



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 19th May 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Vice Chairman, Budge Harding.

Members Present: David Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Jerry Docherty, Alan Mayers, Gary Miles, Jack Neil and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, Michael Hobden, Steve Winter, Alan South, Tex Rees-Avery, John Bishop, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Bob Parker, Doug Raynsford, Dave Scott, John Shill and Michael Taylor.

Chairman's Report: Budge Welcomed all to the Meeting and Welcomed New Member, Gary Miles to Our Branch and provided him with his Membership Card and Book.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that the available funds stand at £789.75.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee advised that Members have been contacted throughout this month. Peter Godding is now residing in a care home and seems to be enjoying it there. Lee confirmed he would send all the contact details. Also, a possibility of holding a Monthly Meeting to enable Peter to see all. Lee was unable to get hold of Brian Scott but will continue to try.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 28th April 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Alan Mayers and seconded by Jerry Docherty. Carried.

2. 43 Bty update: Extract from email sent by WO2 John Godwin-Smart, Ops WO. 43 Bty:
We have a very proud BSM this morning, having received the Kerr award. It is an absolute honour and privilege to have you as our associated branch, and to have established and maintained such a great relationship with you all. Thank you very much for nominating us for this. I'm sure we be gladly received in a couple weeks' time and we can be regaled with stories of meetings past.

We will, of course, bring the award with us and have a photo taken.

Unfortunately, the Battery Commander is now unable to attend. He sends his apologies and will endeavour to attend the next.

However, you will see the return of the current holder of 'The Button' (now full Lt MacMillan). There will be no need to change the menu choices, as he is happy to go with the BC's choices.

Capt (Matalan) Bush was asked to attend, and he really wanted to, but he is now a very busy family man.

A separate email was sent to all Members by Capt Bush thanking all for the card sent and best wishes.

3. Lewes Branch RAA 30th Birthday Celebration (5th April) & 2023 Annual Dinner at the John Harvey Tavern on Saturday 27th May 2023. Lt Dexter MacMillan, BSM and Ops WO from Lloyds Company are attending along

with the RAA Secretary and His Wife. The Dinner is now full but if any Member wishes to be added to the reserve list, please contact Mark Harding.

Date: Saturday 27th May 2023

Timings: Arrive at 17:30 and be seated at 18:00

Cost: 2 Courses £23.00 Per Person 3 Courses £28.00 Per Person

Dress: Regimental Ties and Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.

Would any Member not attending the Dinner wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please could you bring it along to the April 2023 Meeting. Members attending the event, and wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please bring along on the night.

Wine has been agreed to be subsidised by Branch Funds. As always, for those wine drinkers, if you see a Member not drinking wine, please buy them a pint using the buddy system.

The raffle will again be done by envelopes at £5.00 per envelope. 60 envelopes will be available.

4. The RA Assembly over the weekend 12-14 May 2023 was a good event and Members got together for the Gala Dinner. This event is highly recommended.
5. Annual Chattri Service on Sunday 11th June at 2.00 pm for 2.30 pm start. Darryl confirmed Standard Bearer. We require a volunteer to lay wreath on our behalf.
6. RA Service of Remembrance – NMA – Sat 22nd July 2023. All detail previously sent to all by email. Mark asked Members if they would like to make this a Branch event. Please contact Mark who will collate and report back at the next Meeting.
7. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ: Confirmed and booked at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26th August 2023. Would any Member wishing to volunteer to assist on the day, please advise Mark. Steve Winter, Lee Harding and Tex have kindly volunteered to assist.
8. The Thorney Island Summer Fete is in the planning for September 2023 by 12 & 16 Regt RA. Full details TBC and Mark will send these out ASAP.
9. Website Gallery Area: Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on our website.
10. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

AOB:

11. Sword plinth. Jerry confirmed that this is still a work in progress and will update accordingly.
12. 25 Pounder Plaque. It was agreed that an angled wooden block be added to the plinth to hold the plaque along with the Flaming Grenade from WW1 that Brian Scott kindly donated along with a brass RA Cap Badge.
13. Wall space in the Meeting Room. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote.
14. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. Held at St Marys' Supporters Club on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email to edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com. Please ensure that you book on time as places must be booked in advance as Lewes AFVBC have to order the food from Morrison's on the Wednesday prior to breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.

15. Partners/Families Membership.
16. Jack thanks all those who attended the RBL meeting in April. He advised that he had received some good feedback and the RBL has shared the comments raised with their trustees to take any action etc.
17. Jerry asked for it to be known that he attended the Army v Navy Rugby on Saturday 13th May 2023, and after trying to make fun at people on Facebook prior to the event that he is attending with access to the RA Bar and Enclosure – that he forgot to take his wrist bands with him, so couldn't access them himself..... I would like to confirm that he only told us this at our Meeting as his wife, Sue, will no doubt tell us all during our Annual Dinner anyway of Saturday.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA May 2023 Meeting closed at 20:45.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be Our Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday 27th May 2023.

Venue: John Harvey Tavern
Dress: Regimental Ties and Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.
Timings: Arrive at 17:30 and be seated at 18:00

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 30th June 2023.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club
Dress: Smart Casual
Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

President: Peter Godding
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Secretary: Mark Harding
Treasurer: Lee Harding
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