



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association 29th March 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

Commemoration of The Gunners: Read by our Vice Chairman, David Harding.

Members Present: Peter Crowhurst, Mark Eve, Peter Godding, Mark Harding, David Harding, Lee Harding, Colin Kemp, Ray Metcalfe, Jack Neil, Mick Norris, Robbie Parker, Doug Raynsford, John Shill, Alan South, John Talmey, Michael Taylor, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Des Foord, Derek Glen, Michael Hobden, Paul Hughes and Sean Kelly.

Chairman's Report: David Harding welcomed all Members to the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Colin Kemp advised that the Cash in the bank as at today is £xx.xx of which £20.00 is due to be paid out leaving a total available of £xx.xx.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the AGM Minutes for the Meeting held on 22nd February 2019. With no comments advised, the February 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by John Talmey and seconded by Mick Norris. Carried.
2. Mark advised that we have been donated an engraved Gavel from an anonymous Member.
3. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events including the RA Assembly along with the draft accounts for all Members to read.
4. Annual Dinner. The venue and date is confirmed Saturday 18th May 2018 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. Menus and costs have been provided by Mark. The discussion regarding the choice of an Honorable Guest was discussed and Members agreed on Fiona Garth from the Lewes Town Council. Fiona has been contacted and has accepted our invitation.

Mark also advised that 2 Serving Members of 43 Bty are also attending.

Darryl also suggested we invite Tim Maloney to our Annual Dinner which has been done and Tim has accepted.

As previously discussed £5.00 per person would be subsidized from our Branch funds, therefore the total cost per person is now £20.00. Please note that Members and Guests are responsible for the cost of their own refreshments.

5. Annual Summer Event. Mark asked Members regarding various ideas for events/venues.

Members looked at possibly attending the War & Peace Revival at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood. Dates from Sun 23 to Thu 27 July 2019. It was suggested that the first day is always extremely busy so Members suggested Thursday 27th July. Ticket prices are unclear as on checking, their website was down but tickets are available to purchase in advance which will speed up entry, or on the day. Mark will continue to check for ticket prices.

6. Mark reminded Members with regards to the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club and left leaflets for Member to take. This is held at the Toby Carvery, Willingdon Drove, Eastbourne. BN23 8AS every 1st Sunday at 0930 onwards.
7. Mark advised that he had received confirmation through Michael Hobden of the nominations for the NFA Garden Party. David Harding has been accepted for this year with his guest being Lee Harding.
8. Mark advised that he had been in discussions with David Collet of the Sussex Yeomanry Association with regards to the loan of silver for the tables during our Annual Dinner. David Collet has confirmed that they will loan us 10 pieces for our Annual Dinner. Mark to liaise with David to arrange collection and return.
9. Mark provided an update from 43 Bty and left an email for Members to read.

AOB:

1. Michael Hobden suggested that, for future reference, we update our Branch Members Service Records by adding a potted history (funny stories, achievements etc, to enable us to have a better idea of Members full history. Mark brought along copies of the current Service Records for each Member to check and complete.
2. Peter Wyatt brought along the Golf Shield that our Membership won back in 1998. As we are the only name engraved on the shield, it was put to Members what we could use this for in the future. Members were asked to provide ideas at our April 2019 Meeting.
3. Mark reminded Members with regards to our Branch Facebook page. Due to not all Members being particular fans of social media such as Facebook, it was asked if we could possibly set up our own website. This was discussed at length and Mark advised that as we didn't have any Members that were "IT Guru's" it may be difficult in adding content to an outsourced website provider and possibly costly. Robby advised that he would look into this and advise at our next Meeting but had not got anywhere with this. Lee Harding advised that he would also look into this.
4. Jack advised with regards to the Race Night being held at St Marys' Supporters Club on Sat 13 April. Mark emailed all Members and placed the details on our Facebook pages.
5. Jack also asked Mark to check the allocation of Trooping the Colour tickets. After contacting all Members that have been allocated tickets, we can confirm the allocation as follows:

Darryl Twinch	x 2	Michael Taylor	x 2
Michael Hobden	x 3	Brian Cager	x 2
Mark Harding	x 3		
6. Ray asked if any Members knew of any future events being held in Lewes. Jack advise, apart from Armistice/Remembrance Day, there seemed to be no others planned.

With no other business, the March 2019 of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 2140.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 26th April 2019 at St Marys Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 meet for 20:00 start.
Dress: Casual.

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