

QRA/AGM

10 March 2017

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY OFFICER TRAINING CORPS 4 MARCH 2016

Attendance:

Acting Chairman

Lt Col Peter Swanson

Secretary

Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members

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Serial	Issue	Action
1	<p>Chairman's Opening Remarks</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present, especially the four Chelsea Pensioners attached to the Association. He explained that unfortunately the President had had to go to South Africa and asked that he chair the meeting. A statement of welcome by the President was read out.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that this year there were 214 attending the reunion which was a 50% increase on the year before. He thanked the Secretary and the staff of the UOTC for all their hard work in organising the AGM and reunion. He also 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. It was reported that the planned Ypres tour had been cancelled through lack of interest.b. The question of Mr Lepley's loan was raised. It was explained that this had been converted into a grant in 2015 as there was little likelihood of Mr Lepley repaying the loan. This was recently confirmed by the Secretary with the SSAFA Caseworker. This will not be pursued even though Mr Lepley has always maintained that it is his intention to repay this money.	Secretary
3	<p>Update on PWRR Activities</p> <p>The President gave an update on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. A full copy of this brief is attached.</p>	

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Update on Queen's Regimental Association Activity

There has been considerable activity during the year which was great to see. Events and activity of note were:

- a. The main event of the year was the dedication of the Regimental Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on 15 May when some 250 members turned up on a dry but somewhat cloudy day. It was a very special day and Nick Johnson our stonemason did us proud. The Chairman urged those who haven't been up to see it to do so. A full report was contained in the Journal.
- b. Next came the dedication of the memorial plaque to General Mike Reynolds on 5 June at the Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel, Holy Trinity, in Guildford. 75 members of the Queen's Royal Surrey's Association and Queen's Association attended the dedication where the President gave the address to the assembled congregation. The service was followed by a reception in the Royal Oak Pub next door to Holy Trinity, where we continued to honour General Mike's memory.
- c. The Queen's Regimental Riders Association yet again put on a fantastic three day fundraising event which broke all the records for attendance and raising money presenting the Benevolent Fund with £6,250 - a quite magnificent sum. This is not just attended by the biking community it is also open to everyone and the Chairman urged all to come to the next one being held over the weekend of 30 June-2 July.
- d. John Rickson and his merry band for some reason decided to punish their bodies by running the Fan Dance across the Brecon Beacons raising a terrific £4,072 once the Government's 25% gift aid was added.
- e. Among the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary, Hastings Branch marched through Hastings with the President taking the salute alongside the Mayor and Mayoress of Hastings.
- e. The Association has a new Branch which opened in Scotland on 31 December. This has been set up by Steve Wall, ex 1st Bn and now a Lt Col in the Army's personnel branch.
- f. The website continues to be developed with this year all the operational journals such as Braganza from the 1st Bn, and Invicta from the 2nd along with every Journal produced from 1966-92 and the last 4 Journals. We do not have all the copies of Invicta nor any from the 3rd Bn. If you have copies please send them to the Secretary for scanning and they will then be uploaded. They will be returned unless you are happy for them to go into the archives.
(The Rouillison has now been sourced and will be put online in due course). A special thanks was recorded to Lindsay Parsons for all her work on the site.
- g. A number of trips have been made to commemorate our forebear comrades who fell during the First World War.
- h. Finally congratulations were in order to Steve Bell on his appointment as CBE, Lt Col Steve Wall on his appointment as an MBE for operational service in Afghanistan and Major Ken Hames for his charity work in the New Year's Honours; Sgt Blue Cooper was awarded the BEM for his work with veterans over the last 30 odd years in the Birthday

	<p>Honours List. It was requested that if anyone hears of one of our members getting an award for whatever reason in either the Birthday Honours or the New Year's Honours Lists please can they inform the Secretary. That way we can send a note of congratulations to the recipients. Congratulations were recorded for all.</p>	All
5	<p>Finance and Benevolence</p> <p>The Secretary provided a detailed brief on the attached copy of the Queen's Benevolent Fund Income and Expenditure Account. The Benevolent Fund for 2016 had a total income of £82,458. This was in the main from investment income and donations. Total expenditure for the year was £131,628. The main elements of this were for the Association's share of Benevolence payments, Journal costs, Association Secretary's salary and office running costs and the Memorial. This needed to be seen in the context of fundraising and donations specifically made in respect of the Memorial which raised the entire amount required to cover the cost. Therefore in day to day running costs, there was an excess of expenditure over income of £49,170 for the year as against £31,699 the year before. However investments increased in value by £149,856 during 2016 as against a loss last year of £33,970. Therefore the fund has increased in value by £100,686 in the 2016 financial year. The meeting were informed that the President is satisfied with the current state of the fund.</p> <p>Benevolence</p> <p>During 2016 a total of 86 requests were received of which 82 were approved. A total of £61,883.66 was paid out mostly for help in paying household expenses, debts and rent arrears. £26,645 came from the Queen's Benevolent Fund and we were able to secure the remainder from other sources thus preserving our funds. Every case was assessed by a SSAFA caseworker in accordance with Charity Commission regulations, one of which was carried out on Christmas Eve and support given that day.</p>	
6	<p>The Journal</p> <p>It was reported that next year's Journal is already being planned. The theme for the 2017 Journal is "Queensmen at War and Loan Service". Members were requested to provide anecdotes of operations while they were in Northern Ireland. Concern was expressed about providing information that might be used by the Legacy Investigation team at the MOD. The Secretary explained that any submission would be looked at both from a perspective of publishing in the Journal and holding in the archives. He undertook to get a steer from RHQ PWRR.</p>	All
7	<p>Dover Castle Museum</p> <p>The complete renewal of the Queen's and PWRR Museum in Dover Castle is continuing. As reported last year 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. It was requested that Branches encouraged their members to go back to their homes and dig out their lofts and collections and donate those items that they possess that illustrate the life of our Regiment. It was emphasised that 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>	All

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Queen's Regiment Memorial Woodland

The Chairman announced that prior to the Annual General Meeting he and the Secretary met with Paul Cooling, Chairman of the Queen's Regiment Memorial Woodland. It was agreed that further discussions would take place regarding the status of the Woodland within the QRA and that these would be undertaken in a spirit of goodwill. It was agreed that the Trustees of the QRMW and the Association would continue to communicate. Paul Cooling agreed that he would consult his trustees and inform the President of their deliberations within one month but by 4 April at the latest.

This statement was agreed by both the Secretary of the QRA and Paul Cooling as an accurate representation of the discussion.

The Chairman stated that until the Trustees inform the President of their deliberations the following statement by the President stands.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND
QUEEN'S REGIMENT MEMORIAL WOODLAND

It is with regret that I have to report that the Officers of the Queen's Regimental Association (QRA) and the Trustees of the Queen's Regiment Memorial Woodland (QRMW) have failed to reach an agreement upon how the activities of the QMRW should be regulated in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. The Queen's Regimental Association is registered with its own charity number.

Through my membership of the Trustees of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Benevolent Fund as representative of the Queen's Regiment, QRA exercises the delegated authority to fundraise and disburse benevolence to entitled beneficiaries of the Association. This is the legally correct position.

While QMRW was very laudably establishing itself (and was given Branch status of the QRA) and using the name of the Queen's Regiment in its title, I was content that it should act under the umbrella of the Association's charity number, which, by implication, restricted its activity to Queen's Regimental benevolence.

However, the trustees of the QMRW have confirmed that they do not wish to be constricted to Queen's Regiment benevolence only and have unilaterally extended their charitable objectives to include former members of the Army generally and members of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force.

Funds being contributed ostensibly to a trust in the name of the Queen's Regiment are to be distributed to not only former members of other Regiments in the Army but also to former members of the other two Services - in the name of the Queen's Regiment. This is obviously beyond the purposes of the QRA and the PWRR Benevolent Fund.

QRMW also arbitrarily disburses grants to an unspecified ceiling without the validation – either in advance or retrospectively – of service charity caseworker input. This is unacceptable to QRA, as it is outside the authority currently delegated to QRMW.

I therefore have had to insist on the removal of the words "Queen's Regiment" from the title, the inclusion of which clearly suggests that the QRMW fundraises solely on behalf of former members of the

	<p>Queen's Regiment. This is, unfortunately, manifestly misleading.</p> <p>My concern is the possible exposure of QRA to representational and reputational vulnerability by activity over which it neither has oversight nor upon which it can apply regulatory limitations. I am also persuaded by my opinion that larger service charities are better placed and amply funded to meet the demands of the tri-service community.</p> <p>QRA notes QRMW's intention and aspiration to operate under its own charity number and its wish to fundraise and disburse benevolence autonomously more widely than is constrained by the implication of its current title. It has, therefore, been suggested to QRMW that it should seek a new title reflecting more accurately its aims and objectives. Given that evidence of the Queen's Regiment pervades the memorial woodland and that the woodland site was created specifically in memory of the Queen's Regiment, QRA would have no objection to the following being included in the new title of the QRMW's charitable trust:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'(Founded in memory of The Queen's Regiment)'</i></p> <p>I announce hereby that QMRW will cease to be a 'Branch' of the QRA with effect from the 2017 AGM: the memorial woodland has been invited, under its new title, to assume Associated Branch membership and it is very much hoped that this will be accepted.</p> <p>It is emphasised that benevolence for members and dependents of the QRA remains available through the QRA and it is hoped that there will be referral as relevant through the newly established woodland under its new guise.</p> <p>It remains to be said that the intentions and objects of the QRMW are admirable and it is matter of regret that they are not able to deliver benevolence to members of all three services in the revered name of the Queen's Regiment, of which they and we are all very rightly proud. The trustees of the QRMW are individually, and will continue to be, members of the QRA family and very welcome they are.</p> <p>AAA BEATTIE President and Chairman The Queen's Regimental Association 4 March 2017</p>	
9	<p>Branch Reports Each of the Branches provided a report of the activity that had taken place during the year and a forecast of events.</p>	
10	<p>Diary of Events 2017 See list attached</p>	All
11	<p>Date of Next Reunion 10 March 2018 at London UOTC</p>	Secretary

12	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The following amendments to the Rules of the Queen's Regimental Association were proposed by Maj Thornton, seconded by Capt Bolton and passed unanimously:</p> <p><i>4.5 Branches are required to send a representative to all Executive Meetings of the Association and the Annual General Meeting.</i></p> <p>At the end of the Note in Para 7 - Subscriptions: <i>However, if fundraising takes place under the name of The Queen's Regiment for benevolence purposes to support regimental beneficiaries, this can be carried out using the Regiment's Charity Number. The proceeds are to be paid into the Queen's Regiment Benevolent Fund and may be ring-fenced for appropriate disbursement as requested by the branch which has raised the funds.</i></p> <p>A plea was entered by Steve Barden of the QRRR for members to inform him if they knew of any place or knew of anyone who had some spare land where the QRRR could move their Clubhouse to following the decision by the land planners to build on their current site. This requirement is urgent and it is requested that anyone who can help to get in touch with the QRRR as soon as possible.</p>	All
13	Business being concluded the meeting closed at 12.30	Secretary

Alasdair Goulden

A M Goulden
Association Secretary

Distr:

President
Secretary
Branch Secretaries
Website

Attachments:

Brief on The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
Income and Expenditure Account Year End 31 Dec 16
Benevolence Breakdown
Diary of Events

BRIEF ON THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

RHQ – In this year of the Regiments 25th anniversary, the Regiment is in good standing across the wider Army – 1 PWRR leads the way on VJTF training and integration, 2 PWRR are preparing to return to UK and 3 PWRR continue to fly the Regimental flag in the south, soon to be helped by 4 PWRR. More detail below:

1 PWRR – Currently about to return from exercise with the Estonians as part of the VJTF task for NATO. The Battalion currently sits at the leading edge of VJTF and has driven their training for the last 12 months. They continue to integrate with the Estonians, Latvians, Germans, Danes and French as well as the Armoured Sqn from QRH to form their Battle Group, with B Coy acting as the Armd Inf element to the QRH Battle Group. 1 PWRR excelled on their recent deployment to BATUS setting a number of standards that will be hard to surpass by those following.

2 PWRR – Maintaining their role as base security for the RAF, preparations are already underway for their move to Cottesmore and training has already begun on their Mech Inf role. Some of the soldiers have already completed training courses and have begun to familiarise themselves with the vehicles they will use. The CO changed over last month so Lt Col Jim Skelton is taking the battalion forward. The battalion is also beginning to prepare for their change in role to become a Specialised Infantry Battalion. This is an exciting opportunity to shape future doctrine and a subsequent move to Aldershot is welcomed.

3 PWRR – The battalion is still held up as the shining light of best practice for all other Reservist Infantry Battalions particularly with regard to recruiting. This will become useful as CO 3 PWRR has been tasked to set up 4 PWRR by the end of 2017. There are plans to build a wall of remembrance similar to the Queens Regt Wall in Leros Barracks, again planned to be complete by the end of 2017.

4 PWRR – The battalion will be formed in 2017. Under current planning the Battalion HQ will form in Redhill with A Coy (taken from 3 PWRR) in Farnham, B Coy (taken from London Regt) in Stanmore and C Coy based in either Portsmouth or Southampton. Depending on the location of the Coy HQ, Platoon locations will be formed in the alternative location Portsmouth or Southampton. The new battalion will be in attendance at the Colours Parade but will not receive Colours until 2018 at the earliest. This effectively splits the home area in two with 3 PWRR concentrating on the East (E Sussex, Kent, SE London) and 4 PWRR looking after W Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Middx and SW London (roughly).

On 23 September the PWRR will be presented with new Colours by HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark at the Kent Cricket Ground in Canterbury. All the forebear regimental associations have been invited to take part. The Secretary is coordinating the event on behalf of all the Associations, Col Beattie I be the Associations' Parade Commander and details will be coming out shortly. This will be a ticket only event but there will be sufficient room for everyone to get entrance should they wish. There will be a combined Associations marquee and beer tent and there will be a number of concession food stalls to obtain refreshment. Stand by for further details in due course but let's ensure that we have a great turnout.

QUEENS REGIMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	£	£
Donations	21,822	16,288
DCMS Memorial Grant	4,496	-
Investments Dividends	49,247	47,070
Reunion Income	2,686	2,941
NAM Memorial Tickets	3,455	-
Stock Sales Cartoon Books	752	-
Leros Memorial Day Income	-	910
Middlesex Regiment - Memorial Grant	-	1,000
Surrey TA Trust - Memorial Grant	-	2,000
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	82,458	70,209
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Investment Management Fees	8,026	9,825
Just Giving Fees	780	123
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	26,645	19,500
Welfare Grant - Mr Lepley	-	2,422
Funeral Costs - Capt Anglin	-	969
Grant - Farnham Branch	250	750
Grant - Middlesex Branch	977	963
Grant - Chichester Branch	695	700
Grant - Horsham Branch	1,050	1,050
Grants - Other	131	131
Remembrance	381	75
Presentation Costs	78	82
Journal and Postage	19,779	16,921
Association Handbook	-	-
Association Website Improvements	-	1,000
Association Website Hosting	937	607
Queens Reunion Functions	2,752	2,703
Digitise Archives	540	4,950
Memorial	27,696	842
Memorial Event	8,167	-
Gen Reynolds Plaque Dedication	587	-
Stock Purchases Cartoon Books	239	-
Corps of Drums Uniforms	-	10,403
Leros Memorial Day	-	2,718
Postage and Office Expenses	159	287
Travel Expenses	86	153
Association President Expenses	568	
Association Secretary Consultants Fees	26,275	21,186
Association Secretary Consultants Expenses	3,578	2,594
Insurance	114	115
Accountancy Fees	1,138	839
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	131,628	101,908

NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	-49,170	-31,699
Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments	149,856	-33,970
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	100,686	-65,669

QUEENS REGIMENT
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	<u>2016</u> £	<u>2015</u> £
<u>Assets</u>		
Investments	1,382,077	1,281,721
Stock - Paddy Ryan Books	542	-
Bank	11,874	7,931
Debtors	-	347
Prepayments	88	274
Accrued Income	812	2,755
Total	1,395,393	1,293,028
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Creditors	5,165	3,488
Total	5,165	3,488
Net Worth of Fund	1,390,228	1,289,540
<u>Investment Reconciliation</u>		
Value at start of year	1,281,721	
Investment Sales	-49,500	
Investment Gain	149,856	
Value at end of year	1,382,077	

Benevolence Report

During 2016 a total of 86 requests for support were received of which 82 were approved. A total of £61,883.66 was paid out mostly for help in paying household expenses, debts and rent arrears. £26,645 came from the Queen's Benevolent Fund and we were able to secure the remainder from other sources thus preserving our funds. Every case was assessed by a SSAFA caseworker, one of which was carried out on Christmas Eve and support given that day.

DIARY OF EVENTS

29 Apr	Army and Navy Rugby at Twickenham – London Branch organising
13 May	Albuhera St Paul's Service and Silent Toast lunch at the UJC and the Tower
27 May	1 QUEENS Reunion, Herne Bay Angling Association
30 Jun- 2 Jul	QRRR One Aim Rally in Wingham
29 Jul	Mddx Branch Paschendale trip
6 Aug	Bufs Sunday, Canterbury
23 Sep	Presentation of Colours to the PWRR Kent Cricket Ground
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph. Tickets from Henry Thomas at RHQ PWRR
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday at Leros Barracks with Curry Lunch 1230.
10 Mar 2018	Next AGM and Reunion at London UOTC