

QRA/AGM

02 March 2020

See Distribution

MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE LONDON UNIVERSITY OFFICER TRAINING CORPS 29 FEBRUARY 2020

Attendance:

Chairman Colonel Anthony Beattie

Secretary Major Alasdair Goulden

Association Members 74

1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed those present, especially our three Chelsea Pensioners. He also welcomed Christopher Allason, late of the Queen's Royal Regiment, who attended in the context of a project *in memoriam* to the Lisbon Maru sunk in WWII with many MX soldiers aboard. He also welcomed Kev Minnis, John Grinham and Dee Hutchison from our three new Branches.
2. **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 AGM.** The minutes of the last meeting had been posted on the website for viewing by members. No additional points were made and so it was unanimously agreed that they were an accurate reflection of the AGM and the decisions made. The minutes of this meeting would be published on the website once written.

Points arising.

- a. Steve Barden asked that the contribution of Lindsay Parsons be recognised. A Certificate of Commendation was presented to her in front of members of the QRRA at their cheque presentation. At the same time Steve Parsons contribution was also recognised and he too was presented with a Certificate of Commendation.
 - b. The new list of branches has been published on the website and is the subject of the amendment to the Rules and Regulations.
3. **Update on QRA activities and the way ahead**
 - a. The Queen's Regimental Riders Association yet again put on a fantastic three-day fundraising event. They combined this with a fund-raising trip to War and P8eace Rally presenting the Benevolent Fund with over £12,000 - a quite magnificent sum. The rally is not just attended by the biking community, it is also open to everyone and the Chairman urged everyone to come to the next one being held over the weekend of 3-5 July at Wingham near Canterbury.
 - b. The Drums have been performing during the year and have raised over £1,500 this year. They are beginning to get quite a reputation were congratulated for the efforts they

have made to spread the name of the Regiment. They were honoured to play in front of HM Queen Margrethe our Patron at the Anglo-Danish 75th Anniversary Royal Banquet and have been asked to support the celebrations for VE Day in Broadstairs, Windsor and Deal.

- c. Mention was also made of Nick Goble who raised over £5,700 in his attempt to scale Mont Blanc injuring himself in the process.
- d. The Association has increased our overall numbers with more registering with the Association than are falling off the end, so it now stands at 2,610 members - up 12 on last year. It means though that there are still some 7,500 ex Queensmen out there who are not registered. Members were encouraged to get anyone not signed up to join
- e. The website continues to be developed with the fantastic support of Lindsay Parsons. Our grateful thanks go 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 – a couple of members have complained that they were not informed of a close friend's passing and it turned out that they had unsubscribed. 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 would have liked to attend were not able to. Members were asked that if they hear of a member of the Regiment dying the Secretary is to be informed. Better that he receives 15 notifications than none.
- f. The Chairman was not aware of anyone getting a mention in either the Birthday Honours or the New Year's Honours Lists but if members hear of any ex-Queensmen getting an award for whatever reason in either list please inform the Secretary.

4. **Finance and Benevolence.** The Secretary gave a report on the finances of the Benevolent Fund. A copy of the accounts is attached. He reported that during the year a total of **83** cases were submitted and **53** individual grants were approved. Out of the **30** cases not receiving grants, **10** cases had already had the need met by other military charities, **8** cases were declined as they did not meet the benevolence criteria and **6** cases were declined due to the applicants having substantial savings or large disposable incomes and frankly were trying it on. It should be noted that if people try to access funds without declaring savings they are in danger of being charged with fraud. **2** cases were declined where the need was not clear and a further **2** for no response to our further queries. Other reasons for cases being declined included being incorrectly allocated, already in receipt of the maximum grant and verification of service not being confirmed. Finally, **2** cases were withdrawn by the caseworkers for reasons unknown. The majority of cases received grants for household items (**10**) and funeral costs (**6**). **5** cases received a grant for basic needs and **4** for rent arrears. Financial assistance was also provided

towards priority debt (3), household maintenance (3) and essential clothing (3). The Queen's Regiment Charity also provided grants for 2 individuals for training costs enabling them to get a particular job and 2 individuals with council tax arrears. 2 people had assistance towards removal expenses and a further 2 received assistance towards assistance furniture. Other financial grants were provided for a decluttering service, house adaptations, a respite holiday, new boiler, hostel fees, car repairs, first rent payments, OT report, EPV, bankruptcy fees and finally the continuation of a community care alarm.

The Queen's Regiment Charity paid out **£27,020** as individual grants and the ABF contributed a further **£17,015** in general grants with the remainder being funded by other charities. It should be noted that overall the Benevolent Fund paid out a total of £135,984 across all forebear regiments and PWRR veterans.

5. **New Branches.** The Chairman expressed his delight that we have had two new branches join us from the Queen's Own Buffs – Ramsgate and Weald and a new branch from the East Surrey Regiment. All were welcomed and the Chairman expressed a wish that the other forebear regimental association branches will join as well.
6. **Social Media.** The Chairman was hoping not to bring up this particular item again but once again there have been instances of inappropriate comments and accusations being made on social media. One of which was a serious and totally false accusation against the QRRRA by a member of an organisation outside the remit of the Association. That person has been excluded from the Association. He reiterated that if any member abuses another member on any social media site and it comes to his attention they will be thrown out of the Association. Behaviour of this sort is totally unacceptable. He stated that we are an inclusive and caring organisation and he will not tolerate this form of harassment and will not hesitate to support anyone who can justifiably claim to have been libelled in any way. If a member has an issue with someone then please encourage them to have the guts to say it to their face.
7. **The Journal.** All should have received the 2019 'Op BANNER' Journal. If anyone hadn't they are to contact the Secretary. He hoped that members enjoyed it because it took a great deal of hard work! This year's Journal is already being planned. There is currently no theme for the 2020 Journal. This does not mean that there won't be one but for it to be produced the Secretary needs articles and anecdotes covering every aspect of our service between 1966-92. If you feel that your Northern Ireland tour was not adequately covered then now is the opportunity to put your side of the story. It would also be good to have some input from wives and families as well to give their perspective on life in the Regiment. The Journal is now recognised as a prime source of our history, comprehensively supporting the official Regimental

History produced by Jonathon Riley. In the future it will form part of primary research for anyone looking into the history of our Regiment. To that end it is important that we record people's memories now. If at any time, between the period 1966-92 something of interest or consequence happened now is the time to record it. The Secretary will be in touch shortly. Members in particular were requested to provide any amusing stories about their time in the various places we served.

The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the Journal to each of the County Records offices.

Colonel Powell informed the meeting that following the success of the 2019 OP BANNER Journal that RHQ had asked the Secretary to take on the task of collecting similar stories from the R HAMPS and the PWRR tours of Northern Ireland and produce a book which would record the personal stories of the PWRR and forebear regiments' service from the start to the end of the Troubles. The Secretary agreed.

8. **Ballymurphy Inquest Update.** Colonel John Powell gave an update on the Ballymurphy Inquest and reassured members that anyone called to give evidence was being supported.
9. **Dover Museum.** Henry Thomas gave an update on the progress of the Museum and reminded members that there is now a new cabinet concentrating on OP BANNER.
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. **Diary of Major Events 2020** is at the back of the Journal. Members were asked to contact the organisers directly and please let the Secretary know of any upcoming events branches may be organising. The RBL magazine and Soldier are also good vehicles of communication which may reach ex-Queensmen who are not listed with us yet and the Chairman encouraged members to use their notices as well.
13. **Combined Irish Regiments Association March – 14 June.** The Chairman stated 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 14 June following our successful participation last year. This is a singular honour being afforded to us and he urged you to encourage all those who served to take part. Details were sent out by email but the Secretary will be sending out further instructions in due course but basically just

turn up at 09.30 on 14th June in King Charles Street at which further instructions will be given.
Please let the Secretary know if you want to attend if you haven't already done so.

14. **Any Other Business.**

- a. Lisbon Maru – Derek Harwood and Christopher Allanson briefed the meeting on the background of the Lisbon Maru atrocity and proposal to assist in the building of a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. It was agreed that the Association would assist and that the Secretary would act as point of contact and assist in any way that he can.
- b. Amendment to the Rules and Regulations - a new list of Branches has been made which requires a change to the Association Rules and Regulations. No vote was required.
- c. The Chairman informed everyone that the decision had been made in the Executive Committee to donate £2,500 towards the revamp of the virtual museum.

15. **Date of Next AGM and Reunion.** 6 March 2021 at London UOTC.

Alasdair Goulden

A M Goulden Association Secretary

Distr:

President

Secretary

Branch Secretaries

Website

Attachments:

Income and Expenditure Account Year End 31 Dec 19

**QUEENS REGIMENT
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
INCOME		
Donations	21,445	24,215
Investments Dividends	61,588	46,824
Deposit Acct Interest	4	11
Reunion Income	1,174	670
Journal	0	50
	<u>84,211</u>	<u>71,770</u>

EXPENDITURE

Investment Management Fees	3,154	2,091
Welfare Grants - RBL & SSAFA	21,345	29,988
Grant - Association Branchs	3,539	2,893
Remembrance	200	566
Presentation Costs	0	246
Journal and Postage	17,241	19,813
Queens Reunion Functions	2,454	972
Digitise Archives	0	0
Memorial Wall	1,709	0
Memorial Event	200	0
Stock Purchases Cartoon Books	0	0
Corps of Drums Events	373	0
Small Equipment	0	178
Data Base & Web site	6,103	5,847
Postage and Office Expenses	1,642	1,814
Travel Expenses	559	442
Association President Expenses	357	22,752
Association Secretary Fee	31,423	4,734
Association Secretary Expenses	1,200	500
Repairs and Maintenance	0	217
Insurance	23	487
Accountancy Fees	5,114	145
Membership Fees	0	93,685
	<u>96,636</u>	<u>93,685</u>

NET EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR -12,425 -21,915

Gain/Loss on Revaluation of Investments 203,994 -103,515

NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS 191,569 -125,430

**BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	£	£
Assets		
Investments	1,510,258	1,328,234
Bank	6,988	4,434
Debtors	0	0
Prepayments	0	0
Accrued Income	0	0
Total	1,517,246	1,332,668
Liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Total	0	0
Net Worth of Fund	1,517,246	1,332,668

Investment Reconciliation

Value at start of year	1,328,252	1,446,394
Investment Sales	-15,000	-15,000
Investment Gain	203,994	-103,151
Value at end of year	1,517,246	1,328,243