

**THE BLYTHE SAPPERS**  
**75<sup>th</sup> MANAGEMENT MEETING**  
**1100hrs Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 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 Peter Clayton</b>	<b>Honorary Treasurer</b>
<b>Sapper David Hamilton</b>	<b>Honorary Auditor</b>
<b>Sapper Stuart Sinclair</b>	<b>Council Link Member</b>
<b>Sapper Carel Bouwens</b>	<b>Honorary Secretary</b>

**ITEM ONE. Introduction.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies have been received from Sapper Charles Holman.

**ITEM 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted as a true record.

**ITEM 4. Matters Arising.**

The Chairman Elect confirmed that a donation had been made to the chosen charity selected by the widow of Sapper Mike Stancombe.

**ITEM 5. Finance Report.**

- a. The Honorary Treasurer reported the current financial position for the Society, as:
- |                         |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Cash at Bank            | £12,595.45  |
| Lunch 25 Sep (approx.)  | (£5,100.00) |
| Refund from Guest Night | (£610.00)   |
| Available cash          | £6,885.45   |

He pointed out that there would be about £2,500 for distribution to suitable charities and asked the members of the Committee to provide recommendations at the next meeting.

- b. He continued by stating that he was still unclear of the definitive and up to date names of current members. This has an impact from whom he should expect to receive annual subscriptions and that according to his membership list there remains a handful of members who have not settled their subscriptions for a number of years. The Secretary agreed that he was equally unsure of the exact membership and said he would request the Membership secretary to provide an up to date list for both him and the Treasurer.
- c. The Secretary continued that the process for notifying the Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer appeared not be robust and agreed to review this with the Membership Secretary and Treasurer.
- d. The Secretary then reported the outcome of the Committee's investigation into reducing the cost of lunches. Both the HAC and the East India Club had been approached as alternative and less expensive venues for our lunches, but neither could provide us with the required seating capacity, although their costs were much

less than the RAG. However he continued that he had had discussion with the Secretary of the RAG and had agreed a small reduction in the cost of lunches from the 2013 price. He pointed out that the RAG had announced a price increase from January 2014 and whilst we had not passed this onto Members the overall effect of the reduction is greater than is immediately apparent.

**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 December.

**ITEM 7. Casualties.**

- a. Deceased: Sapper Alan Freeman.
- b. Resignations: Nil.

**ITEM 8. Chairman 2016.**

The Secretary advised the meeting that he had invited Sapper Roy Carlisle to consider the appointment of Chairman in 2016 and had received a favourable reply. In order to ensure he is post by January 2015 the Council Link member had circulated all members of Council for an opinion, to which the response was positive. The Committee agreed that Sapper Roy Carlisle will be announced as the Chairman for 2016 at the AGM which follows today's lunch.

**ITEM 9. The Blythe Sappers Cup.**

The Secretary advised the Committee that he had circulated a short paper on the future of the Blythe Sappers' Cup before the meeting. He summarised that in recent years the Cup had been the trophy for the BAOR/UK football competition but had now become redundant. However the REAFC had proposed that it be presented to the man of the inter unit football match final. At the previous meeting the Committee considered that the Cup, and *de facto* the Blythe Sappers, should enjoy a higher profile and sought the views of the Corps before making a final decision. The proposal from the Corps, which has been circulated to Council and the Management Committee, is that the Cup be used as the trophy for the RE Games; this has received resounding support. Also it was suggested that a cash prize should accompany the Cup for the winning unit and the Committee agreed on £500 to be put towards sports equipment. The secretary further suggested that the Cup should be displayed in the winning unit's HQ so that all ranks can view it; to this end a glass cabinet would be required. The Secretary agreed to let the Corps and the REAFC know of the decision and to investigate the provision of a suitable cabinet.

*(Afternote: It may be necessary to provide an additional plinth for the Cup on which to record the change of use.)*

Sapper Hamilton suggested that in order to retain our links with the REAFC that the Blythe Sappers present a medal for the man of the match at the inter unit final. This was agreed and Sapper Clayton offered to find a suitable piece for the Committee to view at the next meeting.

**ITEM 10. 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>
Brig Ray Bradbury	Sapper Graham Fawcus	Sapper Neville White
Brig Geoffrey Hyde	Sapper Bill Woodburn	Sapper Alasdair Wilson

Col Robbie Hall  
Col David Scott  
Col Roger Little  
Maj Martin Heffer

Sapper John Crompton  
Sapper Carel Bouwens  
Sapper Carel Bouwens  
Sapper Jeremy Blades

Sapper David Hamilton  
Sapper Laurie McLeman  
Sapper John Russell-Jones  
Sapper Aiden Smyth

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

*Principal guest:* Maj Gen Sir Sebastian Roberts KCVO, OBE (late Irish Guards)

*Subject:* "Reflections from 1914"

*Total numbers attending:* 64

*Number of Guests:* 24

*Those to rise:* Sapper Sarah Clubley

*AGM:* Immediately after lunch in dining room

**ITEM 11. Any Other Business.**

There was no other business.

**ITEM 12. Next Meeting.**

- a. The date of the next meeting is set for 1100 hrs Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 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*