

**MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST BRANCH)  
HELD AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - SUNDERLAND  
ON FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2015**

**Present (37)**

J Cheetham (JC)	D Nichol	J Snell	K Richardson
R Holman	J Richardson (JR)	T Walker	J Cornell
A Begley	C Adams	L Juke	B Machin
T Robinson	G Cook	G Yates	R Cauwood
L Wayman	J Simpson	R Gilchrist	K Wilson
R Coulson	D Powell	S Connal	B Moore
M Donnison (MD)	N Blakeman	G Barrs (GB)	I Longworth
J Toolin	P Fenwick	J Williamson	D Sproat
M Blair	P A Collins	G Mallaby	D Jones
P Kelly			

**Apologies (17)**

Apologies were received from:

Brig Prideaux	Col Ramsbotham	D Muir	R Trower
L Viot	S Skelley	B Martin	D Watson
D Bond	A Smiles	G Hillary	R Jukes
K Fry	G Hutchinson	D Hunter	E Loftus
R Newman			

JC welcomed and thanked members for their attendance.

Minute Silence for Fallen Comrades.

Pete Collins introduced himself to members.

**1. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read by the Secretary and approved by the members.

**2. Matters Arising**

- a. RGJA News Rules still not amended.
- b. Tickets for Remembrance weekend was extended for Members until 14th August.
- c. Members informed the reason for Subscription remaining £5.
- d. Golf on Friday Remembrance weekend cancelled.
- e. JC spoke on centre pieces for the tables, he had enquired about new centre pieces with the Regimental Cap Badge and Swift and Bold caption.
- f. JR (Treasurer) advised members to ensure they wrote North East Branch on their cheques not North West Branch which had happened in the past.

(Correspondence & Emails)

a. Formation of a Rifles Association Branch in the NE. JC and DN (Chairman designate) attended a Meeting at the Rifles Office Durham on 11 Sept to discuss the possible formation of a Rifles Association Branch in the North East including Yorkshire. The Meeting was chaired by Lt Col John Poole-Warren MBE, Regimental Secretary, The Rifles. There was a useful exchange of views/ideas. The outcome was that at present there is insufficient ex-members of The Rifles to form a Branch. However, it was agreed that work would continue to explore the possibility. JC said that ex-members of The Rifles had already joined the NE Branch of the RGJA. He had discussed the way ahead with the Branch President and President (designate). They had agreed that with the proposal that the NE Branch of the RGJA should welcome ex-members of The Rifles to join us until such time as there was sufficient numbers to form their own Branch in the NE. This proposal was put to the Meeting and agreed unanimously. JC said that he would contact The Rifles Office, Durham to extend the invitation.

b. The next publication of the E Zine is 1st December, branch article needs to be in by 11th November.

### **3. Treasures Report**

Cash at Bank £5257.90

Cash in Hand £498.00

Members 100 - Subs paid 58

### **4. Events**

Members attended:

- a. Waterloo Parade
- b. Victory in Japan Parade
- c. Captain Maling VC dedication memorial.
- d. National Memorial Arboretum

JC asked any members who had attended an event to submit a short precis and photos if possible so these could be included in the Branch's contribution the December e-Zine.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

Remembrance Weekend: 6th to 8th November 2015

Friday Night 6th - Queen Vic

Saturday 7th - Entertainment Men in Black and Disco booked, Bugles yet to be confirmed, Raffle tickets on order, Prizes and auction items please drop off at Jake's house, Poppy Wreaths ordered.

Sunday 8th- Remembrance Parade and Lunch, which will be attended by the Mayor of Sunderland. S Connal advised that the 25 Pounder Artillery Piece pull would no longer take place.

### **5. Proposals**

a. Proposed by M Donnison and Seconded by S Connal that the funds required to pay for the reunion weekend be authorized. This was carried.

## **6. Any other Business**

- a. JC spoke on the auction of the 1991 nominal role and other items.
- b. JC spoke on the Memorial Chair for Winchester.
- c. JC spoke on the Greenstock 2017. This may take place.
- d. MD informed members of the Northern Ireland Association Parade at the National Memorial Arboretum.
- e. JC asked members if they would like an event to celebrate the regimental birthday in 2016.
- f. JC asked for volunteers to lay the poppy wreaths on Remembrance Sunday.
- g. JC asked for 6 volunteers to take part in a surprise event on Saturday evening of the Remembrance Weekend.
- h. GB asked if the Branch would be having a Christmas Party this was confirmed by the committee.
- I. The Branch presented The Royal British Legion with Ginger Dixon's Silver Bugle. The Gift was donated by Ginger's sister Ruth Dixon.

Raffle on the night raised £118.00

Secret Raffle Winner Russell Holman

The meeting closed at 2100hrs.

**NEXT MEETING**

**TBC**