



## LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

**Members Present:** Jerry Docherty, Budge Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Michael Hobden, Darryl Twinch, Peter Barnard, Mick Bird, John Bishop, Rev. Canon Judith Egar, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Alan Mayers, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Andy Reddy, John Shill, Jim Talmey and John Talmey.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding, Paul Hughes, Alan South, Steve Winter, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Sean Kelly, Tim Maloney, Ray Metcalfe, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, Ray Talmey, Steve White and Peter Wyatt.

**Chairman's Report:** Michael Hobden wished all Members and their Families a Happy New Year and good luck for 2024. Michael welcomed all to the AGM and thanked all for their attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee advised that there is £1,185.07 available in the bank. All annual returns have been submitted to RAA HQ for 2023.

**Welfare Officer's Report:** Lee advised that there are no welfare issues. Lee advised all that our visit and December 2023 Meeting to Peter Godding at Lydford Care Home had made the local press and John Shill had kindly brought some copies of the Sussex Express to show Members. Lee also posted the article on our Facebook page and the Galleries Area on our website.

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

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Lee Harding. Carried.
2. Officer & Committee Members were discussed for 2024. We can confirm that two Members have stepped down and two Members have stepped up. The proposed Officers & Committee Members for 2024 are as follows:

Name	Role
Peter Godding	President
Michael Hobden	Chairman
David Harding	Vice Chairman
Mark Harding	Secretary
Lee Harding	Treasurer & Welfare Officer
Darryl Twinch	Standard Bearer/Committee Member
Jerry Docherty	Entertainments Manager
Bob Parker	Committee Member
John Talmey	Committee Member
Steve Winter	Committee Member

This was put to vote that the above Officers & Committee Members for 2024 were voted en block. Carried.

3. RA Gold Cup Sandown. 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Please book direct. Please refer to the info in the email previously sent.
4. Lewes Branch RAA Race Night. 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. ST Marys'. Timings are to arrive for 19:00 for pre-race drinks and the first race kicks off at 19:30. Race cards will be sent to Members to pre-purchase soonest.
5. Andy Reddy has kindly volunteered to provide the catering for our Lewes Branch RAA Curry Night booked at St Marys on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Tex kindly volunteered to provide some equipment to Andy to assist him. Tex and Andy to liaise directly.
6. RA Assembly Blackpool. 17-19 May 2024. 5 already booked. Please refer to the info in the email previously sent.
7. Mark advised that Our 2024 Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner has been booked for Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Lewes Golf Club. Menus available from Mark Harding.

Would you please advise Mark Harding of your attendance soonest along with your menu choices. Please advise attendance either way.

It was agreed that we invite the Assistant Secretary of the RAA Association, Cas Thoburn as our Honoured Guest.

It was discussed at length with regards to subsidising the Annual Dinner. It was agreed that wine be provided on the tables and agreed that if a Member is not drinking wine, please implement the 'Buddy System' where if you are, then please buy them a pint.

John Talmey has kindly volunteered as Mr Vice.

8. Mark provided an update from WO2 (BSM) Pete Kinsey – BSM 43 Battery (Lloyds Company) RA.
9. Branch Website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website.
10. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
11. 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. Mark has asked the Club for more wall space and awaits their responses.

**AOB:**

12. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Project: See Jerry for full details. There have been two donations to date. Thanks to Andy Reddy and John Bishop.
13. Branch Lapel Pins. Additional Branch Lapel Pins are now available. The first pin is free and Members can purchase additional pins at a cost of £6.00 each.
14. Michael Hobden discussed the Army v Navy Rugby event to take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Would Members please advise Mark if you are interested in making this a Branch Event soonest.
15. Members discussed the possibility of holding Meetings at Lydfords Care Home in the future. Mark discussed this with Peter Godding who is more than happy with this, and also with Sam Harding, the Home Services Advisor at Lydfords, who confirmed that they would be delighted to provide us with a room for this. It was agreed that this should be on a quarterly basis. Lee will liaise with Sam to arrange this. It was agreed that we suggest attending there for our April 2024 Monthly Meeting. Lee to liaise with Lydfords to confirm.

It was also discussed that we arrange a function at Lydfords. After much discussion, it was agreed that we suggest an afternoon tea event for Members and their families on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024. Lee to liaise with Lydfords to arrange.

It was also agreed that the photo taken from the December Meeting be hung on our wall space.

16. St Marys' Membership renewals are now due. Please renew Memberships at the bar. Costs are £15.00 or £10.00 for the over 65's.
17. Jerry raised the issue regarding Members cancelling or not attending dinners, when they have already confirmed their attendance. As agreed, there is a cut off time of 2 weeks prior to any paid event, and if a Member cancels within this time, they are required to pay regardless. This is due to the venue charging us as they have already pre-ordered food etc.
18. Jack advised of a local veteran who was going through a hard time and had not been provided any aftercare package. Jack advised that the RBL were contacted and they assisted fully. The Contact Centre for Welfare for the RBL is 0808 802 8080.
19. Jack discussed the visibility of 43 Bty when supporting us in Lewes, specifically Remembrance Parade. This was discussed at length and agreed that as Lewes Branch host 43 Bty, if members of the public or LTC wish to spend time around 43 Bty, then they should be invited to St Marys' after the Parade. However, we must be mindful of numbers permitted at St Marys'.
20. Jack discussed the port situation at the Christmas Dinner and kindly donated 3 bottles of port for our Annual Dinner. Thanks to Jack.
21. Michael Hobden then presented Tex with 'The Button' for his poor attire at the Meeting.

**With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA AGM 2024 closed at 21:15.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.**

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

**Captain-General:** His Majesty King Charles III

**President:** Peter Godding

**Chairman:** Michael Hobden

**Secretary:** Mark Harding

**Treasurer:** Lee Harding

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