



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 31st March 2023 – St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Our Vice Chairman, Budge Harding.

Members Present: Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Lee Harding, Darryl Twinch, Jerry Docherty, Ken Amys, Bob Parker, John Shill, John Talmey and Jim Talmey.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, Michael Hobden, Steve Winter, Alan South, Paul Hughes, Tex Rees-Avery, Peter Barnard, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Jack Neil, Doug Raynsford, Steve White and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Budge welcomed Members to the Meeting and thanked all for their attendance at our Race Night in February and for raising funds for the Branch and the RACF.

Treasurer's Report: Lee reported that cash available stands at £1,058.21.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee reported that all Members had been contacted this month with no issues arising.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 17th February 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Jerry Docherty and seconded by John Shill. Carried.
2. The Lewes Branch RAA Race Night. Thanks to all for joining in the fun. The Branch raised £354.13 during the evening of which £175.00 has been donated to the RACF and £179.13 to Lewes Branch.
3. The Storrington Local History Group, supported by the Storrington and District Museum will host a short ceremony at St Mary's churchyard on Sunday 2nd April at 12 noon, for the dedication of a new Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) headstone for Driver David Butcher who died on 22nd October 1919. Please refer to Mark's emails regarding this Ceremony.

To date 4 attending from Lewes Branch and 5/6 from Worthing Branch including 2 Standards. Service Medals and Berets may be worn.

4. Gunner Sunday – Sunday 16th April 2023. 13 Members and their guests are attending. Mark has the tickets for lunch and will distribute them on the day.

Jerry has arranged a minibus free of charge from Burgess Hill School for Girls and will be finalising all on 11th April. Mark has emailed all regarding pick up/drop off.

5. Curry Night – 22nd April 2023. This will be held at St Marys' Supporters Club. Please see attached suggestions for the meals. Would any Members attending please advise Mark or Jerry with any allergies soonest. Costs TBC.
6. Lewes Branch RAA 30th Birthday Celebration (5th April) & 2023 Annual Dinner at the John Harvey Tavern on Saturday 27th May 2023. The BC, BSM and Ops WO from Lloyds Company are attending along with the RAA

Secretary and His Wife. The Dinner is now full but if any Member wishes to be added to the reserve list, please contact Mark Harding.

DATE: Saturday 27th May 2023

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

COST: 2 Courses £23.00 Per Person 3 Courses £28.00 Per Person

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

Would any Member not attending the Dinner wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please could you bring it along to the April 2023 Meeting. Members attending the event, and wish to donate a Raffle Prize, please bring along on the night.

The raffle will again be done by envelopes at £5.00 per envelope. Darryl has agreed to sort 70 envelopes.

7. The RA Assembly is being held over the weekend of Friday 12th May 2023. 7 Attending to date with two further to confirm. Transport as unable to get a free minibus. Bob and Carol are making their own way and Lee has looked into a minibus for the remainder Members and has found an 11-seater at approx. £400.00. Members attending agreed to go ahead with this. Lee agreed to arrange the minibus.

Mark advised all that we are able to claim back travel allowance from RAA HQ. Amount TBC.

8. RA Service of Remembrance – NMA – Sat 22nd July 2023. All detail previously sent to all by email. Mark asked Members if they would like to make this a Branch event. Please contact Mark who will collate and report back at the next Meeting.
9. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ: Confirmed and booked at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26th August 2023. Would any Member wishing to volunteer to assist on the day, please advise Mark.
10. Website Gallery Area: Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on our website.
11. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.

AOB:

12. Office for Veterans Affairs confirmed the extra investment in veterans' affairs survey results have been emailed to all Members.
13. Sword plinth. No further update regarding this. Jerry will advise accordingly.
14. Branch Plaque/Shield and Tie. Mark suggested designing our own Branch Plaque and Tie. See design the from John Talmeay attached. Mark to price up and advise Members accordingly.

Mark provided a draft of a Branch Tie and emailed and passed to Members (see attached design). The cost of this would work out to be £18.33 per tie. Depending upon the number of Members wishing to purchase this will depend on whether we go ahead with this as there is a minimum order of 36. Please would you advise Mark if you would purchase one to establish this? 13 takers so far but to make this work, we would require more Members to take this up. The overall cost is £660.00 for a minimum order of 36 ties.

15. Southwick Revival Presents "Spirit of D-Day' Revival 10th/11th June 2023. Southwick Revival Committee, Southwick, Fareham, Hampshire. PO17 6EA. Details emailed to all. Would Members please advise Mark of their interest, and we may look at making this a Branch Event.
16. Wall space in the Meeting Room. The 43 Bty Flag and Frame and embroidered Lloyds Company Emblem has now been hung on the wall. Many thanks to Paul. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote.

17. Lewes Armed Forces Veterans Breakfast Club. Held at St Marys' Supporters Club on the 4th Sunday of each month. Please book Reservations directly by phone on 07547 905 913 or by email to edafvbc.lewes@yahoo.com. Please ensure that you book on time as places must be booked in advance as Lewes AFVBC have to order the food from Morrison's on the Wednesday prior to breakfast. Quite simply - book early or go hungry.
18. Armed Forces Day 2023 to be held at 5 Acre Field in Eastbourne on Saturday 24th June 2023. You may remember that we attended this event in 2021. Would Members please advise if you would like to attend this Event and help out with our RAA Stand. Mark Harding, Mark Eve and Budge Harding have already volunteered to assist but to make this work, we will require more volunteers.
19. Darryl advised that we only have 1 RAA Wreath in stock which will be used this weekend. Mark advised that we have at least 1 already paid for in Dave Scott's 'Bunker', and Mark advised he will contact Dave to order a further 2 Wreaths.

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

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be our Curry Night to be held on Saturday 22nd April 2023 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

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

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 28th April 2023 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

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

President: Peter Godding
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Secretary: Mark Harding
Treasurer: Lee Harding
Tel: 07903 702 767
Email: theraalewes@gmail.com

EVENTS ATTENDANCE 2023

Name	Gunner Sunday	Curry Night	Annual Dinner	BBQ	Branch Tie
Date:	16 th April	22 nd April	27 th May	26 th Aug	
Peter Godding	0	0	0	0	
Michael Hobden	1	0	1	2	1
David Harding	1	1	2	1	1
Mark Harding	1	1	2	1	1
Lee Harding	2	2	2	2	1
Darryl Twinch	1	1	1	1	1
Steve Winter	0		2	1	
Alan South	0	1	2		
Paul Hughes	2	2	2	2	0
Jerry Docherty	2	2	2	2	1
Ken Amys	0	1	0	1	1
Tex Rees-Avery	2		2	2 +	1
Peter Barnard	0		0		
Mick Bird	0		0		1
John Bishop	0		2		
Brian Cager	0		0		
Gary Caulfield	0		0		
David Collett	0		0		
David Collins	0		0		
Peter Crowhurst	0	0	0	0	
Rev Canon Judith Egar	0		1		
Mark Eve	0		1		1
Peter Head	0	0	0	0	
Ray Hughes	0		0		
Sean Kelly	0		0		
Colin Kemp	0		2		
Tim Maloney	0		0		
Raymond Metcalfe	0		0		
Peter Marcantonio	0		0		
Alan Mayers	0		1		
Jack Neil	0		0		
Simon Odey	0		0		
Peter Page	0		0		
Robbie Parker	0	2	2	2	1
Doug Raynsford	0		0		
Fred Rossington	0		0		
Brian Scott	0		0		
Dave Scott	1		0		
John Shill	0	0	0	0	0
Paul Spooner	0		0		
Jim Talmey	0	1	0		
John Talmey	0	1	1	1	1
Ray Talmey	0		2		
Michael Taylor	0	0	0	0	
Brian Walter	0		0		
Steve White	0		0		
Peter Wyatt	0	0	0	0	1
Guests	0		2		
Lloyds Company	0	0	3		
TOTALS	13	15	35	18+	13