



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH



MINUTES OF THE LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION May Meeting – 21st May 2021 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

Members Present: Michael Hobden, Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Steve Winter, Paul Hughes, David Collett, Peter Crowhurst, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Peter Godding, Peter Marcantonio, Bob Parker, Fred Rossington, John Shill, John Talmey and Michael Taylor. Separately Dave Scott.

Apologies for Absence: David Collins, Des Foord, Sean Kelly, Steve White, Peter Wyatt, Doug Raynsford, Ray Metcalfe, Mick Bird, Jack Neil, Brian Cager, Mick Norris, Brian Walter and Colin Kemp.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden Welcomed all Members to the first face-to-face Meeting since October 2020. 18 Members attended.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised Mark and confirmed that there is £701.40 available in the bank and £20.00 petty cash. Total available £721.40. There is £18.50 due to be paid out for a stock RAA Wreath and £134.86 for the Annual Website and Domain Name fee. Therefore, the total available is £568.04 as at today.

Welfare Officers Report: Lee Harding advised that all Members have been contacted this month and no problems arisen.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 30th April 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Budge Harding. Carried.
2. Mark advised that the GAI's are currently being amended and would provide a copy to all once complete.
3. Mark advised Members to contact him if they require a copy of the Forecast of Events (also on our website) or a copy of the RAA 2020 Accounts.
4. 43 Bty Update: The Majority of 43 Bty are still deployed on Ex Athena Rebus in Cyprus, as they continue to fly Watchkeeper, for the remainder of the Bty back in the UK we are planning on conducting a number a soldier first exercises in order to get our soldiers prepared for readiness in April 2022.

Our Battery Birthday is approaching so we have planned a Battery Parade and Photo, followed by a toast on the 18 June, due to government guidelines we have decided to postpone our planned celebrations until 1 July as we can then have a whole day of celebrations, including sporting activities and an evening meal.

Out in Cyprus they plan to celebrate the Battery Birthday at the beach with water sports and again an evening meal.

5. Mark discussed further CWGC Presentations and the consensus is that Members would like to continue with these via Zoom. Mark will liaise with the CWGC and suggest 3 dates outside of normal Meeting dates and revert back to Members soonest.

6. Mark confirmed that he had found all 14 RA CWG in and around the Lewes area. Photos of these can be seen in the Gallery area of our website. To access the Gallery area, you must sign up to the website. Should any Members have any problems with this, please contact Lee or Mark for further details.
7. John Shill kindly offered to provide a presentation of the Sussex Yeomanry. It was requested by Members this take part during our July Meeting on 23rd July 2021. It was discussed that we would require a viewer and screen for this. Paul Hughes and Jerry Docherty advised that they would look into the possibility of borrowing said items and get back to Mark.
8. 2021 Annual and/or Christmas Dinner. Mark advised that he had contacted The White Hart to ascertain their current plan for dinners but has yet to hear from them. Mark will continue to chase and update.
9. The Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance to be held on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at The National Memorial Arboretum (Alrewas, Staffordshire (Nr Tamworth)). Guests arrive at 11:00 hrs. Currently 6 Members confirmed attendance. No further Members advised of their attendance.
10. Mark discussed The District Armed Forces Day in Eastbourne on 26th June 2021. There are currently 10 Members confirmed as attending and to help man the stall. Michael H, Budge, Mark H, Lee, Peter C, Mark E, Peter M, Bob, Fred and John T. Any other Members wishing to attend, would you please let Mark know soonest and advise if you are also able to assist with manning the stall?
11. The re-scheduling of Our Service of Remembrance for 100 Years of the RAA and 75th Anniversary of VE Day that we postponed. Mark contacted The Rev. Canon Judith Egar regarding this and agreed that as the numbers at commemorative events are still restricted to 30, also, congregational singing is still not allowed and there is no indication as to when that restriction might be lifted, it has been agreed that it would make sense if we looked at this again in June, when we reach the next stage of the Government's roadmap.
12. Mark reminded Members of the Gallery area on our website and to send photos/cuttings etc to Lee or Mark who will add them.
13. Mark also reminded Members of our Branch Scrapbook and to send photos/cuttings etc to Darryl or Mark who will add them.
14. Mark reminded Members of the importance of checking and reading emails as this is the main source of media that all information is sent to regarding our Branch.
15. Mark advised that The GUNNER magazine is about to have a relaunch and planned changes commencing in the July 2021 edition.

In line with the new layout, the Charities have been allocated 4 pages between the RAA, RACF and RAI. The content for these pages will include events, information, charity updates and Branch news to keep the readers up to date. If your Branch has any news for the Gunner magazine or RAA Newsletter, we encourage you to kindly share your articles with us to print in the magazine.

Please send anything into Mark who will send this on to RAA HQ.

16. Mark reminded Members to submit their signed Permission Forms to enable us to use images, cuttings, videos etc of them on our website, social media, send to RAA HQ for publications etc.

AOB:

1. Mark confirmed that Members would like to arrange a Summer BBQ at St Marys. Paul and Mark discussed with St Marys' and they advised that we are able to use the Garden Area, BBQ and briquettes provided at a cost of £10 per hour. It was agreed that the date for this would be Saturday 17th July 2021 between 12:00 – 18:00. This has been booked with St Marys'. Paul and Mark will liaise and provide further information soonest.

2. Michael Hobden proposed that each year we lay a Wreath of Remembrance on alternate RA CWG in the Lewes Area on Remembrance Sunday. It was discussed to lay more than one each year. This was declined as there are currently 14 RA CWG in our Area. It was agreed that one per year would be laid.
3. Lee Harding proposed to commission a Roll of Honour with the RA CWG in the Lewes Area. This was agreed and Lee will look into this and revert back to us.
4. John Shill provided an update with regards to the situation of Des Foord. Des is currently residing at a care home, Claydon House, 8 Wallands Cres, Lewes. BN7 2QT. John advises he will try to follow up with Des' daughter Sara for further info and provide us with an update in due course.

Lee proposed that we send Des a Moonpig type card with the new Members Photo on. This was agreed and Lee will arrange.

5. Peter Marcantonio proposed that Meeting Subs should be increased. It was discussed and then proposed this increase from £7.50 to £10.00 per Meeting which will include the first drink.

It was put to vote and Proposed by Peter Marcantonio and Seconded by Fred Rossington and the votes were 18 FOR (including discussion with Dave Scott after this Meeting) and 1 AGAINST.

Although this in itself is enough of a majority to carry this and set it in stone, our Chairman and Secretary would like to put this to all Members of our Branch who did not attend this Meeting to obtain their vote first as a courtesy to all Members.

Mark has emailed all Members not in attendance for their votes and confirm that as at 27th May 2021, 24 Members voted to propose the change and 2 Members voted against the change.

We have 39 Members. Therefore, we can confirm that the majority is that this proposal be carried. Subs will increase with effect from our June 2021 Meeting to £10.00 which includes the first drink.

Proposed by Peter Marcantonio and Seconded by Fred Rossington. Carried.

With no other business, our May 2021 Meeting of the Lewes Branch RAA closed at 21:45.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 18th June 2021 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Dress: Smart Casual
Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

Due to current restrictions, we are again only able to have a maximum of 20 Members attend.

Please see the list below for those Members who have already confirmed their attendance as at 26th May 2021.

Would Members wishing to attend our June Meeting please email or call Mark to confirm (please do not use acceptance on social media events to confirm your attendance).

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Treasurer: Colin Kemp
Secretary: Mark Harding
39 Dunstall Avenue, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. RH15 8PJ
Tel: 01444 871 885 Mob: 07903 702 767
Email: theraalewes@gmail.com

**26th June 2021 Meeting
Confirmed Attendance**

Name	Confirmed Attending Meeting
Michael Hobden	Yes
David Harding (Budge)	Yes
Mark Harding	Yes
Colin Kemp	No
Darryl Twinch	Yes
Lee Harding	Yes
Steve Winter	
Alan South	
Paul Hughes	
Mick Bird	
Brian Cager	
David Collett	
David Collins	
Peter Crowhurst	
Jerry Docherty	Yes
Rev Canon Judith Egar	
Mark Eve	
Des Foord	
Peter Godding	Yes
Sean Kelly	
Raymond Metcalfe	Yes
Jack Neil	Yes
Peter Marcantonio	
Alan Mayers	
Mick Norris	
Simon Odey	
Robbie Parker	
Doug Raynsford	
Fred Rossington	
Dave Scott	
John Shill	
Paul Spooner	
Jim Talmey	
John Talmey	
Ray Talmey	
Michael Taylor	
Brian Walter	
Steve White (Knocker)	
Peter Wyatt	
Total	9