



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association February Meeting – 26th February 2021 – Via Zoom Meeting Opened at 20:00

The Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by Mark Harding.

Members Present: Michael Hobden, Budge Harding, Mark Harding, Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Alan South, Paul Hughes, David Collett, Peter Crowhurst, Jerry Docherty, Mark Eve, Sean Kelly, Peter Marcantonio, Robbie Parker, Fred Rossington, John Shill, John Talmey, Peter Wyatt and Dave Collins.

Apologies for Absence: Steve Winter, Mick Bird, Des Foord, Peter Godding, Ray Metcalfe, Mick Norris, Simon Odey, Doug Raynsford, Ray Talmey and Brian Walter.

Chairman's Report: Due to Michael Hobden having problems logging into the Meeting, Mark Harding Welcomed all Members to the Meeting. 20 Members attended. Mark Welcomed New Member Dave Collins to our Branch.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp confirmed that £82.52 had been paid out to RAA HQ for our Annual commitments and confirmed that there is £701.40 available in the bank and £20.00 petty cash. Total available £721.40 as at today.

Welfare Officers Report: Lee Harding updated all Members with regards to Members that have recently been ill over recent months and that all Members have been contacted this month.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Annual General Meeting held on 26th January 2021. With no comments advised, the Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Lee Harding and seconded by Jerry Docherty. Carried.
2. Mark advise Members that the 2020 Lewes Branch Annual Returns had been sent to RAA HQ and confirmed as received.
3. Mark advised that if any Member would like to see a copy of current GAI's, RAA 2020 Accounts or Forecast of Events, please email Mark who will provide them.
4. **43 Bty Update:**

Good Morning Mark,

Hope your all well. 43 Bty are doing well, we are continuing to plan for our upcoming deployment to Cyprus in April, where a number of the Bty will conduct live flying of the Watchkeeper system at RAF Akrotiri, we continue to run virtual training packages and low-level training.

The Bty Will Remain in Cyprus until September, on return we will conduct live flying in a UK location.

The Bty Along with the Regt are currently conducting a 100,000km Charity event to raise money for the NHS and RACF, our soldiers are contributing by walking, running, Cycling or rowing the Distance, we have already achieved a quarter of the distance, which is good going, regular posts and updates are on social media.

Ex Members are more than welcome to join the event, if anyone wishes to contribute please join the 47 Regiment Strava page

Thank you, and we look forward to catching up soon.

Kind regards

WO2 (BSM) Stacy McGrath

5. **CWGC Update:** Mark asked at the AGM for Members feedback if they would like to set up a presentation from the CWGC? It was suggested and agreed that our Branch request a presentation lasting no longer than 1 hour. Mark will liaise with them to set this up. Date TBC.
6. Mark confirmed that he had yet to hear back from The White Hart regarding bookings for re-opening and when we may be able to hold our Annual Dinner.
7. Mark reminded Members of our Branch Scrapbook where we would like to build up with photos, cuttings etc.
8. Mark asked Member to please keep up to date with their emails as this is the main medium that we will use for updating Members. We also post various things on our Website and Facebook page. It is imperative during lockdown that Members check their emails as this is how we will notify Members of everything.

AOB:

1. Mark confirmed to Members that he had been accepted for the position of Regional Representative – Southern Region for the RAA. Mark advised that this in no way would jeopardise his position as Secretary of our Branch.
2. Follow up from Colin Kemp from the AGM regarding a Branch Photo. It was agreed that once we are able to meet, we will arrange this.
3. Mark confirmed that an additional stock RAA Wreath has been ordered from Dave Scott and await its arrival.
4. Following on from Fred Rossington's question at the AGM regarding Award Nominations, no further updates at this time. The NEC General Meeting is to be held on 17th March 2021 at 10:00 via Zoom where we may hear more then.
5. Mark advised that there is a photo Gallery on our website. Should Members wish for anything to be added, please email them to Mark or Lee where this will be done. Lee confirmed that he would send an email to all Members advising details regarding our website and how to request access to the Members Area.
6. Mark reiterated regarding the Winter fuel allowance: Number provided by Jack Neil at the Lewes RBL is 0800 731 016. However, they are now asking to submit queries online.
7. Mark emailed Members regarding Eastbourne & District Armed Forces Day in Eastbourne on 26th June 2021. If this event goes ahead, would Members like to attend this event? Mark confirms that he will attend with our Standard for a bit of recruiting. Mark will provide further details as he received them.
8. Darryl reminded Mark that he had suggested that our Branch invite Dave Scott, who arranges the Poppy Appeal in Lewes, to join our Branch as an Associate Member. All Members agreed. Mark will contact Dave and invite him to join us.
9. It was discussed that Members that have no access to the internet/email etc and that are unable to attend Meetings via Zoom, should be contacted regularly. Lee confirmed that he contacts all of these Members each month regardless. Darryl confirmed that once Minutes of Meeting are received, he will visit Peter Godding to provide him these minutes and keep him up to date.
10. Mark confirmed that he would drop Peter Wyatt's RAA Lewes Branch Polo Short over to him before the next Meeting.

With no other business, our 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:35.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 26th March 2021 via Zoom.

Timings: 20:00 start.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

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