



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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See Distribution

08 July 2024

MINUTES OF THE 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE NMA ON Saturday 6 July 2024

Present	Lt Gen Andrew Harrison DSO MBE Mr. JJ. Wilson Maj (Retd) P Raison Mr. C. Brooksbank Mr. V. Thorn Mrs. J. Weymouth Mrs. E. Smith Mr. P. Bryant Mr. D. Smart Mr. B. Black Mr. M. Farrington MBE	President Vice Chairman and North East Region National Secretary Midland Region South Region Administrator PRA Assistant to the FD Anglia Region South East Region Scotland & N I Region North West Region
Apologies	Lt. Colonel L Cradden MBE PARA Vacant Mr. A. Ellis Mr. R. Bareham Mr. D. Singletary Mr. T. Wood	Chairman Yorkshire Region South West Region Finance Director Wales Region London Region

ITEM 1 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS & REGIMENTAL NEWS

1.1 The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the 76th Annual General Meeting.

The National Secretary advised general administration points for the day's events.

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

2.1 The Vice Chairman advised the minutes of the 2023 meeting are published on-line and that this year's meeting will also be available to view. There were no outstanding issues from the 2023 minutes.



ITEM 3 TO REVIEW THE ASSOCIATION REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2023

3.1 Mrs. Emma Smith, the Assistant to the Finance Director, was introduced and briefed the assembled members on the accounts as follows:

Page 6 and the Statement of financial activities.

The statement of financial activities is the accounting statement which includes all income, gains, expenditure and losses recognised for the reporting period, we will be looking at 2023. You can see analysis of the income received and the expenditure made by the PRA on its activities, and lastly a reconciliation of the movements in the PRA's funds for 2023.

INCOME

The total income for 2023 was £87,737 of which all was unrestricted.

Charity funds can be classed as restricted or unrestricted. Restricted funds may only be spent for a particular purpose, whereas unrestricted funds can be spent on any of the purposes.

In comparison to 2022, total income was £108,005 again all of which all was unrestricted. Total income declined by £20,268 or 19%.

EXPENDITURE

The total expenditure for 2023 was £104,442.

In comparison to 2022, where total expenditure was £153,818.

Total expenditure declined by £49,376 or 32%.

TOTAL FUNDS

The opening balance for 2023 was £829,807.

The closing balance for 2023 was £827,297.

This means that in 2023 there was an overall net deficit of £16,705

GAINS/LOSSES

In 2023 the PRA investments increased in value by £14,195 in comparison to 2022 where they decreased by £187,197. 2022 was a difficult year for the markets however there has been some recovery in 2023. Unfortunately, the gains did not quite cover the additional expenditure of £16,705 as I have just detailed which resulted in an overall net loss of £2,510 for 2023.

INCOME IN DETAIL

Page 15. Income in more detail which we know fell year on year. The main reason being the PRA did not receive any grants in 2023 unlike 2022 when they received £11,659. Grants in 2022 were made towards the F40.

If we put aside donated services and facilities, the PRA's main source of income is Dividends, this is investment income earned from holding assets for investment purposes. In 2023 Dividends were £21,228 which is slightly higher than 2022 where they were £21,119.

The next highest source of income is from Donations and Legacies, in 2023 £9,535 was received in comparison to £14,617 in 2022. In 2022 donations included £5k specifically for the Falkland's 40th commemorations. If we deduct the F40 £5k, donations and legacies in 2023 were slightly higher than 2022.



From the Secretary



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Donations in 2023 included a £5k donation from one individual, and a number of generous donations from the branches.

If we now turn to subscriptions which includes the affiliation fees paid by the branches and the membership fees paid by individuals. Subscriptions were down year on year by 10%. 68 out of the 79 branches paid their affiliation fee in 2023 which is 5 less than 2022. (2 Branches closed in 2023). Membership fee income fell from £1750 in 2022 to £1500 in 2023.

Lastly, if we come back to 'donated services and facilities' which encompasses free office accommodation, utilities and salaries. This figure increased by around £600 from 2022 to 2023.

EXPENDITURE IN DETAIL

Continuing down *page 15* and onto *page 16* where we look at the expenditure in more detail which we know also fell year on year. The main reason being that events costs in 2022 for the F40 were around £40,000 whereas there were no anniversary events in 2023.

The highest areas of expenditure in 2023 were the wages and donated services at £57,056, grants at £14,517, committee meeting expenses at £7,190 and portfolio management at £5,996.

The wages and donated services increased by £1,000. However, this was compensated by the rise in income received from the donated services of £600.

Grants increased year on year by £3,500, and commemorations decreased by £7,500. Part of the difference is due to the grant paid by the PRA towards the NMA being accounted for under Commemorations in 2022 and Grants in 2023.

2023 Grants also included for the first time a grant towards the Regimental Day held in Colchester in July. The 2024 Regimental Day is also being held in Colchester on 24th July. Lastly, 2022 Commemorations included around £5,000 for the 80th Anniversary held at the NMA which were not replicated in 2023.

Committee meeting expenses which encompass the travel and subsistence costs for the regional secretary expenses declined by around £900 year on year.

Portfolio management fees decreased by around £500.

The Grants agreed by the EC were for;
Support towards John Thompson attending the English Veterans Awards ceremony
PRA Newark for Michael Willetts memorial
PRA Tayside to restore St David's Social Club as a veterans hub
PRA Northampton towards the summer garden party
PRA Yorkshire towards HH and EC

Total resources expended

On *page 16* you will see the 'net expenditure before gains and losses' figure which simply means total income minus expenditure before taking into account the gain or losses on investments which equalled -£16,705. Quite simply in 2023 the PRA spent £16,705 more than it received, compared to 2022 where the figure was -£45,813.



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Proposal

If agreed these Accounts will be signed off by Lt Col Cradden. The National Secretary will upload the Accounts onto the website in due course and they will be available on the Charity Commission's website later in the year.

3.2 Proposal:

Proposed: George Duffus – Bedworth Branch

Seconded: John Donovan – Leicester Branch

CARRIED

3.3 The National Secretary encouraged Branches to fundraise if they do not do so already. He advised that due to COVID causing the loss in PRA investments, we are hopeful that this continues to recover. The Secretary then went onto explaining the rise in Affiliation Fees from £50.00 per Branch to £60.00 per Branch and the inability of some branches to pay.

ITEM 4 - Any Other Business. The Secretary introduced the Any Other Business stage of the meeting and welcomed Mike Farrington as the new North West Regional Secretary.

4.1 Trustee Vacancy. The Secretary advised that we have a Vacancy to fill the Yorkshire Region and to please come forward if this is something anyone in the Region would like to volunteer for.

4.2 Events. The Secretary gave a brief overview of upcoming events and requested that Branches give as much information and notice as possible for any upcoming events over the 24/2025 period so that it may be widely advertised and published on the website.

4.3 Donations – Cheque Presentations. The Vice Chairman opened the floor for members to present cheques:

- Shropshire Branch – Cheque to Support Our Paras for £500.
- Durham Branch - Cheque to Support Our Paras for £500.
- Tayside Branch - Cheque to Support Our Paras for £250.
- Norfolk Branch - Cheque to Support Our Paras for £200.
- Oldham Branch - Cheque to Support Our Paras for £200.

4.4 Support Our Paras Brief. The Secretary introduced the CEO of Support Our Paras, Col Andrew Jackson who delivered a brief and showed promotional videos to the Members.

ITEM 5 – Date of Next Meeting: 14th June 2025



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ITEM 6 – Questions from the PRA

6.1 Vote of Thanks. The PRA expressed their thanks to Mrs Gwen Appleton (previous Finance Assistant) and to Mrs Julia Weymouth for the hard work and contributions to the PRA.

Proposed: John Donovan – Leicester Branch

Seconded: Peter Bedford – Shropshire Branch

CARRIED

6.2 NHS Services. Mark Turner advised he recently learnt that the Veteran Orthopaedics Services run by the NHS are running into funding issues which may have an impact on Support Our Paras with more Veterans seeking assistance from them.

6.3 Airborne Soldier Statue and Dakota Maintenance Plan. Curt Vines briefed the PRA of plans and fundraising efforts.

6.4 Guidance on persons making false claims. Tony Coxall requested if there could be guidance issued on steps to take when confronted with persons making false allegations of service or wearing Medals they were not entitled to. The National Secretary advised he would look into this but advised if police were in attendance, for them to be advised and to not get into altercations which may get violent for their own safety and to consider the persons mental health.

6.5 Presentations Slides. Peter Bedford requested that the presentation slides and Support Our Para promotional videos be made available for Branch Secretaries to share with their Branch Members that were not in attendance.

7.1 Lt Gen Andrew Harrison DSO MBE Brief. The President expressed his thanks to the whole PRA. He briefed on Women coming into the Parachute Regiment, Recruitment and Operations. He continued with his thanks to the Executive Committee and presented certificates and gifts to previous members of the Committee: Joe Hardicker, George Duffus, John Carey and Peter Richens.

Meeting Closed.

Maj (Retd) PA Raison
Secretary

Distribution
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Members of the Executive Committee
All Branch Secretaries (by email and website)