

**MINUTES of the 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE BLYTHE SAPPERS held at
ARMY & NAVY CLUB LONDON SW1 on Thursday 24th September 2015 at 1520 hours**

Present:

Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Chairman
Sapper Scott Robinson	Vice Chairman
Sapper Roy Carlisle	Chairman 2016
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Council Link Member
Sapper Robin Lloyd-Owen	Archivist
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

and 16 Blythe Sappers in attendance.

Item 1. Apologies had been received from The Honorary Membership Secretary, The Honorary Auditor and 31 Sappers.

Item 2. Minutes of 2014 AGM. Minutes of the 69th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2014 were confirmed and signed.

Item 3. Chairman's Report.

- a. The Chairman thanked all those who had introduced new members to the Society and encouraged all members to support the annual Guest Night at Chatham, which next year will be on 6th August 2016.
- b. He confirmed that the Blythe Sappers' Cup, which had originally been presented to the winners of the RE Association Football competition, had now been re-deployed to the RE Games. The winning unit will be presented with the Cup along with a cash prize of £500 to be spent on sports equipment for the unit. This year the Cup was presented by the Chief Royal Engineer to 1 RSME Regiment. He told members that our connection with football would remain, as the Society will present a salver to be retained by the person nominated as the man of the match at the inter unit football final.
- c. The Chairman assured members that the cost of lunches are continually reviewed and he believed that the current cost of £53 offered real value for money.
- d. He concluded his report by stating that the Blythe Sappers had made donations to the Kitchener Fund (£1000), Gordon's School (£1000) and the Samaritan Fund of the REOWS (£500) during the current year.

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 2014/15 (22):

September 2014

Sapper Ray Bradbury
Sapper Robbie Hall
Sapper Martin Heffer
Sapper Geoffrey Hyde
Sapper Roger Little
Sapper David Scott

February 2015

Sapper Jim Gibb
Sapper John Handel
Sapper Jason Kerr
Sapper Alan McGrath
Sapper Sinead MacKenzie
Sapper Ian Ogden
Sapper David Richards
Sapper Esmond White

December 2014

Sapper Robert Barlow

May 2015

Sapper Philip Lilleyman

Sapper John Fitzgerald
Sapper John Killip
Sapper Mark Wills
Sapper Andrew Wood

Sapper David Southall
Sapper Robert Tickell

- b. **Resignations** (2): Sappers Reginald Trench and Rodney Chatres.
c. **Deceased** (4): Sappers Alan Freeman, Ronnie Raymond-Cox, Iain Bryce and John Fitzmaurice.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year ended 31st December 2014. The Honorary Treasurer presented his report and the Statement of Financial Activities 2014.

- a. The account was closed on 31 Dec 2014 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.
b. The main activity on the account is summarised in the table below:

INCOME	2014
Functions	23,298.50
Subscriptions	3,230.00
Joining Fees	760.00
Sweepstake ticket sales	908.00
Donations	114.00
Total Income	28,310.50
EXPENDITURE	
Functions	23,128.27
Sweepstake prizes	300.00
Annual Donations	600.00
Committee meetings	421.30
Committee expenses	471.83
Total Expenditure	24,921.4
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	3,389.10
Net Movement in Funds	3,389.10
Balance as at 1 January 2014	3,887.51
Balance as at 31 December 2015	7,276.61

- c. Adventurous & Challenging Pursuits Fund: No awards were granted in 2014.

Proposal: That the Accounts for 2014 be accepted as a true record of the financial activity of the Society.

Proposer: Sapper Stuart Sinclair
Seconder: Sapper Scott Robinson

CARRIED

7. Officers of the Blythe Sappers 2016

Chairman	Sapper Roy Carlisle
Vice Chairman	Sapper Alasdair Wilson
Chairman Des 2017	Sapper John McLennan
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 Robin Lloyd-Owen
Council Link Member	Sapper Stuart Sinclair

8.

a. **Events 2014/15.** The Chairman informed the meeting that the Principal Guest for the Christmas Lunch on 3rd December will be General Sir Peter Wall.

b. **Dates for 2016:**

- i. Wed 24 Feb Mr Peter Sheridan - *"Northern Ireland Peace Process"*
- ii. Wed 25 May Mr Andrew Higginson - *"Retailing & my Father the Wartime Royal Engineer"*
- iii. Sat 6 Aug Blythe Sappers' Guest Night at Chatham
- iv. Wed 21 Sep } Mr Dan Snow - *"Battle of the Somme 1916"*
 } or
- v. Wed 7 Dec } Mr Steve Baker MP

10. Date for Next Meeting. The date for next AGM is Wednesday 21 September 2016.

The meeting closed at 1540 hours.

Sapper Roy Carlisle
Chairman, The Blythe Sappers
September 2016

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers
September 2015