

**MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST BRANCH)
HELD AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - SUNDERLAND
ON FRIDAY 8th MARCH 2013**

In Attendance

J Cheetham, (JC) R Holman, N Loftus, G Adams, J Barker, G Barrs, N Blakeman, S Bonallie ,G Cook, S Connal ,
J Conroy, R Coulson , M Donnison, P Fenwick, G Gibbson ,R Gilchrist, J Jackson, D Jones, J Kelly, P Kelly ,W Kemp,
E Loftus, B Moore, G Netzler, G Oates ,D Powell ,Col J Ramsbotham, K Richardson ,J Simpson ,J Snell ,D Sproat ,
T Suggitt , J Toolin, J Williamson.

Apologies

Apologies were received from :

Brig Prideaux, T Conlin, I Corbett, J Cornell, D Hunter, G Hutchinson, I Longworth, D Nichol, R Trower, L Wayman,
D Weir, K Wilson, G Wynn,

JC welcomed and thanked members for their attendance.

Minute's Silence for Fallen Personnel and Comrades including K Ambrose.

Two new members introduced themselves.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Royal Green Jackets Association North East, were approved.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 NE Branch Committee

In a vote of confidence the committee is to remain as is for the forthcoming year.

2.2 Col J Ramsbotham

Unfortunately the Colonel was only able to attend for an hour before the meeting, but he enjoyed chatting to members before his departure. The Colonel donated a signed Sunderland FC ball which was raffled raising £77 for C4C.

2.3 Editors Report - Swift and Bold

The branch report has been submitted to K Stevens who with R Cassidy and a number of the others will be publishing the next issue, which will be delayed due to the untimely death of K Ambrose. Members are reminded that original photos, as attachments, need to be emailed to MD as these provide the highest resolution. D Sproat proposed the branch purchased an external hard drive for the editor, this was carried.

2.4 Website Team Report

Only a trial version of Dreamweaver software was sent to EL and this does not work with the latest version of Windows. JC said he would investigate this further.

2.5 Monthly Reports to RGJ HQ

JC stressed that K Ambrose would be a great loss to the Association as he was responsible for so much. We as a branch we need to inform HQ of any events etc, that we are involved in, this includes individual members.

2.6 RGJRA Meeting

JC thanked G Gibbson for his attendance at the last meeting in Winchester.

2.7 C4C

A certificate received from The Rifles, was shown to the members. It was presented for the £300 raised at the Remembrance Night and donated to C4C. The branch's charity for 2013 will be C4C and it was proposed by S Connal that the branch matched the £300 previously donated, this was carried.

2.8 RGJ/Rifles Museum Shop

JC urged members to visit the online shop, by purchasing items it will assist with the daily running of the Museum.

2.9 Branch Meetings

The next 3 meetings will be held in May/June and October - Dates TBC.

3 Events

3.1 Branch Functions

November

9/10 Remembrance Weekend - Details to Follow.

A sit down meal was suggested by G Barrs, but due to the cost of this a buffet is the chosen option of the members. The Roker hotel will give a room discount to members if they quote "Royal Green Jackets Reunion" when booking. Requests for tickets outside of the NE Branch have been received, the Grand Room holds 300 with priority being given to NE Branch members.

December

Christmas / New Year Parties - Tables will be booked at organised events, details to follow.

3.2 North East Events

June

21st Rifles Band & Bugles and Borneo Band & Bugles Band Concert Seaburn Centre, Sunderland - Further details to follow. JC asked members to support this event and pass on details when they are available.

28th Veterans' Day - Sunderland

JC read an article from the Sunderland Echo - Details to follow, members encouraged to attend.

3.3 Regional Events

June

22nd Rifles Freedom of the City - Leeds

Details to follow

July

13th Winchester Veterans Day

14th Brunch at Rose Cottage - Brig Nicholas and Amanda once again invite members for brunch. As numbers are limited please let JC know asap if you wish to attend.

4 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer thanked members for paying their yearly subs of £5 via cash or direct debit. Members were able to pay on the night too.

Bank £3369.91

5 AOB

5.1 Discounts for Veterans

Oyster Card - Free travel when in London (you do not have to live in London) contact 0845 331 9872 to request an application form.

Defence Discount Service - Website <https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/>

Use online services or apply for a card to use on the High Street

Rewards for Forces - Website <http://www.rewardsforforces.co.uk/>

Use online services or apply for a card to use on the High Street

5.2 RGJ Magnetic Car Badges

These are available from K (Dog) Hudson - email address

5.3 Secret Raffle - RGJ Badge & Bugler Print

Winner - G Yates

5.4 Buffet / Raffle

The buffet was provided at a cost of £90 which was covered by the raffle that raised £104. Items donated by S Bonallie raised £17 which will be forwarded to C4C.

5.5 C4C Donation at Meeting

Breakdown	£
Sunderland Football	77
Branch Donation	
	300
SB Donation	17
Total	394

NEXT MEETING

TBC