



ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION
LEWES BRANCH

Minutes of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association
26th April 2019 at St Mary's Supporters Club
Meeting Opened at 20:00

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

Members Present: Mick Brid, Brian Cager, Mark Eve, Derek Glen, Peter Godding, Mark Harding, David Harding, Lee Harding, Michael Hobden, Sean Kelly, Ray Metcalfe, Michael Taylor, Darryl Twinch, Steve Winter and Peter Wyatt.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Crowhurst, Des Foord, Paul Hughes, Colin Kemp, Jack Neil, Mick Norris, Robbie Parker, John Shill, Alan South, and John Talmey.

Chairman's Report: Michael Hobden welcomed all Members to the Meeting. Michael also welcomed David Collet of the Sussex Yeomanry Association who joined our Meeting.

Michael also thanked the anonymous Members for the donation of our new gavel.

Michael advised that although Fiona Garth has accepted our invitation to our Annual Dinner as our Honoured Guest, she would not wish to stand and provide a short talk.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Colin Kemp, Mark Harding advised that the Cash in the bank as at today is £xx.xx of which £10.00 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 Minutes for our Meeting held on 29th March 2019. With no comments advised, the March 2019 Minutes were voted on and passed as correct with no comments. Proposed by Peter Godding and seconded by Steve Winter. Carried.
2. Mark advised that 43 Bty were attending our Meeting at the end to provide us with an update on the Bty and also show Members some of the new equipment and rations along with answering any questions.
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 Annual Dinner is being held on Saturday 18th May 2018 at the White Hart. Arrive 18:30 to be seated at 19:00. At the final count, we confirm that 39 Members and Guests are attending.

Mark also advised that this includes 2 Serving Members of 43 Bty.

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.

Would all Members attending please bring along a raffle prize to make the evening even better.

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 Tue 23 to Sat 27 July 2019. It was suggested that the first day is always extremely busy so Members

suggested Thursday 25th July. Ticket prices are £18.00 per person or £16.00 per person for groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available to purchase in advance which will speed up entry, or on the day.

Mark Also mentioned that the Eastbourne Veterans Association have invited all Members to their Summer BBQ being held on Saturday 20th July 2019 between 12:00 and 17:00. The cost is £5.00 per person. Mark provided details of this to Members along with via email.

As there was no majority decision, it was decided that our Branch would not participate in an Annual Summer Trip this year and if Members wish to attend any of the above, they would do so under their own steam.

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 also welcomed David Collet of the Sussex Yeomanry Association. David has provided 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.
8. Mark advised that Derek Glen had provided a copy of the RA Heritage Booklet which Mark has emailed to Members. Mark also left a copy for Members to view.
9. Mark asked Members for their ideas as to what to use the Golf Shield that we hold for. Various ideas were discussed and it was voted that this be used for Absent Friends. Proposed by Michael Hobden and seconded by Lee Harding. Carried. Mark will liaise with Colin Kemp to arrange for this to be done.
10. Mark advised that he has been contacted by Megan Maltby who is the Public Engagement Coordinator (South East) for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to possibly provide us with a talk on what they do. Members confirmed that we should arrange this so Mark agreed that he would contact Megan to arrange this for later in the year.
11. Mark advised that he has confirmed with Jack Neil the following allocation of Trooping the Colour Tickets:

Darryl Twinch	x 2	Michael Taylor	x 2
Michael Hobden	x 3	Brian Cager	x 2
Mark Harding	x 3		

The cost for each ticket is £10.00. Would those above please pay Jack direct either at our Annual Dinner or send a cheque payable to Mr Jack Neil. 19 Yeomans, Ringmer. BN8 5EL soonest.

12. Mark advised that he has contacted the Chattri to request that they add us to their mailing list for all events. Mark confirmed there was no specific contact details on their website, just a contact from and that he has received no confirmation back to date. Darryl and Ray advised that they would speak to contacts that they know to try to find a direct contact number/email address. Since the meeting, Darryl has provided Mark with a contact email so he will contact them again via this.
13. Mark confirmed that Lee has been currently working on a new website for our Branch and is gathering ideas and information. Lee will continue to work on this and will revert back.

AOB:

1. Michael Taylor has confirmed that the second stock wreath has been ordered and is still in hand.
2. Darryl advised that although the RBL Race Night held on 13th April at St Marys' was not as well attended as last year, the evening was still a great success and raised over £200.

Mark then handed over to SSgt Louise Banton and her Team from 43 Bty to provide Members with a Bty update and a show and tell.

The Members of the Lewes Branch of the Royal Artillery Association would like to thank 43 Bty and Lt West, SSgt Banton, Bdr Chamberlain, Bdr Scullion, Gnr Hamilton and Gnr Warboys for coming along to our Meeting and providing a fantastic talk and our Members really enjoyed talking to you all and appreciated your time.

With no other business, the April 2019 of the Lewes Branch of the RAA closed at 22.10.

The next RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be our Annual Dinner on Saturday 18th May 2019 in the Sheriffs Room of The White Hart Hotel.

Timings: 18:30 meet - to be seated for Dinner at 19:00.

Dress: Blazers and Regimental Ties (Medals may be worn). Ladies and Guests Dress equivalent.

The following RAA Lewes Branch Meeting will be held on Friday 28th June 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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