012 was discussed and agreed and then signed off by the Chairman -- this attached at **Annex B**
 3. **Adventurous & Challenging Pursuits Fund** The fund with the Corps Treasurer stands at £4126.40 as at 31 Dec 11 and a statement is attached at **Annex C.**

It was agreed that Members of the Committee would continue to suggest suitable charities to receive our charitable grant.

Action: Hon Secretary

6. **Item 6. Corps & TA Report.** This had been circulated before the meeting and is attached

at **Annex D**. Sapper Charles Holman gave a brief on the Report.

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

Deceased Sapper (Lt Col) David Richards (21 Feb 12)
Resigned Sapper (Sir) Richard Nichols

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

Nomination	Sponsor	Seconder
Captain Michael Lakin	Sapper Jem Blades	Sapper Phil Willmott
Col (Retd) Nigel Montagu	Sapper John McLennan	Sapper Charles Holman
Brigadier Stephen Hodder	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper John McLennan
Lt Col (Retd) Charles Pickles	Sapper Bruce Bown	Sapper Tony George
Lt Col (Retd) Peter Clayton	Sapper David Hamilton	Sapper John McLennan
Major General Alan Macklin	Sapper Bill Woodburn	Sapper John McLennan
Col (Retd) Chris Davies MBE	Sapper Michael Muller	Sapper David Hamilton
Col (Retd) William Morris MBE	Sapper Peter Heier	Sapper Mike Reynolds
Captain Peter Dove	Sapper Jem Blades	Sapper Aidan Smyth

All Approved

9. **Item 9 Attendance & Arrangements for Today's Luncheon.** Chairman's Bar will be in the Ian Jacobs Bar.

Principle Guest: **Mr David Loyn, BBC Correspondent**
 Total number Attending: **86**
 Number of Guests: **22**
 Those to Rise: **2** (Sappers Nick Baveystock & Hamish Bryce)

10. **Any Other Business**

- The Hon Secretary asked committee members to consider who maybe invited to be BS Chairman for the year **2014**.

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at 1030hrs on **Wed 30th May 12 followed by the BS Council Meeting at 1130hrs** then the **Derby Day Draw Lunch** under the Chairmanship of **Sapper Bill Woodburn**. The Guest Speaker will **Major General Mungo Melvin**.



Sapper Bill Woodburn
 Chairman
 The Blythe Sappers

Sapper John R McLennan
 Honorary Secretary
 The Blythe Sappers

May 2012

16th March 2012

Annex A

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS

Cypher

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 December 2011

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOMING RESOURCES	Notes	2011	2010
Lunches Fees		23,161.51	17,134.04
Lunch Refunds			50.05
Dinner Fees		4,700.00	3,044.24
Subscriptions		3,265.00	3,215.00
Overpaid Subscriptions	1	30.00	20.00
Joining Fees	2	90.00	130.00
Sweepstake Ticket Sales		1,167.00	750.00
Donations to AT & CP Fund		-	-
Bank Interest		-	6.00
Not Forgotten Assc, Restoration Ministries			-
Donations & Honorariums Debtor	3	173.50	95.80
TOTAL		32,587.01	24,445.13
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Lunches		22,259.50	16,732.85
Lunch Refunds		324.00	289.30
Guest Night Dinner costs		4,285.74	2,594.22
Guests Lunches/Dinner	4	648.00	617.55
Dinner Refunds		126.00	114.00
Refund Subscriptions		-	-
Sweepstake Prizes		300.00	310.00
Army Widows Assoc, Forces Children's Trust, Not Forgotten A	5	3,000.00	1,050.00
Sundries	6	69.81	70.75
Donations/ Honorarium: Adv & CP Fund/ A&N Club	7	150.00	100.00

Committee Exp/Room Hire		409.18	378.20
Treasurer Expenditure	8	134.91	169.91
Secretary Expenditure	8	337.38	420.06
TOTAL		32,044.52	22,846.84

Net Incoming/ (Outgoing) Resources for the Year **542.49** **1,598.29**

Net movement in funds 542.49 1,598.29

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Balance as at 01 January 4,899.06 3,300.77

5,441.55 **4,899.06**

Adjustment 9.33

Balance as at 31 December **5,450.88**

All income and expenditure arises from the continuing activities of The Blythe Sappers. There are no recognised gains or losses in the current or preceding year other than shown above.

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011 **2011** **2010**

CURRENT ASSETS

DEBTORS

Cash at Clydesdale Bank **5,450.88** 4,899.06

Total **5,450.88** **4,899.06**

NET CURRENT ASSETS **5,450.88** **4,899.06**

NET ASSETS **5,450.88** **4,899.06**

Bank Reconciliation

Statement as at 31 December 2011 5,450.88 4,899.06

Cheques not presented NIL -

As shown in account **5,450.88** **4,899.06**

Approved by The Blythe Sappers Management Committee
at the Management Committee Meeting on 29 February 2012
and signed on the behalf of the Committee by:

Bill Woodburn

SAPPER C W WOODBURN

Chairman

Roy F Wilsher

SAPPER ROY WILSHER

Honorary Treasurer

Originals signed:

DATED 29 FEBRUARY 2012

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 December 2011

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting Convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention. Income and expenditure has been accounted for on an accruals basis.

Fund accounting

The Blythe Sappers Association's funds comprise general unrestricted funds that are dispensable at the discretion of the Council in furtherance of the objectives of The Blythe Sappers.

Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investments.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE COUNCIL AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

No Council or Committee Members, nor connected person or party, received any remuneration from The Blythe Sappers during the current or preceding year.

NUMBERED NOTES

1. **Overpaid Subscriptions.** Sprs Sanburg, Wilson M,McAlpine
2. **Joining Fees.** 9 New members
3. **Donations.** From various Blythe Sappers.
4. **Guest Lunches.** Four Guest Speakers and Hon Sec and Hon Treas's lunches
5. **Donations.** Forces'Childred's Trust, Army Widows Association, Not Forgotten Association
6. **Sundries.** Engraving of salver for outgoing Chairman.
7. **Adv and CP Fund Grant. / Honorarium**
 - a. In 2011 there was no allocation to the Blythe Sappers' Adventurous and Challenging Pursuits Fund
 - b. The total donated to the Fund to date is £31,950 (2010 £31,950).
 - c. Three A&CP applications were approved in 2010, grants totalling £1063.00 were made.
 - d. The balance of the Fund granted to RECCT as at 31 Dec 11 stood at £4226.40
 - e. Christmas gratuity to A & N Club staff
8. **Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer expenditure** Travel,postage, copying and stationery

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts for the year 2011 together with supporting papers.

I am satisfied that the accounts have been properly maintained and that the foregoing

statement of income and expenditure gives a true and fair view of the transactions during

the year and of the financial state of affairs of The Blythe Sappers as at 31 December 2011

Original signed by:

Date: 29 February 2012

John B Wilks

SAPPER JOHN B WILKS
Hon Independent Examiner

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Annex B
Budget 2012

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Cypher

**ADVENTUROUS AND CHALLENGING PURSUITS FUND 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Income	Item	Amount	Expend't'e	Expedition/ Exercise	Grant	Balance
Balance as at 01 January 2009						5,939.40
			23-Feb-09	Ex Cockney Kiwi Paddle 1 pers Maj Gen Boag Canoeing NZ	100.00	5,839.40
			08-Apr-09	Ex Market Star 01/09 4 no TA participants Free fall para California	400.00	5,439.40
			01-Jun	Ex Fastnet Col A Mills& RE Crew REYC	163.00	5,276.40
			11-Jun-09	Ex Lotus Flower Dragon One TA Staff Sergeant SAS sponsored climb NW Canada	*****	5,276.40
			03 July 2009.	Ex Dragon Steel Dive 3 no. TA RE Free fall para	*****	5,276.40
			03-Aug-09	Ex Dragon Quecha 4 Reg Jnr ranks plus One Lt RE Remote mountaineering in Peru	350.00	4,926.40
			26-Oct-09	Ex Market Star 09/02 4 TA soldiers	400.00	4,526.40
				Expenditure 2009	1,413.00	4,526.40
Income 2009						
09-Dec	Total	1,000.00				1,000.00
Balance as at 31 December 2009						5,526.40

1. The 2009 allocation to the Blythe Sappers Fund for Adventurous and Challenging Pursuits was £1000 and paid on 09 Dec 09
2. The total donated to date is £31,950.00 (2008 £30,950). There were 6 grants in 2009 totalling £1413
3. The uncommitted balance held by RECCT as at 31 December 2009 was £5526.40

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS**INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE BLYTHE SAPPERS AS AT THE 31 DECEMBER 2010**

Income	Item	Amount	Expend't'e	Expedition/ Exercise	Grant	Balance
2010			2010			£
Balance as at 01 January 2010						5,526.40

10-Mar	Ex Makalu Barun 23 Mar-10 Jun 10 Capt Gale Spr Sherwood First British ascent SE ridge of Makalu in Himalaya Tri Service Expedition	300.00	5,226.40
07-Apr-10	Ex Market Star 01/2010 04 May - 02 Jun 10 6 TA soldiers Sky Diving in USA	600.00	£4,626.40
Expenditure 2010	900.00		

Balance 4,626.40

The Balance of £4626.40 is held by the Corps Treasurer in the RECCT account

R F Wilsher

B/Sprs Treasurer

Confirmed by Corps Treasurer's Office 31 December 2010

Cypher



THE BLYTHE SAPPERS

2011 INCOME & EXPENDITURE OF THE BLYTHE SAPPERS

ADVENTUROUS & CHALLENGING PURSUITS FUND AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

Income	Item	Amount	Expend't'e	Expedition/ Exercise	Grant	Balance
2011			2011		£	£
	Balance as at 01 January 2011					4,626.40
			16/03/2011	Market Star 2 May - 1 Jun Free fall parachuting in USA 5 RE TA Soldiers @ £100 pp	500.00	4,126.40

31-Dec-

costing and probably PR13 manpower and structural options. Likely changes to the Corps remain broadly commensurate with direction on levels of risk to be taken.

THE MOVE TO CAPABILITY DIRECTORATES

2. **Military Staff.** Individuals are beginning to be identified with the requisite skill sets and experience to fill posts in the new CD Cbt Sp Structure. E1 mini-boards are largely complete and E2 runners for the March No 4 and 5 boards are largely identified. The business case for the establishment of the Initial Core (renamed from the viable core) is with LF Org awaiting approval.

3. **Civilian Staff.** Civilian Post Mapping took place on the 31 Jan 12 with representation from HQ DRA, HQ EinC(A) and Trades Unions from Larkhill. All civilian staff previously identified as in scope will be written to informing them of the outcome and specifically how it relates to them. In the majority of cases staff will simply see no change to their current roles, responsibilities or location before Apr 14. Those staff whose jobs will move as part of the co-location of CD Cbt Sp will be informed.

4. **Infrastructure.** Ten desks for the CD Cbt Sp initial core have been identified and allocated within HQ Army. The business case for the initial core has presented the technical and domestic infrastructure needed in years 1 and 2. We are marching to a 'Not Before Apr 14' date for the co-location of CD Cbt Sp Minley and Larkhill to Army HQ Andover.

OPERATIONS & COMMITMENTS

5. **Overview.** 2012 will be a challenging year for the Army with the highest level of commitments since 2006-07 for Jul-Sep 12 (Op HERRICK and Op OLYMPICS).

UK – OP OLYMPICS

6. RE Commitment.

a. **Venue Security Force (VSF).** The Corps is scheduled to provide part of the Venue Security Force.

b. **EOD&S.** 29 EOD & Search Gp will support several Regional Police Forces and the Metropolitan Police Service with both EOD and Search assets as well as undertaking routine UK Contingency tasks.

c. **Ceremonial.** The Corps will provide two medal ceremony flag raising teams, one each to the swimming/triathlon in Hyde Park and athletics/cycling in London/Brands Hatch.

d. **Territorial Army.** The Territorial Army will make a contribution with Reserve Callout Papers expected to be released in Apr-May 12. Exact numbers of RETA will not be confirmed until Jun 12, but is likely to include a number of Regular permanent staff.

AFGHANISTAN

7. **UK Wks Gp(A).** Works Group (A) tasks and outputs remain largely unchanged. They continue to be extremely heavily committed both to contract supervision and monitoring and also within their capacity building tasks in support of the PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Teams). Of particular note in recent weeks has been involvement of the Wks Gp in support of the Engr Regt Gp's construction of the MALVERN bridge. The Wks Gp STRE produced the detailed designs for the bridge abutments with CO UK Wks Gp acting as CDM coordinator for the whole project.

8. **Engr Regt Gp.** The most significant task at present is the construction of the MALVERN Bridge, of particular interest given its size (67m) and resultant configuration (double-double), putting it well beyond the scope of a normal LSB (Log Sp Br) task. This has required bespoke design work from Mabey and also reach-back advice from across the Corps and Defence (including DE&S and EinC(A)) aimed at ensuring the bridge construction progresses as safely as possible. There has also been much work in recent weeks regarding the role and capabilities to be employed by the Engr Gp as we start to move through transition. The 'high water mark' for Engr capability has now passed and all should expect to see a gradually reducing capability over future tours.

9. **EOD&S TF.** The TF is currently concentrating on supporting ANSF (Afghan National Sy Forces)-led, combined ops.

10. **HERRICK 16 Log Spec Surge.** There will be a two month surge of 4x Engr Log Specs during H16 to codify pseudo NSNs on Global.

Commitments Plot.	H15 (Sep 11 – Mar 12)	H16 (Mar – Sep 12)
TFH	20 Armd Bde	12 Mech Bde
JFEngr	Col Gibbs	Col Gibbs/ Winkworth
Engr Regt	35 Engr Regt	26 Engr Regt
HQ & Sp Sqn	44 HQ & Sp Sqn	38 HQ & Sp Sqn
CS Sqn 1	29 Armd Engr Sqn	8 Armd Engr Sqn
CS Sqn 2	37 Armd Engr Sqn	30 Armd Engr Sqn
CS Sqn 3	11 Fd Sqn	33 Armd Engr Sqn
Talisman Sqn	77 Armd Engr Sqn	25 Fd Sqn, 38 Engr Regt
Log Node	65 Fd Sp Sqn	7 HQ Sqn, 21 Engr Regt
Engr Gp TA Backfill	71 Engr Regt (V)	R Mon RE (M)
Engr Wks Gp	63 Wks Gp/ 67 Wks Gp	67 Wks Gp/ 64 Wks Gp

11. **HQ JAGO (Jnt Aeronautical & Geospatial Org) Future.** A decision has been made to move HQ JAGO early to RAF Wyton with an IOC (Initial Op Capab) of Jan 13 as part of a new HQ Intelligence Collection Group (ICG will probably become the Joint Force Intelligence Group). JAGO will formally cease to exist as a separate entity in Apr 13. The RE(Geo) OF5 will maintain a Head Of Arm equivalent role for RE(Geo) but staff will be split across the HQ ICG. From early 2013 Comd JAGO will no longer command 42 Engr Regt (Geo); command of 42 will instead pass directly to Commander ICG.

TRAINING

12. ARTD (Army Recruiting and Trg Div) and DTrg have begun the process of reworking how they manage the SOTR/SOTT (Statement of Trg Req / Statement of Trg Task) with a view to reducing the risk that is currently evident with the planning process. The Defence-wide view of moving from HERRICK specific to contingency ops will impact on what we deliver, we are engaging early to ensure the transition is smooth as possible. Detailed plans for utilisation of RSME Spare Capacity are now being developed after direction from DG ART, initially focus will be on providing Defence resettlement training, all RLC Pioneer training and the use of Kitchener Barracks as the new home for the Royal School of Military Music.

PEOPLE

13. **Phase 1 Input.** The RSME output map (forecasted) is attached. RE 12/13 RAP is now complete and live on the ARTD website with TY 12/13 Qtr 1 open to recruiters and at this time is recruited at 91.2% with some 14 recruits short for the Apr 12 JE Intake at ADC Winchester.

14. Planning for scheduled courses out to 2016 continues and the outline planning for RAP 13/14 has commenced using the DMA OM as at 23 Sep 11. Direction from ITG on the nurturing/instr staff requirements within the rebasing of PH 1 establishments (SE/JE) is yet to be confirmed and further delays could result in short notice assignment orders for some of our sldrs. The RSME remains on course to meet the projected DMA OM target forecast for TY 11/12. The loss of ERLS SSgt is of significant concern and is likely to have a direct link to increased wastage prior to PH 1 as possible sldrs lose interest whilst waiting to join the Army.

15. **DEMSS.** Comdt RSME has agreed the future structure of RHQ Defence EOD, Munitions and Search (DEMS) Training Regiment. The HQ will reach IOC at Bicester in Sep 12. Staff will migrate from HQ DEMSS and DEMSS Kinton to reach FOC by Sep 13. Comdt DEMSS is now in post and has assumed responsibility for the formation of the RHQ and the move of DEMSS(S) from Lodge Hill. Detailed liability mapping is being completed by HQ DEMSS to

form the basis of an Establishment Amendment Matrix. HQ DEMSS is drafting the Army HQ Implementation Order.

REDUNDANCY

16. **T1 Redundancy.** As Tranche One starts to take effect and redundees undertake resettlement courses and termination entitlements, gapping and/or short notice assignments will continue to increase; gapping at all ranks will be increasingly prevalent until liabilities are reduced to meet strength.

17. **T2 Redundancy.** Trade and operational exclusions apply and will affect field sizes. APC will conduct redundancy boarding processes during Mar 12 with any concerns being represented to the Reconciliation board in May 12.

18. **Nurturing.** Nurturing activities remain a success; 50% of each RMAS intake has had prior contact with the Corps and 25% of them go on to become Sapper Officers. Statistics on soldier candidates are not so easily defined. This is due to the fact that nurturing operations occur during 2 distinct phases of the entry pipeline (recruiting and training) and are conducted by 3 different organisations (ERLS, SPSO and 3 RSME Regt).

19. **Recruiting - RPP.** On 17 Jan the RPP (Recruiting Partnership Programme - the PPP that sees soldier recruiting being through commercial means) project team briefed the As & SDs - the first proper working download to them. Headlines were;

- a. 320 military to remain in ARTs (Army Recruiting Teams).
- b. 120 civil servants to be embedded in RPP.
- c. 400 staff provided by partner (likely to be largely ex-mil).
- d. ACOs (Army Career Offices) to reduce from 160 to 61-75.
- e. More emphasis on ARTs getting out of the office; better IT and admin support.
- f. (6 Feb) - Preferred bidder announced, consortium based upon Serco.
- g. FOC (Full Op Capability) Jul 13 with 2012-13 as the transition period.
- h. The Col RE interface with RPP will be a SOR/SLA through RPP 'relationship director'.

TA MANNING

20. RE TA unit manning as at 1 Jan 12 was 222 officers (67% manned) and 2424 ORs (60% manned), a reduction of 15 Officers and 28 ORs since 1 Oct 11. Females account for 11% of officers and 9% of ORs. Despite overall reductions in strength, units report attestation of 382 new recruits in the year to date. There are currently 104 mobilised RE TA and 54 serving on FTRS engagements (excludes FTRS(HC) (Full Time Res Svc (Home Commitment))).

21. **Regular to TA Transfers.** There is a new, simplified process for soldiers wishing to transfer to TA units at the end of their regular service. This allows applicants to apply to transfer to TA units before discharge from regular service, and for suitability (medical or otherwise) to be determined before discharge. A further DIN is expected to be published covering revised processes for officers.

22. **Making CEng PQE Supply Match Demand.** A paper was considered recently by HQ EinC recommending a range of measures to make PQE (Professionally Qualified Engrs) supply match demand - now and in the future. DM(A) has accepted that the PQE shortfall meets OPP criteria and the way is now opened to present a case to PS10 for an FRI.

23. **Soldier Recruiting.** As at 4 Jan 12, the Corps had assigned 97.56% of its allocation on Recruiting Allocation Plan (RAP) 11/12. RAP 12/13 is open. We anticipate that RE soldier recruiting will remain strong.

24. **RE Insight Course (REIC).** Candidate and RG feedback on the REIC substantiates it as the best pre-enlistment cap badge experience. This information is shared with recruiters and on ERLS social network sites, keeping attendance

levels high. We anticipate that the activity will be streamlined under RPP. Soldier Recruiting Branch is writing the statement of requirement for future ops.

25. **Corps Recruiting Team (CRT).** The CRT is scheduled to support the following activities:

Date	Event
13 – 17 Feb 12	RE Insight course
5 – 9 Mar 12	ACE – West Midlands
12 – 16 Mar 12	RE Insight course
15 – 18 Mar 12	ACE – NI
16 – 20 Apr 12	RE Insight course
23 – 27 Apr 12	ACE – East Grantham
14 – 20 May 12	ACE – Wales
14 – 18 May 12	RE Insight course

26. **Officer Recruiting.** Officer recruiting remains strong; with c1500 candidates on our books. As with the REIC, the Potential Officer Familiarisation Visit is regarded as the ‘gold standard’. It is now fully booked until May 12. A revised programme taking into account the relocation of DEMSS(S) has been agreed. The rewrite has pre-empted the shifting requirement under RPP and it will be piloted later this year.

27. **Educational Requirements.** RG (Recruiting Gp) has published revised officer educational entry standards for Scottish entrants. Candidates will require English language, mathematics, and either a science or a foreign language at a minimum Credit Standard Grade, Grade 2 or Intermediate 2, Grade C. This will take effect from 1 Apr 12 for new candidates and apply to the 2013 Army Sixth Form Scholarship award and the 2013 DSFC entry.

28. **Manning Trends.** RE and QGE manning have both risen since Oct 11 but should reduce over coming months. Manning pain and gapping will increase as redundancies take effect until relieved by planned liability reductions being implemented.

HQ RE

29. RHQ RE continues to prepare for its share of the changes arising out of the move to Capability Directorates. Staffing levels are firming up and preparations are in hand to absorb the additional staff we are expecting to receive over the next couple of years. Civilian post changes are well in hand and a final position will be achieved shortly. Overall the changes ahead are generally seen as positive, providing an opportunity to make forward leaning and effective changes to working practices.

30. A flag-raising ceremony, supported by 1 RSME Regt, was held 3 Feb to mark the start of a year of celebrations in Medway. These include the: Queen’s Diamond Jubilee; Dickens 200; the Brompton 200; the REA 100; the RE Museum 100.

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