



QRA/AGM/23

11 March 2023

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY OFFICER TRAINING CORPS 4 March 2023

Attendance:

Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members 44

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks.** The Chairman expressed delight that so many have turned up with 130 sitting down for lunch which is marginally fewer than two years ago but still significantly more than previous years considering the last couple of years. Also, a special welcome was given to anyone who has not been to an AGM before or not for a long time. He thanked all those who have kept the name of the Regiment alive whether it is by organising Branches or just organising get-togethers.
2. **Apologies.** Henry Thomas, Steve and Lindsay Parsons, Amy and Tony Philpott and Col Tim Trotman.
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Executive Committee AGM Minutes.** The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were posted online for perusal and comments had been invited. None had been received and the minutes were taken as an accurate record of the AGM.
4. **Points arising.** There were no points arising.
5. **Update on QRA activities and the way ahead**

The Chairman reported that the Association had a better year than last year:

- a. Overall, numbers have increased with more registering with the Association than are falling off the end, and membership now stand at 2,848 members - up 104 on last year even though 69 members died . There are, potentially 7,500 ex-Queensmen who are not registered. All were asked to encourage any whom are known to register so that the Association can keep in touch
- b. The build of the Veterans Horticultural Rehabilitation, Social and Community Centre, euphemistically named the QRRR Clubhouse, is making great progress having secured additional

funds. Fundraising for the project has been very successful to date raising over £325,000 through events, activities and grant applications. The Chairman emphasised that no QRA money had been used in this project. They still have £30K to go and additional activity is planned to raise this last amount.

c. The website continues to be developed with the continued, expert support of Lindsay Parsons. Grateful thanks went to her. The Association database is working well but members were asked to note that if they unsubscribed emails they will not be informed of members' deaths. Members were also asked to note that the database has been moved to the MOD server which will save a considerable amount of money. It is believed that the glitches have all been sorted out but if not please be patient.

d. There have been a couple of occasions when funerals have taken place, where the Regiment was represented but the details had not been passed on to the Secretary and so people who would have liked to attend were not able to. The Secretary needs to be informed of the date of death, the person's last rank and details of battalions or regiments in which they served, unless, of course, the family has asked for no Association involvement. If any other details are added he will try and include them in the post to members.

6. **Finance and Benevolence.**

a. **Finance.** The Secretary reported that the Benevolent Fund had a total income of £51,769 which was down on last year. This was, in the main, from investment income and donations. Total expenditure for the year was £83,324 inflated because of a large bill from 2021 not being sent until March because of the problems with the distribution of the Journal. Therefore, in effect, two years' worth of Journal costs have been included in 2022's accounts. The main elements of our expenditure were our share of benevolence payments, Journal costs, Association Secretary's salary and office running costs. Therefore, in our day-to-day running costs, there was an excess of expenditure over income of £57,808 for the year. Investments decreased in value by £192,227 this was a snapshot when the market was at its lowest because of the invasion of Ukraine and the serious effects of Liz Trussonomics... Thankfully the market has recovered, and our funds are very nearly back to where they were before – not reflected in these accounts. As at 31 December 2022 the total fund stands at £1,573,788. The Chairman and Secretary were satisfied with the current state of the fund and believe that we can maintain our support for past members for as long as is required.

b. **Welfare.** During the year a total of 55 cases were submitted and 38 individual grants were approved. Out of the 17 cases not receiving grants; 5 cases had already had the need met by other

military charities, 6 cases were declined as they did not meet the benevolence criteria and 4 cases were declined due to the applicants having substantial savings or large disposable incomes. 1 case had already received the maximum grant for the same request and the final case was withdrawn. The majority of cases received grants for household items (9), EPVs (6) and general needs (5). 3 cases received grants towards priority debts, 3 cases for home adaptations and a further 3 for funeral costs. Financial assistance was also provided for specialist furniture (2), emergency travel (2), vehicle maintenance (2) and removals (2). The final grant was provided for care home top up fees. The Queen's Regiment Charity paid out £20,840 as individual grants; the ABF contributed £11,761 in general grants whilst TRBL contributed £17,650 in grants.

The Secretary acknowledged the assistance provided by the Army Benevolent Fund which has been extremely helpful with prompt actions, advice and guidance. Also thanks were given to SSAFA and The Royal British Legion as the main organisations which investigate the majority of our cases.

7. **RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout.** – The Secretary, Steve Scully and Howard Copsey were joining The Great Tommy Sleepout on 18 May, sleeping out in aid of homeless veterans. They are doing this at Kennels Field and welcomed anyone else who would like to join them. The QRRA are keeping the bar open! Members were invited to join them or if not to donate towards this great cause. Members were informed of our decision to support the RBLI with fundraising activity is because at least three members of the Regiment are currently being looked after by the RBLI.

8. **Arboretum Reunion.** Den Gallacher gave details of the proposed Arboretum Reunion on 23 September. Members are asked to contact him to book in.

9. **The Journal.** The Chairman acknowledged that the Journal is expensive, but he continues to support its production while it acts as a real stimulus to membership engagement and as a principle medium of annual communication. However, as he habitually says, it is only as good as the material received for consideration. Additionally, with such comprehensive publications as *Soldiers of The Queens and The Longest Stag* – and he digressed to offer the Association's thanks and congratulations to Gen Riley and the Secretary - a publication of its size and quality may be considered extravagant. On the positive side over £2,500 to date has been donated specifically as a result of the Journal. The Chairman has no doubts that with the active membership we have, we need an annual publication in some form, but he would welcome your views on the possible options.

10. **Dover Museum**

In 2022, the museum had its first full summer season since 2019 and received 107161 visitors. One of the main achievements this year was launching the museum's website, the first dedicated website for the museum. It replaced a previous website on the topic of our regimental history and includes a

new virtual museum section with a collections page dedicated to objects from our collections. At the beginning of 2022 the curator and volunteers were successful in creating a full inventory of the collection in Dover with all the paperwork in place for the next accreditation return. The process of rationalising our collection has begun, removing objects which do not come under the Collections Development Policy.

The museum received a grant from the Royal Society's Places of Science programme in 2022. The project, 'Treating the Troops: Medicine and the Infantry, 1800-1920' will create a set of school resources for GCSE History 'Medicine Through Time' syllabus. It has also allowed the museum to investigate the story of Lieutenant Matthew Latham, who was one of the first British soldiers to receive facial reconstruction surgery. A major exhibition will be held to cover this project opening on the 13th May 2023. The Museum is looking for volunteers for the day, so if you would like to assist please let Henry Thomas know.

Regarding the revamp of the Museum, we are still awaiting English Heritage to address the roof of the building. Once this is addressed, plans and applications for grants to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other organisations will be made to raise funding to complete our aspirations to tell the stories of those who served in the Regiment, improving the visitors experience. For us to achieve this we would like to see some personal donations and stories to build our Queen's Regimental area. Finally, we completed our transition to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with the final swap to our new structure to be made on January 1st, 2023, for which we have a new charity number 1198899.

11. **2026 – 60th Anniversary of the Formation of The Queen's Regiment**

As 2026 marks the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment it is thought that we would all wish to mark the occasion suitably. Any ideas as to how we approach an appropriate commemoration would be welcomed but perhaps we should look initially towards centring our activity at the NMA where our main Memorial is sited. Please let the Secretary have your thoughts and ideas.

12. **Branch Reports.** The Branches all gave a short brief on their activities.

13. **Update on PWRR Activities.** Colonel John Powell gave an update on PWRR Activities.

14. **Combined Irish Regiments Association March – 14 June.** The Chairman reported that the Combined Irish Regiments Association has once again invited all members of The Queen's Regiment to take part in their annual commemoration march at the Cenotaph on Sunday 11 June. This is a singular honour being afforded to us and he encouraged all those who served to take part. The Secretary will be sending out further instructions

in due course but the parade forms up at 0930 hrs 11 Jun 2022 in King Charles Street, Whitehall in London at which further instructions will be given. The Secretary should be informed by members who wish to attend.

15. **Date of Next AGM and Reunion.** 2 March 2024 at University of London OTC.

16. **Any Other Business.** There being no further business the meeting closed at 1215 hrs.

Alasdair Goulden

Association Secretary

Distr:

President

Secretary

Branch Secretaries

Website

Attachment:

Income and Expenditure Account Year End 31 Dec 22

Accounts for the Queen's Regiment

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Account	2022	2021
Turnover		
Benevolence Refunds :RBL & SSAFA	500	0
CAR BADGES SALES & COIN SALES	235	3,053
Interest	3	3
Investment Dividend	42,166	42,139
Misc Donations	8,625	11,436
Reunion Income	240	0
Investment Withdrawals	0	10,000
Total Turnover	51,769	66,631
Cost of Sales		
Membership		
Ex Service Association	100	0
Anglo Danish Society	200	200
Canterbury Cathedral Fiends	25	25
Wolfe Society	6	6
	331	231
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	25,591	16,727
Total Cost of Sales	26,253	16,958
Gross Profit	25,516	49,673
Administrative Costs		
Investment Management Fees	3,694	3,771
Accountancy	660	4,176
Association Secretary Fee	29,092	28,973
Events Costs	350	0
Grant - Association Branches		
Middlesex Branch	1,161	1,341
Horsham Branch	500	400
Weald Branch	1,283	0
Drums	317	0
Grants Misc	0	100
	3,262	1,841
Grant - Golf Society	300	400
Hospitality	120	
IT Software and Consumables	14	
Journal Costs	30,824	6,976
Meetings Costs	800	
Office Expenses and Postage	1,197	1,235
Parking	6	
Coins and Badges	0	1,992
Presentation Costs	2,437	282
Association President Expences	236	333
Printing & Stationery	10	0
Remembrance cost	804	163
Reunion Costs	548	0
Telephone & Internet	55	0
Travel & Subsistence	2,533	1,453
Website Maintenance	6,381	5,629

Insurance	0	23
Total Administrative Costs	83,324	57,224
Operating Profit	- 57,808	- 7,551
Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments	-192,227	-182,758
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	-250,035	-175,207

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2022	2021
	£	£
Assets		
Investments	1,543,670	1,735,897
Bank	6,298	20,649
Debtors	0	
Prepayments	0	
Accrued Income	0	
Total	1,573,788	1,756,546
Liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Total	0	0
Net Worth of Fund	1,573,788	1,756,546