



## ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

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### Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

**Members Present:** Michael Hobden, David Harding, Mark Harding, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Michael Taylor, Mick Bird, Lee Harding, Paul Hughes, Jack Neil, Mick Norris, Peter Wyatt, Mark Eve, Derek Glen, Robbie Parker, John Talmey and Alan Mayers.

**Apologies for Absence:** Colin Kemp, Peter Godding, Brian Cager, Peter Crowhurst, Des Foord, Sean Kelly, Doug Raynsford, Alan South, Brian Walter, John Shill and David Collett.

**Chairman's Report:** Our Chairman Michael Hobden welcomed so many Members to the Meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark advised that £43.35 has been paid into the bank since our last Meeting giving Cash available in the bank as at today of £653.05.

#### Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. With no comments advised, the September 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Peter Wyatt and seconded by Robbie Parker. Carried.
2. Mark advised that 43 Bty are still deployed in Cyprus and that the Bty are currently operating at night only and are flying missions every night.
3. Mark provided copies of the Forecast of Events, the Royal Artillery Service of Remembrance, the accounts and an email regarding the RACF Christmas Grants 2019 for all Members to read.

Mark also advised that Sarah Young is saying farewell on 7<sup>th</sup> November as she is leaving RAA HQ to join another charity to continue her work within the Military Sector. Mark passed on our thanks to Sarah for her continued support and help and will be sorely missed. Sarah advised that Alan Solly will be our contact for now.

4. Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner is being held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. The cost for the Christmas Dinner is £25.00 per person. Please note that Members and Guests are responsible for the cost of their own refreshments.

Mark confirmed that we have 35 Members, Partners and Guests attending.

Timings for the Annual Dinner for Members has been brought forward to 18:00 to enable us to have a brief Meeting prior to the dinner. This will also provide us time to take a Branch photo.

Would all Members, attending or not, please dig deep to provide raffle prizes for the dinner to make the evening so much better. Darryl has confirmed that those Members not attending that wish to provide a raffle prize, are able to drop them off to him or he will collect from you. Please contact Darryl direct to arrange.

5. Mark provided Members with copies of the Orders for Remembrance Parade. Darryl has confirmed he will be our Standard Bearer and Paul Hughes will be Laying our Wreath of Remembrance.

Mark also confirmed that 43 Bty are providing 4 Sentinels in No 2 Dress with their new Aviation Berets during our Remembrance Parade.

6. Mark provided Members with copies of the Orders for Armistice Parade. Darryl has confirmed he will be our Standard Bearer.
7. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 0930 onwards.
8. 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.
9. Mark has confirmed that he has received no responses from Martyn Quigley to enable us to build an affiliation with the ACF.
10. Mark will liaise with 43 Bty upon their return to the UK with regards to our 2023 Annual Dinner being held at 43 Bty, as this will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of our Branch being set up.
11. Mark provided proformas for the Combined Service Dinner being held at the Green Man in Ringmer on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
12. Mark provided booking forms for the Sussex Yeomanry 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion Dinner being held at St Francis Social and Sports Club, Hayward Heath on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2019.
13. Mark advised Members that he is increasingly being contacted by ex-serving Artillerymen and their families with regards to the possibility of visiting old comrades. Mark asked for a show of hands of Members willing to give up their time every now and then to do this. David Harding, Paul Hughes, Darryl Twinch, Derek Glen and Mark Harding all confirmed they would be happy to do this.

Mark then discussed the possibility of any Members wishing to take on the Role of Welfare Officer to be responsible for such things. Lee Harding volunteered for this and Members put it to vote to accept Lee as our interim Welfare Officer until being voted in officially during our AGM in January 2020.

Lee Harding being our interim Welfare Officer was voted on and passed. Proposed by Steve Winter and seconded by Michael Hobden. Carried.

14. Mark also advised that he had been contacted by a previous Secretary of the Haywards Heath Branch of the RAA. Lt John Humphery (Retired and aged 92 years) served in the Royal Artillery from 1945 to 1948. After completing Gunner Training at UOTC in Deepcut, John was posted to Palestine with 1 Fd Regt RA (later renumbered 59 Fd Regt).

John had found some Branch documents and press cutting whilst clearing out his loft and wanted to pass them on to the current Secretary. I explained that the HH Branch was no longer active, but I would collect them from him rather than him throw them away.

Mark brought the contents in to the Meeting to show Members. These contents included the original Branch Formation Certificate dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 1946. Various Branch Minute books also dated from 7<sup>th</sup> February 1946 onwards, all handwritten. Also included is the June 1974 edition of Gunner Magazine. Various news cuttings and photos are also included. Mark will bring these along to future Meetings for Members to view.

**AOB:**

1. Jack to provide Mark with contact details of the Vicar whose father is an ex Artilleryman to enable us to approach her to invite her to join our Branch in the role as our Padre.
2. Lee advised that he has recently become a Dementia Friends Champion. Lee is trained to provide information sessions to groups on Dementia. This includes background on how Dementia affects people, how living with someone who has Dementia can better understand it and provide support. It helps recognize the signs of Dementia and how to deal with it. The sessions run for approx. 30-45 minutes and include activities to keep attendees engaged. Lee can also provide information on where and how to find support.

For more information please contact Lee and visit:

<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=what-is-a-champion#.XbRGJehKjIU>

3. Darryl proposed to hold an informal Summer Meal out each year again in June/July time. Members agreed and was agreed that we will discuss events and dates during our AGM in January 2020 to arrange.

**With no other business, the October 2019 Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 20:45.**

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 prior to our Christmas Dinner at The White Hart Hotel.

Timings: 18:00 (For Non-Members & Guests 18:30 and ready to be seated at 19:00)

Dress: Blazer/Suit and Regimental Ties (Medals may be worn). Partners & Guests Dress Equivalent.

The following Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at St Marys' Supporters Club.

Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start

Dress: Blazers and Regimental Ties.

**Patron:** Her Majesty The Queen

**Chairman:** Michael Hobden

**Treasurer:** Colin Kemp

**Secretary:** Mark Harding

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