

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Centarian Regimental Association was held on Sunday 4th October 2015 at the Army Reserve Centre (TA Centre) In Edgware, opening at 11:00

Present

Mike Crick (chair), Brian Fuller, Jon Walden, Arthur Banham, Billy Hintze, Martin Russell, David Fuller (Hon), Terry Gibson, Steve Harding

Apologies for Absence

Brian Wisbey, Ray Pett, Henry Wirth, Mike Isaacs, Tom Harrison David Jeremy, John Lee, Chris Hannington, David Groom, Colin Chandler, Barry Glazer, Ted Dewar, Martin West, Dominic Bellamy, Dilip Chauhan, David Lambeth, Hugh Petrie, Hugh Fisher, Ed Martin, Graham Potter, Olaf Dudley, John Bowra, David Floyd, Bob Langley, Paul Sherman, Terry Payne, Robin Doughty, John Cliff, Bob Sherman, Stuart Pentecost, Mike Head, John Millen, Rob Helzjahn, Darren Crispin, David Storey, Diana Johnson

Minutes of the 2014 A G M

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting dated 20th November 2014 were read, approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Martin Russell Seconded by Terry Gibson

Matters Arising

Following the report of Geoff Owen's apparent improvement in his condition at the last AGM, the meeting noted that around Christmas Geoff had taken a sudden turn for the worse and died on 14th January 2015. His funeral was well attended and there is an ongoing fund in order to establish a specific and appropriate memorial in memory of his service to the club.

It was also noted that the Government's proposals in respect of the removal of funds from existing units under the Cadet Expansion Programme had been withdrawn. We may never know how effective our lobbying had been - but of 280 contingents nationally, 80 or 90 old boys associations provided a committed response. JIW pointed out that this showed that there is national support for the CCF movement. However as a paradoxically unexpected consequence, the highlighting of CCF units may cause a re-evaluation and as a result, some schools may decide to close units.

Chairman's Report

This year has been a fairly quiet one for the Association. Your committee met on three occasions during the last year but the business discussed was very much of a routine nature.

Our main social activity was, of course the annual dinner, this year held on Friday 5th June being the first Friday after the half term. A total of 32 members and their guests sat down to another excellent dinner in the presence of the current headteacher Samson Olusanya and the current OF President and former headteacher Gary Tucker. In fact we should have been entertaining Jim Wallace who had just stepped down as OF President but he was unable to be with us so we look forward to him joining us next year.

During his time as OF Vice President and President Jim has been a regular attendee at committee meetings and has joined in the discussions and debates offering a useful perspective as someone from a non-Unit

background. When he stepped down at the AGM in 1st June 2015 he very generously made donations to the main club and its sections including £500 to our Association and I wish to place on record my personal gratitude and the thanks of the Association and its members for this donation.

There is a mechanism within our Association under Rule 4d for the welcoming of Honorary Members, who, although not eligible to join as former cadets, may be invited if they “have rendered a valuable contribution to the Cadet Unit or the Association” and I believe Jim has achieved that status and I would like, at an appropriate stage of this meeting, to nominate him to as an honorary member.

This year was a “Ricochet” year and those members who were at the dinner received their copies personally, others being sent out a short while later whilst Terry Gibson, wearing his “Web Master” hat made the electronic copy available on our website. I would like to thank all those members who contributed notes, articles or photographs to this, the 27th edition. I am delighted to add that I have already received two or three notes for the 2017 version and would urge all members to think about whether they may have an old photo or story of their cadet days or anything which they think might be of interest to fellow members. Whilst a few of us are willing to undertake the compilation, editing and printing of the magazine, we do rely on yourselves; our members, to provide much of the content.

Last year I reported on what we hoped would be an opportunity for the Association to “offer real support” to the Unit in a number of initiatives. Unfortunately, we have been unable to progress our ideas and hope that the coming year will see some positive developments.

One issue around which the membership did rally was the Government’s Orwellian-named “Cadet Expansion Programme”. The main theme of this, as members will know, was to find funds to expand the number of CCFs by massively cutting the budgets of current units, without, apparently, realising that such a move would have, in fact drastically reduced the number of units as many would have been forced to close down due to an absence of funding. I am delighted to say that the Government and MoD were besieged by a large amount of correspondence, letters to the Press and even an “online petition” which resulted in an official climb down announced in December last year. I wish to thank all our members who joined in the campaign which included writing to their MP in a number of cases.

Sadly, in June this year we learned of the death of Mickey Thilo, a long-standing member of the Association following an illness. Both Hugh Fisher and I attended his funeral in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Chris Hannington, another long-standing member is currently fighting his own battle with cancer and is currently undergoing chemotherapy. We wish him all the very best for the future.

I will conclude my report by thanking my fellow committee members for their work and attendance during the year, especially Brian Fuller my co-editor; Nick Joyce our Treasurer and Terry Gibson who not only plans and organises our Annual Dinners but also runs the website, sends out all the emails and finds the time to be our Association Secretary.

Michael Crick

Chairman

BWF proposed acceptance, seconded by WFH and approved unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Not presented in the absence of the Treasurer

Election of President & Vice Presidents

President: Brian Fuller Proposed by Mick Crick Seconded by Jon Walden

The following Vice-Presidents were proposed by Bill Hintze, seconded by Martin Russell and elected *en bloc*:

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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

Election of Officers and Committee

Chairman Mick Crick Proposed by Brian Fuller Seconded by Steve Harding
Vice-Chairman Bill Hintze “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller

Other roles were proposed and seconded *en bloc*

Hon Secretary Terry Gibson “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
Hon Treasurer Nick Joyce “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
Hon Social Sec Terry Gibson “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
Hon Mag Sec Mick Crick “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
Hon Membership Sec Terry Gibson “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
C’ttee Members Arthur Banham “ Mick Crick “ Brian Fuller
 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 Brian Fuller
Stockdale Trust: John Bowra “ “ “ “

Co-option of the Unit Liaison Officer

Jon Walden confirmed that he would take the role *pro tem*

Any Other Business

It was proposed by BWF, seconded by MJC and agreed unanimously that a donation £50 be made to The Parents & Friends of CCF.

MJC pointed out that the AGM represented a cost to the CRA of £370 and planning assumed a minimum attendance of 30. The actual attendance of 9 members made the cost per head significant. All agreed that the change of date and venue was a good effort to increase AGM attendance. The survey of members had indicated that increased attendance was likely and it was unfortunate that this increased attendance had not materialised.

MJC advised that he had received communication from a member suggesting the payments for the CRA Dinner should not be routed via TG’s personal account. There was significant discussion around this – and possible alternatives to allow funds to be paid directly to the CRA. It was concluded that there was no need to

change the current process resulting in the following proposal from BWF, seconded by MJC:

That the current process to administer the funding for the CRA dinner is adequate for our needs.

MHR, in his role as reporting accountant asked that those sent CRA cheques to cover expenses incurred would kindly acknowledge receipt of the cheque in writing (email is perfectly acceptable).

There was discussion in respect of the association's subscription to the National Army Museum and the benefits it brings to members. Although this appears to be limited to a discount in the museums bookshop it was felt that continuing the subscription remains of value as it keeps the Middx Regt in the museum's mind.

Following the Chaiman's mention of the support that Jim Wallace has provided the association in the last year both in financial terms and in respect of his regular attendance at committee meetings providing a useful "outside view" of the CRA , BWF proposed that he be appointed an Honorary Member of the association. This was seconded by JIW and agreed unanimously.

AFB asked JIW "What does the unit need ?" JIW's response was that surprisingly, funds are not the issue. However, there are often restrictions on how money is spent. In May 2016 there will be a Tri-Service cadet Camp in Cyprus. London has been allocated 10 places and cadet will apply and go through a selection process. If a CCF cadet is successful in achieving a place, the CRA could fund (or part fund) the cost of the flight to Cyprus. This would provide "relevance" for the CRA in the eyes of current cadets.

It was agreed unanimously that we must find a way to encourage former cadets to join the association. The last school leaver to join the CRA was Josh Nicholl and this trend is unlikely to change unless we take some action. JIW suggested that CRA membership could (initially) be free and asked if this possibility could be considered by the committee in the coming year.

JIW also proposed the possibility that the CRA Dinner could be combined with the unit's Regimental Dinner to aid administration and improve numbers for the CRA dinner. It was unanimously agreed that this should be explored further – even if it meant that there were still two separate dinners but the CRA supported the Regimental Dinner administratively. A number of issues immediately present themselves including the potential need to change the date to a Saturday and the requirement for an alternative venue to Southover. All agreed to continue the debate/planning via email in advance of the next committee meeting.

The CRA/Unit barbeque was briefly discussed and JIW confirmed that it remains particularly difficult to arrange for a number of reasons.

SH suggested that the CRA could sponsor a cadet to make a parachute jump. Following discussion it was agreed that a formal CRA sponsorship would be impractical.

MR suggested that we continue to seek alternative venues for the AGM – all agreed.

Dates for the coming year: Committee Meetings: Thursdays: 14 January 2016, 21 April 2016, others to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:37 with a vote of thanks to the Chair.