

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
74th MANAGEMENT MEETING
1100hrs Wednesday 28th May 2014
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper Scott Robinson	Chairman
Sapper Hooky Walker	Vice Chairman
Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Chairman Elect 2015
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper David Hamilton	Honorary Auditor
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies have been received from Sappers Stuart Sinclair, Charles Holman and Larry Inge.

ITEM 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the 73rd meeting were accepted as a true record.

ITEM 4. Matters Arising.

- a. The Secretary advised the meeting that he had received several comments on Item 7 concerning Honorary and Associate membership. After a discussion of these points the Committee agreed to maintain the status quo.
- b. The Vice Chairman asked if the widow of Sapper Mike Stancombe had been approached with regard to a donation to a chosen charity. The Treasurer confirmed no payment had been made and the Chairman Elect agreed to take this commitment on.

ITEM 5. Finance Report.

- a. The Honorary Treasurer reported that the majority of members had paid their annual subscriptions as had those who were elected at the last meeting. He confirmed that he is still to agree with the Membership Secretary the accurate list of members and believed that this would be completed soon. He agreed to provide a copy to the Secretary once it is finalised.
- b. He continued by briefing the meeting on the current financial situation and his forecast for the whole year. The figures are: £10,324 is currently held in the bank, with a commitment for today's lunch of approximately £3,900, leaving £6,424 as available cash. He felt this left sufficient in reserve to cover any unexpected expenditure.
- c. The Treasurer then opened a discussion on the price of lunches by advising the Committee that he had analysed the bills for lunches over the last couple of years. He had found that there was no particular formula for calculating the ratio between the cost of a meal and the hire of the Club's facilities. The Secretary said that he had had a meeting with the Secretary of the Army and Navy Club and had subsequently written to him seeking a reduction in the charge for lunches. To date, despite a reminder, he had not received a reply. He recommended that the Society should continue to cover the small difference in the cost of lunches and the amount charged to members whilst still seeking a resolution on the cost charged to the

Society. He also suggested that it is now timely to review the venue for lunches as other prestigious clubs offer equitable lunches at cheaper rates and that the results of this exercise might be used as a lever in the negotiations with the Army and Navy Club. All agreed to this approach.

ITEM 6. Corps Report.

As the Membership Secretary, who usually presents the Corps reports, was not present a report was not available to the Committee. It is hoped that this will be delivered at the next meeting in September.

ITEM 7. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: The following Blythe Sappers have been notified as having died since the last meeting:
 - Sapper Brian Pearce. The Secretary confirmed that a donation had been made to a charity of the family's choosing.
 - Sapper Tim Bradwell. The Secretary reported that Tim had died after a short period of suffering from bowel cancer and his funeral, which was held last week, was well attended by Blythe Sappers.
- b. Resignations: Despite pleas for him not to do so Sapper Andrew Mills resigned in early April.

ITEM 8. GUEST NIGHT 2014.

The Secretary briefed the meeting that he had scrutinised the comprehensive and clear brief on proposed arrangements for the Guest Night on Saturday 26th July 2014. He suggested that the mid priced option, at £50 per head, be adopted as the basis to plan and publicise the Guest Night. All agreed.

ITEM 9. Nominations for Membership.

The following nominations have been proposed and seconded for membership of the Blythe Sappers:

<i>Nomination</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Maj Gen Colin Boag	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper Mark Mans
Maj Gen Tyrone Urch	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper Mark Mans
Brig Jim Bowden	Sapper Matthew Jackson	Sapper Jonathan Welch
Col David Hudson	Sapper Jonathan Welch	Sapper Ian McGill
Capt Sarah Clubley	Sapper Jeremy Blades	Sapper Richard Elvidge

There were no objections to these nominations and consequently they will be notified by the Membership Secretary of their promotions.

ITEM 10. Attendance and Arrangements for today's lunch.

Principal Guest: Mr Matthew Brash, Vice President of the British Zoological Veterinary Society.

Total Number attending: 64

Number of Guests: 13

Those to rise: Sappers Mark Burrows and John Prosser.

ITEM 11. Any Other Business.

- a. The Secretary informed the Committee that he had received a request from the Chairman of the RE Association Football Club about the status of the Blythe

Sappers Cup as there is no longer a BAOR/UK unit final. The suggestion is that it is awarded to the Man of the Match at the REAFC Inter unit final. After some discussion the Secretary was invited to write to the Corps Colonel to seek his views on how it should be deployed. The Committee will make a final decision once that advice has been received.

- b. The Vice Chairman suggested that as it was an agenda item for the Council meeting immediately after this meeting that we should enter it with some idea of whom should be approached to become Chairmen in 2016 and 2017. After a short discussion some proposals were prepared for the Council meeting.

ITEM 12. Next Meeting.

- a. The date of the next meeting is set for 1100 hrs Thursday 25th September 2014. The Annual General Meeting will be held on the same day and there was a short discussion as to whether to hold it before or after lunch. There was no agreement.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1150 hrs.

Sapper Scott Robinson
Chairman, the Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers