



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association
22nd February 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club
Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

Members Present: Mick Bird, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Mark Harding, David Harding, Michael Hobden, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Mick Norris, Robbie Parker, Doug Raynsford, John Talmey, Michael Taylor, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Des Foord, Derek Glen, Peter Godding, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes, Sean Kelly, Jack Neil, Russel Simpson and Alan South.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed all Members to the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised that the Cash in the bank as at today is ████████ of which £20.00 is due to be paid out leaving a total available of ████████.

Colin also advised that our Branch has paid the subscription for the WebMaster for 2018 along with our Branch Annual Subscription Fee.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the AGM Minutes for the Meeting held on 25th January 2019. With no comments advised, the AGM Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by Robbie Parker. Carried.
2. The Committee and Members were asked at our January AGM if any Member would like to take up the vacant post of Vice Chairman.

David Harding showed interest in this during the AGM and Mark advised this in our January Minutes.

No other Members wished to take up this post, therefore it was put to vote that David Harding take on the role of Vice Chairman with our attending Members. Proposed by Michael Taylor and seconded by Peter Wyatt. Passed.

As at 22nd February 2019 The Committee therefore reads as follows:

Chairman:	Michael Hobden
Vice Chairman:	David Harding
Treasurer:	Colin Kemp
Secretary & Welfare:	Mark Harding
Standard Bearer:	Darryl Twinch
Committee of Four:	Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter and Michael Taylor

3. Mark advised that the RAA Annual Returns have been completed and sent HQ with the accounts.
4. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events including the RA Assembly for all Members to read.

5. Annual Dinner. The venue and date is confirmed Saturday 18^h May 2018 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. Menus and costs were provided by Mark (see attached). Mark discussed ideas for an Honourable Guest and said he would discuss again during our February Meeting for final ideas.

As previously discussed £5.00 per person would be subsidized from our Branch funds, therefore the total cost per person is now £20.00. Please note that Members and Guests are responsible for the cost of their own refreshments.

Would all Members, not already done so, please submit your Attendance & Menu choices in to Mark ASAP?

6. Annual Summer Event. Mark asked Members regarding various ideas for events/venues. Mark asked Members to gather ideas and we will discuss this again during our March Meeting.
7. Mark reminded Members with regards to the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and left leaflets for Member to take. This is held at the Toby Carvery, Willingdon Drove, Eastbourne. BN23 8AS every 1st Sunday at 0930 onwards.
8. Mark advised that he had received an email form RAA HQ asking for nominations for the NFA Garden Party. Mark advised that there was certain criteria for nominees and it was agreed that John Talmey, David Harding and Doug Raynsford be nominated. Michael Hobden is agreed to send the nominations in to RAA HQ.
9. Although not confirmed, and that Members agreed to discuss again during our March Meeting, it was suggested that two Members of RAA HQ be invited as our Honourary Guest during our Annual Dinner. As agreed, we will discuss this again during our March Meeting and agree on guests.
10. Mark advised that he had been in discussions with David Collet of the Sussex Yeomanry Association with regards to the loan of silver for the tables during our Annual Dinner. David Collet had advised that this has been agreed by the Sussex Yeomanry Committee and he would be in touch with Mark to finalise.

Mark also advise that he has also been speaking to David Collet regarding our relationship with the Sussex Yeomanry and the fact that our Branch also includes 13 Members of the Sussex Yeomanry. David suggested that he attend our March Meeting to come along and visit us if possible. David has confirmed that he will try to make this meeting.

11. Mark also advised that he had received an application for a possible new Member and would follow this up.

AOB:

1. It was discussed with Members the possibly increase in Membership Subs. The current subs are £5.00 for each Meeting attended with the first drink included and have been in place since March 2015. Various scenarios were discussed and it was put to vote that our Branch Meeting subs be increased to £7.50 which will still include the first drink. Proposed by Peter Crowhurst and seconded by Mick Norris. Passed.
2. Michael Hobden suggested that, for future reference, we update our Branch Members Service Records by adding a potted history (funny stories, achievements etc, to enable us to have a better idea of Members full history. Mark advised that he would bring along current Service Records for Members to add to.
3. Colin Kemp discussed having a There But Not There Tommy to add to our Absent Members table during events. This was agreed and Colin advised that he would provide this.

Colin also discussed the possibility of adding engraved plaques onto this for Past Members. Again, this was agreed and Colin would provide details with possibly an English Oak base to add these to. Colin to advise at next Meeting.

4. Darryl confirmed that he has requested for a second wreath for stock and that it had been ordered.
5. Mark advised that he had forwarded the February RAA Newsletter to Members and pointed out that other Branches had sent in photos of events such as AGM's etc that had been shown. Members agreed that our

Branch should supply details and photos of events etc to Mark to enable him to send to RAA HQ for such publications.

6. Mark reminded Members with regards to our Branch Facebook page. Due to not all Members being particular fans of social media such as Facebook, it was asked if we could possibly set up our own website. This was discussed at length and Mark advised that as we didn't have any Members that were "IT Guru's" it may be difficult in adding content to an outsourced website provider and possibly costly. Robby advised that he would look into this and advise at our next Meeting.
7. Michael Hobden asked if we were able to find out a little bit of history regarding our Branch. Mark advised he would search through the Branch Minutes and advise accordingly.
8. Certain Members asked about the whereabouts of historic items such as a Certificate that was presented to our Branch for Fund Raising and a Golf Winners' Cup. Darryl advised that he may have the certificate and would have a look and advise.

With no other business, the February 2019 of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 2140.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 29th March 2019 at St Marys Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 meet for 20:00 start.

Dress: Casual.

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