

**MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST BRANCH)
HELD AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - SUNDERLAND
ON FRIDAY 17th APRIL 2015**

Present:

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Brigadier NM Prideaux | Col J Ramsbotham | J Cheetham |
| K Richardson | G Oates | B Tollerson |
| R Cauwood | R Holman | N Blakeman |
| C Adams | R Jukes | L Jukes |
| G Yates | M Blaire | D Nichol |
| I Longworth | D Powell | J Toolin |
| T Robinson | R Coulson | K Wilson |
| B Kemp | D Jones | P Kelly |
| J Snell | R Gilchirst | J Barker |
| J Simpson | B Moore | G Cook |
| N Cook | G Gibson | I Davies |

Apologies

Apologies were received from B Machin, M Donnison, P Smith, R Trower, D Hunter, P Fenwick, D Muir, P Axtell, J Wilkinson, T Conlin, G Hutchinson, D Sproat, N Dennis, J Cornell, E Loftus, N Loftus, T Suggitt

JC welcomed and thanked members for their attendance.

New Member K Sullivan ex RGJ 3 Rifles introduced himself to Members

Minute Silence for Fallen Comrades

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of previous meeting were read, matters arising would be covered in the meeting agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Bank £4,933.39 Cash £0.00

Collected at meeting Raffle £147.00 Subs £35.00

Total £5125.8

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Branch Progression

The President Brigadier NM Prideaux said he was delighted to be present as it was an important Meeting. He talked about the past 7 years, how the Branch had grown with all the hard work from JC, his family and the Committee. Membership had increased and Members from other Branches from all over UK, Europe and the USA who had joined us at Branch events and the fundraising for Care4Casualties, The Royal British Legion and the RGJ Museum Waterloo 2015 Appeal all added to a real success story and showed that the NE Branch was on a firm footing. This has been recognised by Chairman of the RGJRA. The Branch should now look towards the future. The Chairman, understandably wants to devote more time to his family, but he had agreed to stay on until later in the year so that the new Vice Chairman/Chairman designate and his Committee can have a seamless takeover with the benefit of his knowledge and experience.

It was also time for the President to stand down. He said that he could not begin to express what an honour it has been for him to have been the Branch President. Both Amanda and he have really enjoyed their visits to Sunderland and will keep those memories very much in their hearts. However, he is going to stay on until after this year's Remembrance Weekend in order to give any help that may be necessary to the new Committee.. Thereafter, Colonel James Ramsbotham has said that he is willing to takeover as President subject to the Branch's approval. He added that Col. James was ideally qualified for the appointment as he has a wealth of experience in the North East and lives much closer to us all than the Brigadier does in Barton Stacey!

Summing up, The President said that the Branch's reputation and the bond we all have are unique. He believed strongly that we guard these attributes jealously and we are right to do so. The Branch needs to move on and keep our good name to the forefront of the RGJRA. He was confident that the changes will happen with maximum efficiency and with that renowned Rifleman's sense of humour.

3.1a

Col James Ramsbotham replying thanked the President and Chairman on behalf of all Members of the Branch for the work they had done over the past seven years

3.2

JC would like to thank both Naomi Loftus Secretary and John Kelly Treasurer for all the hard work over the last seven years,

3.3 New Committee

3.3a

Col James Rambotham's appointment as President in November 2015 was passed unanimously.

3.3b

Vice Chairman/Chairman (designate): David Nichol

Seconded: I Longworth

Vote: Unanimous

3.3c

Secretary: J Snell

Seconded: J Simpson

Vote: Unanimous

3.3d

Treasurer: J Richardson

Seconded: S Connal

Vote: Unanimous

3.3e

A unanimous vote was received for J Toolin to remain Entertainments Manager.

3.3f

The Editor will not be replaced, all articles will be submitted to an editorial team.

All handover of accounts and paperwork will take place over the month of April and the Chairman will arrange dates.

4. Events

4.1

RGJA AGM Fri 24 Apr 2015 at 10.00am in RHQ Winchester.

No representative this time from Branch. Branch report will be sent next week.

4.2

Regimental Birthday 2016 - RGJA Sub Committee. A representative from each Branch had been asked for. K Richardson volunteered.

Seconded: R Holman.

Vote: Unanimous

4.3 North East Meetings

June / Sept TBC

June

TBC: Veterans Day Sunderland

July

18; Veterans Day Winchester – 19 July: Rose Cottage Brunch

Sept

25: Capt Maling VC RAMC attached to 12 Bn Rifle Brigade. Details to follow.

Nov

8 and 9: Remembrance Weekend

Dec

TBC Christmas Party

5. AOB

5.1

J Toolin asked for the 43rd and 52nd Flag be made available for the visit to Pegasus Bridge, Chairman to make available

5.2

JC asked members if they had any Raffle or Auction prizes for the November function.

5.3

R Holman asked a vote of thanks to be recorded in the Minutes for all the hard work the Chairman has done over the last 7 Years.

Raffle on the night raised £147.00

Secret Raffle Winner D Jones

NEXT MEETING

TBC