

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
66TH MANAGEMENT MEETING
 1030hrs Wednesday 30th May 2012
 THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Those Present:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sapper Bill Woodburn | Chairman |
| Sapper Hooky Walker | Chairman Elect 2013 |
| 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.** There were no Apologies.
3. **Item 3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the 65th 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 was No Matters Arising.
5. **Item 5. Finance.** The chairman informed the meeting that it is the intention of the Hon Treasurer to stand down at the end of the year. He thanked Sapper Roy Wilsher for his many years of diligence and loyalty to the Blythe Sappers. The Chairman encouraged all to identify a replacement.
 1. **Donations to Charities.** The Hon Treasurer informed the meeting that there is £2,500 to be donated to a charity having paid for the stock of salvers (£560) for retiring Chairmen for the coming years. The Secretary handed out leaflets for the Mapping Charity and it was decided to make a decision at the September Mtg.
 2. **Budget 2012.** The Budget for 2012 was discussed and agreed and then signed off by the Chairman -- this attached at **Annex B**.
 3. **Blythe Sappers Talk/Troop Commanders Presentation.** The Committee discussed the funding of an annual adventure Training type presentation at a cost of about £500pa. It was agreed that the Chairman would talk to the Corps Colonel about the possibility of identifying suitable events for BS sponsorship. **Council agreed the transfer of funds for this event.**
 4. **Adventurous & Challenging Pursuits Fund.** The Hon Treasurer holds on behalf of the BS a fund for granting a modest sum of BS money for allocation to adventurous & challenging pursuits activities. The Fund balances are included in the Hon Treasurers report attached.
 5. **Accounts.** The Hon Treasurer went through the accounts for 2011 and drew the attention of the Committee to the adjustment of £9.33 at year end. The Committee took note and congratulated the Hon Tres on doing an excellent job.
The 2011 accounts are at **Annex A**.
 6. **Internet Banking.** The BS Management Committee authorised the Honorary Treasurer to make contact with the Clydesdale Bank to set up a system of Internet Banking as many of the Members were now using the Bacs system for payments of their lunch fees.

6. **Item 6. Corps & TA Report – Apr 12.** This had been circulated before the meeting and is attached at **Annex D**. Sapper Charles Holman gave a brief on the Report and emphasised that the main topic is the loss of appointment of EinC(A) and much of this work has transferred to the Corps Colonel.

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

Deceased Sapper Stan Huggett.
Resigned

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

| Nomination | Sponsor | Seconder |
|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Lt Col (Retd) Daren Bowyer | Sapper Neil Sutherland | Sapper Max Heron |
| Major Andrew Mackenzie | Sapper John McLennan | Sapper Idris Pearce |

Approved

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

Principle Guest: **MAJOR GENERAL RAMS MELVIN CB OBE**

“JUBILEES BY JINGO – FROM VICTORIA TO ELIZABETH II”

Total number Attending: **76**

Number of Guests: **16**

Those to Rise: **3** (Sappers John Stanion, Charles Pickles, Peter Clayton)

10. **Any Other Business**

- It was agreed to recommend to Council the appointment of **Sapper Scott Robinson** as Chairman for the year **2014**.

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at 1130hrs on **Wed 26th September 2012** followed by the **BS AGM**.



Sapper Bill Woodburn
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper John R McLennan
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers

Annex A
SOFA 2011

Cypher

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS

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

- Overpaid Subscriptions.** Sprs Sanburg, Wilson M,McAlpine
- Joining Fees.** 9 New members
- 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:

John B Wilks
SAPPER JOHN B WILKS
Hon Independent Examiner

Date: 29 February 2012

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Annex C
AT&CP Fund 2012

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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 | | £ | £ |
| 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-11

The Balance of £ 4126.40 is held by the Corps Treasurer in the RECCT account

R F Wilsher

B/Sprs Treasurer

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May 12

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Blythe Sappers

CORPS COLONEL REPORT TO THE BLYTHE SAPPERS - AS AT 18 APR 12

OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS

| | Herrick 16 (Mar – Sep 12) | Herrick 17 (Sep 12 – Mar 13) |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| TFH | 12 Mech Bde | 4 Mech Bde |
| Engr Regt | 26 Engr Regt | 21 Engr Regt |
| HQ & Sp Sqn | 38 HQ & Sp Sqn | 7 HQ & Sp Sqn |
| CS Sqn 1 | 8 Armd Engr Sqn | 4 Armd Engr Sqn |
| CS Sqn 2 | 30 Armd Engr Sqn | 73 Armd Engr Sqn |
| CS Sqn 3 | 33 Armd Engr Sqn | 42 Fd Sqn |
| Talisman Sqn | 25 Fd Sqn | 1 Armd Engr Sqn |
| Log Node | 7 HQ & Sp Sqn | 7 HQ & Sp Sqn |
| Engr Gp TA Backfill | R Mon RE (M) | 75 Engr Regt (V) 591 Indep Fd Sqn (V) |
| Engr Wks Gp | 67 Wks Gp/ 64 Wks Gp | 64 Wks Gp/ 62 Wks Gp |
| Wks Gp TA Backfill | 65 Wks Gp (V) | |
| CIED TF RHQ | 33 Engr Regt (EOD) | 36 Engr Regt (Search) |
| EOD Sqn RE | 49 Fd Sqn (EOD) | 21 Fd Sqn (EOD) |
| EOD Sqn RLC | 11 EOD Regt RLC | |
| Search Backfill | 20 Fd Sqn (Search) [10] 23 Pnr Regt [4] | 69 Fd Sqn (Search) [8] 23 Pnr Regt [4] |
| MWD | 101 Sqn, 1 MWD | 105 Sqn, 1 MWD |
| ECM FP | 10 Sig Regt | |
| CIED TF TA Backfill | 29 EOD & Search Gp | |
| MSSG | MSSG/ OCE | |
| Op BAM/TRP Engr | 53 Fd Sqn (Air Sp) | 48 Fd Sqn (Air Sp) |

Engr Regt Gp. Engineer effort remains 70% (LIVE), 20% (MOVE) and 10% (FIGHT) with high levels of activity – the engineers often set the pace on the Comd’s critical path. With the tactical shift into the upper Geresk Valley the engineer focus has continued to be provision of tactical bases although this is gradually reducing (109 to 84 during Op HERRICK 15 with a further 30% reduction during HERRICK 15). The emphasis on Afghan delivery continues to increase.

Casualties. The casualty rate for Op HERRICK 15 was low with 2 KIA and 8 seriously injured..

CORPS STRUCTURES

Army 2020. The Strategic Defence and Security Review in 2010 set a course for the future Army to settle at about 85,000. On 18 Jul 11 the Secretary of State for Defence revised that profile to 89,000 by 2015 and 82,000 by 2020 (with Reserve levels correspondingly increased to 30,000). The Army 2020 Study continues and will report by late May 12 – current findings remain on close hold.

Capability Directors. The Engineer in Chief key staff took up post in Andover on 1 Apr 12. Discussions on the formation of Combat, Combat Support and Combat Service Support real estate within Andover remains under review – in short, there is a shortage of floor space in the HQ. Importantly, the current EinC(A) has been selected as the first Capability Director CS with effect Apr 12 at which time the current A&SD HQ in Minley folds.

Nomenclature Post-April 12. Members of the REA are informed that with effect 1 Apr 12, RHQ RE will be known pan-Army as Headquarters Royal Engineers and the Regimental Colonel will be known as Colonel Royal Engineers. Signage and stationery/web will be adjusted accordingly.

ADC. Her Majesty the Queen has honoured the Colonel Royal Engineers appointment with the award of Aide-de-Camp (ADC).

Officer recruiting. The Corps was allowed to rise above the annual DM(A) quota of 72 last year with the RMAS Boards providing 79 officers. 40 of the 79 are qualified to pursue civil, mechanical or electrical engineering but such numbers are not providing sufficient chartered engineers – the Corps will look to ameliorate this situation as a priority.

RMAS SNCO Instructors. Work is on-going to better identify the Corps’ representation at RMAS in SNCO PI instructors. We have 7 candidate instructors(Cpls and Sgts) at present with 2 close on being ready to attend the RMAS Instr Cadre this coming April.

HEADQUARTERS ROYAL ENGINEERS (CHATHAM)

- **Corps Activities.** The Corps prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary in Brompton with a series of commemorative events. It is hoped to dovetail the Corps activity with that being planned by local authorities – to include: 200th anniversary of Dickens’ birth; 100th 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. Specific activity includes:
 - Brompton 200 Commemorative Booklet (by Jun 12) – this will be available for £5.00
 - Loan of Dickens Collection to Rochester Guild Hall
 - Corps Football Team to play Gillingham FC (Jun 12)
 - Corps Football Team to enter FA Cup Competition.
 - Corps rowing team to enter Heads of the River Competition (against Medway Universities).
 - English Heritage Book on Medway to include RE Foreword.
 - Corps Guest Night (Oct 12) to be 200th Anniversary Dinner
 - 2nd delivery of *Sapper Ale* produced and delivered to units.
 - Corps Memorial Weekend focus on 200th Anniversary.
 - Former Comdts RSME to gather on 15 Sep 12 for Lunch and Photograph.
 - Renovation of Brompton Barracks Gordon Statue and Obelisk (War memorial) funded by War Memorial Trust.
 - REA Reception hosted by HM The Queen (as Patron REA) at Windsor Apr 12.
 - REA 100th at NMA in May 12.
- **RE Museum, Library & Archive**
 - **Grounds.** The grounds continue to be landscaped with additions to the collection. The coming month sees the last of the bridges to be delivered thereby completing the armoured collection. 36 Engr regt kindly provided a works party to construct a large concrete pad in anticipation of the TERRIER prototype we hope to receive in the coming months...
 - **Bridge Gallery.** Work continues apace on the Bridge Centre, set to become the world’s largest model bridge collection. The opening date is set for May 12 with enhancing works to continue throughout 2012.
 - **V1/V2.** We hope to install the V1/V2 rockets by September 2012. The installation will impact on the courtyard and access – we will minimise the disruption to the public.
 - A donation of £1 million has been received by REMLAC which should be matched by ‘catalyst’ funding – this should underwrite the Transformation Project.
- **Institution Royal Engineers**

- Vol XII of the Corps history has been delivered and is available for sale through the Inst RE offices (price £12.50 for members).
- With effect from May 12, all serving members of the Corps will automatically become members of the Inst RE (originally founded as an officer-only charity). This seminal event sees the end of the journey towards *universality*. With all serving personnel awarded membership (Sappers will be Apprentice Technicians), the Inst RE becomes a mid-size institution within Engineering Council UK with concomitant increase in influence.
- Inst RE will undertake to refurbish some of the Corps' more significant memorials (within Brompton 2012).
- **Corps Funds**
 - The Corps Treasurer retired from the Civil Service with effect 1 Mar 12.
 - Interviews for a replacement are underway.
 - There will be limited effect on output but the HQ is well-positioned to manage the gap.

Summary

- This has been a period of significant change.
- HQ RE staff turnover is beginning to plateau with Corps Treasurer and Controller REA the final C grades to take retirement in year.
- The demise of HQ EinC(A) and the emergence of the Corps Headquarters in Chatham has caused a level of turbulence, which is being managed.
- The Corps is in good order but will be impacted on by the A 2020 fallout – we might expect a 10% cut to manpower in line with wider-Army cuts.
- We are rapidly developing the Corps heritage and history and are well-placed to manage the welfare benevolence demands placed on the Corps by the injured and damaged.
- The Corps Colonel will post out with effect July 2012 and will be replaced by Col Callum Skeat, currently CRE 1(UK) Armd Div.

S P F HARRIS

Colonel

Colonel Royal Engineers

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