

**MINUTES OF THE RGJ ASSOCIATION
(WINCHESTER & DISTRICT BRANCH)
BRANCH AGM
HELD AT SIR JOHN MOORE BARRACKS
ON TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2017**

In Attendance

President: John Fritz-Domeney
Chairman: Roy Stanger
Secretary: John Harper
Treasurer: Brian Scott

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1920 hrs on Tuesday 7th February 2017 with 22x members present.

Item 1: Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Peter McLaren-Smith, John Pearson, George Elliot, Adam Easdon, Dave Burch, Vic Osmond, Roger Downton, Mitch Ahmet, Nickolas Prideaux, Thomas Reynolds, Bob Fortune, Brian Craven, Terry Young, Anthony Addley, George Smith, Robert Clarke, Lyndon Harper, Kieran Mulvey and Peter Hyde.

Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th January 2017 were read and approved by the member's present.

Item 3: President's Address

Del Milam requested that the President open this address in a different way so John started with a new flash, John then went on to thank the following branch members, 1: Tiny Adams who besides running his own business, managed to organise 2x away trips, one to the Poppy Factory and the other to the Car Museum at Beaulieu in 2016. 2: Del Milam, Derek Randall and John Harper for the painting of the Armoured Vehicles and other tasks within ATR(W). 3: Pat and May Low for all the hard work they have put into making the memorial garden look so good, thanks were also passed on from the RGJA. 3: Peter Andrews who had to stand down as treasurer because of ill health, and Brian Scott who volunteered and took over that duty, we hope that Peter will return to duty someday. John then informed the members that Major General Jamie Gordon has taken over as President of the RGJA, he will help The Rifles to form their own Association, but it will not be on the same lines as the RGJA. On 8 July The Rifles will be gifted with the freedom of Winchester, the RGJA have been asked to take part in this parade, John has been asked to organise a 100x marchers made up of all the branches, he has emailed all the branch secretary's and presidents for numbers who wish to take part, he also explained about the dress for the parade. The Rifles are organising a gathering at Richmond Rugby Club London in July 2017, the RGJA have been invited to attend, more at a later date.

Item 4: Chairman's Report

Roy inform the members of the reorganisation of The Rifles that will take place In 2017, 4 Rifles will go down to 250 personnel and become a Specialised Battalion, made up of Offices and Senior NCO, but with fewer Riflemen, the remainder will be posted to the other Battalions of the Regiment, this includes a new 8 Rifles Battalion.

Roy went on to tell the members that the Remembrance Lunch will not be subsidised by the branch this year, but the Christmas Dinner will, the branch will also subsidise the Battlefield Tours. Roy spoke to Sid Budd RHQ Rifles to see if Green Jacket Close were putting on a BBQ this year, Sid asked the residents if anyone was, the answer was no. The branch will not be paying for the Regimental Birthday on 1 January 2018, this is because most people who attend are non- members of this branch. John McMullan has volunteered to organise a BBQ at Green Jacket Close, the date to be confirmed later or at the April meeting.

Item 5: Treasurer's Report

Brian Scott went through the branch funds for 2016/17 with the members present, please see attachment. Brian asked if members would like to pay their Subscriptions, members £15, associate members £10 by post, you will find his address on the last page of the minutes, cheques made payable to **RGJ(A) Winchester Branch**. Roy thanked John FD and Peter Andrews for auditing the RGJA accounts.

Item 6: Battlefields

Tiny Adams is looking into going to RAF Cosford Air Museum, he hopes to have more news at the April branch meeting or by email. Tiny is also looking to visit to RAF Duxford and a Rifles passing out parade at Catterick (MEN ONLY) with an overnight stay. RAF Cosford has now been booked for Wednesday 1st March leaving ATR(W) 0630 it will be a late return, Tiny has room for 16 members if you want to go contact Tiny on swiftbold@yahoo.com

Item 7: Memorial Garden

Pat Low informed the members that not much has been done to the garden due to the weather, but hopes to get started again in March. John FD hopes to have the Green Jacket Badge in position by Veterans Day 2017, John asked if any members have any free time, can you help Pat and May in the Garden.

Item 8: Entertainment

John Harper has organised a Skittle night on Saturday 11 March at The Phoenix Twyford. Request Forms have been sent out to the members, and he is awaiting the returns **CLOSEING DATE MARCH 4th Cost £12 per head payable on the night**. If you cancel after that date you will still have to pay as the food will have been ordered, the only way out is a Doctor's note, undertaker note or note from the Wife. Deposits may be needed for some functions, this is due to high costs, you will be informed at the time if this is required.

Item 9: Swift & Bold and Ezine

John FD is still after interesting Photos of what we as a branch have done, such as places that we visited, if members go on holidays, did you meet famous people or see places of interest, tell us with a few words John will do the rest,

Item 10: Cards & Passes

Peter Andrews will report to the guardroom and update their PC in regards of members ID cards.

Item 11: Branch Charity

The branch will still support C4C.

Item 12: Association Website

Branch committee members can update the branch website, like put photos in, add members, delete members with a password, this can only be done by Committee members..

Item 13: Clay Pigeon Shooting

The branch will not support the shooting any more due to lack of members attending.

Item 14: Freedom Parade and Veteran's Day

John FD explained to the members about the Freedom Parade that will take place in the morning of 8 July, all RGJA who are taking part will be picked up at the range car park at ATR(W) and taken to Peninsula Barracks by coach where they will form up, they will leave the barracks and march down High Street Winchester behind The Rifles and past the Butter Cross and turn right and head towards the Cathedral where the parade will form up round the KRRC memorial for a short service (turning the pages), then the parade will march down Market Street to the Guildhall Square to form up ready for an inspection, when that is over the parade will march off round King Alfred Statue back up the High Street to Barclays Bank turn round and go back to the Guildhall Square where the parade will fallout, then be taken back to ATR(W) for lunch, some members will be invited to join the Mayor in the Guildhall. The dress for the parade is Beret, Green Jacket, Gray/Black trousers, White Shirt, Green Jacket Tie or Regimental tie, Black Shoes, and Issued Medals only. Members with walking Frames or wheelchair or are medical unfit will not be able to take part in the Parade. The route might change so keep watch on your Emails, you must be at the ATR car park by 0900/0930 hrs, more information on times and the route nearer the date.

Roy then went on to say that the marchers will be feed in the dining room of ATR(W), the meals will be paid for by The Rifles and the RGJA. Roy then went on to say what is happening on the Veterans Day, The Rifles will be asked to join us for the rest of the day, there will be no entrance before 1400 hrs. The Romsey Cadet Band will be joining us again, they were very entertaining and enjoyed by the families who watch them last year. This year Brian Scott will be the compere I am sure he will do a good job. Colin Fox our Regimental Padre will lead a service of remembrance for Royal Green jackets who have died between 1966 and 2007 at the Memorial Garden 5x names will be read out from the Book of Remembrance. The other entertainers who will be performing on the day will be the Military Wives, Gary Driscoll, The Melodic Belles and the Association Buglers, there will be a march pass followed by Sounding Retreat then back to the beer tent for the evening entertainment. There will be a food tent with same Chefs that we had last year. Sodexo who take over the running of the camp from March, and will be asked to run a burger stall, Roy now has a new bar manager since Ron Frampton retired, Roy thanked him for the hard work in helping in setting up the area and getting ready for Veterans Day on many occasions. Roy is also looking for help with the setting up the area before veterans Day, if you are interested then please contact Roy.

Item 15: Families Day

No date has been set for the Branch Family BBQ.

Item 16: 50th Anniversary CD

The CD is still not ready, the film editor who is doing the editing for free can only do it so when he is not working on a movie, but we hope to have it before the Veterans Day this year.

Item 17: Election of President and Treasurer

No branch member put their name forward for the position of President or Treasurer, the President John FD and Treasurer Brian Scott were asked if they would like to carry on, both said yes and it was passed by the members present.

Item 18: Remembrance Parade and Lunch

Roy has booked the Remembrance Lunch for this year at the SWGC, if you do not want it there then let the Committee know at the April meeting. This year you will have to pay for the Lunch because the branch is to subsidise the Christmas Dinner instead.

The parade will be the same as 2016, we will Parade first at the KRRC memorial then those who wish to go to the Cathedral will do so, and those who would like to go to the Drum Head service at the ATR(W) will go with John Harper, we will then meet up for Lunch after.

Item 19: Christmas Dinner

Roy said that we will subsidise the 2017 Christmas Dinner, he is ready to book SWGC but it up to the members, he then went on to say that it is very difficult to find a venue where you will be on your own and not having to share with other parties. We will discuss this at the April meeting.

Item 20: AOB

A: Andy Gray is still running a tri-service Breakfast club anyone interested should contact him on 01962622184.

B: Tiny Adams needs names for RAF Cosford, he was informed that when he has the dates and timing to let the John Harper who will pass on it to the members.

C: Derek Randall explained to the members that there is a gathering of Green Jackets at the Master Builder Pub, Swayling Southampton SO303AH on Saturday 1 April, if you are Interested please contact him on 01256 410109.

D: If any members requires a Bugler for any event then contact Billy Glenhill on greenjacket3@hotmail.com or 07443936826.

E: Del Milam thank John Harper for the return of his Camera which he lost Six months ago.

The next meeting is a Skittle Night at the The Phoenix, Twyford on Saturday 11 March, Closing date 4 March, if you wish to go then contact me, my details are on the last page of the minutes.

The next meeting is a formal meeting Tuesday 4th April 2017 1900hrs for 1930hrs start at the WO's & SGT's Mess ATR(W).

There being no further business the branch meeting closed at 2045.