

Royal Green Jackets Association (Winchester & District Branch)

General Introduction

On formation of The Royal Green Jackets in 1966 all Riflemen were entered into the 'One Day Pay Scheme' (ODPS). A condition of entering the ODPS was that they automatically became 'life members' of the Regimental Association which the ODPS partially supported. In 2007 on the formation of The Rifles the regiment was stood down from its 'active role' with all its financial assets placed under the control of an RGJ Association Council. With no further income from the ODPS coming in the Association Council decided that as 'Life Membership' of the association was no longer a viable financial option the condition of 'life membership' was removed from the association rules.

Today the RGJA has two levels of membership which every ex member of the Regiment can join, and in their simplest forms are as follows:

Level One

RGJA (Main) Membership

Application for membership is made to the RGJA Membership Secretary (Contact details on the RGJA Website at www.rgjassociation/info). Payment of an annual subscription (currently £10.00) will enable the member to receive hard or electronic copies of the S&B and Ezine, plus entry into the Veterans Days. Membership of the *main association* does not entitle the member to automatically become a member of a branch (see below).

Level Two

RGJA (Branch) Membership

This level is an *additional* membership of an individual branch. This is achieved by contacting a regional branch and paying an *additional* annual subscription. This subscription is to enable the branch to be financially self-sufficient and entitles the member to take advantage of all discounted activities the branch organises.

Any ex member of the Regiment can join either level one or two. However every ex member is strongly encouraged to join both to obtain the maximum benefits available from each.

Full details regarding the association and its membership can be found on the RGJA Website at www.rgjassociation/info under Members/Association Rules'.

Branch Rules and Guidelines

Raison d'être

1.. The Winchester & District Branch of the Royal Green Jackets Association was formed with the express purpose of providing a Regimental and social forum for all ranks of the Regiment, or affiliated Regiments, serving and retired, and residing within Winchester and district area of Hampshire. The ethos of the branch is to maintain and enjoy Regimental and family friendships through both formal and social gatherings.

Organisation

2. The Branch consists of a President, a Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer plus any number of members. Any of which may volunteer or be elected into any appointment or specific purpose committees as the need arises.

Branch Management Committee

3. The affairs of the Branch will be managed by a Management Committee which will consist of a President, Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. To ensure a stable continuity of management is maintained, these appointments will be for a period of 2 years with elections overlapping alternatively as follows:

Year 1	President and Secretary
Year 2	Chairman and Treasurer

The election of these appointments will be made in accordance with these rules:

a. The President shall be a serving or retired member of the Regiment, or Affiliated Regiments, and a member of the Branch. His task is to oversee the good running of the Branch, represent the Branch and members views at RGJ Association Meetings, and generally ensure all members are kept up to date on Regimental matters. His appointment by election will be for a period of 2 years. At the end of which if no other candidates name for the office has been previously submitted he may stand for re-election and continue in the appointment if so elected.

b. The Chairman shall be a serving or retired member of the Regiment or Affiliated Regiments, and a member of the Branch. His task is to facilitate the smooth day to day running of the administration and general affairs for the Branch, to chair formal meetings, to oversee informal gatherings, and to work in conjunction with the President over all policy matters. He will also represent the Branch views at RGJ Association Meetings. His appointment by election will be for a period of 2 years. At the end of which if no other candidates name has been submitted for the office he may stand for re-election, and continue in the appointment if so elected.

c. The Secretary shall be a serving or retired member of the Regiment or Affiliated Regiments, and a member of the Branch. His task is to provide all secretarial support in the form of producing minutes at formal meetings, their distribution, and providing any additional secretarial support to other members who may require it. His appointment by election will be for a period of 2 years. At the end of which if no other candidate has previously submitted his name for the office he may stand for re-election, and continue in the appointment if so elected.

d. The Treasurer shall be a serving or retired member of the Regiment or Affiliated Regiments, and a member of the Branch. His task is to maintain the Branch accounts, collect fees and pay dues, provide financial statements at formal meetings, prepare accounts for annual audit, and generally apply good budgetary procedures in all financial matters. His appointment by election will be for a period of 2 years. At the end of which if no other candidate has previously submitted his name for the office he may stand for re-election, and continue in the appointment if so elected.

e. If any member of the Management Committee wishes to relinquish his appointment at any time he may do so. In this event a replacement must be made or found without undue delay. The vacancy must be given the widest publicity amongst all members of the Branch, and a formal election of the proposed candidate carried out at the next formal meeting. In the event of there being no candidate for the office a meeting must be convened without delay to decide on its consequences, and what further action if any can be done to resolve the problem. Failure to elect either a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer may result in temporary suspension of the Branch.

f. Additional 'Event Management' appointments may be made by the Management Committee after consultation with individual members concerned ie: general entertainment, cricket, skittles etc.

g. Members who may want to submit their names as candidates for any office may do so 1 month prior to the Annual General Meeting in February each year.

h. Three members of the committee will make a quorum.

Membership

4. Branch membership by type is as follows:

A. Full Member. All members and ex-members of the Royal Green Jackets, and Affiliated Regiments whether Regular, Territorial, Reserved or antecedent have absolute right to membership of the Branch.

B. Associate Member. Any member of another regiment or corps who served on the strength of a Royal Green Jacket battalion or unit, and who still has a 'Riflemans interests at heart'. This may also include wives, relatives, and other servicemen and servicewomen. All of whom can apply for Associate Membership.

Widows of ex members of the branch have an immediate right to Associate Membership if they so wish it. However their name must be registered in the membership ledger. If it is the annual subscription will be waived.

Any member of another regiment, corps or service who lives within the Branch encatchment area, and is a friend of a Full Member, may also apply for Associated Membership.

However in all cases of Associated Membership the following rules will apply:

- (1) The application for Associated Membership must be proposed by a Full Member and seconded by another Full Member at a formal meeting.
- (2) The Full Members proposal must include a brief description of the applicant's military status/connection and character.
- (3) The Full Member proposal must also include a statement that the applicant has understood our rules, and will abide by them.
- (4) The applicant must be made aware that a proposal for membership is not a guarantee of acceptance, and that as an Associate Member he/she will have no vote on any Regimental subject, nor be able to influence any proposition or discussion of a Regimental matter. He/she will be able to join a 'working event committee' but have no influence on its Regimental decisions. However he/she may voice an opinion if invited to do so.

5. All members of the Branch are expected to obtain and carry a Branch Identity Card at the first opportunity, the production of which will be arranged by a member of the Management Committee.

6. Membership will cease if:

- Resignation
- Subs falling into arrears
- Expulsion

7. A lapsed member may re-apply for membership at any time.

Annual General Meeting

8. An Annual General Meeting will be convened once in every year, preferably in January or February. An itemised agenda for the meeting will be published at least one month prior to the meeting. The agenda will include advance notification of appointment vacancies for the coming year. See Note 3g above.

Subscription Fee

9. The Annual Subscription Fee each year will be proposed by the Treasurer and voted on by the Full Members at the AGM. The result of the vote will become active immediately.

10. Annual subscriptions are to be paid within 3 months of the AGM. There will be no exception to this rule.

11. In the event of a member experiencing financial hardship due to unemployment, illness etc, the Management Board reserves the right to waive the Annual Subscription fee for the member concerned until the period of hardship is overcome. All details relating to this decision will remain confidential to the Management Board only.

Rules of the Branch

12. The rules may be altered or added to by two (2) thirds majority vote of the Committee taken at a meeting at which a quorum is present.