

**MINUTES of the 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE BLYTHE SAPPERS held at
ARMY & NAVY CLUB LONDON SW1 on Wednesday 21st September 2016 at 1515 hours**

Present:

Sapper Roy Carlisle	Chairman
Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Vice Chairman
Sapper John McLennan	Chairman 2017
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 16 other Sappers.

Item 2. Minutes of 2015 AGM. Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2015 were confirmed and signed.

Item 3. Chairman's Report.

- a. The Chairman commenced by thanking those who had introduced new members. He said that whilst we have healthy numbers we do need to encourage more to join and encouraged everyone to continue with recruiting.
- b. He continued that attendance at lunches this year has been good with numbers ranging from 70 to 122. Sadly it had been necessary to cancel the Guest Night as the HQ Mess at Chatham was undergoing significant refurbishment work which rendered it unserviceable at the time of our dinner. However he continued that the management Committee was arranging an alternative event at the RAG in November and that the Honorary Secretary will be circulating details shortly.
- c. The Blythe Sappers' Cup, which has been re-deployed as the trophy for the RE Games, was won by 1 RSME Regt for the second year in a row. The winners also receive a prize of £500 to be spent on sports' equipment.
- a. He confirmed that the accounts are in a healthy state and conveyed his thanks to the Honorary Treasurer for all his hard work in ensuring they are so.
- b. Donations had been made since the last AGM, as follows:
 - i. Lord Kitchener's Memorial Fund - £1000
 - ii. The Samaritan's Fund of the RE Officers' Widows Society - £500
 - iii. Gordon's School bursary fund - £1000
 - iv. Winners of the RE Games - £500
 - v. Diabetes UK - £50 (a charity chosen by the widow of Sapper John Fitzmaurice, a past Chairman).

Item 4. Membership Report. In the absence of the Honorary Membership Secretary the Honorary Secretary advised the meeting that there are currently 368 members. He confirmed the following had died, resigned or been appointed during 2015/16:

a. New Members (17):

September 2015	December 2015
Sapper Dick Johns	Sapper Richard Brown
Sapper Neill Page	Sapper Jack Castle
	Sapper Neil Holt
February 2016	Sapper Hugh Rich
Sapper Ian Caws	

Sapper David Brambell

May 2016

Sapper Sean Cunniff

Sapper Donal Bigger

Sapper Andrew Noble

Sapper Philip Armstrong

Sapper Jeremy Streeten

Sapper Charles Sladden

Sapper Maurice Cregan

Sapper Luke Johnson-Smith

Sapper Roger Clarke

- b. **Resignations (6):** Sappers John Russell, Brian Warburton, Roland Orr, David Hall, Eric Barker and Alan Macklin.
- c. **Deceased (5):** Sappers Peter Hart, John Perkins, Lesley Coney, John Nowers and Dudley Dennington.

5. Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year ended 31st December 2015. The Honorary Treasurer presented his report and the Statement of Financial Activities 2015.

- a. The account was closed on 31 Dec 2015 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	2015
Functions	22,120.00
Subscriptions	3,630.00
Joining Fees	760.00
Sweepstake ticket sales	417.00
Donations	
Total Income	26,927.00
EXPENDITURE	
Functions	21,160.29
Refunds	569.20
Sec/Treas Expenses	401.34
Committee expenses	339.90
Derby prizes	300.00
Donations	3050.00
Total Expenditure	25,820.53
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	1,106.47
Balance as at 1 January 2015	7,276.61
Balance as at 31 December 2016	8,383.08

- c. Adventurous & Challenging Pursuits Fund: No awards were granted in 2015.

Proposal: That the Accounts for 2015 be accepted as a true record of the financial activity of the Society.

Proposer: Sapper John McLennan

Secunder: Sapper Alasdair Wilson

CARRIED

7. Officers of the Blythe Sappers 2017

Chairman	Sapper John McLennan
Vice Chairman	Sapper Roy Carlisle
Chairman Des 2017	Sapper Aidan Smyth
Hon Secretary	Sapper Carel Bouwens
Hon Treasurer	Sapper Peter Clayton
Hon Auditor	Sapper David Hamilton
Membership Sec	Sapper Charles Holman
Chatham Dinner Sec	TBC
Archivist	Sapper Robin Lloyd-Owen
Council Link Member	Sapper Stuart Sinclair

8.

- a. **Events 2016/17.** The Chairman informed the meeting that the Principal Guest for the Christmas Lunch on 7th December will be Assistant Chief Constable Peter Sheridan.

b. Dates for 2017:

i. Thu 23 Feb	Luncheon	Lord Heseltine
ii. Wed /Thu 24/25 May	Luncheon	TBC
iii. Jul/Aug	Blythe Sappers' Guest Night at Chatham	
iv. Wed/Thu 20/21 Sep	Luncheon	TBC
v. Wed/Thu 6/7 Dec	Luncheon	TBC

10. Date for Next Meeting.

- a. Before the meeting closed Sapper David Wright expressed the gratitude of all members for all the hard work expended by the Management Committee and Council in the running of the Society and the organisation of luncheons and other events.
- b. The date for next AGM is Wednesday/Thursday 20/21 September 2017.
- c. The meeting closed at 1536 hours.

Sapper John McLennan
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers
September 2017

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers
September 2016