

QRA/AGM

21 Mar 16

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB ON 5 MARCH 2016

Attendance:

President and Chairman

Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary

Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members

59

Serial	Issue	Action
1	<p>Presidents Opening Remarks</p> <p>The President welcomed those present and stated that he was delighted that there had been such an increase in the numbers attending from 75 three years ago to a full house this year. He thanked all those who had worked hard during the year to make the Association a vibrant organisation again and exhorted members to continue the good work and to try and contact all those who were not registered and had not made it to the reunion.</p>	
2	<p>Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM and any points.</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were posted on the website for viewing by members. No additional points were made and so it was presumed that they were an accurate reflection of the AGM and the decisions made. The minutes would again be published on the website once written.</p> <p>Points arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The new Queen's Regimental Association Corps of Drums has now been formed.b. Members will recall that we decided that a £6,000 grant was to be made to help fund the care of Captain Gary Anglin. In the end this was not required as the Local Authority agreed to pick up the bill. The money raised at the raffle on his behalf was used to help defray the costs of the reception post his funeral. This is reflected in the accounts. Marsha, Gary's daughter set up a fund to help with the costs of Gary's care. The excess has been donated to service charities.	Secretary
3	<p>Update on PWRR Activities</p> <p>The President gave an abridged update on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. A full copy of this brief is attached.</p>	

Update on Queen's Regimental Association Activity

The President gave an update on progress that had been made over the previous year. The following events and other activity in particular were of note:

- a. The death of General Mike Reynolds, the last Colonel of the Regiment.
- b. The re-dedication of the Leros Memorial in all its glory attended by 230 members and their families which was a great day.
- c. The devastating fire at Clandon that destroyed so much of our heritage but from which those of you who have read the Journal will know that four Colours were saved by a member of the Regiment in the finest tradition of Sgt Bernard McCabe. Ian Howard the fireman who was instrumental in saving the Colours attended the reunion.
- d. The Queen's Regiment Bikers have once again surpassed themselves with a second magnificent 1 Aim Rally during which they raised £3,000 and received a further £1,500 from their connection to the Norsemen Motor Cycle Club. The President urged Branches to support the Bikers in their efforts and asked that they try and organise a group from each of the Branches to attend the next Rally taking place on 1-3 July.
- e. Chelsea Pensioner CSgt Alan Rutter raised over £1,100 during his sponsored "Dance with Naked Virgins" sponsored bungee jump. Alan and the Secretary are in the process of sorting out a sponsored abseil off the White Cliffs of Dover. The Branches were requested to support this endeavour.
- f. The website has had a major makeover thanks to the good offices of Lindsay Parson's and the President recorded his thanks to her for all her hard work. She is currently busy uploading all the old Journals covering 1966-92 and they will shortly be available for viewing on the website. *This has now gone live.*
- g. There have been a number of trips organised this year. Most notable was the visit by the Farnham and Horsham Branches to Mouscron for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Mouscron combined with the honour of marching through Ypres as they led the Act of Remembrance under the Menin Gate followed by the Silent Toast on the Ypres Battlements.
- h. Next was the dedication of a memorial in Belfast, organised by Ray Heathfield, to Gladys Blackburne, "The Chuff Chart Lady" who supported so many of us over the years while we served in Ireland.
- i. Finally we have a new Branch in Hastings, the Corps of Drums has been formed and is now operating, The East Kent Branch of the PWRR Association has changed its name to the East Kent Branch of the Queen's and PWRR Associations and the London Branches of the Queen's and PWRR Associations have joined together. Finally The 62 Club has formally joined the

Branches

	Association as a Branch.	All
5	<p>Way Ahead</p> <p>In terms of the way ahead the President stated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. He was delighted with the progress that had been made over the year but that we could not afford to rest on our laurels and encouraged all Branches to maintain the momentum. b. The next major event was the dedication of the Regimental Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on 15 May and he urged all members to make the effort and support the day. 	
6	<p>Finance and Benevolence</p> <p>The President provided a detailed brief on the attached copy of the Queen's Benevolent Fund Income and Expenditure Account. The Association has received £70,209 in income during the year in the main received from investments and donations. The total expenditure for the year was £101,908 the main items of expenditure being in respect of benevolence payments, journal costs and the Association Secretary's fees thus producing an excess of expenditure over income in our day to day business of £31,699. However, while we made 3 ½% on our investments against a target of 3% our investments decreased in value to the tune of £33,970 during the year 2015 compared to a profit of £6,656 the previous year. Therefore the fund has decreased in value by £65,669 in the financial year. The fund now stands at £1,289,540 as at 31 December 2015. In the light of the current financial environment he was not concerned at the loss this year but assured the meeting that the trustees and he kept a close eye on the performance of the fund managers.</p> <p>Benevolence-in-Confidence. A question was raised regarding the inclusion of Mr Lepley's grant. It was explained that because the amount was initially a loan and had to be made into a grant that this amount had to be transferred from Debtors to a separate entry. This also explained the change in levels of debtors between 2014 and 2015. The President explained that the loan to Mr Lepley had been made conscious of the risk of non-repayment and with legal advice. However, the beneficiary's family circumstance has continued to mitigate against repayment and the PWRR Trustees, therefore, agreed that the loan should now be reflected as a grant, albeit that the beneficiary continues to express his intention to repay it.</p> <p>A question was also asked regarding the fees charged by the fund managers. It was explained that we are charged, along with all the other parts of the PWRR Benevolent Fund, under which the Queen's Regiment Benevolent Fund sits, on a pro rata basis. The reason that the fees are higher now is that under new legislation fees have to be transparent and we are now charged a fixed rate rather than on a commission basis, the details of which were not disclosed in previous years.</p> <p>In terms of benevolence in 2015, a total of 69 people requested help of which 67 were approved and £109,809 was distributed. We were able to get the ABF and other funds to fund all but £21,198 thus preserving our funds.</p>	

7	<p>General Mike Reynolds</p> <p>As already mentioned a sad event was the death of General Mike in October last year. There was an obituary in both the Times and the Daily Telegraph and a regimental obituary was printed in the the Journal. The President would like the Association to mark General Mike's service in and to the Regiment from the perspective of individuals who knew him over the years. The Secretary has requested anecdotes of General Mike to be published in the next Journal. To date none have been received. It is intended to dedicate a plaque to General Mike at Holy Trinity, Guildford currently planned for 5 June. Details will be posted in due course as soon as we have details. No memorial service will be held at the express wish of the family.</p>	Secretary
8	<p>Memorials and Funerals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Now that the Canterbury Memorial has been refurbished and rededicated at Leros, our attention turns to the dedication of the Regimental Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on 15 May. The President urged Branches to give this maximum support. The application form for the event was sent out with the Journal and can be downloaded from the Association website. Tickets will be sent out accompanied by an instruction sheet for the day at the end of April. Please do get your application forms in as soon as possible if only to make the Secretary's life easier! b. Funerals will continue to be supported, if requested, usually with the provision of the coffin drape and, if possible, a bugler, although this is not always possible. c. To ensure that we have an up to date record of deaths members are asked to presume that the Secretary has not been informed. He would much prefer to be told three or four times that someone has died than miss it. 	Members
9	<p>Dover Museum</p> <p>A complete renewal of the Queen's and PWRR Museum in Dover Castle is being carried out over the next couple of years to reflect more appropriately the history of the two Regiments. It is intended that one third of the museum will be devoted to the Queen's Regiment, a significant improvement on the current situation, with the remainder of the museum being devoted to forebear regiments and the PWRR. However, without artefacts we will have no museum and no amount of creative thinking will make up for a lack of items to put in the museum so please go back to your homes and dig out your lofts and collections and donate those items that you possess that illustrate the life of our Regiment. Frankly, if we don't do this and support the Heritage Committee, of which the Secretary is a member, we will not have a museum worth its name.</p>	Members

10	<p>Ypres Tour</p> <p>Colonel Alain Chissel has kindly offered to run a one day trip to Ypres on 1 October at cost in aid of the Benevolent Fund. Tickets will cost £75 which includes cost of coach travel, Shuttle, Ypres Tour including Lijssenthoek, Essex Farm, Bayernwald German Trench System, Langemarck German Cemetary, Vancouver Corner, Tyne Cot CWG, dinner and the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. The coach will depart from Maidstone Services on the M20 at 0630 and return approximately 2200. There are 40 places available. The Secretary will be sending out application forms in due course.</p>	Secretary
11	<p>Branch Reports</p> <p>Each of the Branches provided a report of the activity that had taken place during the year and a forecast of events.</p>	
12	<p>Diary of Events 2016</p> <p>15 May - Dedication of the new Regimental Memorial that at the National Memorial Arboretum 28 May - 1 QUEENS Reunion at The Blue Dolphin Clubhouse in Reculver 1-3 July - Bikers' One Aim Rally in Wingham 20 August - Hastings' Branch 50th Anniversary March through Hastings 1 October - Association Ypres Tour in aid of the Benevolent Fund</p>	
13	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 1235.</p>	
14	<p>Date of Next Reunion</p> <p>The next AGM will take place on 4 March 2017 prior to the reunion which will take place at 1200. The location will be confirmed following evaluation of this year's AGM and reunion.</p>	Secretary

Alasdair Goulden

A M Goulden
Association Secretary

Distr:

President
Secretary
Branch Secretaries
Website

Attachments:

PWRR Brief
Income and Expenditure Account Year End 31 Dec 15
Benevolence Breakdown

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT - UPDATE

1 PWRR

In the early part of last year, the bulk of the battalion was committed to running live firing training in Wales for 20 Armoured Brigade troops deploying to Afghanistan. This included 2 platoons from the battalion: one operated with the Brigade Reconnaissance Force conducting surveillance and disruption operations, and a second platoon provided force protection for specialist UK assets operating in the Kandahar region.

A Company deployed to the Falkland Islands on Ex SOUTHERN WARRIOR; C Company, reinforced by Y Company, deployed to Abu Dhabi to conduct partnered training alongside the UAE Armed Forces; CO and elements of B and Y Companies deployed to Latvia for Ex SABER STRIKE, a multinational exercise with US, UK, Norwegian and Latvian forces and Y Company exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Brighton on Armed Forces Day in June.

The last 6 months of training have been mainly focussed on converting back to armoured infantry and all ranks are completing lengthy driving and gunnery courses for a range of armoured vehicles (including Warrior, Bulldog and Scimitar). This continues throughout 2015 in preparation for the battalion training year in 2016 which culminates with a 6 week exercise at BATUS.

The battalion hosted a very successful visit of HM Queen Margrethe in September (where there were some old men from the Queen's Regiment Association in attendance).

The battalion had a very successful sporting year across an impressive range of sports, including winning the Combat Sailing Regatta for the second year running and the Boxing Team winning the BA(G) Boxing Championship to go through to the Army semi-finals against 3 PARA on 25 Mar 15 in Paderborn. Also, Pte Marvin, training with the Army Boxing Team, has been selected for England trials ahead of the Olympic/Commonwealth Games.

New CO from Dec 14 is Lt Col Mike Cornwell.

And finally.....2 of the battalion's SNCOs will have the honour of carrying the coffin of HRH The Late King Richard III during his re-interment at Leicester Cathedral on 26 Mar 15!

2 PWRR

Early last year the battalion conducted a series of UK-based exercises as a work up to their new Middle East role in Cyprus, followed by recces to Afghanistan by the Battalion Comd Group.

After the usual preparation, they handed over Royal Artillery Barracks, Woolwich to 1 R ANGLIAN on 18 July and then on 6 Aug they took command of Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia.

This was followed by assuming force protection duties around the Sovereign Base Areas, including RAF Akrotiri, and then taking on the role of Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) briefly before it soon became the Regional Standby Battalion (RSB) at the end of Op HERRICK in Afghanistan.

Following its work-up training, in Nov 14, C Company deployed on Op SHADER to ERBIL in Iraq, as part of a UK Short-Term Training Team commitment to Iraqi forces. They trained and deployed from Cyprus with a platoon from the Danish Royal Life Guards.

Two companies have been involved in a counter-poaching operation on Pyla Ranges and the battalion are already getting used to having lots of visits from senior officers and politicians!

New CO from Sep 14 is Lt Col Chris Davies MBE

3 PWRR

As part of Army restructuring, D Company in Portsmouth was taken out of the battalion ORBAT and was re-badged to AAC, but they did gain a platoon in Eastbourne.

48 Reservists from the battalion deployed on a 6 month UN tour to Cyprus on Op TOSCA as the Mobile Force Reserve Company in support of HQ UNFICYP in Nicosia and, interestingly, had an Argentinian platoon and a mixed Hungarian/ Slovakian platoon attached.

Under Army2020 the battalion is paired with 1 R ANGLIAN (Woolwich) and have undertaken successful training working as an integral part of the battalion on a demanding exercise in Kenya, which is being seen as 'best practice' in the Army.

They did 2 weeks of training in Cyprus on Ex LION STAR, with plenty of support provided by 2 PWRR.

A Reserve platoon was mobilised for Op TORAL that deployed within 1 R ANGLIAN to Afghanistan. As part of the pre-training, the Reserve PI Comd, Lt Bignold, attended the Regular PCBC and achieved a Pass with an Instructor's recommendation.

At the beginning of this year their Training Major, Maj Alex Cherry, won the Infantry Ski Championship and for the second year running was Capt of the Infantry Alpine Team at the Army Championships where 3 PWRR were the 3rd Reserve Unit overall.

Before Christmas 2 Inf Bde combined with 145 Bde to form 11 Inf Bde (Aldershot) and in February the battalion moved to UC 7 Inf Bde (Chilwell).

QUEENS REGIMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	£	£
Donations	16,288	8,936
Investments Dividends	47,070	49,856
Reunion Income	2,941	1,897
Leros Memorial Day Income	910	-
Middlesex Regiment - Memorial Grant	1,000	-
Surrey TA Trust - Memorial Grant	2,000	-
	70,209	60,689
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Investment Management Fees	9,825	4,069
Just Giving Fees	123	327
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	19,500	22,962
Welfare Grant - Mr Lepley	2,422	-
Funeral Costs - Capt Anglin	969	-
Grant - Farnham Branch	750	850
Grant - Middlesex Branch	963	963
Grant - Chichester Branch	700	695
Grant - Horsham Branch	1,050	1,050
Grants - Other	131	131
Remembrance	75	825
Presentation Costs	82	120
Journal and Postage	16,921	13,119
Association Handbook	-	3,690
Association Website Improvements	1,000	3,345
Association Website Hosting	607	851
Queens Reunion Functions	2,703	2,289
Digitise Archives	4,950	-
Corps of Drums Uniforms	10,403	-
NMA Memorial	842	-
Leros Memorial Day	2,718	-
Postage and Office Expenses	287	358
Travel Expenses	153	399
Association Secretary Consultants Fees	21,186	23,173
Association Secretary Consultants Expenses	2,594	3,159
Insurance	115	86
Accountancy Fees	839	837
	101,908	83,298
NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	-31,699	-22,609
Loss/Gain on Revaluation of Investments	-33,970	6,656
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-65,669	-15,953

QUEENS REGIMENT BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	£	£
<u>Assets</u>		
Investments	1,281,721	1,345,691
Bank	7,931	3,814
Debtors	347	2,422
Prepayments	274	1,700
Accrued Income	2,755	2,913
Total	1,293,028	1,356,540
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Creditors	3,488	1,331
Total	3,488	1,331
Net Worth of Fund	1,289,540	1,355,209

Investment Reconciliation

Value at start of year	1,345,691
Investment Sales	-30,000
Investment Loss	-33,970
Value at end of year	1,281,721

QUEEN'S REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

During the year a total of 69 cases were investigated and 67 individual grants-in-aid were approved totalling £109,891.28. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The fund paid out a total of £21,198 as individual grants-in-aid but we received a refund from SSAFA and the RBL in respect of unused grants from previous years. The accounts therefore show a total fund spend of £19,499 spent on benevolence for the year.

The remainder came from grants obtained from the ABF, The Soldiers' Charity and other funds thus helping us to preserve our funds.

All cases were assessed by a SSAFA Caseworker and grants were made on the basis of need not want.