

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
85th MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
1100hrs Thursday 23rd FEBRUARY 2017
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper John McLennan
Sapper Roy Carlisle
Sapper Aidan Smyth
Sapper Peter Clayton
Sapper Charles Holman
Sapper Stuart Sinclair
Sapper Carel Bouwens

Chairman
Deputy Chairman
Chairman Elect 2018
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Membership Secretary
Council Link Member
Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed Committee members to this his first meeting in the appointment.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence. Sapper 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. The Honorary Secretary confirmed that the website had been updated to show that the Committee had agreed the establishment of Honorary and Associate membership status and that there was a link to their definitions. It was pointed out that the full set of minutes do not appear on the website – the Secretary agreed to rectify this.

ITEM 5. Finance Report.

The Honorary Treasurer informed the meeting that the finalised accounts for 2016 had been reviewed by Sapper David Hamilton and that he reported the accounts to be properly maintained and healthy. The accounts show a balance of £8,898.06 which the Committee accepted to be a satisfactory amount to cover any unforeseen major expenditure (eg losses due to the cancellation of a lunch). The Committee agreed to accept these accounts as presented.

The Treasurer then advised that after paying for today's lunch the accounts would stand at £12.5K which would permit donations of £3K to be made during the year. It was agreed that the Committee should aim to agree the donations to be made by the September so that the Chairman can make a report at the AGM. The Committee was advised that it is likely that the funding from the public purse will be withdrawn for adventurous and challenging pursuits that are held overseas. It was concluded, therefore, that it would be appropriate for the Blythe Sappers to resurrect its support for such events. The Secretary agreed to write to the Corps Colonel to advise him of this decision and the criteria that we would like applied. It was felt that an immediate payment to the fund of £500 should be made forthwith.

ITEM 6. Honorary Colonels. The Honorary Membership Secretary advised the meeting that 10 Honorary Colonels (ie all those without service in the Corps) had been approached with a view to their being invited to become honorary members of the Blythe Sappers. Ken Soar, the Honorary Colonel of the Jersey Field Squadron, had swiftly accepted this proposal. The Chairman agreed to invite him to the next lunch as a guest of the Society at which members would be advised that he would be appointed as an Honorary Member. The Honorary Membership Secretary was confident that others would follow suit in due course and, furthermore, agreed to draft a letter for the Chairman to send to Ken Soar (and others).

ITEM 7. Additional Lunch in lieu of the Guest Night.

The Honorary Secretary introduced this item by reminding the Committee that support by Blythe Sappers for the Guest night at Chatham had been waning over several years. An attempt to reinvigorate support by holding a similar event at the RAG in 2016 had not drawn additional numbers, consequently the Chairman decided at the last meeting to cancel the event. In the survey conducted by the Secretary during 2016, several members suggested that a lunch time event might be more appropriate and well attended. The Committee agreed to trial this concept at the RAG on Thursday 13th July, but provided attendance numbers (ie Blythe Sappers and one guest) were not below seventy at least 21 days before the due date.

ITEM 8. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: Sappers Pat Munro (4/16), Ray Davis (1/17) and Julian Coulson (2/17)
- b. Resignations: Sappers Steve Beck, Ed Keeley, Trevor MacGregor, John Shanahan and Eric Yarrow.

ITEM 9. Nominations for Membership

<i>Nomination</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Secunder</i>
Capt Rupert Baddeley	Sapper Alastair Johnson	Sapper Roy Carlisle
Lt Col Stuart Brown	Sapper Charles Holman	Sapper Donald Bigger
Lt Col Simon Cannons	Sapper David Innes	Sapper Charles Holman
Capt David Clugston	Sapper John Carpenter	Sapper Peter Clayton
Lt Col Alan Cowie	Sapper mike Stephens	Sapper John McLennan
Maj Andrew Craig	Sapper Jeremy Blades	Sapper Charles Holman
Capt Mark Foden	Sapper Simon Sole	Sapper Carel Bouwens
Col Graham Gibbs	Sapper Mark Mans	Sapper Charles Holman
Maj Chris Jarrett-Kerr	Sapper Roger Little	Sapper Carel Bouwens
Maj John Knowles	Sapper John Lucken	Sapper John McLennan
Lt Col Sean Matten	Sapper Ed Robinson	Sapper Roy Carlisle
Maj Tony Merrifield	Sapper John McKeown	Sapper John McLennan
Col Giles Baxter	Sapper Neil Sutherland	Sapper Alasdair Wilson
Lt Col Peter Ellis	Sapper Robert Murfin	Sapper Carel Bouwens

The Committee agreed to offer all these applicants full membership.

ITEM 10. Attendance and Arrangements for Today's Luncheon

<i>Principal guest:</i>	Lord Heseltine
<i>Subject:</i>	"Proud Traditions"
<i>Total numbers</i>	117
<i>attending:</i>	23, of which 10 potential members
<i>Number of Guests:</i>	Sappers Philip Armstrong, Bob
<i>Those to rise:</i>	Barlow, Andrew Noble, Andrew Wood and Charles Sladden

ITEM 11. Next Meeting. Before closing the meeting the Chairman suggested that it might be appropriate to send members of Council a Christmas card each year from the Chairman. The Committee agreed the idea in principle.

- a. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 25th May 2017 at 1100hrs followed by Council at 1130hrs (approx.)
- b. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1210 hours.

Sapper John McLennan
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers