

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
83rd MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
1100hrs Wednesday 21st SEPTEMBER 2016
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper Roy Carlisle
Sapper Alasdair Wilson
Sapper John McLennan
Sapper Peter Clayton
Sapper Stuart Sinclair
Sapper Carel Bouwens

Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Chairman Elect 2017
Honorary Treasurer
Council Link Member
Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed Committee members to the meeting and advised that a final decision would be required for the proposed dinner at the RAG in November.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence. Sappers 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 £10,658, after taking account of the cost of today's lunch and meetings.

After a lively discussion the Committee agreed to donate £2,000 to the Samaritans Fund of the RE Officers' Widows Society.

The Honorary Treasurer pointed out that he had compiled a list of members who had not settled their subscriptions for 2016. The Honorary Secretary advised that he, the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Membership Secretary had now agreed a definitive list of members. He continued that he would communicate with the bulk of those who had not paid and asked the Honorary Treasurer to deal with new members who have not yet set up their standing orders.

ITEM 6. Honorary Colonels. Before offering an update on this matter the Honorary Secretary sought clarification on the terms of Honorary and Associate Membership that are alluded to in the Historical Note. The outcome of the ensuing discussion is that the Honorary Secretary agreed to circulate proposed terms of membership. The Committee did however agree that Associate Members should be limited to 10. The Committee also noted that the Historical Note refers to qualification for membership as being "commissioned service in any past or present constituent part of the Royal Engineers." Whilst it has been implicit that this means members should hold or have held a commission in the Royal Engineers, it is not definitive. It was agreed that this should be amended at the next re-write (*Afternote: The copy of the Historical Note on the website has been amended.*) The Honorary Secretary concluded by advising the Committee that the Corps Colonel (Sapper Donald Bigger), with the assistance of the Honorary Membership Secretary had agreed to take the matter of inviting Honorary Colonels to take up membership forward on behalf of the Committee. The Honorary Secretary suggested that the Honorary Colonels should be invited to become Honorary Members of the Blythe Sappers for the duration of their tenure of office, with the option to apply for full or Associate membership thereafter. The Committee considered this a sound approach.

ITEM 7. Chairman 2018.

The Honorary Secretary confirmed Council's approval of Sapper Aiden Smyth being appointed as Chairman for 2018.

ITEM 8. Guest Night 19th November.

The Honorary Secretary stated that there had been enough interest from his recent survey about holding a dinner in London to make it a viable alternative to the usual Chatham Guest Night, as a one off event. The RAG could provide a 3 course dinner with cash bar before and after for £60 per head, which includes VAT and the usual gratuity. On the basis that a minimum of 50 attend the event, with a cut off for bids being 3rd November, the Committee agreed for it to go ahead. It was agreed that Blythe Sapper funds would pay for a military quarter to entertain us during the meal and that the Honorary Membership Secretary would try to secure the services of preferably the Corps Band or another military band. (*Afternote: A budget for this has not been set, which will therefore need to be agreed out of committee.*)

The Honorary Secretary said he would send out call in letters to those not on e-mail within the next couple of days followed by e-mails a week later.

ITEM 9. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: Sapper Dudley Dennington
- b. Resignations: Nil.

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>Secunder</i>
Maj Gen Richard Wardlaw	Sapper Dicky Davis	Sapper Alasdair Willson
Lt Col Ian Scrivens	Sapper Larry Inge	Sapper Colin Walker
Maj Rob Hughes	Sapper David Brambell	Sapper Jason Kerr
Capt Mark Smith	Sapper Jason Kerr	Sapper Ed Robinson
Maj Ian Sidebottom AGC	Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Sapper Nigel Montagu
Dr John Knight	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper Tony Keeley

The applications for Maj Gen Wardlaw, Lt Col Scrivens, Maj Rob Hughes and Capt Mark Smith were accepted. The Committee agreed to offer Associate Membership to Maj Ian Sidebottom, on the basis that although his service has been with another Arm, he is the Corps Treasurer and has had close links with the Corps for several years, for which he has been granted Honorary Membership of the Institution. A decision on the application from Dr John Knight was deferred to the next meeting.

ITEM 11. Attendance and Arrangements for Today's Luncheon

Principal guest: Air Cdr Johnny Stringer
Subject: "The operational role of the RAF today."
Total numbers attending: 73
Number of Guests: 18
Those to rise: Sapper David Brambell

ITEM 12. Next Meeting.

- a. The date of the next meeting is set for 1100 hrs Wednesday 7th December 2016 followed.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1156 hrs.

Sapper Roy Carlisle
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers