



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 17th April 2026 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Chairman, Bob Parker.

Members Present: Budge Harding, Bob Parker, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, John Talmey, Tex Rees-Avery, Peter Head, Gary Miles, Dave Scott, Jim Talmey and Ray Talmey.

Apologies for Absence: Jerry Docherty, Paul Hughes, Darryl Twinch, John Bishop, Mark Eve, Brian Scott, Alan South and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Bob Welcomed all Members to the Meeting and advised all that Gunner Sunday went extremely well and was a great day. He encouraged more Members to attend this event. Bob also wished all Members a great Annual Dinner.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is currently £1,045.05 available in our funds.

Welfare Officer's Report: Mark provided a Welfare update on behalf of Paul. Should any Member wish to discuss any welfare issues, please contact Paul directly.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Monthly Meeting held on 27th March 2026. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by John Talmey and seconded by Ray Talmey. Carried.
2. Armed Forces Day 2026. Due to not being able to have a stand on this day due to Lewes TC rules, it was agreed that we apply to have a Lewes Branch RAA stand at Tesco in Lewes on Saturday 6th June 2026 as AFD will be advertised at this point and in the public's minds. Mark has applied for this and awaits confirmation. Dave Scott provided Mark with a contact to chase up.
3. Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner for 25th April 2026 at Lewes Golf Club. Mark has sent menu proformas. Please respond earliest. 43 Bty are unable to provide any SP to attend due to deployment. Steve & Gerri Scudder have accepted our invitation to be our Honoured Guests. This is closed off as of Saturday 18th April 2026.
4. RA Assembly Blackpool. 15-17 May 2026. 11 Attending to date. Please see details sent via email previously and advise Mark of your intentions soonest. 43 Bty are attending so will receive the Kerr Cup themselves.
5. Further to Mark's email sent regarding Lewes TC consultation to change the timings for Remembrance Parade to 11am, it was discussed and agreed that we reply rejecting the proposal. We are still awaiting responses. Jack suggested the results were 50% want to change, 48% don't and 2% did not respond. They are now referring to the RBL for their view.
6. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

7. Branch Website. Send photos to Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please also contact Lee or Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. <https://www.theraalewes.co.uk/>
8. Lewes Branch RAA business cards are now available to carry and hand out. They will be available for collection at every Meeting.

AOB:

9. Alternative events for dinners. Mark emailed all Members to see if they would attend Dinners outside of Lewes. Ray advised he would look into venues in the Newhaven area and revert back to Members. Ray to look into Newhaven. Lee suggested Newhaven Fort and John Talmey advised that they are able to provide Sausage & Mash, Peas and Gravy and Victoria Sponge or locally made Ice Cream at a cost of £20.95 per person. Staffing costs would be extra, which we await costs. It was agreed that this may be a great Summer type event and will discuss further at our next Meeting. A bar can also be arranged.
10. Sheila at St Marys' has asked if we are able to provide the Club with a Cam Net so as they can sew knitted Poppies onto it and drape it over the front of the Club during Remembrance and other events. Mark has spoken to David Collett who has one available and will be collecting it from him on 14th June 2026. John Talmey also kindly provided a Cam Net for Sheila.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA April 2026 Meeting closed at 20:40.

The next Branch Event will be Lewes Branch Annual Dinner at Lewes Golf Club on Saturday 25th April 2026.

Venue: Lewes Golf Club.
Dress: Blazers/Suits, Regimental Ties. (miniature Medals may be worn)
Timings: 1700 onwards.

The next Royal Artillery Event will be the RA Assembly in Blackpool the weekend of 15 – 17 May 2026.

Venue: Norbreck Castle Hotel.
Dress: Blazers/Suits, Regimental Ties (for Gala Dinner). (miniature Medals may be worn)
Timings: See Running Order previously sent.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Monthly Meeting will be on Friday 29th May 2026

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club.
Dress: Smart Casual.
Timings: 1915 for 1930 Start for Committee Meeting.
1930 for 2000 start for General Meeting.

Captain-General and Patron: His Majesty King Charles III

President: David Harding

Chairman: Robin Parker

Secretary: Mark Harding

Treasurer: Lee Harding

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