

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
21st MEETING OF THE BLYTHE SAPPERS' COUNCIL
1145hrs Wednesday 24th May 2016
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper Roy Carlisle	Chairman
Sapper John McLennan	Chairman Elect 2017
Col Donald Bigger	Corps Colonel
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Charles Holman	Honorary Membership Secretary
Sapper Larry Inge	Dinner Secretary
Lt Col Ian Scrivens	Secretary REHQ Mess
Sapper Willie Shackell	
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Management Committee Link Member
Sapper Hookey Walker	
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Apologies for Absence. Apologies have been received from Sappers Gordon Charlesworth, Jeffrey Lewins, Michael Muller, Idris Pearce, Gus Sinclair, John Taberner and Bill Woodburn.

ITEM 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the 20th meeting were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3. SOFA Accounts for 2015.

The Honorary Treasurer advised Council that at the end of 2015 the account stood at £8,383.08, having made a surplus in the year of £1,106.47.

ITEM 4. Summary of Decisions taken by the Management Committee.

- a. The Honorary Secretary advised Council that lunches would be held on 21st September and 7th December. The Guest Night is scheduled for 6th August. Dates for 2017 had not yet been confirmed with the Chairman Elect but he hoped this would be promulgated soon.
- b. The Chairman advised Council that there were a number of factors making the holding of the Guest Night in Chatham in August risky. The Committee had considered various options but had concluded that none were feasible. Consequently, it is proposing to Council that for this year alone the Guest Night is cancelled and that it will look to ensure a good turnout in 2017. Council accepted this proposal.
- c. The Secretary continued that the Management Committee is intent upon inviting Honorary Colonels to apply to become Blythe Sappers in the usual manner. Already one, an ex RAF Officer, has taken the challenge and is now a "fully fledged" member of the Society. He said that Commanding officers of the units of which they are Honorary Colonels will be asked to pose the invitation, but to date little had been done by the Secretary. He confirmed that the Corps Colonel had agreed to assist in this matter and that the Secretary would be liaising with him on this matter.
- d. The Honorary Treasurer informed Council that in 2015 the Blythe Sappers had made donations to The Kitchener Fund, Gordon's School and the Samaritans Fund of the RE Officers' Widows Society.
- e. He pointed out that there is currently no demand for donations to the Adventurous and Challenging Pursuits Fund held by the Corps. He said there remains a small amount in this Fund, suggesting that the monies be transferred to the Corps and that the account be closed. After a vibrant discussion it was agreed that the remaining funds be transferred to Corps' funds at the discretion of the Corps Colonel but that the agreement between the Corps and the Blythe Sappers over the purpose and administration of the Adventurous and Challenging Pursuits Fund remains extant, thereby requiring the account to be maintained, albeit at nil balance. The Secretary agreed to send a note to the Corps Colonel to authorise these decisions.

ITEM 5. Membership Update.

The Honorary Secretary stated that much work had been undertaken in the last 12 months to reconcile the membership lists held by him, the Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Work on this is nearing completion but there is still a discrepancy of about 10. However he reported that in the last 12 months 7 of our colleagues had died, 6 had resigned and 17 had been recruited, resulting in a net gain of 4.

ITEM 6. Review of the Corps Report.

The Corps Colonel presented his report on the Corps, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. In summary he stated that the Corps, whilst being heavily involved in a number of overseas operations is in good heart.

ITEM 7. Proposed Chairman for 2018.

The Secretary pointed out that to date the Management Committee is unable to recommend anyone for Chairman in 2018. A short discussion ensued in which some suitable candidates were identified and Chairman Elect 2017 agreed to canvass them.

ITEM 8. Arrangements for Today's Lunch.

Principal guest: Mr Andrew Higginson

Subject: "My Dad was a Sapper from 1939 to 1945"

Total numbers attending: 84

Number of Guests: 26

Those to rise: Sappers Donald Bigger, Richard Brown, Jack Castle, Maurice Cregan, Neil Holt, Roger Morton and Jeremy Streeten.

Council was advised that the Guest Night will be held at Chatham on Saturday 25th July and was asked to make a note in diaries as well as encouraging members to attend.

ITEM 9. Next Meeting.

- a. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1214 hours.

Sapper John McLennan

Chairman

The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens

Honorary Secretary

The Blythe Sappers