

THE BLYTHE SAPPERS
87th MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
1100hrs WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2017
THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB, LONDON

Present:

Sapper John McLennan
Sapper Aidan Smyth
Sapper Peter Clayton
Sapper Charles Holman
Sapper Carel Bouwens

Chairman
Chairman Elect 2018
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Membership Secretary
Honorary Secretary

ITEM ONE. Introduction. The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and reminded them that the AGM would immediately follow luncheon.

ITEM 2. Apologies for Absence. Sappers Roy Carlisle, Stuart Sinclair and David Hamilton.

ITEM 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of proceedings. The Committee conveyed its gratitude to the Honorary Secretary for the accuracy and clarity of minutes in general.

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

ITEM 5. Finance Report.

The Honorary Treasurer reported that the donations agreed at the previous meeting had been made, as had the prize for the RE Games, and that he had accounted for these outgoings. Having taken account of today's lunch and meeting costs, he announced the account would stand at £9,376, which was more than an adequate contingency. The Chairman proposed that we make a further donation of £1,500 to the Blind Veterans Association, which at present is providing support to about 250 officers and soldiers of the Corps. The Committee agreed to this advance.

The Honorary Treasurer continued to appraise the meeting that about 25 Sappers had not settled their annual subscriptions. Of these a number were newly appointed Blythe Sappers. The Honorary Secretary asked to be provided with the names so that he could write to each and remind him or her of the obligation to settle accounts by mid January. Furthermore, once new applications had been reviewed at a meeting he offered to write to each successful candidate, copy to the sponsor, and advise each of the induction process and the importance of setting up a standing order to pay subscriptions annually. The Honorary Membership Secretary supported this approach as did the rest of the Committee.

ITEM 6. Honorary Colonels. The Honorary Membership Secretary informed the meeting that all non RE Honorary Colonels had been approached with a view to joining the Blythe Sappers and that the 3 who had already accepted appeared to be the limit. The Committee was briefed that 2 are attending today's luncheon as guests with the third hopefully joining us at Christmas.

The Honorary Secretary advised that he would retain this matter as a standing agenda item so that the issue would remain quick, albeit that there might be nothing to report from time to time.

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

The Honorary Secretary reminded the meeting that the proposed guest lunch had been cancelled due to lack of support. He pointed out that we had trialled a dinner in London, which was also not well supported and therefore suggested that the whole issue of a guest event should be placed in abeyance until such time that there is evident interest in resurrecting such an occasion.

ITEM 8. Casualties.

- a. Deceased: Sappers John Taberner (a past Chairman) and Hank Bowen
- b. Resignations: Sapper David Hall.

ITEM 9. Nominations for Membership

<i>Nomination</i>	<i>Sponsor</i>	<i>Seconder</i>
Maj Gen Richard Cripwell	Sapper Aiden Smyth	Sapper John McLennan

Lt Col Nick Edwards
Lt Col Dougie Lewis
Lt Col Allan Steele
Col Jeremy Wilman
Capt Paul Ford

Sapper John Lucken
Sapper John Crompton
Sapper Charles Pickles
Sapper Luke Johnston-Smith
Sapper Peter Wall

Sapper Carel Bouwens
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Sapper Peter Clayton
Sapper Scott Robinson

The Committee agreed to offer all these applicants full membership.
This brings the total membership to: 385

ITEM 10. Attendance and Arrangements for Today's Luncheon

Principal guest: Brig Chris Sexton

Subject: "Crossrail – Experiences of a Sapper in the UK construction Industry"

Total numbers attending: 83

Number of Guests: 16

Those to rise: Sappers Mike Brain, Robin Brims, Sam Brown, Michael Lewis, Richard Luxton, Tony Merrifield and Ken Soar.

Guests who are potential Lt Col Simon Carvel

Sapper John Crompton

Blythe Sappers: Lt Col Tim Robertson

Sapper Gerry Taggart

Lt Col Robin Swanson

Sapper Phil Armstrong

Col John Croft

Sapper Patrick Fagan

ITEM 11. AOB and Next Meeting.

- a. The Honorary Secretary had circulated a proposal before the meeting suggesting that the number of guests that each member may invite to the forthcoming Christmas lunch should be limited to one, albeit initially, as in the past some members have been unable to secure places because of the event's popularity. He recommended that if space is available when he circulates his second reminder, usually about 4 weeks after the initial call in, that he would permit members to invite further guests. The Committee acknowledged that this proposal provided fairness to our members but it does run the minor risk of not attracting capacity. Nevertheless, it was content for this policy to be applied.
- b. The Chairman briefed the Committee that the plans for relocating the business of the Army and Navy Club during its refurbishment over the 4 years from 2019 are still not finalised but assured everyone that the Club would continue to operate from other premises.
- c. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 1100hrs.
- d. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1151 hours.

Sapper John McLennan
Chairman
The Blythe Sappers

Sapper Carel Bouwens
Honorary Secretary
The Blythe Sappers