



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Minutes of The Monthly Meeting 18th August 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, Budge Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Michael Hobden, Tex Rees-Avery, John Bishop, Alan Mayers, Gary Miles, Jack Neil, Bob Parker, Brian Scott, Jim Talmey, John Talmey, Michael Taylor and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Godding, David Collins, Ray Metcalfe, Ray Talmey, Brian Walter, Steve White, Peter Crowhurst, Steve Winter, Paul Hughes, Mark Eve, Peter Barnard, Darryl Twinch, Alan South, Brian Cager, Peter Head, Colin Kemp, Dave Scott and John Shill.

Chairman's Report: Michael welcomed all Members to the Meeting and advised that he was looking forward to our BBQ next Saturday. Michael presented Jim Talmey with a "*Jim and not Ray*" baseball cap.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is £1,204.03 available in the bank.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee confirmed that most Members have been contacted this month with no issues arising. Lee advised that Peter Godding, Our President, sends his love and best wishes to all Members.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 28th July 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Peter Wyatt and seconded by Jerry Docherty. Carried.
2. The following message was sent on behalf of The Master Gunner St James's Park:

It is my great privilege to be able to report that His Majesty King Charles III has agreed to become Captain-General of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, succeeding in the role from his Mother, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. His Majesty will also fulfil this role for the Regiments of Royal Canadian, Royal Australian and Royal New Zealand Artillery. This is a great honour and continues a tradition established by His Majesty's Grandfather, King George VI, who at a dinner at Woolwich in 1950 expressed his desire to be Captain-General Royal Artillery rather than Colonel-in-Chief, a change in title that was effected in January, 1951. This also revived a rank originally dating from the 15th Century.

The Royal Regiment looks forward to establishing a close relationship with our new Captain-General as the Gunners look to a brave and exciting future.

3. The Last Parade of Peter (Pete) David Gates. Monday 31st July 2023. Branch Members Paraded for Pete's Last Parade and provided a Bugler (thanks to Alan South), Our Standard (thanks to Tex) and a Coffin Drape (Thanks Mark).
4. Members attended the 81st Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid Memorial Service on Sunday 13th August 2023 Members Paraded Our Standard (thanks to Darryl) and Laid Our Wreath of Remembrance (thanks to Mark).

5. Lewes Branch Summer BBQ to be held at St Marys' Supporters Club on Saturday 26th August 2023. Steve, Lee, Lynda and Tex have kindly volunteered to assist. Michael Taylor has kindly donated the onions for this event. To date 36 have confirmed attendance (see attached current attendee list).

The cut off date for requests for attendance is Sunday 20th August to enable us to pre-order food.

Volunteers Timings: 12:30 onwards to help set up.
Timings: 13:00 onwards. Bar open all day and into the evening.
Dress: Summer Party Dress

Members are asked to kindly provide a Raffle Prize to make the day go even better.

6. The Thorney Island Summer Fete on Saturday 2nd September 2023 and is hosted by 12 & 16 Regt RA. 7 Members confirmed to date. Members must arrange their own transport.
7. 28th October 2023: Suggestions for Function Day/Evening. It was agreed that this be shelved for now.
8. RA Service of Remembrance – Hyde Park Corner. Sunday 12th November 2023. See email sent by Mark on 16th August 2023.
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. Sword plinth: Jerry advised that this is a work in progress and will advise accordingly.
13. Dave Scott participated in a 100-mile walk carrying 13kg. Dave thanked all Members for their kind donation of £100. Well done Dave.
14. Battlefield Tour: Possibly Brookwood Cemetery in Woking. Mark to investigate for 2024 and provide Members further details.
15. Red Cravats: Bob Parker has investigated the viability and costs of this and has advised that this will be shelved for the time being and he will come back to Members at a later date.
16. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Project: Jerry provided leaflets and information.
17. Advertising and recruiting were discussed at length. Many options were discussed and this will be an ongoing process. John Shill (at our July Meeting) mentioned advertising in the Sussex Express and has been asked to look at costs etc and advise accordingly. Mark and Jerry mentioned the possibility of attending local fetes etc with a Branch Stand. Jerry advises he would investigate this. Would Members please bring sensible ideas to the next Meeting.
18. Jim asked with regards to Tex's suggestion regarding organizing a car boot sale in Peacehaven. Tex was requested to provide full details. However, to make this viable, we would have to purchase Public Liability Insurance for this event along with paying for the full area in the hope of recouping this by selling on the pitches and the collection of car park fees. We would also have to provide Members to run the event. It was agreed that we revisit this possibly in 2024.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA August 2023 Meeting closed at 20:50.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Event will be our Lewes Branch RAA Summer BBQ to be held on Saturday 26th August 2023.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club.
Volunteers Timings: 12:30 onwards to help set up.
Timings: 13:00 onwards. Bar open all day and into the evening.
Dress: Summer Party Dress.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Monthly Meeting to be held on Friday 29th September 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

Tel: 07903 702 767

Email: theraalewes@gmail.com

**LEWES BRANCH RAA SUMMER BBQ
ATTENDANCE LIST AS AT 18/08/2023**

Name	No's	Comments
Jerry Docherty	2	Sue
Peter Godding	No	
David Harding	2	Janice
Lee Harding	1	Lynda
Mark Harding	2	
Michael Hobden	2	Sabine
Paul Hughes	2	Jane
Alan South	2	Carol
Darryl Twinch	1	
Steve Winter	2	Sandra
Ken Amys	1	
Tex Rees-Avery	2	
Peter Barnard	1	
Mick Bird		
John Bishop	3	3 Guests (Not John)
Brian Cager		
David Collett		
David Collins	No	
Peter Crowhurst	No	
Rev Canon Judith Egar		
Mark Eve	No	
Lawrence Gray	1	
Peter Head		
Ray Hughes		
Sean Kelly		
Colin Kemp	No	
Tim Maloney		
Peter Marcantonio	No	
Alan Mayers	1	
Raymond Metcalfe	No	
Gary Miles	No	
Jack Neil	2	
James Nightingale		
Simon Odey		
Pete Page	No	
Robbie Parker	2	Carol
Fred Rossington		
Brian Scott	1	
Dave Scott	2	Shirley
John Shill	No	
Paul Spooner		
Jim Talmey	No	
John Talmey	1	
Ray Talmey	2	Bridget
Michael Taylor	No	
Brian Walter		
Steve White	No	
Peter Wyatt	No	
JJ Adams	1	
	36	

Skittles, Cards, Snooker, Boules and lots of fun, food and drinks.