

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2006

The Annual General Meeting of the Centarian Regimental Association was held on Thursday 16th November 2006 at the Old Finchleians Club, Southover, opening at 20:05hrs.

Present

Mike Crick (chair), Brian Fuller, John Bowra, Terry Gibson, Billy Hintze (OF President), Nick Joyce, Martin Russell, David Fuller(Hon Memb),

Apologies for Absence

Arthur Banham, Colin Chandler, Bob Cinnamon, John Cliff, Jeremy Cohn (from Israel), Bob Collins, Gary Davies, Nigel Davies, Robin Doughty, Olaf Dudley (in Afghanistan), Hugh Fisher, Brian Fletcher, David Floyd, David Groom, Michael Hay, David Jeremy, Peter Johnson, Bob Langley, John Lee, John Millen, Daralyn O'Kene, Terry Payne, Ray Pett, Bob Sherman, Paul Sherman (from Canada), David Storey, Jon Walden, Ray Waller, Henry Wirth (from Australia), Trevor Wright.

Minutes of the 2005 A G M

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 17 November 2005 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Jim Mooney and Peter Bowra had been invited to become honorary members. The matter of the Hereford Trophy had been referred to the Unit. Dilip Chauhan had resigned as Membership Secretary shortly after the meeting due to pressure of work.

Chairman's Report

This year has been overshadowed by the news early in the year that our President, Peter Green was gravely ill followed by the sad news that he had succumbed only a couple of months later in late April. Peter was instrumental in the founding of this Association and was an active member of the committee from its earliest days until his death, in the roles of Hon Secretary from 1957 until he took the Chair in 1963, a post which he held with only one brief interruption until 1993 when he was elected to the role of Association President. The School and the Association were well represented by many of Peter's friends and colleagues at his Service of Remembrance held in the Chapel of Royal Russell School.

Peter's funeral was just a few weeks before the Annual Dinner on 2nd June and he was very much in the thoughts of the diners and a collection was held amongst those present which was also supported by donations from a number of members who could not be present on the night. That collection achieved £315 and your committee have a number of suggestions as to what would represent a fitting memorial.

At the dinner, we were once again fed by "Pierre" who Terry Gibson found last year. A total of 36 members and guests dined in French traditional style with the courses lasting several hours. In fact it was almost midnight before the formal proceedings were concluded and the diners finally made their way to the bar. The diners enjoyed speeches by Head Teacher Gary Tucker, OF President Bruce Mercer, and to end the cadet centenary year, CO Jon Walden. Financially the dinner made a very small loss of £23.

Sadly Peter was not the only member lost in the last year. John Langley who had only been reunited with the Association in the last few years passed away in November. He has left us a fine range of photos to remember him by and enhance the displays mounted by the Stockdale Trust.

Whilst on the subject of gifts, I would like to record my thanks to Jeremy Cohn (CCF 1975-82) for donating his winnings of the OF 200 Club to the Association.

However, Notwithstanding Jeremy's generosity the coffers of the Association have been sinking steadily and your committee are recommending an increase in the annual subscription, last raised over 20 years ago.

Much of the work done by the committee has been to research and consolidate the membership lists and to review the rules. I hope to be able to report next year a jump in the formal membership and in subscriptions brought about by these changes.

On the subject of membership we were pleased to welcome three Honorary Members this year: Peter Bowra who has been supporting the Unit and Association for as long as John has; Jim Mooney who forms an essential link to the MoD supply chain for the Unit and David Fuller who has been a very keen and enthusiastic supporter of the Unit at inspections and displays as well as being an invaluable member of the Adventure Training team for many years.

I am delighted to report that the Unit goes from strength to strength. I would like to mention two people in particular, Dilip Chauhan for gaining his commission earlier this year. Secondly, Cadet Sgt Sagar Depala who, for possibly the first time in the Unit history and certainly for the first time in many years, has achieved the honour of being made 'School Captain'. Our junior staff, now known as the Cadet Regimental Cadre has a dozen or more competent and enthusiastic young men who form a very solid and dependable group.

I am indebted to the Commanding Officer for his support of the Association, demonstrated for instance by his instruction that all CRC members must also be members of the Association and for offering to pay, from Unit funds, the fees for all such junior staff for their first year.

Congratulations also to Martin Russell (CCF1964 – 71) on being granted the honour of the appointment of Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet. Martin was able to join the Unit for the Annual Regimental Dinner in September and hopes to be able to attend the Biennial Inspection in March 2007.

I could not complete this report without thanking my committee; Brian Fuller for his enormous support in all activities throughout this year, Terry Gibson for keeping the Association in the public eye on the World Wide Web and to John Bowra whose many roles from Chairman of the Board of Governors to OF Secretary have kept us on a smooth and steady path.

Finally, looking ahead for the forthcoming year I would like to remind all our members that 2007 is not only the 150th anniversary of the School but also the 50th of this Association. Discussions and plans for both are at an early stage and we will be in touch over the coming months with more details.

Hon Treasurers Report

The 2005-2006 financial year was reported on, as attached together with the up to date accounts from April to September 2006. The current balance of £712.80 included £315 collected for Peter Green's memorial. Outstanding payments were due for the annual contribution to the Friends of CCF; the Wreaths for Remembrance Day; the plaque for the cadet flagpole and secretarial expenses. The Treasurer reiterated that the low level of Association funds were due to the high expenditure in the Unit's centenary year (2004) and fortunately there would not be a Ricochet this year. However he hoped that the new subscription rate, if approved, would restore a more healthy position. Brian Fuller proposed and John Bowra seconded that the accounts be approved, subject to audit.

Election of President & Vice Presidents

President – Brian Fuller Proposed by - Mike Crick Seconded by - John Bowra.
Following unanimous approval, Brian expressed his surprise, delight and honour in being elected and confirmed that, conscious that he was following an illustrious list of past presidents, he would continue to work strongly to uphold the aims of the Association.

The following Vice-Presidents were proposed by Terry Gibson, seconded by John Bowra and elected en masse: -

Arthur Banham	Brian Fletcher	Peter Goss	Paul O'Shea	The OF President
Martin Priestley	David Sizer	Gary Tucker	Jon Walden	Brian Fuller (Life)

The Chairman will make contact with them all to confirm their willingness to continue their role.

Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman	Mike Crick	Proposed by	Brian Fuller	Seconded by:	Billy Hintze
Vice-Chairman	Brian Fuller		Terry Gibson		Nick Joyce
Hon Secretary	Brian Fuller		Nick Joyce		John Bowra
Hon Treasurer	Nick Joyce		Brian Fuller		Billy Hintze
Hon Social Secretary	Terry Gibson		Brian Fuller		John Bowra
Hon Magazine Secretary	Mike Crick		Brian Fuller		John Bowra
Hon Membership Secretary	Nigel Davies		Terry Gibson		Nick Joyce
Committee Member:	Billy Hintze		Mike Crick		Brian Fuller

Appointment of Hon Auditor: to be confirmed by new Treasurer.

Appointment of Old Finchleian and Stockdale Trust Representatives

Old Finchleians' Club: John Bowra
Stockdale Trust: John Bowra

Co-option of the Unit Liaison Officer

Awaiting confirmation by Commanding Officer.

Appointment of Postal Vote Tellers

Messers Hintze and Fuller were appointed.

Amendments to the Association Rules

Martin Russell raised a question about the possible negative response to the increase in subscriptions in Rule 6(d) and consequential loss of members. The Chairman expressed his hope that this would not be the case and that each case would have to be considered on its merits before writing off any current member.

The votes cast both by post or by those present were as follows:

4(d)	For	24	Against	0	6 (d)	For	24	Against	0
4 (f)	For	24	Against	0	8 (a)	For	24	Against	0
5 (e)	For	24	Against	0					

The new committee were asked to consider the wording of "gentlemen" in Rule 4(e).

Any Other Business

1) Peter Green Memorial. The meeting heard that the committee had considered several suggestions but had concentrated on two; (a) a decanter coaster, similar to the Stockdale coaster and (b) a table-top lectern to be used by speakers at dinners. Having received reports on quotations for each, the meeting felt, strongly, that the lectern would be the most appropriate and the Secretary was asked to obtain a detailed design and quotation incorporating the CRA crest with an engraved plate bearing the words "In memory of PETER GREEN 1935-2006 presented by the Members".

2) It was proposed and approved that a donation £25 be made to The Parents & Friends of CCF.

Dates for the coming year: - Thursdays: 24 January, 10 May, 4 October, AGM 15 November

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2205 hrs.