

MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION (NORTH EAST BRANCH)
HELD AT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION - SUNDERLAND
ON FRIDAY 30th JANUARY 2015

J Cheetham (JC)
N Blakeman
N Cook
M Donnison
D Jones
P Kelly
G Oates
K Richardson
B Tollerson
G Yates

C Adams
R Cauwood
S Connal
P Fenwick
L Jukes
E Loftus
D Powell
J Simpson
J Toolin

G Barrs
G Cook
N H Dennis
R Gilchrist
J Kelly
B Moore
Col J Ramsbotham
T Suggitt
K Wilson

Apologies

Apologies were received from Brig Prideaux, P Axtell, J Barker, J Barrett, A Begley, M Blaire, D Bond, D Bone, T Conlin, I Corbett, J Cornell, R Coulson, G Gibson, R Holman, D Hunter, G Hutchinson, J Jackson, R Jukes, W Kemp, N Loftus, I Longworth, T Love, W Machin, G Mallaby D Muir, G Netzler, D Nichol, T Robinson, R Ross, A Smiles, P Smith, J Snell, D Sproat, R Trower, D Watson, L Wayman, K Weedy, J Williamson, G Wynn

JC welcomed and thanked members for their attendance.

New members R Cauwood and Capt N H Dennis (Padre) introduced themselves

Minute Silence for Fallen Comrades / the Chairman read an email from Ruth Dixon thanking members of NE Branch for their attendance of Gareth's funeral / Pat Walsh 1RGJ who died last week was also remembered.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

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

2 Matters Arising

2.1 Branch Progression

JC will not be seeking re-election at the AGM in April. Col James Ramsbotham will take over as President in late 2015 early 2016.

Col James informed members that Brigadier Nicholas, Jake and himself had a meeting in London to discuss this issue. The Branch was so successful because of the work the Chairman and his wife Liz had done over the years and it was time for a replacement. If any member was interested in the post of Chairman and would like any advice the Brigadier, Colonel and Jake were available. Please let the Chairman know by the end of February.

M Donnison informed members his business was very busy and was unable to continue in the role as Editor and resigned. The Chairman thanked him for his work on E-Zine and Swift and Bold.

2.2 Medals - Falklands

R Gilchrist informed members that the dates had been extended by a month and some members may be entitled to apply. Two members of the Royal Navy had applied and the dates were authorised by the Medal Office.

2.3 RGJRA HQ Meeting

Members were asked their opinion on two issues:

Should Greenstock become a reunion for people in the North not being able to attend Winchester? Members believed this was not necessary as all regional branch events were a reunion and funding should not come from the RGJRA account.

Should there be a RGJ Memorial every year at NMA Alrewas as 16 members attended the NI Association in September 2014? Members thought that 10, 20, 30 year anniversary would be a better idea.

2.4 Treasurer's Report

Main Items

Reunion Expenditure £5067.71 / Donation to RBL £1243.04

Bank £4673.83 Cash £30.03 Total £4704.16

If any member would like a copy of the accounts please contact the Treasurer.

3. Events

3.1 Branch Functions

April

17 - Branch AGM

November

7&8 – Remembrance Weekend

3.2 North East Events

February

13 / 10am – Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.

Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen Belsen.

March

2 / 1.55pm – Houghton Hall, Houghton Le Spring. 160th (Wearside) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, plaque unveiling.

June

Sunderland – Veterans Day.

September

25 – Capt Maling VC RAMC attached 12 Bn Rifle Brigade.

3.3 Regional Events

July

18 – Veterans Day Winchester.

19 – Rose Garden Brunch.

4. AOB

4.1 Football Matches on Remembrance Sunday

Members were asked their views, the consensus was that matches should be played on a Saturday, but are aware that SKY money was important to SAFC.

4.2 G Cook's 60th Birthday

G Cook invited members to his party at the 38 Club, Washington on 28 February.

4.3 RBL Sunderland

Members were informed of the Certificate of Donations received from the RBL and a card from Vince and Lynne was shown.

The Legion had been used by a number of members for birthday parties and if any member would like to use the venue please contact JC.

4.4 NE Branch Website

The website now has a new guest book. Old entries are no longer available, members are asked to log on.

4.5 Pegasus Bridge Trip

J Toolin and other members will be visiting on 6 June, if you are interested in going please see John.

4.6 Waterloo Trip

June 19-21

G Oates informed members that there was one place available, with another possible tbc, at an approximate cost of £300. If you are interested please contact S Wells direct.

4.7 Raffles

Raffle on the night raised £118.

Secret Raffle Winner – N Blakeman (RGJ Knocker).

NEXT MEETING

TBC