

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Centarian Regimental Association was held on Thursday 20th November 2014 at the Old Finchleians Club, Southover, opening at 2025 in the Changing Room

Present

Mike Crick (chair), Brian Fuller, Billy Hintze, Martin Russell, John Cliff, Chris Hannington, Jon Bowra, David Fuller (Hon), Jim Wallace (OF President).

Apologies for Absence

Arthur Banham, Dilip Chauhan, Jeremy Cohn (from Israel), David Floyd, Terry Gibson, Paul Huggins, Diana Johnson, Nick Joyce, Bob Langley, Dave Jeremy, Ed Martin, John Millen, Terry Payne, Ray Pett, Bob Sherman, Jon Walden, Martin West, Henry Wirth (from Australia).

Minutes of the 2013 A G M

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 21st November 2013 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Future date for AGM. It had been proposed that the AGM be held on Remembrance Sunday but this was felt to be impractical due to personnel being involved in dual roles and possible problems of catering. However, as a result of a circulation to members, it was agreed that there was some merit in having it on a Sunday during daylight hours to facilitate travel for more mature members so it was proposed that a Sunday in late September/early October be investigated with a venue possibly at The Deansbrook TA Centre, Edware.

Geoff Owen. It was reported that Geoff had made a good recovery and had been seen, in good spirits, recently at an OF Council Meeting.

Chairman's Report

"2014 Chairman Report 1314

This year, as in other years, your committee has met three times. We welcomed a new "old face", that of Arthur Banham on to the committee and Terry Gibson who with his existing posts has taken over from Brian Fuller as the new Honorary Secretary.

Early in the year we began an initiative to offer real support to the Unit and following a meeting with the CO we planned to run a barbecue on a parade night in the summer and produce a newsletter for cadets each term. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons neither of these has yet happened although we are still planning to run the newsletter in the future and hope to set a date for a barbecue once the good weather returns. We have also discussed the possibility of assisting the Unit with a trip to some of the First World War battlefields and cemeteries around Ypres but because of the red tape around the requirements for appropriate adults both from the school and MOD this has yet to be progressed.

For the second year running members were invited to bring their spouses or guests to this year's annual dinner. We also decided to offer Cadet Adult Volunteers a 50% reduction in the price of the dinner ticket and a free ticket for each eligible cadet in a bid to encourage their attendance and we were rewarded with a good turnout to hear Samson Olusanya, as the new headmaster make his inaugural dinner speech.

This year we learned of the deaths of former cadets whose names will be known to members of different generations; Roger Brocklebank (CCF 1949 -56), who had been living in Spain for many years and Naresh Naseratnam CCF 1970 -?? , a former cadet RSM, who was living in Malaysia.

Following a number of years of very low attendance at the Association's AGMs it has been suggested that the attendance numbers might be increased if the day and time of the meeting was moved from a weekday evening to a Sunday afternoon, possibly beginning with some sort of light lunch. Initially we considered a possible date as being Remembrance Sunday but this was quickly discounted as there were too many other factors occurring on the same day. We have sought the views of members via email and those who responded were broadly in favour of the idea. Since the date of this year's AGM had already been set a suitable Sunday will be selected next year with a date and time probably being announced later in this meeting.

Terry Gibson, combining his two roles of Hon Sec and web site manager has published the minutes of a number of historic AGMs and SGMs in an easy to read format on the Association's website although a few years were missing from the archives. He has been busy giving the website an overhaul with a new look which, it is hoped members will find "more user friendly". It is still at the existing web address of www.c-r-a.org.uk and if any members have yet to explore the site I would urge you to do so.

Terry was also able to offer his services as an expert photographer when a party of cadets recently went to the Tower of London to assist with the "Poppy Planting" and a record of their work can be found on Youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9aPMLwnfASc or simply search for "Terry Gibson poppies" within Youtube.

My thanks, as always go to the members of our committee, especially Terry whose good deeds have already been mentioned and to Nick Joyce, our treasurer who continues to track down members whose subscriptions have gone awry and bring them back into the fold.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our members that the next edition of Ricochet is due to be published in 2015 but only if we get enough news and articles to make it worthwhile so I will make a plea now that if you have done something which other members or cadets might find interesting or have discovered some old cadet or military related photos, that you shape them into some sort of article or forward them to me with some notes so that they might be included. Old photographs and negatives can be copied, cleaned up and restored and we promise to return any items once a copy has been made".

MHR proposed acceptance, seconded and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Hon Treasurer had sent his apologies for absence and it was therefore proposed that his report be deferred to the Executive Committee who would circulate it to attending members with the minutes.

Election of President & Vice Presidents

President: Brian Fuller

Proposed by Mick Crick

Seconded by John Cliff

The following Vice-Presidents were proposed by John Cliff, seconded by Chris Hannington and elected en bloc: -

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

Jim Wallace was thanked for his attendance at the AGM and also at committee meetings which had benefitted from his input.

Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman	Mick Crick	Proposed by	John Cliff	Seconded by	Chris Hannington
Vice-Chairman	Billy Hintze	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
Hon Secretary	Terry Gibson	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
Hon Treasurer	Nick Joyce	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
Hon Social Sec	Terry Gibson	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
Hon Mag Sec	Mick Crick	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
Hon Membership Sec	Terry Gibson	“	John Clif	“	Chris Hannington
C'ttee Members	Arthur Banham	“	John Cliff	“	Chris Hannington
	Steve Harding	“	“	“	“
	Brian Fuller (ex officio)				

Appointment of Reporting Accountant: Martin Russell Proposed by Brian Fuller Seconded by Mick Crick

Appointment of Old Finchleian and Stockdale Trust Representatives

Old Finchleians' Club:	John Bowra	Proposed by	Mick Crick	Seconded by	Chris Hannington
Stockdale Trust:	John Bowra	“	“	“	“

Co-option of the Unit Liaison Officer

The Commanding Officer had confirmed the appointment of CSgt Steve Harding

Any Other Business

- 1) It was proposed and approved that a donation £50 be made to The Parents & Friends of CCF.
- 2) Cadet Expansion Programme (CEP). MJC outlined the background to the MOD/DFE proposals and reported that the consultation period involving schools had now closed with robust responses from several schools with existing CCFs, including our own, which considered that they were under threat by the new funding proposals involving, among other aspects, a £150 per head levy. He also reported on the many supportive responses from Centarians who had written to their local MPs. The AGM, while expressing extreme concern at the proposals, approved the action taken by the Executive Committee thus far and mandated them to continue with the present course of action which included the President (BWF) writing an open letter in the OF Newsletter (which had received OF Council approval) seeking support from OFs by signing the on-line petition which currently had received 3800 signatures. It was proposed that a similar letter be inserted in the School Newsletter with the approval of the HeadTeacher. The Hon Secretary was asked to e-mail all Centarians who had responded thanking them and attaching a copy of these minutes together with copies of all the responses.

Dates for the coming year: Committee Meetings: Thursdays: 15 January 2015, 23 April,
1 October (may need to be earlier to allow sufficient notice of AGM)
AGM 2015 Sunday late Sept/early Oct (tbc).
Annual Dinner Friday 5 June 2015

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2150 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.