



## LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



### Minutes of Annual General Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

**The Commemoration of The Gunners:** Read by Our Chairman, Mr Michael Hobden.

**Members Present:** Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Paul Hughes, Jerry Docherty, Tex Rees-Avery, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Head, Bob Parker, John Shill, John Talmey, Michael Taylor and Peter Wyatt.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding, Alan South, Ken Amys, Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Rev. Egar, Mark Eve, Colin Kemp, Tim Maloney, Peter Marcantonio, Ray Metcalfe, Jack Neil, Peter Page, Doug Raynsford, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, Brian Walter and Steve White.

**Chairman's Report:** Our Chairman welcomed all Members to our AGM and wished all Members a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2023.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee reported that cash available stands at £994.73. Lee presented our 2022 final accounts which were put to vote. Proposed by Lee Harding and seconded by Peter Wyatt. Carried. Lee will now submit our final 2022 accounts to RAA HQ.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** Lee reported that all Members had been contacted this month with a couple that he was only able to leave voicemail but will re-contact them. An update on all these Members was provided by Lee.

Lee, through Peter Crowhurst advised that Brian Scott had had a spell in hospital. Lee confirmed that he sent a get well soon card to Brian with our best wishes for a speedy recovery. Peter advised that Brian is now back home and recovering well.

Lee asked for Volunteers to arrange visits to Members that are unable to attend Monthly Meetings and/or Events. Would you please let Lee know if you are available for this soonest at [ldh.harding@gmail.com](mailto:ldh.harding@gmail.com)

It was discussed that one Member was looking for an outdoor wheelchair due to not being able to get out and around easily. One of our Members advised that they have one available and will liaise with Jerry and Mark to get it to them.

Although not a Members of our Association, for those who are also Members of The Sussex Yeomanry Association, John Shill advised that Tony Crowson sadly passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

1. Mark provided all Members with a copy of the Minutes from our 2022 AGM for reference.

Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Jerry Docherty and seconded by Peter Head. Carried.

2. Mark contacted all current Officers & Committee Members of Lewes Branch RAA with regards to standing again for 2023. The following confirmations have been received to date.

Role	Name	Confirmed
President	Peter Godding	Yes
Chairman	Michael Hobden	Yes
Vice Chairman	David Harding	Yes
Secretary	Mark Harding	Yes
Treasurer	Lee Harding	Yes
Welfare Officer	Lee Harding	Yes
Entertainments Manager	Jerry Docherty	Yes
Standard Bearer	Darryl Twinch	Yes
Chaplain	Rev. Canon Judith Egar	Yes
Committee Members	Darryl Twinch	Yes
	Steve Winter	Yes
	Alan South	Yes
	Paul Hughes	Yes

With no Members wishing to volunteer for any of the above roles, it was put to vote that the above Members remain in their current roles for 2023. All Members voted enblock. Carried.

- Funeral of LBdr Peter Falon. 29 Dec 2022 Eastbourne. Many thanks go to to Tex who carried the RBL Standard and Peter Crowhurst for attending.
- The RA Gold Cup is being held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Mark has sent details to all. Please note that members must book their tickets in advance using the UBIQUE discount code, otherwise it will be full price on the day.

Paul advised that he was unable to pre-purchase the restaurant tickets online. Mark will email RAA HQ for advice.

See attached Forecast of Events and Attendance.

- The Lewes Branch RA Race Night is being held at St Marys' on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Mark has sent details to all. Members of St Marys' have also been invited. Jerry advised that all horses that were available for pr-purchase, have all now been sold. However, Members are able to purchase horses for Race 8 on the night.

See attached Forecast of Events and Attendance.

Mark proposed that 50% of the proceeds from the night be donated to the RACF. This was agreed by all Members.

- Gunner Sunday – Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Details not yet confirmed but the timings will be the same as 2022. Mark will send details soonest. The lunch is likely to be in the region of £12-£14 per person. Once Members confirm attendance, Mark will pay for all and ask Members to reimburse him soonest.

It was discussed and agreed that Members would pay for their own lunch and a minibus up to a max of 17 seats would be paid for from Branch funds. Jerry is organising the minibus and will revert soonest.

See attached Forecast of Events and Attendance.

- Lewes Branch RAA 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration (5<sup>th</sup> April) & 2023 Annual Dinner. Mark confirmed that he has booked The John Harvey Tavern for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 arrive 17:30 to be seated by 18:00. Spaces are restricted to a maximum of 35. Would Members please provide suggestions of Honoured Guest(s) for this event. It was also agreed that we invite two Serving Members of 43 Bty.

It was suggested that we try to seek an alternative venue for future Dinners to enable more to attend. Suggestions were the Elephant & Castle and The Dorset. Mark has contacted both and awaits a reply from the E&C.

**Response from The Dorset:** I'd absolutely love you to have your dinner with us, but I just don't think the room is big enough. I can seat 40 but on separate tables. To fit the design you are after I'd be at a push be able to sit 32-35 at a very tight sitting. Menu would be £26.95 per head for 3 course meal to include coffee afterwards. I can get a menu and photos to you if you're still interested.

8. The RA Assembly is being held over the weekend of Friday 12th May 2023.

It is a great opportunity for us as Lewes Branch to attend to not only meet up with our 'Kin', old members of The Royal Regiment, but also to meet up with our Affiliated Bty, 43 Bty, serving Members of the Regt and Veterans of other RAA Branches from throughout the UK and EU.

Mark suggested that Members attending, should book Friday to Sunday as apart from the Church Service on Sunday morning, nothing else goes on until a buffet tea on Sunday evening.

There are currently issues with booking this event, and once confirmation is received from RAA HQ, Mark will advise Members accordingly.

9. The Battery Flag kindly donated to our Branch by 43 Bty has been framed at a cost of £240.00. It was agreed and confirmed that these funds be reimbursed out of our Branch funds.
10. 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.
11. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
12. See Forecast of Events attached. It was agreed and discussed that we move the following Meetings to the Friday before the end of the month due to clashing with Events: February 17<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup>.

See attached Forecast of Events and Attendance.

**AOB:**

13. Alan South advised that he has provided Jerry with a suitable piece of wood for the plinth to mount our RA Sword that Mark has as a table piece. Jerry advised that he is still working on this and will provide updates accordingly.
14. John Henderson. He is now ensconced at RHC and text Mark Eve on 29 Dec to say he has settled in nicely with a nice berth and all mod-cons. He even had delivered to his room his kit. Mark Eve sent our best regards to John. Emailed John advising Gunner Sunday and he hopes to be around on the day.
15. Branch Plaque/Shield and Tie. Mark suggested designing our own Branch Plaque and Tie.

Mark provided a draft of a Branch Tie and emailed and passed to Members (see attached design). The cost of this would work out to be £18.33 pe tie. Depending upon the number of Members wishing to purchase this will depend on whether we go ahead with this. Please would you advise Mark if you would purchase one to establish this?

Would Members please provide designs for a Branch Plaque which we will discuss at the next Meeting.

16. Wall space in the Meeting Room. It was discussed and agreed that the Shields be placed along the top of the wall to enable more space. The 43 Bty Flag and Frame will be hung at the bottom left-hand corner. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote.
17. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. Held at St Marys' Supporters Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email

to [edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com](mailto: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 the breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.

**With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA 2023 Annual General Meeting closed at 20:55.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at St Marys' Supporters Club.**

**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  
**Tel:** 07903 702 767  
**Email:** [theraalewes@gmail.com](mailto:theraalewes@gmail.com)



# LEWES BRANCH RAA

## FORECAST OF EVENTS 2023



Items marked in yellow TBC

Items marked in ref blue are specific to Lewes Branch RAA

Items marked in green are general events for the RA/RAA

27 <sup>th</sup> January	Lewes Branch RAA Annual General Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 <sup>th</sup> February	RA Gold Cup	Sandown Park
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 <sup>th</sup> February	RAA Race Night	St Marys' Supporters Club <b>BOOKED</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> March	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
16 <sup>th</sup> April	Gunner Sunday	Royal Hospital Chelsea (RHC)
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Curry Night	<b>SUGGESTIONS PLEASE</b>
12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> May	RA Assembly	Blackpool
13 <sup>th</sup> May	RAA NEC Meeting	Blackpool
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
27 <sup>th</sup> May	Lewes Branch RAA 30 <sup>th</sup> Birthday & Annual Dinner	John Harvey Tavern <b>BOOKED</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> June	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
22 <sup>nd</sup> July	RA Service of Remembrance	National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Lewes Branch RAA BBQ	St Marys' Supporters Club <b>BOOKED</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
4 <sup>th</sup> October	RAA NEC Meeting	Larkhill
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Function Day/Night	<b>SUGGESTIONS PLEASE</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Field of Remembrance	Westminster Abbey
11 <sup>th</sup> November	Armistice Day	Lewes
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Parade	Lewes
12 <sup>th</sup> November	RA Ceremony of Remembrance	Hyde Park Corner
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Lewes Branch RAA Christmas Dinner	John Harvey Tavern
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	St Barbara's Day	Larkhill
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Monthly Meeting	St Marys' Supporters Club

## EVENTS ATTENDANCE 2023

Would Members please advise Mark is you would like to attend any of these Events soonest.

Name	RA Gold Cup	RAA Race Night	Gunner Sunday	Branch Curry Night	Annual Dinner	Branch BBQ
Date:	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	16 <sup>th</sup> April	29 <sup>th</sup> April	27 <sup>th</sup> May	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Peter Godding	0	0	0	0	0	0
Michael Hobden	0	2	1	2	1	2
David Harding	2	1	1	1	2	1
Mark Harding	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lee Harding	2	2	2		2	
Darryl Twinch	0	1	1	1	1	1
Steve Winter	0	1			1	1
Alan South			0			
Paul Hughes	2	2	2	2	2	2
Jerry Docherty		2	2	2	2	2
Ken Amys						
Tex Rees-Avery		2	2		2	2
Peter Barnard						
Mick Bird						
Brian Cager						
Gary Caulfield						
David Collett						
David Collins						
Peter Crowhurst	0	0	0	0		0
Rev Canon Judith Egar						
Mark Eve						
Peter Head	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ray Hughes						
Sean Kelly						
Colin Kemp						
Tim Maloney						
Raymond Metcalfe						
Peter Marcantonio						
Alan Mayers						
Jack Neil						
Simon Odey						
Peter Page						
Robbie Parker	0	2	0	2	2	
Doug Raynsford						
Fred Rossington						
Brian Scott						
Dave Scott						
John Shill						
Paul Spooner						
Jim Talmey	0	0	0	1	1	
John Talmey						
Ray Talmey						
Michael Taylor	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brian Walter						
Steve White						
Peter Wyatt	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>