



LEWES BRANCH ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING 29th December 2023 – Lydfords Care Home Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

Members Present: Jerry Docherty, Peter Godding, Budge Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Michael Hobden, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, John Bishop, Tim Maloney, Bob Parker, Andy Reddy and Michael Taylor.

Apologies for Absence: Paul Hughes, Alan South, Ken Amys, Tex Rees-Avery, Mick Bird, Brian Cager, Gary Caulfield, David Collins, Peter Crowhurst, Rev. Canon Judith Egar, Mark Eve, Peter Head, Sean Kelly, Colin Kemp, Alan Mayers, Ray Metcalfe, Gary Miles, Jack Neil, Brian Scott, Dave Scott, John Shill, Jim Talmey, John Talmey, Peter Talmey, Ray Talmey, Brian Walter, Steve White and Peter Wyatt.

Chairman's Report: Michael welcomed Members to the final 2023 Branch Meeting at a great venue and hoped all had a good Christmas. He welcomed Peter Godding, our President, to the first Meeting in nearly two years and is great to see him in his new home.

Treasurer's Report: Lee advised that there is £1,107.19 available in the bank.

Welfare Officer's Report: Lee advised that there are no Welfare issues reported. He had tried to speak to Brian Scott and Brian Walter but had to leave messages on their answerphones. Peter Barnard is enjoying the Festive Season with his family in Essex.

Mark advised Peter that those Members that were unable to attend tonight's Meeting, asked us to pass on their best wishes and regards. Peters' response rhymed with 'Duck Fen'!!!!

Secretary's Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes from our Meeting held on 24th November 2023. With no comments, the Minutes were voted and passed as correct. Proposed by Darryl and seconded by Budge. Carried.
2. Mark advised that Our 2024 Lewes Branch RAA Annual Dinner has been booked for Saturday 25th May 2024 at Lewes Golf Club. Michael Taylor advised of his disappointment regarding the food at the John Harvey Tavern during our Christmas Dinner. Sadly, this is the only report Mark has received to date regarding this. Mark suggested that we try Lewes Golf Club, as planned, and take things from there.

The main issue with our Dinners is that we require a venue that are able to cater for the numbers we would like attending. Michael suggested looking outside of Lewes for this. Mark raised the point that when this was discussed previously, Members advised that as we are the Lewes Branch, we should support our Town and hold them in Lewes.

We will discuss this again after our Annual Dinner at Lewes Golf Club after being able to assess them in the quality of food and service.

3. Lewes Branch RAA Officers/Committee Members. With our Lewes Branch RAA AGM Friday 26th January 2024.

I have spoken to most (and emailed all) current Officers and Committee Members to ask if they are happy to remain in their current role for another year and their responses are below. Should any other Member like to volunteer for any role within the Committee, please let me know before our AGM to enable us to discuss this.

Name	Role	Remain	Volunteer
Peter Godding	President	Yes	
Michael Hobden	Chairman	Yes	
David Harding	Vice Chairman	Yes	
Mark Harding	Secretary	Yes	
Lee Harding	Treasurer & Welfare Officer	Yes	
Darryl Twinch	Standard Bearer/Committee Member	Yes	
Jerry Docherty	Entertainments Manager	Yes	
Paul Hughes	Committee Member		
Alan South	Committee Member		
Steve Winter	Committee Member	Yes	

I attach the Minutes from our 2023 AGM for your reference.

4. Branch Website. Send photos to Mark/Lee who will add these on the Gallery Area of our website. Please contact Lee/Mark for access to the Members Area of our website.
5. Please remember to check your emails as this is the main medium of contact to all Members.
6. Wall space in the Meeting Room. If anyone wishes to hang anything on the wall, please bring it along to the Meetings where Members will vote. Mark has asked the Club for more wall space and awaits their responses.

AOB:

7. Tools with a Mission (TWAM) Project: See Jerry for full details. There have been two donations to date. Thanks to Andy Reddy and John Bishop.
8. Branch Lapel Pins. Additional Branch Lapel Pins are now available. The first pin is free and Members can purchase additional pins at a cost of £6.00 each.
9. Darryl advised that our Standard Case has seen better days and should now be replaced. Darryl has purchased a new case. He also advised that it seems that our Standard is very long and does not fit correctly in any case properly and has asked Mark to ascertain if there is a standard length. Mark to revert.
10. Andy Reddy has kindly volunteered to look into providing the catering for our Lewes Branch RAA Curry Night booked at St Marys on 20th April 2024. Mark and Jerry to discuss further with Andy.
11. Michael Hobden discussed the Army v Navy Rugby event to take place on Saturday 4th May 2024. It was agreed that we discuss this at our AGM to ascertain interest and to possibly make this a Branch event.
12. Members discussed the possibility of holding Meetings at Lydfords Care Home in the future. Mark discussed this with Peter Godding who is more than happy with this, and also with Sam Harding, the Home Services Advisor at Lydfords, who confirmed that they would be delighted to provide us with a room for this. It was agreed that this should be on a quarterly basis. Mark and Lee will liaise with Sam to arrange this.
13. Members then went on to present Peter Godding with some beer and chocolate and a wooden carving of our Cap Badge. Peter was over the moon and thanked all Members for coming along.

With no other business, our Lewes Branch RAA December 2023 Meeting closed at 20:40.

The next Lewes Branch RAA Meeting will be our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on Friday 26th January 2024.

Venue: St Marys' Supporters Club.
Dress: Blazers & Regimental Ties.
Timings: 19:30 for 20:00 start.

Attached:

2023 AGM Minutes for reference
2024 Forecast of Events
2024 Annual Dinner Proforma

Captain-General: His Majesty King Charles III

President: Peter Godding

Chairman: Michael Hobden

Secretary: Mark Harding

Treasurer: Lee Harding

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