

**MINUTES of the 69TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE BLYTHE SAPPERS held at
ARMY & NAVY CLUB LONDON SW1 on Thursday 25th September 2014 at 1500 hours**

Present:

Sapper Scott Robinson	Chairman
Sapper Hookey Walker	Vice Chairman
Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Chairman 2015
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper David Hamilton	Honorary Auditor
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Council Link Member
Sapper Robin Lloyd-Owen	Archivist
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

and 18 Blythe Sappers in attendance.

Item 1. Apologies had been received from The Honorary Membership Secretary and 27 Sappers.

Item 2. Minutes of 2013 AGM. Minutes of the 68th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2013 were confirmed and signed.

Item 3. Chairman's Report. The Chairman gave his report.

- a. He thanked all those who had introduced new members to the Society
- b. He reported that he had attended the final of the inter-unit Association Football Cup – The Blythe Sappers Cup between the RSME and EOD.
- c. Aware of the growing cost of lunches the Management Committee has considered finding other venues that might be less expensive. It has not been possible, at present, to identify another venue that can offer us a similar number place settings or quality of service. However we have negotiated a small decrease in the charge levied by the RAG, thereby heading off a proposed increase.
- d. The Chairman reported that owing to the reduction in the size of the Corps that it was no longer appropriate for the Blythe Sappers' Cup to be dedicated to the RE Association Football Club. It has been agreed between the Corps, Council and the Management Committee to award the Cup to the winning unit of the annual RE Games, along with a small cash prize. The first such award will be made in July 2015. Furthermore in order to retain our links with the REAFC the Committee is considering presenting a medal to be retained by the man of the inter unit football match final.

Item 4. Membership Report. In the absence of the Honorary Membership Secretary the Honorary Secretary advised the meeting of the current membership position:

- a. **New Members** elected 2013/14 (21):

September 2013	February 2014
Sapper John Mullin	Sapper Dicky Davis
Sapper Damian McKeown	Sapper John Prosser
Sapper Richard Rees	Sapper Kevin Claber
Sapper Mark Lancaster	Sapper Tim Blad
Sapper Nigel Snelling-Colyer	Sapper Mark Burrows
Sapper Nick Elliot	Sapper Simon Hulme
Sapper Carew Wilks	Sapper David Quinn
	Sapper Simon Sole

December 2013

Sapper Alan Millar

May 2014

Sapper Colin Boag

Sapper Tyrone Urch

Sapper Jim Bowden

Sapper David Hudson

Sapper Sarah Clubley

In response to a question from a member, the Chairman confirmed that applications for membership are carefully scrutinized before acceptance is agreed.

- b. **Resignations** (3): Sappers Geoffrey Gathercole, Mike Cooper and Andrew Mills.
- c. **Deceased** (8): Sappers Ian Stuart, Barry Wilson, John Stibbon, Mike Cottell, Derek Brownson, Brian Pearce, Tim Bradwell and Alan Freeman.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year ended 31st December 2013. The Honorary Treasurer gave his report and the Statement of Financial Activities 2013.

- a. The account was closed on 31 Dec 2013 in accordance with the regulations and an independent financial examination was conducted by Sapper David Hamilton. He reported his findings to the Blythe Sappers Management Committee.
- a. The main activity on the account is summarised in the table below:

INCOME	2013
Functions	24,284.17
Subscriptions	3,260.00
Joining Fees	180.00
Sweepstake ticket sales	830.00
Donations	347.30
Total Income	28,901.47

EXPENDITURE

Functions	24,673.54
Refunds	378.00
Sweepstake prizes	300.00
Annual Donations	2,500.00
Committee meetings	403.00
Committee expenses	820.92
Gratuity to RAG	100.00
Secretary's PC	558.99
Total Expenditure	29,734.45

Net Surplus/(Deficit) (832.98)

Net Movement in Funds (832.98)

Balance as at 1 January 2013 4,720.49

Balance as at 31 December 2013 3,887.51

- a. The donations were made to: Lord Kitchener's Fund (£1000), Gordon's School (£1000) and the Samaritan fund of the REOWS (£500).

- a. Adventurous & Challenging Pursuits Fund: No awards were granted in 2013.

Proposal: That the Accounts for 2013 be accepted as a true record of the financial activity of the Society.

Proposer: Sapper David Hamilton

Seconder: Sapper John McLennan

CARRIED

7. Officers of the Blythe Sappers 2015

Chairman	Sapper Alasdair Wilson
Vice Chairman	Sapper Scott Robinson
Chairman Des 2016	Sapper Roy Carlisle
Hon Secretary	Sapper Carel Bouwens
Hon Treasurer	Sapper Peter Clayton
Hon Auditor	Sapper David Hamilton
Membership Sec	Sapper Charles Holman
Chatham Dinner Sec	Sapper Larry Inge
Archivist	Sapper Lloyd-Owen
Council Link Member	Sapper Stuart Sinclair

8.

- a. **Events 2013/14.** The Chairman informed the meeting that the Principal Guest for the Christmas Lunch on 4 Dec will be Fiona Stubbs.

b. **Dates for 2015:**

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| a. Thu 26 Feb | Lord MacGregor of Pulham Market - " <i>Lords versus Commons</i> " |
| b. Thu 28 May | Colonel John Blashford Snell - " <i>Expeditions whilst a serving Sapper.</i> " |
| c. Sat 25 Jul | Ladies Guest Night at Chatham |
| d. Thu 24 Sep | Bryn Parry - " <i>Military Charities and Help for Heroes in particular</i> " |
| e. Thu 3 Dec | TBC |

- 10. Date for Next Meeting.** The date for next AGM is Thursday 24 Sep 15.

Sapper Alasdair Wilson
Chairman, The Blythe Sappers
September 2015

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers
September 2014