



From the Secretary



AD UNUM OMNES

## THE PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Patron: HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES, KG, KT, PC, GCB, AK, QSO, ADC

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12 July 2018

### **MINUTES OF THE 70TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM ON SATURDAY 23 JUNE 2018**

Present	Lt. Colonel L Cradden MBE PARA	Chairman
	Mr. J. Wilson	Vice Chairman and North East Region
Apologies	Maj (Retd) P Raison	National Secretary
	Mr. P. Bryant	Anglia Region
	Mr. L. Riggs	South West Region
	Mr. G. Duffus	Midland Region
	Mr. M. Wattam	Yorkshire Region
	Mr. J. Hardicker	North West Region
	Mr. P. Richens	South Region
	Mr. N McKay	London Region
	Mr. D. Smart	South East Region
	Mrs. G. Appleton	Assistant to the Treasurer
		Wales Region
	Scotland & N I Region	

According to the attendance sheet there were 132 Members present.

#### **ITEM 1 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS & REGIMENTAL NEWS**

**1.1** The Chairman introduced himself, as this was his first meeting as the Chairman. He welcomed everyone to the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the National Memorial Arboretum and thanked everyone for attending and supporting the Regiment in whatever way they could. Apologies were given on behalf of Mr. P Morrison.

The Chairman started by highlighting the Northern Ireland Inquiries, which is first and foremost in the minds of the RHQ. Lt Col (Retd) Paul Rodgers is the key point of contact in RHQ and has been heavily involved since it started. He then proceeded to give a Regimental update to all those present, which included manning issues and constraints across the Army.



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The Vice Chairman took to the floor and asked all to ensure that their mobile phones were switched off or on silent. He also reminded everyone who wished to address the chair to stand and introduce themselves, stating what Branch they represented.

## **ITEM 2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

**2.1** The Vice Chairman read out the minutes of the previous meeting. He also stated that the previous minutes were still available online on the website. There were no comments from the floor or matters arising from the 2017 minutes.

**2.2 Proposal:** The Vice Chairman asked for a proposal that the minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read:

**Proposer: John Donovan - Leicester**

**Seconder: Don Munro - Nottingham**

CARRIED

## **ITEM 3 TO REVIEW THE ASSOCIATION REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2017**

**3.1** The Chairman introduced Mrs. G. Appleton, the Assistant to the Treasurer, who briefed the assembled members on the accounts as follows:

Members were given access to a copy of the 2017 Report & Accounts as well as an extract of the full document for those gathered. They were reminded that the financial year runs January to December. The independent examination was undertaken by Bright Brown Ltd in mid-March and carried out in accordance with SORP FRS 102 (Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK).

Those present were asked to use the extract of the full document during the explanation of Financial Activity and expenditure for the year. We can see that total income was £119,092 which is up almost 15k on the £105k received in 2016. On page 12, a breakdown of the £119,092 is given; we can see:

Donations and Legacies of £15,271. Subscriptions of £4,269 is for both membership and affiliation fees.

The figure of £52,077 is for donated services and facilities is a notional figure entered for salaries, rent and heat and light. These are not actually received but represent the benefits that the PRA receives from the MOD.

Also listed is the income of the three regions which is just about £20k more than last year due to the money paid into the Midland Regions account for large events such as the NMA.

The investment income is £15,264 which is the dividend from the holdings with JM Finn. This is a drop of £6k from 2016. J M Finn were appointed as the Association's new Investment Managers in 2017.

The sundry receipts are the sales of lapel pins, coins and NMA Tickets etc. So total income is £119,092



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Remaining at page 12 and over on page 13, we can see the expenditure for 2017 was £144,760 which is more than 2016 at £116,843.

Monies spent by the three regions, newsletter costs of £1554, advertising costs of £1190 and commemorations at £14,315 for the Rhine Crossing, Normandy and Arnhem pilgrimages plus the Field of Remembrance. Grants were agreed by the Executive Committee of £14,606 for the Airborne Forces Days, the National Armed Forces Day etc. Governance costs relate to the cost of holding meetings and the regional secretary's expenses, which were down to £10,963.

This gives us a total expenditure of £144,760. In 2016 expenditure was £116,843 and the increase due to more being spent on commemorations.

Taking income from expenditure we have spent £25,668 more than we have brought in; last year we spent £11,101 more than we received. We add this loss of £25,668 to the gain on the value of the investments in 2017 at £17,709 and it gives us an overall loss of £7,959 whereas, in 2016 there was a surplus of £28,773.

If we return to page 6, we can see the gain on investments of £17,709 and the loss of £7,959 to which the 2017 value of the fund is carried forward giving a total value of the Association as at end of 2017 of £797,615.

**The Executive Committee agreed with all of the above Report & Independent Examination which was signed by the Chairman at the Executive Meeting of 28 April 2018.**

**3.2 Proposal:** The Vice Chairman asked for a proposal that the accounts for 2017 were a true record and passed as read:

**Proposed: Owen Parsons - London**

**Seconded: John Needham - Nottingham**

CARRIED

#### **ITEM 4 - Any Other Business**

The Chairman introduced the Any Other Business stage of the meeting and invited any questions or proposals from the floor.

**4.1** Donations totalling £3,900 were presented to the Parachute Regimental Association, the Airborne Forces Security Fund and Support Our PARAs. The Vice Chairman explained that the donation from the Darlington Branch was a result of the closure of the Branch. The Chairman thanked everyone for their generous donations.

Darlington	£2000
Nottingham	£1000
Derby	£200
Shropshire	£500
Morecombe	£200

**4.2** Mr Brian Lamb of the Rochdale Branch requested that future events are planned in advance and are held on the same weekend each year. This would ensure that everyone knew when it was and it could be coordinated with other events.



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Mr John Carey stated that this was the case in previous years and that the previous year's event had changed due to the proximity of the Falklands 35<sup>th</sup> Commemorations.

The Secretary agreed that this was a good idea and that they would identify the date for the 2019 event at the earliest opportunity and pass it to all Branches. This was often limited by availability at the NMA and late confirmation of other events such as Armed Forces Day's across the country.

**4.3** Mr John Ridley stated that receiving donations from the Branches was fine but that RHQ had failed to provide receipts for payments such as donations and affiliation fees. The secretary apologised and promised to sort this out. There had been a period of turmoil within the HQ during the time these were sent and were missed. Receipts will be provided as soon as possible.

**4.3** Mr Warren Learmouth of the London Branch requested clarity on who they could donate their money to. He stated that RHQ had communicated that Branches could only donate to Regimental Charities. This had caused a number of issues within certain Branches. He also stated that we could donate to other non -regimental charities, as long as the trustees follow the objects of the charity such as Veterans Aid who deal with people off the streets of London, including Airborne Veterans. They perform a duty that they can and we cannot.

The secretary stated that RHQ had never dictated that they must give their money to the Regimental Charities, they had simply asked that each Branch considers the Regimental charities when deciding where their money goes.

The Secretary used the analogy that, if he was walking across London Bridge and he had already waked past the charity for prevention of child cruelty, cats and dogs charity and he sees a stand and some men stood with their berets and medals. He say's to himself 'I did some time in Para Reg, I'll stick £5 in their bucket' What gives them the right to take his £5 and give it to someone else?

There are a lot of people collecting for SSAFA, millions of people collecting for ABF and the NFA but there are not millions of people collecting for The Parachute Regimental Association. Branches are collecting under the banner that they are collecting for The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces and then giving it to someone else.

Mr John Carey stated that they were defrauding the people that donate and as an example noted that all the money collected by Help for Heroes went to them and no one else.

Mr Warren Learmouth stated that this was not fraud and that you can legally donate to other charities if they help you complete your objectives as a charity.

The secretary reminded everyone that RHQ had provided each Branch with a charity guide to assist branches in what they do. The trustees of each branch have a responsibility to abide by the guidelines set down by the Charity Commission. There are links provided to the Charity Commission website each month which offer advice and information for trustees but many will not read these.

The Secretary also stated that Mr Learmouth was right, in that they could donate money to other charities, if their objects were in line with ours. If they are similar you are justified in giving money away. However, millions of people are giving to the ABF and others, take a look at their accounts on the Charity Commission website. They have millions of pounds and we



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are collecting for The Parachute Regimental Association and then we are giving them even more, which leaves us short.

Mr Warren Learmouth agreed but stressed that where other charities were helping Airborne Veterans we are able to help them.

**4.4** Mr Mark Harding of the Nottingham Branch highlighted that they had a case in their Branch where a member required treatment. A local charity offered help and the Branch paid to support his treatment. In this case as the charity was assisting a Paratrooper then we should support them.

The Secretary agreed that this was a good example of providing quick support to an individual but if it was to later turn into a requirement for long term treatment, the Regimental welfare process should be used. The first point of call being a SSAFA or RBL representative who will complete Form 'A'. This will then be presented to the RHQ Welfare team and support provided by the Airborne Forces Security Fund or The Parachute Regiment Charity.

#### **ITEM 5 – Address by the President Lt General Sir John Lorimer**

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:19hrs.

There followed a presentation on the 'Friends of the Tenth' by Mr John Gibbard.

Maj (Retd) P Raison  
Secretary

Distribution  
Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Members of the Executive Committee  
All Branch Secretaries