

**MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST BRANCH)
HELD AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - SUNDERLAND
ON FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2015**

Present:

D Nichol, J Snell, B Machin, C Adams, R Adams, L Jukes, K Richardson, Dean Nichol, T Conlin, I Longworth, J Toolin, B Moore, D Powell, N Blakeman, J Cornell, A Begley, P Jukes, T Robinson, P Fenwick, M Donnison, R Coulson, J G Cook, N Cook, J Williamson, B Kemp, R Cauwood, G Barrs, G Oates, P Collins, D Sproat, S Connal, J Simpson, R Gilchrist, K Sullivan, K Wilson, G Barrs, S Connal, K Sullivan, J Kelly, J Richardson.

Apologies

Apologies were received from: Brigadier NM Prideaux Col Ramsbotham, J Cheetham, P Axtell, M Ashworth, J Barrett, M Blair, L Wayman, D Bone, R Newman, J Tarr, D Hunter, K Fry, D Jones, D Bond, P Kelly, E Loftus, A Smiles.

D.N. welcomed and thanked members for their attendance.

New Members

Pete Collins – D.N. asked Pete to introduce himself at the next meeting.

Glenn Hillary – Lives in Nottingham.

Minute Silence for Fallen Comrades

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of previous meeting were read by John Snell due to members not being in possession of these minutes or having read them. There were no matters arising from these minutes. Minutes approved by members.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 RGJ Association Management Plan 2015 and Membership Fees

D.N. explained that he had received correspondence from Brigadier Prideaux which outlines a review of the RGJ Association Management plan which had initially been posted by the RGJ Association for implementing and action by Branches. It was felt that the contents of this Management Plan and membership rules needed further consideration before they should be implemented across all Branches. After a lot of consideration and negotiation between Brigadier Prideaux, Roy Stanger, Jake Cheetham and Mike Marr it was felt that the rules needed to be amended. Further updates will be provided on the matter once in receipt of said information.

2.2 Discussion around DLI/LI/Rifles Branches in Durham

D.N. explained that after attending a recent function in Durham with the Rifles he had been approached by a number of representatives from the DLI / LI branches expressing an interest in amalgamating all branches together to form a rifles branch.

Item discussed with members and it was felt unanimous that this would not take place and we will remain as Branch in our own right.

2.3 Branch Members & Face book Members

George Barrs queried number of members on Facebook (313) and members on the books (96). What happens if and when we got to Winchester how do we prove who has paid subs and who hasn't. (RGJA Hold a record of members subscriptions, your name is checked before payment is taken) Partner will need to be paid for.

Treasures Report

J.R. explained that we had not received an update bank statement due to the transaction taking place with the new committee and full figures were not yet available but should be no different to previous minutes. J.R. also advised that the branch had 96 members but only 49 members were up to date with their subs. J.R. asked for members who hadn't paid to pay their subs. D.N. Explained that once update information had been received he would email this information to all members.

Bank £TBC Cash £0.00

Collected at meeting Raffle £148.00 Subs £35.00

Total £TBC

3. Events

3.1 Armed Forces Celebrations Sunderland 26-28 June 2015

D.N. informed members that during the 26th and 28th June Armed Forces Celebrations will take place around Sunderland. There will be a Flag Raising Ceremony being held at the Civic Centre, commencing at 10.00 hours, members wishing to attend event should arrive for 09.45 hours for the parade with further activities being held at the recreation ground in Seaburn.

3.2 Rose Cottage

D.N. requested members that are interested in attending Rose Cottage on 18th July 2015 will need to submit their names to J.S./D.N before 06th July as this information needs to be with the Brigadier by 10th July.

3.3 Remembrance Reunion Weekend

D.N. explained to members that all tickets for this event would be limited to North East Branch members until the end of July. If any tickets are left after this time then these would be offered to non-members.

D.N. informed members that tickets for the Roker Hotel had been ordered and he was waiting for an update on the progression of raffle tickets. Information surrounding donations was explained with donations being greatly received, it was explained that donations could be provided and brought the function, or if required they could be dropped off at DN offices in Hebburn were they would be secure and brought to the event.

D.N. informed members that the Branch would only grant the fee of £350.00 for the hire of the group for the Saturday evening events with further guidance required from John Toolin.

3.4 Remembrance Weekend

D.N. informed members that he was planning a veterans golf event for the Friday before the weekend celebrations and parade. He informed members that this event was being held at no cost to them of the branch and if anybody was interested to submit there names to DN.

D.N. explained to members that when attending the parade after the Saturday Evening Events they should attend wearing the appropriate attire and be in a fit state.

The requirement for Buglers still needs to be discussed with Scott Barrs

3.5 Ceremony at War Memorial in Sunderland for Captain George Maling RAMC

D.N. informed members that on 25th September 2015 there will be a ceremony parade held at the War Memorial in Mowbray Park, Sunderland where a V.C. Pavement stone will be placed in the memory of Captain Maling whom

serving with 12th Battalion The Rifle Brigade when he won his VC on 25th September 1915. DN expressed to members that it would be good if branch members could attend this event to honour Capt Malings' achievement and names would be welcomed. Buglers will be present.

4. AOB

4.1 D.N. Informed members that he was in the process of creating individual membership cards and at the next meeting will be details of those paid up members so he could generate their membership cards. Design of cards will be circulated around members before printing takes place.

4.2 D.N. asked the members on how to take the branch forward in the future.

a. D.N. advised that there were 72 places available for the Friday Golf at no cost to those who wished to attend. Link on facebook for names.

b. D.N. spoke on the ways and ideas for members on how to take the branch forward.

c. G Barrs asked if we still wanted Jim Barratt to provide the place mats which we did.

d. G Cook spoke with regards members fees to be looked into and advised why the fee was still £5.

e. M Donnison asked if anything was to be arranged for 10/05/17 with regards 10 Anniversary & Regimental Plaque. This to be looked into.

4.3 K.Richardson provide members with an update relating to the Regimental Birthday.

4.4 S Connal explained to members that he would be pulling a 25 pounder artillery gun to the cenotaph on remembrance day and would members support him during this event .

4.5 K Sullivan asked if he could give out brochures on the Magna Carta Exhibition currently taking place in Durham. He gave an insight into the exhibition and what and who could attend.

Raffle on the night raised £138.00

Secret Raffle Winner Jeff Cornell

NEXT MEETING

TBC