



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association 30th November 2019 at The White Hart Meeting Opened at 18:00

Members Present: Mick Bird, David Collett, David Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Michael Hobden, Paul Hughes, Sean Kelly, John Shill, Darryl Twinch, Stave Winter, Peter Wyatt, Robbie Parker, John Talmey, Ray Talmey, Peter Marcantonio and Fred Rossington.

Apologies for Absence: 43 Bty, Colin Kemp, Alan South and Jack Neil.

Treasurer's Report: Mark advised the cash available in the bank as at today of £XX.XX.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 25th October 2019. With no comments advised, the October 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Steve Winter and seconded by Mick Bird. Carried.
2. Mark advised that 43 Bty are still deployed in Cyprus and are due to return to the UK in December. The BSM sent their apologies for not being able to attend our Christmas Dinner but will liaise with Mark to arrange a visit to a Meeting with the BC in the New Year.
3. Mark thanked all Members who attended Remembrance and Armistice Parades which was noted again that we provided a great attendance.
4. Mark advised that the Sussex Yeomanry 94th Annual Reunion Dinner went very well and was well attended.
5. Mark advised that he has been contacted by an ex-Members of the RAA Redhill Branch asking if we are able to provide a Standard Bearer for the late Ron Pearce's funeral who was also a Redhill Member. Ron passed at the age of 101 years young and served in the Royal Artillery during WW2. Mark liaised with Lee to arrange. It has been confirmed by Lee that Paul Hughes will attend as our Standard Bearer for Ron's funeral which takes place at the Sussex & Surry Crematorium on Friday 6th December 2019 at 12:00 hrs.
6. Thanks to Alan Mayers for organising the loan of a projector screen for Megan to use who is the Public Engagement Coordinator (South East) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Megan will be giving Members presentation during our February 2020 Meeting.
7. Mark reminded Members of the Combined Service Dinner being held at the Green Man in Ringmer on Friday 13th December 2019.
8. Mark advised that he had heard back from The Rev Cannon Judith Egar, the Rural Dean of Lewes and Seaford advising that she would be Honoured to accept our invitation to become our Branch Padre. Mark will liaise with the Rev Egar to attend our future Meetings.
9. Mark reminded Members of our AGM which is being held at St Marys' Supporters Club on Friday 31st January 2020. Dress Regt'l Ties and Blazers/Suits. Timings are 19:30 for 20:00 start.
10. Mark reminded Members that Megan of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will be providing us with a presentation at our February 2020 Meeting on Friday 29th February 2020.

11. As proposed at our October 2019 Meeting by Darryl, Mark asked for Members to provide ideas/venues for the proposed Summer Meal Out at our AGM.

AOB:

1. Steve advised that he had seen the Rev Bell and that he is really deteriorating in health. Darryl confirmed that the RBL are in contact with him and his family and all is in hand regarding his welfare.
2. Peter Wyatt proposed that we hold Meetings in August and December which we will discuss during our AGM in January 2020.

Members then joined their Partners & Guests for our 2019 Christmas Dinner.

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

Grace: Given by our Secretary, Mark Harding.

The Loyal Toast: Including Absent Friends and The Ladies: Proposed by Mr Vice, our Vice Chairman, David Harding.

Chairman's Address: Our Chairman Michael Hobden welcomed so many Members, Partners and Guests to our Dinner. Michael also welcomed new Members Ray Talmey, Peter Marcantonio and Fred Rossington. Michael also wished all Members, their Partners and Guests a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mark asked Members where we would like to hold our Annual Dinner for 2020. It was agreed and voted that we remain at The White Hart on Saturday 30th May 2020. Proposed by Peter Wyatt. Seconded by Darryl Twinch. Carried.

Mark has booked the date with the White Hart and will liaise with them to start the arrangements.

The next Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on Friday 31st January 2020 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

Dress: Blazers/suits and Regimental Ties.

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Treasurer: Colin Kemp

Secretary: Mark Harding

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