



## LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



### MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

**Members Present:** Jerry Docherty (Ents Mgr), David Harding (VCh), Lee Harding (Trs/Wel), Mark Harding (Sec), Michael Hobden (Ch), Darryl Twinch (Com/StdBr), Mark Eve, Peter Head, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Jim Talmey, John Talmey, Ray Talmey, Michael Taylor and Peter Talmey.

**Apologies for Absence:** Peter Godding (Pres), Alan South (Com), Steve Winter (Com), Tex Rees-Avery, John Bishop, Brian Cager, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Gary Miles, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, John Shill, Brian Walter, Steve White and Peter Wyatt.

**Chairman's Report:** Michael Hobden asked Members for a moment for the loss of Our Member Bill Simmons.

Michael welcomed new Life Member Peter Talmey and presented him with his Membership Card and Booklet.

Michael thanked the organisers of the Branch Summer BBQ and all those who attended.

Jerry then handed over The Button to the new holder, Bob Parker.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lee advised that there is £1,098.11 available in the bank.

#### **Welfare Officer's Report:**

Bill Simmons sadly passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Funeral details: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 13:00. Eastbourne Crematorium, Hide Hollow, Langley, Eastbourne. BN23 8AE. Following the Service, Members are invited to attend the Wake at The View, Seaford Head Golf Course, Southdown Road, Seaford. BN24 4JS. Bills family has asked if anyone has old photos of Bill in uniform please bring them along, as it would be great to see them. The Sussex Yeomanry Association are providing their Regimental Flag as a coffin drape.

Lee advised that he had tried to contact Peter Godding, Brian Walter and David Collins with no success but will continue to try.

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

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Darryl Twinch and seconded by John Talmey. Carried.
2. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ. 34 attended. Special thanks to Mark Harding for organising the event, Steve Winter for cooking, Lee & Lynda for arranging pasta and their help. Thanks also to Michael Taylor for the donation of the onions and Lawrence Gray for cooking them.

Bob Parker was the proud winner of The Button due to his distinct unlikeness to Al Capone.

3. Lewes Branch RAA Annual Christmas Dinner. John Harvey Tavern. Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**TIMINGS:** Arrive at 17:30 and be seated at 18:00

**COST:** 2 Courses £23.00 Per Person  
3 Courses £30.00 Per Person

**DRESS:** Regimental Ties and Blazers/Suits (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.

It was discussed and agreed that we will provide wine on the table from Branch Funds. As always, we must ask that for those members who spot others not drinking the free wine, please apply the 'buddy' system and buy them a pint.

Would any Member not attending the Dinner who wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please could you bring it along to the October 2023 Meeting.

Members attending the event, would you please bring a Raffle Prize on the night.

The raffle will be by envelopes at £5.00 per envelope.

As at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 34 places have been allocated. There are a maximum of 35 places available which can be booked on a first-come-first-served basis.

It was discussed that we provide The Ladies with a Buttonhole each on the evening. Michael Taylor volunteered to arrange this and has confirmed that a Red Rose be provided at a cost of £1.00 each. Mark has confirmed to Michael that we require 18 Red Rose Buttonholes.

4. 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.
5. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
6. 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:**

7. Sword plinth: Jerry advised that this is a work in progress and will advise accordingly. He is hoping to have this completed by Our Christmas Dinner.
8. Battlefield Tour: Possibly Brookwood Cemetery in Woking. Mark to investigate for 2024 and provide Members further details.
9. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Project: See Jerry for full details.
10. Members voted to purchase an additional 20 Branch Lapel Pins at a cost of £6.00 each. Lee to organise.
11. Jack advised that there is a Meeting at Lewes Town Council on Monday 2 October 2023 to discuss Remembrance Parade. Darryl advised he will also attend this Meeting. Mark advised that he contact the BSM at Lloyds Company to confirm Sentinels etc.

Carly Boxall has confirmed that she would like to put on a buffet at St Marys' Supporters Club for all after the Parade. Many thanks to Carly.

12. Jack advised that a Fellow Veteran was finding it hard to find an ex-services home in the local area and asked if he would be able to join our Branch. Members discussed this and agreed for Leslie Wicks, ex

RAOC/RLC to become an Affiliate Member of Lewes Branch RAA. Mark has emailed Leslie with the good news.

**With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA September 2023 Meeting closed at 20:45.**

**The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

**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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