

**THE BLYTHE SAPPERS**  
**19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014**  
**THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON**

**Present:**

<b>Sapper Scott Robinson</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Sapper Hooky Walker</b>	<b>Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Sapper Alasdair Wilson</b>	<b>Chairman Elect 2015</b>
<b>Sapper Gordon Charlesworth</b>	
<b>Sapper John Evans</b>	
<b>Sapper John McLennan</b>	
<b>Sapper Charles Peacey</b>	
<b>Sapper Willie Shackell</b>	
<b>Sapper Gus Sinclair</b>	
<b>Sapper Bill Woodburn</b>	
<b>Sapper Peter Clayton</b>	<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>
<b>Sapper David Hamilton</b>	<b>Honorary Auditor</b>
<b>Sapper Carel Bouwens</b>	<b>Honorary Secretary</b>

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ITEM ONE. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies have been received from Sappers Bill Barton, Dudley Dennington, John Fitzmaurice, Jeffery Lewins, John Moore-Bick, Michael Muller, Idris Pearce, Harry Realf, Stuart Sinclair, John Taberner, Roy Wilsher and Eric Yarrow and the Membership and Dinner Secretaries.

**ITEM 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as a true record.

**ITEM 3. Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 4. Summary of decisions taken by the Management Committee.**

- a. The Honorary Treasurer reported that £150 had been allocated from the Adventurous and Challenging Pursuits fund to a soldier from 101 Engr Regt (EOD) (V). This left a balance of £1675 held by the Corps for future allocations. Sapper McLennan reminded Council that he had raised the issue of the size of grants last year and stated that he believed this amount was greater than that allowed. The Secretary agreed to investigate the matter and report back to Sapper McLennan in the first instance and Council at its next meeting.
- b. The Secretary reported that 3 donations to charity had been made during the year and they were:
  - i. £1000 to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund.
  - ii. £1000 to Gordon's School. This has been directed at refurbishing the Gordon statue at the School.
  - iii. £500 to the Samaritan Fund of the RE Officers' Widows Society. This money has subsequently been granted to the widow of an ex Sapper officer, who had fallen on hard times and was not a member of the REOWS.
- c. The Chairman told Council that he had represented the Blythe Sappers at the RE Association Football Club final at Chatham on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May at which the

RSME beat EOD by 2 goals to one. He continued that the teams and others showed considerable interest in the Blythe Sappers and particularly its purpose and history.

- d. Sapper Hooky Walker reported that he had attended the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the RE Association Football Club at Chatham, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013, when he was Chairman. He recounted that the Blythe Sappers were held in high esteem by the Club, evidenced by his position at table and that the Society was the first to be acknowledged in the Club Chairman's speech to the assembly.

#### **ITEM 5. SOFA Accounts.**

The Treasurer advised Council that he forecast that the Society will have a cash balance of about £6,000 at the end of the year, which follows previous trends and is healthy. He said that as at the meeting there was over £10,000 in the bank but that there was a commitment of about £3,900 to settle the bill for the lunch that follows this meeting. There were no comments upon his report.

#### **ITEM 6. Corps Report.**

As the Membership Secretary, who usually presents the Corps reports was not present, a report was not available to Council.

#### **ITEM 7. Chairmen 2016 and 2017.**

Members of Council were advised that several Sappers names had been considered for being appointed Chairmen in 2015 and 2017. A short discussion followed and some suggestions were put to the current Chairman to pursue.

#### **ITEM 8. Arrangements for Today's Lunch.**

The Secretary advised Council of the arrangements for today's lunch. He pointed out that 2 newly promoted Sappers will be invited to identify themselves at the table. He reminded those present that the Guest Night will be held at Chatham on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July and that he would shortly be calling for bids for places.

#### **ITEM 10. Any Other Business.**

- a. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1215hours.
- b. The next meeting will be held at the Army and Navy Club on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at noon, all subject to confirmation.

**Sapper Scott Robinson**  
*Chairman, the Blythe Sappers*

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