

QRA/AGM

Mar 14

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB ON 7 MARCH 2015

Attendance:

President and Chairman

Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary

Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members

64

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 two years ago to over 200 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 2014 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> <p>It had been requested that three coffin drapes should be purchased. Because of cost only one had been bought and has already been put into service at L/Cpl Mark Birch's funeral last month.</p>	Secretary
3	<p>Update on PWRR Activities</p> <p>The Secretary gave an abridged update on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. A full copy of this brief is attached.</p>	
4	<p>Update on Queens Regimental Association Activity</p> <p>The President gave an update on progress that had been made over the previous year. Four events and other activity in particular were of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The One Aim Rally organised by the Queen's Regimental Riders raised over £1800 for the Benevolent Fund.b. The dedication of a memorial plaque in Palace Barracks. A special mention was made of Graham McDonough and Tony Baker as the organisers. This memorial plaque was funded	

	<p>through private subscription with donations from members of all battalions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Paul Cooling and his team were also congratulated for their efforts in raising the necessary funds for the development and the building of the Queen’s Regiment Memorial Woodland which was opened last year. Paul was also welcomed onto the Executive Committee as Chairman of the latest Branch. d. The visit by seven members of the Association to the 40th Anniversary of the Presentation of Colours. e. Membership of the Association has grown by 8% over the year with the addition of two new Branches, the Queen’s Regiment Memorial Woodland and a new Branch to be opened in Hastings. f. A new handbook was produced early in the year and acts as a useful reference and reminder of the many aspects that made the Queen’s Regiment what it was and what it remains today. Appreciation was shown for the hard work carried out by Lt Gen Jonathan Riley, the Regimental Historian, who greatly aided the production of the handbook. g. A Drums Platoon is in the process of being formed. Financial assistance had been given to buy equipment. The Drums would be available for use by the Association especially for fund-raising purposes. <p>In terms of the way ahead the President stated that:</p> <ul 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 members to maintain the energy. b. The second journal had been a great success but that in order to maintain momentum all members were asked to help by to produce articles, photos and short memories to the Secretary by 7 Sep 15 at the latest. 	<p>Branches</p> <p>All</p>
<p>5</p>	<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 explaining that the total income for the year is £60,689. This is in the main monies received from investment dividends and donations which increased by over £8,000 this year. The total expenditure for the year was £83,298. The main items of expenditure were in respect of Benevolence payments of £22,962 from the Association Funds (as part of £95,897.90 paid out to applicants), Journal Costs £13,119, and Association Secretary Fees of £23,173. Therefore in our day to day business the Queens Benevolent Fund had an excess of expenditure over income of £22,609 for the financial year. Investments increased in value by £6,656 during the year 2014 compared to a profit of £139,073 in the previous financial year. Therefore the fund has decreased in value by £15,953 in this financial</p>	

	<p>year.</p> <p>As can be seen from the Balance Sheet the fund has a total value of £1,355,209 as at 31 Dec 14. The account has been audited and the accounts passed.</p> <p>Over this financial year 84 of our members have been helped to the tune of £95,897.90 which is made up of grants from the Association and other organisations the Association has contacted for help. A benevolence breakdown is attached.</p> <p>The President declared himself satisfied with the state of the Fund.</p>	
6	<p>Captain Gary Anglin</p> <p>The President explained the situation regarding Captain Gary Anglin and informed the meeting that the Executive Committee (which is made up of representatives of all Association Branches) had agreed that up to 12 x £500 monthly grants would be made to support Capt Anglin in his current position. This was to be paid directly to the Star and Garter Home. The situation would be monitored by the Secretary.</p> <p>Comments were made as to whether this type of benevolence was made just to officers and the meeting was informed that benevolence was judged on a case by case basis and given in accordance with need rather than want. All cases were evaluated by a SSAFA Caseworker and a recommendation made to the Association regarding the level of assistance. It was explained that if the Association could not provide all the assistance required then other organisations were contacted on the recipient's behalf to gain for them the maximum amount. <i>NB. No officers were given assistance during this period.</i></p>	Secretary
7	<p>Fundraising</p> <p>While the funds are in a healthy state the President did not wish the Association to remain complacent and so asked that members organise fundraising events for the Benevolent Fund in the next year - not so much the raising of funds that is important but more with trying to engage with more of our members and getting them involved.</p>	
8	<p>Memorials and Funerals</p> <p>a. Canterbury – The Howe Barracks Memorial has finally been taken down and is in the process of being refurbished and will be reconstructed in its new home at Leros Barracks. This has been achieved at no cost to the Association. The rededication will take place on Sunday 3 May and the Secretary will shortly be sending out invitations to everyone which will require an answer to satisfy security implications.</p>	Secretary

	<p>b. As you will be aware from the Secretary’s letter that came out with the Journal we have postponed the building and dedication of the memorial to the Queen’s Regiment which will be placed in a very prominent position at the National Memorial Arboretum. We will dedicate this memorial on 15 May 2016 and at the same time celebrate Albuhera Day and the 50th anniversary of the raising of the Queen’s Regiment. This memorial will complete the official memorials to the Regiment with Canterbury being the Regimental Memorial to those who died on operations or as a result of terrorist action, the Armed Forces Memorial containing the names of our fallen among all the other names and now this new memorial to the Regiment itself, ensuring that our Regimental name will live forever more. Needless to say we have to pay for this one and so the President launched a fundraising campaign to raise £25K to cover the costs. He will be writing to everyone asking for donations with the proviso that any additional funds raised will go into the Benevolent Fund. He asked that all members be as generous as they can and where possible use Gift aid so that we can get the Chancellor to pay some of it!</p> <p>c. It was agreed that to avoid the Journal becoming a funeral directory of those who have died that only those who were COs, RSMs or people of note will have obituaries – subject of course to someone writing them.</p> <p>d. Funerals will continue to be supported usually with the provision of the coffin drape and if possible a bugler although this is not always possible. A form will be placed at the back of the next Journal giving details of how families get in touch with the Secretary to ask for assistance.</p> <p>e. To ensure that we have an up to date record of deaths members are asked not to presume that the Secretary has been informed. He would much prefer to be told three or four times that someone has died than miss it.</p>	Members
7	<p>Dover Museum</p> <p>The President briefed the meeting about the refurbishment of the museum at Dover. The PWRR are very aware of the distress that the last refurbishment caused with the reduction of the Queen’s Regiment presence. The Regiment have now been allocated the two window spaces just before the Officer’s Mess exhibit and the room that currently houses the WWII Nazi exhibits. The Secretary is on the board that will decide which company will carry out the refurbishment and, along with the Regimental Historian, will put together a suitable display of our time as an active regiment. However, they would welcome any thoughts that members have about what the Association believe should be covered. Almost more important though is the need of artefacts from our time that can tell our story. It was requested that members clear out their</p>	

	cupboards and donate anything that they think will help tell our story and help make this display come alive be it old uniforms, respirators, models, rubber bullet, photos etc . It's our museum – let's make it a museum to be proud of.	Members
8	<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>	
9	<p>Diary of Events 2014/15</p> <p>3 May – Rededication of the Canterbury memorial at Leros Barracks, Canterbury</p> <p>15-17 May – Farnham Commemoration trip to Mouscron</p> <p>23 May – 1 QUEENS Reunion – Herne Bay. All members welcome</p> <p>7 June - Queen's Memorial Woodland Gathering</p> <p>27 June – Grand Reunion of the PWRR and all Forebear Regiments at Stoke Park, Guildford as part of Armed Forces Day</p> <p>3-5 July – Riders 2nd Shot One Aim Rally on behalf of the Benevolent Fund</p> <p>5 September – Vipers Quebec Dinner, Canterbury</p> <p>17 October – 3 QUEENS reunion, Victoria. All members welcome</p>	
10	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. It was asked why the secretary was paid more than was distributed in grants. It was explained that this was not the case and that in fact over £95,000 was paid out in grants split between our own Benevolent Fund and other organisations that the Association contacted on behalf of members.</p> <p>b. The Secretary was questioned as to whether he was employed as secretary or as a consultant. It was explained that he is employed through his own company on a zero hours contract to carry out the work of running the Association on behalf of the President. <i>NB. Employing the Secretary in this way reduces costs to the Association as no National Insurance is paid for him and no provision of Sick Pay, Holiday Pay or Pension is required and the Association is not liable under Employment Law for his employment. Tax is paid on all payments made to him.</i></p> <p>c. It was asked why only 1 QUEENS were represented in the Journal. It was pointed out that this was not the case and that if the member bothered to write an article for the Journal then perhaps his battalion would have even greater coverage than it already had.</p> <p>d. It was requested that the names of Pte Pitchforth, 3rd Bn, Pte Randall, 1st Bn and WO1 Budgen be included on the Roll of Honour. <i>NB. Following research into each of these cases the</i></p>	

	<i>request is denied as none were killed as a result of operations or the result of terrorist action and the Roll of Honour for our Fallen is limited to those criteria. Details of their deaths will not be published to avoid distress to the families but if any member wishes to know more they are requested to contact the Secretary</i>	
11	Date of Next Reunion The next AGM will take place at the Union Jack Club at 1130 on 7 March 2015 prior to the reunion which will take place at 1200. This will be confirmed following evaluation of this year's AGM and reunion.	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 14
Benevolence Breakdown
In Memoriam

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-internment 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 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
Donations	8,936	548
Investments Dividends	49,856	39,559
Reunion Income	1,897	1,721
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	60,689	41,828
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Investment Management Fees	4,069	193
Just Giving Fees	327	-
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	22,962	33,763
Grant - Farnham Branch	850	800
Grant - Middlesex Branch	963	1,224
Grant - Chichester Branch	695	695
Grant - Horsham Branch	1,050	580
Grant - Shepway Branch	-	600
Grants - Other	131	151
Remembrance	825	495
Presentation Costs	120	-
Newsletter	-	498
Journal and Postage	13,119	11,951
Association Handbook	3,690	515
Association Website Build	3,345	11,048
Association Website Hosting	851	490
Queens Reunion Functions	2,289	3,147
Postage and Office Expenses	358	1,188
Staff Travel	399	500
Association Secretary Consultants Fees	23,173	13,862
Association Secretary Consultants Expenses	3,159	972
Insurance	86	80
Accountancy Fees	837	783
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	83,298	83,535
 NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	 -22,609	 -41,707
 Gain on Revaluation of Investments	 6,656	 139,073
 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	 -15,953	 97,366

QUEENS REGIMENT BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Assets</u>	£	£
Investments	1,345,691	1,362,035
Bank	3,814	11,195
Debtors (Mr Lepley)	2,422	-
Prepayments	1,700	350
Accrued Income	2,913	1,182
Total	1,356,540	1,374,762
 <u>Liabilities</u>		
Creditors	1,331	3,600
Total	1,331	3,600
Net Worth of Fund	1,355,209	1,371,162

Investment Reconciliation

Value at start of year	1,362,035	
Investment Sales	-23,000	(Transfer to Bank)
Investment Profit	6,656	
Value at end of year	1,345,691	

BENEVOLENCE BREAKDOWN

84 applications were made to the Regiment for assistance with the cases ranging in rank from Private to WO2. No officers requested assistance.

2 Cases rejected but their applications were referred to their parent organisations where they received help.

6 cases were for family members.

In total £99,141.74 was requested

£95,897.90 was paid out split between the Queen's Regiment and other funds that the Association contacted to help.

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

In Memoriam

2015

04-Mar	Cpl Jim Davis	3rd
24-Feb	Maj Graham Brown	3rd
20-Feb	Pte Steve Smallwood	5th
11-Jan	WO2 Peter Robinson	1st
11-Jan	LCpl Mark Birch	2nd

2014

29-Nov	Sgt Pete Bailey	1st
21-Nov	Lt David Wray	6/7th
20-Nov	LCpl Edwin John (Smiler) Miles	1st
28-Oct	Cpl Roy Priestly	R Sussex and 3rd
24-Oct	CSgt Mick Carter	3rd
22-Oct	CSgt Kevin Dowling	1st
11-Oct	Lt Col Bob McGhie	1st and 3rd
NK Oct	Pte Dave Jennings	3rd
28-Sep	WO2 Pete Vine	2nd
04-Sep	Maj Ron Lucas	7th and 6/7th
22-Aug	Capt Brian Scripps	5th
25-Jul	Cpl Carl Crowhurst	1st
Jun	Sgt Pete Drage	6/7th
Jun	LCpl John Ray	3rd
18-May	Maj Ron Wildgoose	1 QRS and Depot Queen's Div
11-Mar	Sgt Chris Poulton	1st
09-Mar	Maj Desmond Butler	2nd
06-Mar	Pte Dave Haggerty	1st