



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association Monthly Meeting – 31st July 2020 - St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

Members Present: Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Steve Winter, Michael Taylor, Paul Hughes, David Collett, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Godding, Sean Kelly, Jack Neil, Peter Marcantonio, Robbie Parker, Fred Rossington, John Talmey and Steve White

Apologies for Absence: Colin Kemp, Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Rev. Egar, Mark Eve, Des Foord, Ray Metcalfe, Mick Norris, Doug Raynsford, John Shill, Ray Talmey, Peter Wyatt, Alan South, Alan Mayers and Brian Walter.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed all Members to the first Meeting since February and wished everyone well and thanked all for a great turnout. Michael also Welcomed new Member Steve 'Knocker' White and presented him with his Membership Card, Rules Book and Lewes Branch Lapel Pin. A total of 18 Members attended.

Treasurer's Report: Due to our Treasurer, Colin Kemp, not being able to attend, Colin passed the following details to Mark. Cash in the bank stands at £920.05 of which £121.00 is due to be paid for the annual subscription for our website and £50.00 for the donation to Capt Tom Moore, (Then Lt Col and now Sir). This leaves cash available at £749.05 as at today.

Welfare Report: Lee advised that between him and Mark, along with various Committee Members that had been requested to keep in contact with certain individual Members throughout the lockdown period, all Members had been contacted via phone, email, text and/or social media and that no issues have arisen.

Steve Winter advised that he would soon be working nearby to Des Foord so he will drop in on him.

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Monthly meeting held on 28th February 2020. With no comments reported, the February 2020 were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Paul Hughes and seconded by Peter Crowhurst. Carried.
2. Mark advised that our previous Area Representative, Lt Col Ian Howard-Harwood (Retd), sadly passed away in May due to illness. Mark confirmed that he had sent an email of condolences to Ian's Family via RAA HQ.
3. Mark also advised that the current Chairman of the Sussex Yeomanry Association, Jeff Draper, had recently been admitted to the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath for a Hip Replacement due to a recent fall. Mark sent a 'get well soon' card on behalf of our Branch and has since spoken to Jeff and he is fixing well.
4. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events, the new RAA GAI's and the 2019 RAA HQ Accounts for Members to read.
5. Mark advised that due to the current lockdown situation, there had been many events cancelled. These included our Annual Dinner (Mark is liaising with the White Hart who will keep him up to date, likewise, Mark will keep Members updated), Annual Chattri Memorial, our Service of Celebration for VE Day and the RAA Centenary and the VE Day 75 Years Celebrations. Mark will keep all Members up to date with regards to any rescheduling of these events.
6. Mark confirmed that the RA Assembly for this year has now been cancelled in its entirety. Members who had booked should contact the hotel with regards to any deposit refunds.

7. Mark had not received any update from 43 Bty to date and is pursuing this. Since our Meeting, Mark has received an update from SSgt Jansen and will provide this at our August Meeting.
8. There is no update with regards to our Branch having to become Members of St Marys' Supporters Club and Mark will continue to discuss this with them.
9. Mark advised that he had spoken to Sally at The White Hart who offered us Meeting space should we require this due to the restrictions in numbers allowed to congregate in one place (this being 35). Mark discussed this with Members, and it was agreed that we continue to use the 'Bingo Room' at St Marys' for the foreseeable future but with the maximum number allowed being 20.
10. Mark confirmed numbers and sizes for the RAA Lewes Branch Polo Shirt. These have since been ordered and confirmed price of £18.00 each. Mark had been able to get the suppliers to waive the P&P charge. These should be available for collection at the August Meeting.

Would Members either bring the cash along to the next Meeting for your orders or contact Mark for bank details to enable you to pay directly.

11. Mark advised that RAA HQ have produced Souvenir Coasters to Commemorate the RAA Centenary. Mark passed around the pictures of these. It was put to the vote to order 48 of these for the use at dinners and events at a cost of £64.00 plus P&P. Proposed by Fred Rossington and seconded by Darryl Twinch. Carried. Mark will order these.
12. Mark advised that the 95th Sussex Yeomanry Annual Dinner is still due to be held on Saturday 14th November 2020 at St Francis Sports & Social Club in Haywards Heath. Any further updates regarding this dinner will be passed directly to SY Members from the SY Committee and Mark will also advise.
13. Mark advised the importance of keeping check on emails and social media regarding communications sent out via these methods regarding our Branch. We cannot stress the importance of keeping up to date with these communications please.

Lee also reiterated this, and that Members are all very welcome to contact any Member at any time and for any reason should they wish to do so. Lee also confirmed various emails/FB posts he had sent with regards to Members Welfare and certain websites and organisations that are there for us all.

14. Mark reminded Members that we do hold a Branch Scrapbook where any Member is able to add to. This can be anything that keeps our history going. Please feel free to bring along anything to add.

AOB:

1. Jack provided an update with regards to Lewes Council and/or the RBL regarding future planning. Jack advised the following:
 - It is expected that Remembrance and Armistice Parades will continue as normal. However, Jack will provide further updates.
 - Jack also advised with regards to VE Day, there may only be the laying of one Wreath. Since then, Jack has confirmed the following:
 - *Dave Scott and the Mayor of Lewes will lay a wreath each at 11am on Saturday the 15th to mark VE. Day in Lewes. The Royal Artillery and the Royal Sussex Associations are invited to lay a wreath at the same time should you wish to do so. Due to present restrictions there will be no parade or gathering at the Memorial, please be aware there is NO road closure in place.*
 - Mark has emailed all Members asking if any Member would like to Lay a Wreath of Remembrance on our Behalf on this day and awaits confirmation.

2. Jack passed on his thanks on behalf of the Memorial Trust for those Members that donated the refund of their Trooping the Colour tickets which has been put to the cost of the update of the Memorial Board. This is currently at the sign writers.
3. Jack advised that the current RBL stance with regards to Standard Bearers attending events is that should be only carried out with the express permission from the relevant authorities. Jack will continue to provide updates regarding this.
4. Certain Members asked if subs could be paid in a different way from cash. We confirm that we are unable to apply for card reading machines and the only other way would be for Members to pay directly into the Branch Bank Account. However, this will need more discussion at our August Meeting with our Treasurer in attendance due to the logistics of this.

With no other business, our July 2020 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:15.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 28th August 2020 at St Marys Supporters Club.

Would Members please wait for Mark to contact them to ascertain numbers for this Meeting as we are restricted to a maximum of 20. Please do not turn up on the day with no confirmation of attendance.

Mark has contacted all Members and the following Members have confirmed that they would like to attend this August Meeting.

Mark has confirmed the attendance of the following:

Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Lee Harding, Steve Winter, Paul Hughes, Mark Eve, Peter Godding, Ray Metcalfe, Peter Marcantonio, Robbie Parker, Doug Raynsford, Fred Rossington, and John Talmev.

There are currently 16 Members attending which leaves 4 available spaces. Would any Members wishing to attend please contact Mark to advise?

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start.
Dress: Casual.
Subs: £7.50

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: Michael Hobden
Treasurer: Colin Kemp
Secretary: Mark Harding
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