



QRA/AGM/24

3 March 2024

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB ON 1 MARCH 2024

Attendance:

Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members 67

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks.** The Chairman expressed delight that so many members turned up with 144 sitting down for lunch and a further 10 having lunch in the restaurant as numbers exceeded the Union Jack Club (UJC) capacity. Looking at records this is the largest gathering for an AGM/Reunion in the last 10 years. Also, a special welcome was given to Cpl Ted Heath, our Chelsea Pensioner as well as those who had 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. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM Minutes.** The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were distributed prior to the meeting and comments requested. None were received and so the minutes were taken as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. **Points arising.** There were no points arising.

4. **Update on QRA activities and the way ahead**

The Chairman reported that the Association had a good year and appeared to have emerged from the difficulties caused by COVID. He made the following points:

a. The Association membership stands at 2,748 members. This appeared to be a drop of 100 over last year but with the assistance of Lindsay Parsons there had been a complete clean-up of the database. Overall, there have been four more registrations than have sadly died. It is estimated that 7,500 ex-Queensmen are not registered. Members were encouraged to contact anyone they know who are not members and get them to register.

b. The Chairman informed the Members that on the abdication of our Patron HM Queen Margrethe II, he had sent a letter thanking her for her support as our Allied Colonel-in-Chief and Patron of the Association. He reported that he had received a charming reply. The two letters were shown to the meeting.

c. 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 £350,000 through events, activities and grant applications. It is very near completion, and it is hoped that there will be a formal opening of the Centre later in the year and all members were encouraged to attend when the opening takes place. The Chairman congratulated the Secretary for his personal efforts and success in fundraising for the project.

d. The website continues to be developed with the continued, expert support of Lindsay Parsons. Grateful thanks were given to her. The Association Database is working well but members were asked to note that if they unsubscribe from emails they will not be informed of members' deaths. The database has been moved to the MOD server which has saved a considerable amount of money. However, there are occasional glitches which cause the secretary grief. When that happens, Members were asked to be patient.

e. There have been occasions when funerals have taken place, where the Regiment was represented but the details were not 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.

f. The One Aim Rally organised by the Riders raised £7,200 for the Benevolent Fund taking their total raised to over £60,000. Members were urged to support them this year.

## 5. **Finance and Benevolence.**

**Finance.** The Secretary reported that the Benevolent Fund had a total income of £61,124 an increase of £15,360 over last year. This was, in the main, from investment income and donations. Total expenditure for the year was £79,850 down from £83,560 last year. The main elements of our expenditure were our share of benevolence payments, *The Journal* costs, Association Secretary's salary and office running costs. Therefore, in our day-to-day running costs, we had an excess of expenditure over income of £32,168 for the year, a great improvement over last year's excess of just over £58,000. Investments increased by over £60,000 in value. As at 31 December 2023 the total fund stands at £1,630,020, an increase of just over £80,000 or just over 5%. With inflation taken into consideration in December last year sitting at 4%, we are maintaining the value of the account. The Chairman expressed satisfaction with the current state of the fund and considers that we are able to meet our objectives henceforward.

**Welfare.** During the year a total of 43 cases were submitted and 35 individual grants were approved. Out of the 8 cases not receiving grants; 4 cases were declined as they did not meet the benevolence criteria, 2 cases had already had the need met by other military charities. 1 case had already received the maximum grant for the same request and the final case was for a retrospective grant which we do not provide. The majority of cases received grants for household items (9), general needs (7) and home maintenance (5). 4 cases received grants towards mobility aids, 3 cases for funeral costs and a further 2 for removal or storage fees. Financial assistance was also provided for advanced rent (2), priority debts (1) and bankruptcy (1). The final grant was provided for energy arrears. The Queen's Regiment Charity paid out just over £18,000 as individual grants, the ABF contributed £20,134 in general grants whilst TRBL contributed £16,725 in grants. We need to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Army Benevolent Fund which has been extremely helpful with prompt actions, advice and guidance. Also, we need to give our thanks to SSAFA and The Royal British Legion which are the main organisations who investigate the majority of our cases.

6. **Arboretum Reunion.** Den Gallacher gave details of the proposed Arboretum Reunion on 21 September. Members are asked to contact him to book in via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693799365399633>

7. **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. He reminded members that this year's journal is an homage to Queen Margrethe and requested that members search their memories and photo al-

bums to help make this a success. Particularly pleasing is that £5000 to date has been donated specifically as a result of the Journal. He expressed no doubt that with the active membership we have, we need an annual publication in some form, and that he would welcome members views on the possible options.

## **8. Dover Museum**

Henry Thomas, PWRR Area Secretary and Curator of the Museum gave the following report:

‘We are still waiting for English Heritage to address the matter of the roof, which once this has been resolved there is a plan to address the Museum in its totality. There is a plan to revamp the entire area once EH have secured funding and the Trust applies for grants for this to happen.

We have changed our way of reporting stories. This is to allow visitors to engage with the collection much more. We no longer refer to individuals by rank and surname, but by their first name. This has been a positive approach as can be seen by Frank Sullivan’s photo of him marshalling a helicopter in South Armagh: for February’s half term, we engaged with our visitors to find a selection of equipment to dress Frank, which during that week’s engagements raised over £150 and saw an increase in our general donations for the same period last year.

We still need to have your stories and artefacts for our collection. I see individuals sharing their exploits and offering up magazines on social media, etc. Can I ask that before you consider doing this that you approach our Museum Staff to see if we would like to have these items for the Collection. For example, Peter ‘Tank’ Clemence’s family donated his medals, which included his Queen’s Gallantry Medal with the story as to why he was awarded such an honour plus his QRRA Cut (Bikers Jacket) which is just a great story. They also included the fact that ‘TANK’ always had a cigar on him, and we even have his cigar too! If you read Peter’s story in the journal, you will realise that his exploits were post his service but reflected the ethos of the Regiment. As part of the revamp, we will be having a Veterans area. So please help us to tell the stories of our service and even the stories of our civilian life, as our service makes the man! For example, Russ Feakins in Ukraine, Neil Furminger’s rowing exploits and Ken Hames’ team walking a route never done before, even if Derek Locke did try to outdo Frank Sullivan! We are still making history without wearing the uniform which our visitors find astonishing that we are still trying to make a difference.

Our biggest attraction now is our new digital range, which was installed prior to the summer period 2023, which I can guarantee that if you do have a go, you will want to have another. Just so you are aware it is recalibrated weekly, so no excuses allowed for missing the target!

Our website is very much in its early stage. The old ‘ARMY TIGERS’ site was a little bit of a problem. It was costing us a small fortune. To have it revamped was going to cost us thousands. The decision was to disengage with our former developer and establish our own. We purchased new hardware and an IT Consultant volunteer agreed to help for free. Please remember that this is not a military site. It is a site to bring both our visitors and our military family together, so the text and stories are museum style, short and sharp to give a brief but giving an informative description that is easy to read but giving individuals a source to drill into at their leisure. Again, we need your stories and artefacts to enable us to tell our Regimental Stories. Please get in touch.’

**9. 2026 –60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of The Queen’s Regiment.** As 2026 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> 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. One idea put forward already is that we will hold a commemoration at the NMA in

September 2026, replacing the Arboretum Reunion for that year. All were asked to let the Secretary know if they had any other ideas as these things need planning well in advance.

10. **Branch Reports.** The Branches all gave a short brief on their activities.
11. **Update on PWRR Activities.** Colonel John Powell gave an update on PWRR Activities.
12. **Date of Next AGM and Reunion.** 1 March 2025 location TBC
13. **Any Other Business.**
  - a. **RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout.** The Secretary briefed on the RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout and encouraged as many members as possible to join in this excellent initiative.
  - b. **The Combined Irish Regiments Association Cenotaph March.** The Combined Irish Regiments Association has once again invited all members of the Queen's Regiment to take part in their annual commemorative march past the Cenotaph on Sunday 16 June. Once again this is a singular honour being afforded to us and the Chairman urged as many members as possible who served in Northern Ireland to take part. Details will be sent out by email nearer the date but basically just turn up at 09.30 on 16th June in King Charles Street at which further instructions will be given. There will be a reception at the Civil Service Club nearby afterwards. Please let the Secretary know if you want to attend.
  - c. **Canterbury Regimental Families Day – 3 August.** Over the last few years, RHQ have arranged what was known as 'Buffs Sunday', traditionally organised by the Buffs Association. After a couple of false starts it is taking place on 3 August. Members were requested to support it. Details will be sent out in due course.
  - d. **Canterbury Cathedral Turning the Page.** Volunteers were asked to take part in the daily 'Turning of the Page' at Canterbury Cathedral. If interested please contact Henry Thomas at [henry.thomas112@mod.gov.uk](mailto:henry.thomas112@mod.gov.uk).
  - e. **Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea.** Members were asked to indicate whether there would be interest in a visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The view from the floor was positive. As a result a visit will be arranged. An email asking for applications to attend will be issued in due course.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.50pm

Alasdair Goulden

Association Secretary

Distr:

President

Secretary

Branch Secretaries

Website

Attachment:

Income and Expenditure Account Year Ending 31 Dec 23

**Accounts for the Queen's Regiment for the year ended  
31 December 2023**

| <b>Year</b>                      | <b>2023</b>   | <b>2022</b>   |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Turnover</b>                  |               |               |
| Benevolence Refunds: RBL & SSAFA | 0             | 500           |
| CAR BADGES SALES & COIN SALES    | 158           | 235           |
| Journals                         | 480           | 0             |
| Interest                         | 17            | 3             |
| Investment Dividend              | 43,579        | 42,166        |
| Misc Donations                   | 20,143        | 8,625         |
| Reunion Income                   | 2,747         | 240           |
| Investment Withdrawals           | 0             | 0             |
| <b>Total Turnover</b>            | <b>67,124</b> | <b>51,769</b> |
| <b>Cost of Sales</b>             |               |               |
| Membership                       |               |               |
| Ex Service Association           | 100           | 100           |
| Anglo Danish Society             | 200           | 200           |
| Canterbury Cathedral Friends     | 25            | 25            |
| IOD Membership                   | 711           | 0             |
| Wolfe Society                    | 6             | 6             |
|                                  | <b>1,042</b>  | <b>331</b>    |
| Welfare Grants                   | 18,400        | 25,591        |
| <b>Total Cost of Sales</b>       | <b>19,442</b> | <b>26,253</b> |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>              | <b>47,682</b> | <b>25,516</b> |
| <b>Administrative Costs</b>      |               |               |
| Investment Management Fees       | 1,904         | 3,694         |
| Accountancy                      | 5,722         | 660           |
| Association Secretary Fee        | 26,524        | 29,092        |
| Association President Expenses   | 610           | 236           |
| Events Costs                     | 0             | 350           |
| Grant - Association Branches     |               |               |
| Middlesex Branch                 | 0             | 1,161         |
| Horsham Branch                   | 1,175         | 500           |
| Chichester                       | 500           | 0             |
| Weald Branch                     | 1,750         | 1,283         |
| Ramsgate Branch                  | 1,033         | 0             |
| Drums                            | 280           | 317           |
| Grants Misc                      | 7,200         | 0             |
|                                  | <b>11,938</b> | <b>3,262</b>  |
| Grant - Golf Society             | 300           | 300           |
| Hospitality                      | 25            | 120           |
| IT Software and Consumables      | 0             | 14            |
| Journal Costs                    | 20,262        | 30,824        |
| Meetings Costs                   | 0             | 800           |
| Office Expenses and Postage      | 1,182         | 1,197         |
| Parking                          | 6             | 6             |
| Coins and Badges                 | 0             | 0             |
| Presentation Costs               | 236           | 2,437         |
| Remembrance cost                 | 623           | 804           |
| Reunion Costs                    | 1,917         | 558           |
| Telephone & Internet             | 94            | 55            |

|  |                 |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Travel & Subsistence                           | 1,425           | 2,769           |
| Website Maintenance                            | 7,082           | 6,381           |
| Insurance                                      | 0               | 0               |
| <b>Total Administrative Costs</b>              | <b>79,850</b>   | <b>83,560</b>   |
| <b>Operating Profit</b>                        | <b>- 32,168</b> | <b>- 58,043</b> |
| <b>Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments</b> | <b>68,385</b>   | <b>-19,227</b>  |
| <b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>                   | <b>42,475</b>   | <b>-11,676</b>  |

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

|                               | 2023             | 2022             |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                               | £                | £                |
| <b>Assets</b>                 |                  |                  |
| Investments                   | 1,612,055        | 1,543,670        |
| Bank                          | 17,965           | 6,298            |
| Debtors                       | 0                | 0                |
| Prepayments                   | 0                | 0                |
| Accrued Income                | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1,630,020</b> | <b>1,549,968</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>            |                  |                  |
| Creditors                     | 0                | 0                |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         |
| <b>Net Worth of Fund</b>      | <b>1,630,020</b> | <b>1,549,968</b> |
| <b>Fund gain or loss 2023</b> |                  | <b>+ 5.00%</b>   |