

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
84th MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
1100hrs Wednesday 7th DECEMBER 2016
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper Roy Carlisle	Chairman
Sapper Alasdair Wilson	Deputy Chairman
Sapper John McLennan	Chairman Elect 2017
Sapper Peter Clayton	Honorary Treasurer
Sapper Charles Holman	Honorary Membership Secretary
Sapper Stuart Sinclair	Council Link Member
Sapper Carel Bouwens	Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence. Sappers Aidan Smyth 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. Definitions for Honorary and Associate Membership had been agreed out of committee since the last meeting, and consequently are recorded herewith:

- **Honorary Members.** Council may approve the appointment of Honorary Member of the Blythe Sappers to those who do not qualify to be full members, on the basis of their devoted and loyal service to the Royal Engineers, usually in a voluntary capacity. Such members will not be required to pay an entry fee or annual subscription, but will be limited to inviting one guest to Blythe Sappers' events. Honorary membership may be vested on an individual indefinitely or for a specific period; in the latter case an Honorary Member may apply for full membership at the termination of that specified period. There will be no limit to the number of honorary members at any one time but Council will keep the number under review. Honorary members may not hold office or vote at meetings, including if they are subsequently promoted to full member.
- **Associate Members.** Council may approve the appointment of Associate Member of the Blythe Sappers to those who do not qualify to be full members, on the basis of their devoted and loyal service to the Royal Engineers, usually in an official capacity. Such members will be required to pay an entry fee and annual subscription, but will be limited to inviting one guest to Blythe Sappers' events. The number of associate members at any one time will be limited to 10. Associate members may not apply for full membership, may not hold office and are not permitted to vote at meetings.

(Afternote: Contrary to the previous minutes, The Historical Note has not been amended as yet but a note advising members of these definitions will be placed on the website pending the publication of the next edition of the Historical Note.)

ITEM 5. Finance Report.

The Honorary Treasurer informed the meeting that the bank balance stood at £8,668, after taking account of the estimated cost of today's lunch and meetings.

The Honorary Treasurer continued that much work had been undertaken to communicate with members who had not paid their annual subscriptions and most of this had been carried out by the Honorary Secretary, who will report the outcome under Item 7.

ITEM 6. Honorary Colonels. The Honorary Membership Secretary confirmed that the Corps Colonel has this as a task to complete. He questioned whether it is necessary to invite Commanding Officers to become Blythe Sappers before inviting Honorary Colonels to join us and the general view was that this route would be cumbersome and therefore unnecessary. The Honorary Membership Secretary then confirmed that he would draft a suitable letter of invitation for the Corps Colonel to send to Honorary Colonels and advised that he would pass the draft to the Honorary Secretary in the first instance for his approval.

ITEM 7. Trawl for Lost Members. The Honorary Secretary introduced this item by pointing out that several members had not settled their subscriptions for the year. Of the 19 non payers he found that one had died in 2015, 3 resigned through continuing ill health, 10 had agreed to re-establish their bank mandates, and one was known to be suffering from a degenerative disease and is unlikely to attend an event again. The Honorary Secretary advised the meeting that despite considerable effort he had not been able to make contact with 4 members and proposed that they should be deemed to have resigned. The Committee agreed to this.

The Honorary Treasurer confirmed that he was chasing 5 relatively new members who had not paid their subscriptions because they had not set up standing orders and that he would continue work on resolving this.

In concluding the Chairman thanked both the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer for their efforts in tackling this issue.

ITEM 8. Guest Night.

The Honorary Secretary confirmed that the Guest Night held at the RAG on 19th November had taken place and more significantly that the cost of musicians, their food and transport were insignificant compared to the budget set. He stated that only 21 Blythe Sappers had supported the event and in previous years the numbers were not dissimilar, mostly less. The Chairman Elect pointed out that this number represented just 6% of the membership, a trend that seems to have become the norm over the last few years. He concluded that the Guest Night has perhaps run its course and that the attendance record is disproportionate to the effort required to set up the event. He therefore proposed that the Guest Night be removed from the calendar of events forthwith, to which the Committee agreed.

ITEM 9. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: Sappers Michael Wright (earlier this year), Cyril Hartington (last year) and Terry Driscoll.
- b. Resignations: Sappers Bill Barton, Tom Candlish and John White.

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>
Lt Col Tom Marsden	Sapper Richard Brown	Sapper Damien McKeown
Lt Col Andrew Devey	Sapper Richard Brown	Sapper Damien McKeown
Dr John Knight	Sapper Idris Pearce	Sapper Tony Keeley

The Committee agreed to offer full membership to Lt Cols Devey and Marsden and Associate Membership to Dr Knight.

ITEM 11. Attendance and Arrangements for Today's Luncheon

Principal guest: Mr Peter Sheridan

Subject: "A bowl of soup can go a long way."

Total numbers attending: 121

Number of Guests: 34

Those to rise: Sappers Ian Caws, Roger Clarke, Robert Hughes and Paddy Smith.

ITEM 12. Next Meeting.

Before concluding the meeting the Chairman thanked the Committee for its support during his tenure as Chairman and confirmed that he had very much enjoyed his appointment. Then he conveyed his thanks to Sapper Alasdair Wilson for his loyal support to the Committee over the last 3 years as he stands down as Deputy Chairman.

- a. The date of the next meeting is set for 1100 hrs Thursday 23rd February 2017.
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1146 hrs.

Sapper John McLennan
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers