

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
22nd MEETING OF THE BLYTHE SAPPERS' COUNCIL
1135hrs Thursday 25th May 2017
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper John McLennan	Chairman
Sapper Roy Carlisle	Deputy Chairman
Sapper Aiden Smyth	Chairman Elect 2018
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper John Moore-Bick	
Sapper Michael Muller	
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, Willie Schackell, Bill Woodburn, David Hamilton, Charles Holman and John Taberner.

ITEM 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the 21st meeting were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3. SOFA Accounts for 2016.

In the absence of the Honorary Auditor, the Honorary Treasurer advised Council that at the end of 2016 the account stood at £8,898.06, having made a surplus in the year of £514.98. The accounts had been reviewed and the Honorary Auditor has no comments to make upon them. Council expressed its gratitude to the Honorary Treasurer for managing the accounts so meticulously.

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

- a. The Honorary Secretary advised Council that the Management Committee continues to find a satisfactory alternative to the Chatham Guest Night which had become poorly supported. The Chairman reminded Council that considerable effort is required to arrange these dinner nights and the lack of support did not justify their continuance, albeit for the time being. The Honorary Secretary continued that the dinner held in the RAG last November had also not been well supported, consequently the Committee is planning on a Guest Luncheon in the RAG on 13th July, provided there is adequate support from members.
- b. The Honorary Secretary reminded Council that the Management Committee has been investigating the feasibility of inviting Honorary Colonels to take up Honorary Membership of the Blythe Sappers, with the potential for them to apply for full or associate membership at the end of their tenure. To date 3 have accepted the invitation and will be invited to attend the next luncheon as guests of the Society.
- c. The Honorary Treasurer informed Council that in 2016 the Blythe Sappers had made a donation of £2,000 to the Samaritans Fund of the RE Officers' Widows Society. He reminded Council, also that the Blythe Sappers provide a £500 award to the winning unit of the RE Games along with it being presented the Blythe Sappers' Cup.

ITEM 5. Membership Update.

At the last meeting of Council the Honorary Secretary stated that membership numbers were unclear because he had lost contact with a number of Blythe Sappers. He reported then that membership stood at 369, but this has since proved to be incorrect. The revised figure is 366. However he was pleased to report that he now has contact with all Blythe Sappers mostly via e-mail with a few still preferring to receive correspondence by post.

He advised Council that since the last meeting 8 of our colleagues had died, 9 had resigned and we had recruited 24, a net gain of 7 bringing the total membership to 373. He pointed out that a further 6 had been accepted as members today and that of our guests at lunch today 10 are potential Blythe Sappers. He concluded by advising Council that Sapper Eric Yarrow, a past chairman, was amongst those who had resigned, in his case through ill health.

ITEM 6. Review of the Corps Report.

The Honorary Secretary presented a graphic outline of the overseas commitments that the Corps is fulfilling along with a number of headlines that had been prepared by the Corps Colonel.

ITEM 7. Proposed Chairman for 2019.

The Chairman announced whom he had canvassed to be Chairman in 2019 and advised Council that he would be putting him forward for election at the AGM in September. There were no objections to his nomination.

ITEM 8. Arrangements for Today's Lunch.

Principal guest: Dr Peter Roberts, RUSI

Subject: "Cyberspace: espionage, sabotage and subterfuge"

Total numbers attending: 93

Number of Guests: 26, of which 10 potential members

Those to rise: Sappers Rupert Baddeley, Sean Cunniff, Chris Jarrett-Kerr,
Luke Johnston-Smith, John Knight and John Knowles

ITEM 9. Next Meeting.

- a. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed as being on either Wednesday 23rd or Thursday 24th May 2018.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1157 hours.

Sapper Aidan Smyth

Chairman

The Blythe Sappers