

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
69TH MANAGEMENT MEETING
1130hrs Wednesday 27th February 2013
THE ARMY & NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Those Present:

Sapper Hooky Walker	Chairman
Sapper Bill Woodburn	Vice Chairman
Sapper Scott Robinson	Chairman Elect 2014
Sapper Idris Pearce	(Part of Meeting)
Sapper Charles Holman	Honorary Membership Secretary
Sapper Roy Wilsher	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer (Designate)
Sapper David Hamilton	Honorary Auditor
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Link Member to BS Council
Sapper John McLennan	Honorary Secretary

1. **Item 1. Introduction.** The Chairman welcomed all in attendance with a special welcome to Sapper Idris Pearce who was in attendance to introduce to the Committee a design for a replacement neck decoration for the Chairman. Sapper Idris explained that the new design was to be a gift from Sappers Fitzmaurice, Pearce B & himself who had each been awarded the RE Corps Gold Badge of Merit. The present badge is heavy and cumbersome and he showed a potential and draft design. The Committee discussed the design and approved the concept. Sapper Idris will produce a further draft, to include the founding date of The Blythe Sappers, for the next meeting. The question of insurance was discussed and the cost of the new badge is unlikely to be more than would require an exceptional insurance. Sapper Hamilton informed the meeting of the die stamps in HQRE that could be utilised in the design of the new Chairman's badge. The Committee approved the way forward.

2. **Item 2. Apologies for Absence.** There were NO apologies for absence.

3. **Item 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.** The Minutes of the 68th Meeting of the Blythe Sappers Management Committee had been published on the BS website recently. The Minutes for 68th Meeting were signed.

4. **Item 4. Matters Arising.**

- a. **Internet Banking.** The Hon Sec reported that the Blythe Sappers are now on Internet Banking. The Hon Treasurer has bill paying authority and the Hon Sec has access to the account but not payment authority. Sapper Hamilton, Hon Auditor, informed the meeting that one of his observations is that there should be additional signatories to the account. The meeting agreed that the Membership Secretary, Sapper Charles Holman, should be the additional signatory.

Proposal: That Sapper Charles Holman be an “additional signatory” to the Blythe Sappers banking account with the Clydesdale Bank.

Proposed: Sapper Hamilton

Seconder: Sapper McLennan

Carried.

**Action: Sapper Holman
Sapper McLennan**

b. **BS Council.** Sapper Sinclair informed the meeting that he had received positive support for Sapper Wilsher to become a member of the BS Council.

c. **The Lord Guthrie.** All agreed that the Principal Guest at the December lunch was a “*tour de force*”.

5. **Item 5. Finance.**

a. **2012 Accounts.** Sapper Wilsher informed the meeting of an adjustment required in the account of £54 for 2012. The Committee took note. The balance sheet balanced and the account balanced with the bank statement. The BS accounts are in a healthy state. The Hon Auditor congratulated Sapper Wilsher on the presentation of the accounts.

Proposal: That the BS Accounts for 2012 be accepted.

Proposer: Sapper Woodburn

Seconder: Sapper Sinclair

CARRIED

The Blythe Sappers 2012 accounts are attached at Annex A.

b. **Budget 2013.** Sapper Clayton introduced the Budget for 2013. He said that the budget was to be very similar to previous years with slight increases for administrative costs.

Proposal: That the Budget 2013 be accepted.

Proposer: Sapper Walker

Seconder: Sapper Woodburn

CARRIED

The Budget for 2013 is attached at Annex B.

6. **Item 6. Corps Report.** The Corps Secretary, Sapper Charles Holman went through the Corps Report and informed the meeting that there is a change in the “mind set” of our Sappers in that the emphasis is moving away from operations in Afghanistan to training in the UK.

The Corps Report is attached at Annex C.

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

Deceased Sapper Bill Young.
Resigned Nil

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

Nomination	Sponsor	Seconder
Captain Alistair Johnson	Sapper Derek Johnson	Sapper Duncan Shaw

Approved

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

Principal Guest: Major Ian Moore RE "The Corps Today"

Total Number attending 74
Number of Guests 16
Those to Rise 0

10. **Any Other Business**

a. **A Notice is placed in the Daily Telegraph on 28th Feb 13.**

b. **BS Guest Night Saturday 27th July.** There may be a cost for the engagement of a band this year. Sapper Charles Holman to check the availability of the Corps Band. In the event of the non-availability of the Band enquiries to made about the engagement of a pianist.

**Action: Sapper Holman
Sapper Inge**

c. **Potential Chairman 2015.** Potential Chairman were discussed and Sapper Woodburn would make enquiries.

Action: Sapper Woodburn

d. **Honorary Membership.** All should encourage finding overseas and foreign exchange Officers as Members to become Honorary Members.

e. **Blythe Sappers Football Cup.** Sapper Holman to enquire if a date has been identified for the final of the inter-unit football competition.

Action: Sapper Holman

f. **Veterans Aid.** The Committee authorised the Hon Sec to attend their AGM on 18th April 2013.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING Derby Day Lunch Meeting Wed 29th May 13 at 1030hrs**



*Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers*

Sapper Hooky Walker
Chairman, The Blythe Sappers

Annex A
Blythe Sappers Minutes
Feb 13
SOFA 2012

Prepared for Audit and the Management Meeting
To be held on 27 February 2013
at the Army Navy Club

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Year ended 31 December 2012

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOMING RESOURCES	Notes	2012	2011
Lunches Fees		21,184.00	23,161.51
Lunch Refunds		-	-
Dinner Fees		4,471.00	4,700.00
Subscriptions		3,330.00	3,265.00
Overpaid Subscriptions		-	30.00
Joining Fees	1	230.00	90.00
Sweepstake Ticket Sales		936.00	1,167.00
Donations to Adv & CP Fund		-	-
Bank Interest		-	-
Charity Grants- AWA, FCT, VA		-	-
Donations & Honorariums	2	193.00	173.50
Debtor		-	-
TOTAL		30,344.00	32,587.01
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Lunches		19,833.80	22,259.50
Lunch Refunds		736.00	324.00
Guest Night Dinner costs	3	4,656.58	4,285.74
Guests Lunches/Dinner	4	756.00	648.00
Dinner Refunds		-	126.00
Refund Subscriptions		-	-
Sweepstake Prizes		300.00	300.00
Charity Grants - AWA, FCT, VA	5	2,500.00	3,000.00
Sundries	6	704.28	69.81
Grants/Honorarium: Adv & CP Fund	7	-	150.00
Committee Exp/Room Hire		745.74	409.18
Treasurer Expenditure	8	347.11	134.91
Secretary Expenditure	8	548.85	337.38
TOTAL		31,128.36	32,044.52
Net Incoming/ (Outgoing) Resources for the Year		784.36	542.49
Net movement in funds		784.36	542.49
Balance as at 01 January		5,450.85	-
		4,666.49	542.49
Adjustment		54.00	9.30
Balance as at 31 December		4,720.49	551.79

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.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012	2012	2011
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Clydesdale Bank	4,720.49	551.79
DEBTORS		
NET ASSETS	4,720.49	
Bank Reconciliation		
Statement as at 31 December 2012		-
As shown in account	4,720.49	-

Approved by The Blythe Sappers Management Committee
at the Management Committee Meeting on 27 February 2013
and signed on the behalf of the Committee by:

Harold Walker

SAPPER SIR HAROLD WALKER KCMG
Chairman

Roy F Wilshe

SAPPER ROY WILSHER
Honorary Treasurer

Originals signed:

DATED 27 FEBRUARY 2013

26/02/2013

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
Year ended 31 December 2012

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. **Joining Fees.** 23 New members
2. **Donations.** From Blythe Sappers, Walker, Lloyd-Owen, Fitzmaurice, Dove plus 3 no. RIP
3. **Guest Night** costs were above the contractors original estimates.
4. **Guest Lunches.** Four Guest Speakers and Hon Sec and Hon Treas's lunches
5. **Grants.** Forces' Childred's Trust, Army Widows Association, Not Forgotten Association
6. **Sundries.** Purchase of ten salvers, engraving of one salver, place cards, Tao Everest teas.
7. **Adv and CP Fund Grant. / Honorarium**
 - a. In 2012 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 (2009 £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 12 stood at £3726.40
8. **Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer expenditure.** Travel, postage, copying, stationery, Website maint.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts for the year 2012 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 2012

Original signed by:

David N Hamilton

Date: 27 February 2013

SAPPER DAVID N HAMILTON MBE
Hon Independent Examiner

2013 BUDGET FORECAST

	2012 Actual Budget	2013 Proposed Budget
Opening Balance	5450.85	4720.49
Income		
Subs	3330.00	3330.00
Joining Fees	230.00	200.00
Derby Profit	636.00	600.00
Donations	193.00	100.00
Total	9839.85	8950.49
Expenditure		
Secretary Expenses	548.85	600.00
Treasurer Expenses	347.11	300.00
Committee Expenses	745.74	700.00
Adv & CP Fund		
Guest Expenses	756.00	918.00
Gratuities		200.00 ¹
Miscellaneous	221.66	200.00
Donations	2500.00	3000.00
Total	5119.36	5973.00
Balance	4720.49	3032.49

¹ The expenditure for 2012 was nil. The Corps Treasurer holds a balance of £3726.40 specifically for grants.

² Reflects outstanding cheque not cleared for 2012 gratuity.

THE CORPS' REPORT – DECEMBER 2012

AFGHANISTAN

1. Afghanistan remains Defence main effort and, for the most part, Transition is proving successful with reductions in violence in the Protected Communities and a notable and growing ability and confidence amongst the Afghan Forces. Planning for the drawdown of UK forces whilst maintaining command continuity is on-going and force levels will be lower by the end of 2013. There remains a significant challenge with the drawdown of: Engineer logistic holdings and the redeployment of several hundred ISO containers full of resources.

2. **Task Force Helmand Engineer Group (TFH Engr Gp).** Recent activity has continued to focus upon Base Remediation and Closure/Transition (BRAC/T), but with some tasks continuing to need the full spectrum of engineer skills. TALISMAN remains in high demand and the Engineer Logistic Node continues in support of current operations and redeployment. ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) EOD capacity continues to grow, with Afghan-led Explosive Hazard Reduction Teams (EHRT) at the fore of all 3/215 ANA (Afghan National Army) Bde operations. Recent work to counter the 'Insider Threat' has seen additional Protect dogs deployed in support of the force.

3. **Commitments.** The commitments plot for the next Op HERRICKS are:

	Op HERRICK 17 (Sep 12 – Mar 13)	Op HERRICK 18 (Mar – Sep 13)
TFH	4 Mech Bde	1 Mech Bde
Engr Regt	21 Engr Regt	22 Engr Regt
HQ & Sp Sqn	7 HQ & Sp Sqn	6 HQ & Sp Sqn
CS Sqn 1	4 Armd Engr Sqn	3 Armd Engr Sqn
CS Sqn 2	73 Armd Engr Sqn	52 Armd Engr Sqn
Talisman Sqn	1 Armd Engr Sqn	5 Armd Engr Sqn
Log Node	7 HQ & Sp Sqn	12 (NS) HQ & Sp Sqn (Air Asslt)
Engr Gp TA Backfill	75 Engr Regt (V) 591 Indep Fd Sqn (V)	72 Engr Regt (V) 299 Para Sqn (V)
Engr Wks Gp	64 Wks Gp/ 62 Wks Gp	62 Wks Gp/ 66 Wks Gp

After Op HERRICK 21 in 2014-15, all remaining operations in Afghanistan will be known as Op TORAL and will focus on residual capacity building tasks outside Helmand, such as the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA) near Kabul, which will have a UK lead.

OTHER COMMITMENTS

4. Commitments other than Afganistan included:

a. Northern Ireland. 29 EOD&S Gp provided additional Search teams to 321 EOD Sqn during the Olympic Torch Relay as it crossed the border into, and returned from, the Republic of Ireland.

b. Op OLYMPICS. Whilst the majority of troops completed their security and ceremonial tasks in the summer, 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt) completed the deconstruction of the temporary camp at Feltham working alongside 518 STRE, as one of the final tasks of the Games.

c. Op TOSCA (Cyprus). The RE commitment to Op TOSCA remains a team of five allocated on a rotational basis to 1 and 3 Div Engr Gps. 28 Engr Regt will undertake the full Op TOSCA roulement commitment in late 2013.

d. Falkland Islands. The RE commitment is for a Maintenance Team of 11 managed centrally by APC Glasgow.

FUTURE TRAINING MODELS

5. Collective training for A2020 structures is summarised as:

a. Reaction Forces (RF). RF Formations will complete sequenced Collective Training (CT) level 2-4 (CT2-4) training on Salisbury Plain Training Area and BATUS (Canada). Outside the Training Year, RF units will retain currency through one CT1-2 event and a period of Command & Staff Trainer and Combined Arms Tactical Trainer annually. RF Bde HQs will train to CT5 twice every three years.

b. Specialist Forces. The Specialist Bdes (3 Cdo and 16 Air Asslt) will operate on a 2-year FORM. A training period of 12-months will achieve CT2-4 at BATUK (Kenya) and CENZUB (France) followed by 12-months on Very High or High Readiness where they will conduct low-level CT1-2 training to retain skills.

c. Adaptable Forces (AF). AF Forces will train to CT1 on Back-Door Training Areas with CT 2-3 exercises conducted mainly on Salisbury Plain, but with some training delivered at BATUK and/or selected Overseas Trg Exercise. Units will train to CT3 once every three years.

d. Force Support (FS). The two FS Engr Regts will be required to conduct training and provide troops at readiness to AIR/SF and LAND/Log/Maritime components either sequentially or concurrently. Each FS Regt will conduct Special To Arm CT3 training in the UK as well as deploying Troops and Squadrons to participate in supporting LAND CT4 exercises in BATUK/CENZUB, or AIR Support training at air bases as required.

e. Infra Sp. Wks Gps will be tied to Log Bdes for training and readiness periods. In addition to conducting their own 'Professional Deepening' and CT 1-2 in the UK, each Wks Gp will support Joint Force Enabling Exercises, selected CT3-4 OTXs and "upstream capacity building" (future capacity) activities.

f. EOD & Search. Owing to their commitments and bespoke training requirements, the UK Ops Regt will operate outside of the usual FORM cycle of training and readiness.

g. Military Stabilisation & Support Group (MSSG). The MSSG will be the core of the new Security Assistance Group developing the Land Environments role in Defence Engagement, including upstream capacity building. This commitment will require bespoke stabilisation training outside of the usual FORM cycle, but with stabilisation teams at readiness to support VHR, RF and AF Bdes.

6. **Geo.** Support to Op HERRICK continued and Field Surveys team deployed to survey three of the airfields in Afghanistan and the Sovereign Base Area in Cyprus. Thirty Geo personnel deployed in support of Op OLYMICS, providing Geo support and advice across all levels of command; five personnel deployed on Op ESCALIN providing Geo advice and support to

COBRA, Ministers and operational commands. Geo support has been provided to a number of JTFHQ exercises and in an effort to consolidate resources and provide better multi-intelligence analysis the moves to Wyton in 2013 and 2014 are firmly in the planning frame. Finally, JAGO hosted a French delegation and plans to develop further the relationship and conduct joint exercises in 2013 and 2014.

PEOPLE ISSUES

7. **Manning.** The Corps is almost at full strength against current liability but is heavily over manned against future liability.

8. **Redundancy.** The Corps lost 233 personnel (incl QGE) as part of Tranche 2 Redundancy announced in Jun 12. An announcement on Tranche 3 (T3) is expected very soon and this will result in the Corps taking its share of cuts being applied across the Army and other Services.

SPORTS & ADVENTUROUS TRAINING

9. **Para Olympics.** Capt Nick Beighton (3 RSME Regt) competed in the double sculls rowing achieving 4th place.

10. **Channel Swim.** Capt Alexandra Hardy (3 RSME Regt) was the first female in the British Army to swim the channel. She completed the swim in 10 hours 20 minutes and 49 seconds; the second fastest female ever and fifth fastest overall to swim from England to France in 2012.

11. **British Army (Germany).** BA(G) continues to enjoy a high level of sporting activity and success. The following are highlights:

- a. RE-sponsored cricket tour to Malta which managed to beat the Malta 1st XI.
- b. 28 Engr Regt won the BA(G) Golf championships and the Army Inter Unit Golf Championships and won the Howlett Bowl Trophy.
- c. 32 Engr Regt had a cracking sporting year, winning the BA(G): Swimming; Major Units Squash; Rugby Sevens; Major Units Cricket; Army Cricket BAG; RE Snowboarding 1st Indiv Slalom. The unit also did extremely well in the RE Games, winning six events.
- d. Spr Young (35 Engr Regt) was 1st RE and 3rd overall in the Army Motocross Championships.

12. **UK.** 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp successfully delivered the RE Games 2012 held in Chilwell in October – circa 850 Royal Engineers attended and competed. Other sporting successes were:

- a. 22 Engr Regt won UK(South) Mens Open Tennis singles and doubles and has the best Motor Cross rider (1st time RE has won in over 50yrs) and Army bench press and Army full power champions.
- b. The RSME enjoyed considerable individual success with LCpl Allcock (1 RSME) coming 1st in the 5km, 3km and 1km Lake Bala Inter Services open water swimming championships; Spr Crooks (1 RSME) – 1st in Inter Services Karate Championships; Spr Toth (1 RSME) Regt - 1st in Army Individual Powerlifting Championships, the Inter Services championships and the Combined Services championships; Lt Col Baker (CO 1 RSME) – Jnt Svc windsurfing champion.

13. **Adventure Training.** The Corps has continued to support Adventurous Training on most continents. A very large number of expeditions of varying sizes and challenge have been supported from UK and GE. These include: expedition to the Grand Canyon; sailing in Croatia; hiking in Zion National Park; mountain biking in the Alps; canoeing at Garmisch; mountain biking in Slovenia; scuba diving in Thailand; climbing in Croatia; and skydiving at Lake Elsinore, USA.

OPERATIONAL DEATHS

14. The following have lost their lives on operations in the last 12 months:

- Spr Connor RAY 33 Engr Regt 18 Apr 12
- LCpl Mathew SMITH 26 Engr Regt 10 Aug 12
- Capt James TOWNLEY 28 Engr Regt 21 Sep 12
- Spr Richard WALKER 28 Engr Regt 7 Jan 13