

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
82nd MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
1100hrs Wednesday 25th MAY 2016
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper Roy Carlisle	Chairman
Sapper John McLennan	Chairman Elect 2017
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Council Link Member
Sapper Larry Inge	Dinner Secretary
Col Donald Bigger	Corps Colonel
Lt Col Ian Scrivens	Secretary REHQ Mess
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed Committee members to the meeting and advised that there was much to discuss with regard to the Dinner Night.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence. Sappers Alasdair Wilson, Charles Holman and David Hamilton.

ITEM 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of proceedings.

ITEM 4. Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.

ITEM 5. Finance Report. The Honorary Treasurer informed the meeting that the bank balance stood at £10,085, after taking account of the cost of today's lunch and meetings. He confirmed that the Society is yet to make charitable donations for this year and asked Committee members to come to the next meeting with proposals.

He advised the meeting that there are still a very few members who have not paid their annual subscriptions. He said that much work had been undertaken on reconciling the list of members and there is still some discrepancy between that held by the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary and himself. He suggested that once we have agreement that it would be beneficial to hold it centrally and accessible by these 3 officers only. The Honorary secretary agreed to investigate if it could be held on a secure part of the website.

ITEM 6. Honorary Colonels. The Honorary Secretary stated that he had not made any progress on writing to Commanding officers for a number of domestic excuses! The Corps Colonel offered his assistance, to which the Secretary readily accepted and agreed to liaise with him.

ITEM 7. GUEST NIGHT 6TH AUGUST 2016.

The Honorary Secretary advised the meeting that he had conducted a survey of members over their views on the concept of a guest night and had circulated the unexpurgated data to Committee Members before this meeting. It was considered by the Committee that there is a general feeling amongst the Membership that a Guest Night is required.

The Dinner Secretary pointed out that all the Mess bedrooms at Chatham are to undergo significant upgrades commencing this summer, a project set to last for 18 months and resulting in fewer rooms available to the Mess. Consequently only a limited amount of sleeping space will be available this August. Furthermore the Mess Secretary advised the meeting that recently he has contracted for a complete re-decoration of the public rooms of the Mess, with the bulk of the work being undertaken during the quiet leave period of the RSME this summer.

Furthermore there are a number of interesting and valid points from the survey that should be investigated and if appropriate adopted. Two of the recurring issues are the chosen date for the event and the distance required for many to travel to Chatham. The Corps Colonel suggested that Minley,

which has ample accommodation, might be an alternative worth considering, although the Mess does not have the history or ambience as that at Chatham.

The Committee considered that based on all these factors that there is too much risk to attempt to hold the Guest Night this year and it will recommend to Council that for this year only the event is cancelled.

The Chairman Elect proposed that 29th July and 5th August be considered as suitable dates for the Guest Night in 2017.

ITEM 8. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: Sappers Leslie Coney and John Nowers
- b. Resignations: Sappers Eric Barker and Alan Macklin.

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>
Col Donald Bigger	Sapper Carel Bouwens	Sapper Charles Holman
Lt Col Philip Armstrong	Sapper Jim Winter	Sapper Carel Bouwens
Maj Ian Sidebottom AGC	Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Sapper Nigel Montagu

The applications for Col Donald Bigger and Lt Col Philip Armstrong were accepted. However the Committee felt it required further justification from the Sponsor before it made a decision on the application of Maj Ian Sidebottom, on the basis that his service has been with another Arm.

ITEM 10. Attendance and Arrangements for Today's Luncheon

<i>Principal guest:</i>	Mr Andrew Higginson
<i>Subject:</i>	"My Dad was a Sapper from 1939 to 1945"
<i>Total numbers attending:</i>	84
<i>Number of Guests:</i>	26
<i>Those to rise:</i>	Sappers Donald Bigger, Richard Brown, Jack Castle, Maurice Cregan, Neil Holt, Roger Morton and Jeremy Streeten.

ITEM 11. Next Meeting.

- a. The date of the next meeting is set for 1100 hrs Wednesday 21st September 2016 followed by the AGM after lunch.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1145 hrs.

Sapper Roy Carlisle
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers