

**MINUTES of the 72<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE BLYTHE SAPPERS held at ARMY & NAVY CLUB LONDON SW1 on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 1520 hours**

**Present:**

Sapper John McLennan	Chairman
Sapper Aiden Smyth	Chairman 2018
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Robin Lloyd-Owen	Archivist
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

and 17 Blythe Sappers.

**Item 1.** Apologies had been received from The Vice Chairman, the Honorary Membership Secretary, The Honorary Auditor, The Council Link Member and 18 other Sappers.

**Item 2. Minutes of 2016 AGM.** Minutes of the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 were confirmed and signed.

**Item 3. Chairman's Report.**

- 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.
- He advised the meeting that due to lack of support from members it had been necessary to cancel the proposed Guest Luncheon in the summer. He continued that as there doesn't appear to be an appetite for a guests' event that he considered it appropriate to place the concept in abeyance for the timebeing.
- He reported that the Blythe Sappers' Cup had been awarded to 3 RSME Regiment along with a prize of £500.
- The Chairman was pleased to announce that 3 Honorary Colonels, who are not of a RE pedigree, had accepted Honorary Membership and 2 had attended the lunch today for the first time. He reminded the meeting that the criteria for Honorary and Associate membership is published on the website.
- In 2016 the Blythe Sappers donated £2,000 to the Samaritan Fund of the RE Officers Widows Society and in 2017 a further donation of £1500 was made as well as donations of £1500 to each of the Blind Veterans Association (which cares for about 250 officers and soldiers who have served with the Corps) and the Forces' Children's Society. Sapper Chris Galloway, a trustee of the REOWS, considered that the assets of the Samaritan Fund were healthy and he thought that donations, whilst welcome, were not necessary. As is custom £100 was donated to the charity of choice of the family of the late Sapper John Taberner.

**Item 4. Membership Report.** In the absence of the Honorary Membership Secretary, the Honorary Secretary advised the meeting that there are currently 379 members.

**a. New Members:**

<b>September 2016</b>	<b>December 2016</b>	<b>May 2017</b>	<b>Hon Members May 2017</b>
Lt Col Ian Scrivens	Lt Col Andrew Devey	Lt Col Mike Brain	Lt Gen Sir Robin Brims
Maj Gen Richard Wardlaw	Lt Col Tom Marsden	Lt Col Sam Brown	Capt Ken Soar
Maj Rob Hughes		Lt Col Alistair Fox	Dr Vanessa Lawrence
Capt Mark Smith		Lt Col Andy Hill	
		Lt Col Michael Lewis	<b>Associate Members</b>
		Colonel Richard Luxton	<b>September 2016</b>
<b>February 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>		Maj Ian Sidebottom
Capt Rupert Baddeley	Col Graham Gibbs	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>February 2017</b>
Lt Col Stuart Brown	Col Giles Baxter	Lt Col Alan Cowie	Dr John Knight
Lt Col Simon Cannons	Lt Col Peter Ellis	Maj Andrew Craig	
Capt David Clugston	Maj Chris Jarrett-Kerr	Capt Mark Foden	
Lt Col Sean Matten	Maj Tony Merrifield		
Maj John Knowles			

b. **Resignations:**

Sappers

AR Taverner	Bill Barton	David Hall	Trevor McGregor	Tom Candlish
Ed Keeley	Eric Yarrow	John Shanahan	John White	Steve Beck

c. **Deceased:**

Sappers

Cyril Hartington (9/15)	John Taberner (9/6/17)	Michael Wright	Pat Munro (5/4/16)
Hank Bowen (20/7/17)	Julian Coulson (2/2/17)	Terry Driscoll (26/10/16)	Ray Davis (6/1/17)
Nigel Snelling-Colyer (22/5/17)			

**5. Honorary Treasurer's Report for Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.** The Honorary Treasurer presented his report and the Statement of Financial Activities 2016.

- a. The account was closed on 31 Dec 2016 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:

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2016</b>
Functions	23,038.00
Subscriptions	3,860.00
Joining Fees	560.00
Sweepstake ticket sales	357.00
Donations	7.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>27,822.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Functions	22,744.38
Refunds	703.00
Sec/Treas Expenses	405.00
Committee expenses	431.20
Derby prizes	300.00
Donations	2723.44
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>27,307.02</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>514.98</b>
Balance as at 1 January 2016	8,383.08
Balance as at 31 December 2016	8898.06

- c. Donations were made to the Samaritans Fund of the REOWS - £2,000, RNIB - £100 and RE Games – 623.44.

**Proposal:** That the Accounts for 2016 be accepted as a true record of the financial activity of the Society.

Proposed: Sapper Peter Clayton  
Seconded: Sapper Carel Bouwens

**Carried**

## 7. Officers of the Blythe Sappers 2017

- a. The Chairman proposed that Sapper Nick Baveystock, who is Currently Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers, member of the Construction Industry Council, a non-executive director of Engineering UK, a member of the boards of both the Education for Engineering and Engineering the Future, and non-executive Vice Chairman of Thomas Telford Ltd, be elected as the Chairman for 2019.

Proposed: Sapper John McLennan

Seconded: Sapper Mungo Melvin

**Carried**

- b. The Honorary Secretary notified the meeting of the officers for 2017:

Chairman	Sapper Aidan Smyth
Vice Chairman	Sapper John McLennan
Chairman Des 2019	Sapper Nick Baveystock
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. **Events 2017/18.** The Honorary Secretary provided the planned dates for lunches henceforth and into 2018:

- Christmas Luncheon Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – Mr Jonathan Neame, Chairman and Chief Executive, Shepheard Neame Ltd
- Winter Luncheon Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 - Sir Tom Phillips KCMG, Former Ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Israel and currently Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies.
- Spring Luncheon and Derby Sweep Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, GCB, KCVO, CBE Former Chief of the Air Staff
- Autumn Luncheon Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Maj Gen Tyrone Urch CBE, Chief Royal Engineer (Designate)
- Christmas Luncheon - TBC

## 10. Date for Next Meeting.

- a. The date for next AGM is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018.  
b. The meeting closed at 1543 hours.

**Sapper Aiden Smyth**  
*Chairman*  
*The Blythe Sappers*  
*September 2018*

**Sapper Carel Bouwens**  
*Honorary Secretary*  
*The Blythe Sappers*  
*September 2017*