



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association Annual General Meeting - 31st January 2020 - St Marys' Supporters Club Meeting Opened at 18:00

Members Present: Michael Hobden, David Harding, Lee Harding, Mark Harding, Colin Kemp, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Michael Taylor, Mick Bird, David Collett, Peter Crowhurst, Peter Godding, Paul Hughes, Ray Metcalfe, Jack Neil, Alan Mayers, Mick Norris, Doug Raynsford, Alan South and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Mark Eve, Des Foord, Sean Kelly, Robbie Parker, John Shill, John Talmey and Brian Cager.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed Members to the AGM and thanked all for a great turnout. 20 Members attended. Michael also welcomed our new Honorary Member, The Reverend Cannon Judith Egar who is the Rural Dean of Seaford & Lewes and has taken on the task of becoming our Branch Padre.

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Colin Kemp, advised the cash available in the bank as at today of £724.50. Colin also advised that the Branch 2019 accounts have been produced and were handed to Members to view, Colin also confirmed that these accounts have been provided to RAA HQ.

Secretaries Report:

1. Mark asked for any comments from the Members with regards to the Minutes for our Meeting held on 30th November 2019. With no comments advised, the November 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Doug Raynsford and seconded by Peter Crowhurst. Carried.
2. Mark advised that he has been in contact with 43 Bty and is waiting to hear back from them.
3. The Committee and Members were asked if any changes were to be made to the current Committee.

All current Committee Members advised that they were happy to continue in their current role which was agreed by Members. It was also agreed that Colin Kemp will no longer be in the role as a Committee Member as he is our Treasurer and Alan South volunteered to replace him as a Committee Member.

The Committee therefore reads for 2020 as follows:

Chairman:	Michael Hobden	Vice Chairman:	David Harding
Treasurer:	Colin Kemp	Secretary:	Mark Harding
Welfare Officer:	Lee Harding	Standard Bearer:	Darryl Twinch
Committee of Four:	Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter, Michael Taylor and Alan South		

The Committee Members were voted in unanimously enblock - Carried.

1. Mark advised that the RAA annual accounts, Forecast of Events for 2020 including the RAA Assembly and Founders Day were available for Members to view.

Currently 4 Members have booked to attend the RAA Assembly

Darryl requested to attend Founders Day. Mark has emailed Alan Solly at RAA HQ submitting this request.

2. Mark sent via email to Members the new RAA GAI's and also presented a hard copy for Members to read.

3. Mark confirmed that Megan from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission no longer covers Kent and Sussex therefore the presentation due at our February Meeting has been postponed. Megan will pass our details across to the new person to contact us once they have been appointed in Spring 2020.
4. Mark and our Chairman thanked all Members who attended our Christmas Dinner 2019 which was a great event.
5. Annual Dinner. This has been confirmed as Saturday 30th May 2020 at The White Hart. Mark provided Menu Proformas to all Members. This will also be sent out with these Minutes as well as posted on our Website and Facebook.

The cost for the Dinner will be £27.00 per person (excluding Honoured Guests).

Members were asked if our Branch wished to subsidise the Annual Dinner from Branch Funds and it was agreed that this be £7.00 per person leaving the cost per person at £20.00.

This was voted on and passed as correct with no additional comments. Proposed by Michael Taylor and seconded by Michael Hobden. Carried.

The Dress for the Annual Dinner is Blazers with Regimental Ties (Medals may be worn). Guest dress equivalent. Timings are for Members to arrive at 18:10 for a brief Meeting to then join our guests in the bar at 18:30. All to be seated for Dinner at 19:00.

6. Our Branch historically do not meet during August or December. However, as previously proposed during our November Meeting, it was agreed that we should now hold Meetings during these months. A forecast of Meetings for 2020 are as follows:

28 th Feb	St Marys'	27 th Mar	St Marys'
24 th Apr	St Marys'	30 th May	The White Hart Annual Dinner
26 th Jun	St Marys'	31 st Jul	TBC
30 th Aug	TBC	25 th Sep	St Marys'
30 th Oct	St Marys'	27 th / 28 th Nov	TBC
18 th Dec	St Marys'		

7. Members thanked Paul Hughes for Standard Bearing at Ron Pearce's funeral on 6th December who was a fellow Artilleryman and was a Member of the old Redhill RAA Branch. Paul advised that he also Marched in Ron's Hearse.
8. Mark reminded Members of the Eastbourne & District Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club.
9. Mark provided Members of an email he had received from Ian Howard-Harwood, our Area Rep, with regards to Fund Raising for a Statue at the NMA and/or a Stained-Glass Window at our Garrison Church. A decision was due to be made and RAA HQ advise in December, but we have yet to hear back.
10. Mark advised Members that the 95th Annual Sussex Yeomanry Reunion Dinner is to be held at St Francis Sports & Social Club in Haywards Heath on Saturday 14th November 2020. Details will be sent out to Members April/May time.
11. Mark advise that RAA Lewes Branch Members have been invited to join the 75th VE Day Celebratory Dinner at St Francis Sports & Social Club in Haywards Heath on Friday 8th May 2020. Mark will send out full details once received.

AOB:

1. Jack advised that 28 Members attended the Annual Combined Services Dinner in December at The Green Man and the evening went very well.
2. Mark asked Jack if Lewes Council and/or the RBL were planning anything for the 75th VE Day. Jack advised that at this time, nothing has been planned but will follow up and advise in due course.

3. Members discussed the possibility of the New Veterans Railcard to be introduced on Armistice Day, 11th November 2020. *Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has announced that the card will cost £21 for an initial introductory period but the price will then increase to £30.* Updates will follow.
4. Members discussed a Summer Meal out which could include a day out. Various ideas were put forward and the suggested idea is that, if possible, we hold a Church Service at St Anne's Church with The Rev, Cannon Judith Egar to coincide with the 75th Year since VE Day on either 28/29 August or 25/26 July followed by a meal afterwards at possibly The Oak Barn in Burgess Hill. Mark has emailed Rev Egar asking her to advise of her availability of these dates and will follow up once confirmed.
5. It was also discussed regarding ideas for our Christmas Dinner this year. As possible suggestion was for us to hold this at 43 Bty in Larkhill. There would be lots of organising logistically to make this happen and Mark will contact our Bty Contact, Sgt Dave Houghton and the BSM to discuss this possibility. Date proposed is Saturday 28th November 2020.
6. It was suggested and agreed that where we hold a Dinner, Members will meet 15-20 minutes prior for a brief Meeting.
7. Our Welfare Officer, Lee Harding, provided with a current update on Welfare Matters.
8. Jack advised that RAFA will be laying their Standard in St Thomas Church on Sunday 16th February at 12:30 as they are disbanding. They will also be meeting in the Church Hall next door after this. Would you please let Jack know if you would like to attend as he needs to provide numbers?

Darryl asked if we were are require to provide our Standard and Jack will follow this up accordingly.

9. Jack advised that he has 4 tickets left for Trooping the Colour 2020 if anyone else wishes to attend. Tickets are £10.00 each.
10. Mark reminded Members of the importance of reading through the information sent out to all including Minutes. Apart from emailing and/or posting all info to all Members, these are also published on our Website and Facebook.

With no other business, our 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 21:40.

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

Timings: 1930 for 2000 start.
Dress: Casual.

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