



I.G.A. North of England Branch AGM Meeting Minutes

Date:	3 rd November 2023	
Time:	19.00 Hrs	
Location:	The Board Room, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool	
Attendees:	D Hughes, D Ellis, A Williamson, L Jacobson, V Corbett, A Oakes, A 'BoBo' Boyd, M Harris, R Bywater, C Humphries, P Radley, B Ablewhite, M Bayliss, F Whittaker, G Connerty, G Travis, J Shanks, K Newall, P Gibson.	
Apologies:	B Fitzgerald, G Ponton, K Owen, B Aspinal, J Roche, B Page.	
Next Meeting:	1 st December, Adelphi Hotel. (Election of Officers & Xmas mickery)	
2024 NoE Branch Meeting Dates:	Proposed 2024 dates: Association meeting , Friday 9 th February 2024. Paddies Day family event , Sunday 17 th March 2024. Association Dinner , Saturday 11 th May 2024. Association meeting , Saturday 8 th June 2024. Away day , Saturday 6 th July 2024. Association AGM , Friday 6 th September 2024. Remembrance Sunday , 10 th November 2024, Association Christmas meeting , Friday 6 th December 2024.	
2024 Association Dinner:	ASSOCIATION DINNER 11th MAY 2024, HILTON HOTEL, LIVERPOOL, L1 8LW	
Agenda Item	Matters Discussed	By Whom
Fallen Comrades	One minutes silence was held to remember those members and fellow 'Micks' that are no longer with us.	Andy Williamson

Minutes of last AGM meeting	<p>Proposed by V. Corbett, seconded by F Whittaker</p> <p>Carried unanimously as a true record. A statement of thanks to the committee was made by F Whittaker.</p>	
Secretary's report	<p>What a fantastic year 2023 has turned out to be for our association. However, we have lost a few stalwarts and friends along the way, all of whom were commemorated in our association dinner menu. Every one of them was given as good a 'Mick' farewell as possible. We continue to have great success in turn out at our Bi-Monthly meetings, we continue to grow our membership and had a fantastically successful Association Dinner, at a new venue in the Hilton Hotel. To this end I would like to say a huge thank you to the committee for all their unsung work behind the scenes, our great Regiment for understanding their importance to us and supporting our Dinner and to all our members, friends and family who continue to support us and make our association so enjoyable.</p> <p>I would like to make mention to a couple of members, who for personal reasons, can no longer undertake their standard bearer duties. They are my good friends Jimmy Shanks and Dave Hewitt. Both gentlemen have executed their duties to perfection and are a massive part of ensuring we could give representation at a time when members families need it most. Dave, I wish you well in your move further up North and Jimmy thank you for your support, I am sure everyone will be pleased to know that you, Jimmy, are going to take up and maintain the position of welfare officer.</p> <p>I would also like to say a huge thank you to Andy Coulter, who has agreed to be our Association piper at official functions. As many will know, Andy drove all the way from Scotland for this year's dinner at the Hilton, as there was a rail strike that day. That's dedication, thank you so very much, Andy.</p> <p>My right-hand man, Jimmy Ross, also vacated the position of events manager. Jimmy has been instrumental in assisting me to grow the association and to move in a new direction, that our members wanted. The decisions we have made have proven to be the correct ones, as we now have a professional web page with numerous support and welfare contacts, a growth in members and a big increase in attendance at our association dinners, so much so that we are now, by a massive margin, the most successful and highest attended association. Thank you so much for your assistance, Jimmy.</p> <p>The hardest part when someone stands down is finding a person that is willing to give up some of their spare time to help others. To this end, we have had success in that Dave Ellis volunteered as the interim events manager, assisted by Ray Bywater. Both stepped up to the mark to assist the committee in producing a fantastic evening at the Hilton Hotel, for our association dinner. They have also planned for Remembrance Day and our Paddies Day family events.</p> <p>Many thanks for your continued support both committee and members.</p> <p>Quis Separabit</p>	<p>Andy Williamson</p>

<p>Chairman's Report</p>	<p>1. <u>General</u></p> <p>This has been another year where sadly we have lost a number of comrades from our ranks who will be sorely missed. But it has also been a year of expansion, vibrancy, and a year of change. We welcomed the coronation of our new King, HM King Charles III and were delighted to be the first Branch to receive a letter from him dated just two days after his coronation. Long may he reign over us!</p> <p>Andy Williamson still leads the team with Jimmy Ross quietly lurking in the background giving his usual steadfast support. Dave Ellis is our new interim Events Manager, as Jimmy has now stood down, and has launched himself into the role with a huge amount of enthusiasm and hard work which has been well received by all those on the Committee.</p> <p>2. <u>Annual Dinner</u></p> <p>There has been a huge amount of debate within the branch since the end of the Pandemic on where we should hold our Annual Dinner. The Adelphi was the only hotel able to provide a formal Dinner for circa 250 veterans at a price that was affordable. However, the team started to encounter a combination of disinterest and a reduction in quality in relation to the Annual Dinner which then forced the committee to look elsewhere. After much negotiation the Hilton Hotel in Central Liverpool came up with a package that, whilst marginally more expensive, was nevertheless significantly more attractive both in terms of appearance and organisation. And so, the change was made after many years of being at the Adelphi.</p> <p>The 2023 Annual Dinner at the Hilton Hotel was a resounding success. We sat down to a fine meal with 257 being present, including the Lord Mayor of Liverpool Mrs Mary Rasmussen and her brother, to enjoy a long night of entertainment with awards, a raffle, the Irish Guards Singers, the Imperial Corps of Drums, The B Sharps Band and the presence of our Regimental mascot. It was a great night and next year we hope to again welcome a contingent from the Welsh Guards and their Chairman.</p> <p>In 2024, we will be holding our Annual Dinner again at the Hilton, but we have decided to move back to holding it in May as the Dinner season throughout the Autumn had become too hectic, along with the Regiment trooping what will be a new 2nd Battalion colour. We hope this will help RHQ.</p> <p>3. <u>Branch Operations</u></p> <p>Committee members attended a number of funerals and supported the families concerned throughout, for which I am extremely grateful. Jimmy Shanks is standing down after many years as our standard bearer. He has been a huge support to the branch and deeply committed to his role which he has undertaken with great style and dedication. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude. He will be taking on a new welfare role within the branch. Dave Hewitt has also decided to stand down as a Standard Bearer and he too has performed exceptionally well within the role showing real dedication and we owe him a huge vote of thanks too. They will be replaced in December after the AGM vote. Laurie Jacobson is our new Treasurer and he and Andy have revolutionised our accounting system after many painful years of not being able to access/manage our accounts as we would wish. Our thanks go to Laurie.</p> <p>Relations with the Battalion are as strong as ever and we are extremely keen as a branch to see that grow as we continue to encourage many more of the youngsters to join us. I am delighted to see younger Micks now starting to filter into Association events and long may that continue.</p> <p>We remain welcoming in all that we do, extending a hand of friendship to other Guards Associations and inviting them to attend Mick events throughout the year. It is this welcoming ethos irrespective of rank and/or length of service that we have driven so hard to maintain both our popularity and our relevance to the majority. Long may it continue.</p>	<p>Simon Donegan</p>
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	<p><u>Accounts</u> The accounts are looking very healthy standing at a touch under £19,000 which bodes well for the coming year.</p> <p>4. <u>Next Branch Dinner 2024</u> The next Branch Dinner will be on the 11th of May 2024, which sees us returning our normal time of the year to hold a Dinner which we hope will be the biggest event yet. I am hoping that more officers will attend the 2024 Dinner and I will be working on that in the months to come.</p> <p>As Chairman, I would like to wish all members within the Irish Guards Association Northern Branch a very happy Christmas and a thoroughly enjoyable New Year!</p>	
Treasurers report	<p>The treasurer reported on the account summery (which is attached as an appendix). These were presented to the Chairman for ratification and the signed copy will be presented to RHQ at the Regimental AGM, November 2023.</p> <p>The accounts include donations from: £150 Mick Harris, (towards memorial & standard refurb). £100 Paul Gibson, (towards standard & memorial refurb).</p> <p>The accounts include donations from the families of: £365 Phil McKay (letter of thanks sent to his sister and father). £338 Leslie Lee (letter of thanks sent to his family and undertakers).</p> <p>The accounts presented were accepted unanimously as a true record.</p>	Laurie Jacobson
Welfare report	<p>Fallen comrades.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Phil McKay 06th august 2023 2. Leslie Lee 16th June 2023 3. Brian Eager 17th June 2023 <p>I am still, as interim welfare officer, visiting two ex-Irish guardsman they are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dave Fisher, in Hoylake 2. James Daley, in Blackpool <p>I am still working with two members of the Association for personal and welfare reasons.</p>	Interim David Ellis
<p>Election of Committee for 2024</p> <p>Election of Standard Bearers combined with welfare for 2024</p>	<p>Elections have been suspended until our December meeting, in agreement with RHQ, so that our Chairman can be in attendance.</p>	

A.O.B.	<p>All members were asked to ensure that they update their standing orders, for January 2024 to the new bank, ensuring they remain as paid-up members, to enable our branch to function. We are hoping to conclude the closure of the old account in the new year.</p> <p><u>The new bank details are:</u></p> <p>Acc. Name – The Irish Guards Association, North of England. Acc. Type – Business Acc. Number – 49227337 Sort – 23 05 80 Bank – METRO. Membership £10, Membership & Journal £20. Please use your name as reference.</p> <p>Christmas hampers will again be provided for those identified as requiring one. All recipients will remain anonymous and only known to the committee, who will arrange to distribute these.</p> <p>The secretary is to investigate arranging a stone mason to visit our memorial stone, in the gardens of St Georges Hall. To see what renovation is required and to get a costing. Andy has arranged for a stone mason to visit after Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>Frank Whittaker had asked for the result of the pole on which hotel was to host the 2024 dinner. The results were, F.B. 27 Hilton, 18 Adelphi. Swifty voted for both, so I have included him in both totals. Emailed, 4 Hilton, 1 Adelphi and 1 non member from Liverpool Scottish. 2 emails with thanks for a great night at the Hilton, but no vote indicated.</p> <p>Frank Whittaker proposed a thank you from the members, for all the hard work that the committee put into running a successful branch. This was followed by a round of applause.</p> <p>Provisional dates have been given out for next year's meetings.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20.15.</p> <p>.</p>	Members

Accounts as of November 2023

ASSETS		Totals
CASH IN HAND		£0
CASH IN BANK METRO		£18,672.38
CASH IN HSBC		£200
PAYPAL		£20
TOTAL CASH		£18,892.38

Sundry Debtors

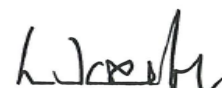
TOTAL LIQUID ASSETS	£18892.38
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	LIABILITIES PROJECTION 2024	
	SUNDRIE CREDITORS (approximates)	
ANNUAL DINNER		£0
REM DAY		£0
ST Pat's DAY		£1,000
AGM		£200
WEB PAGE		£400
STATIONARY		£250
TRANSPORT AWAY DAY		£190
Total		£2 040
TOTAL LIABILITIES		
Net Working Capital	(Current Assets Minus Liabilities)	£14,812.38
		GENERAL PURPOSE FUND
BALANCE		£18,892.38

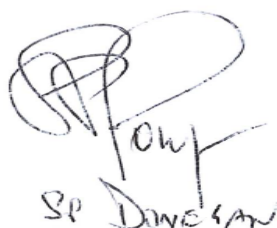
I certify that to the best of my knowledge
and belief all liabilities and assets are
shown on the Balance Sheet

Date 3rd November 2023

Signature Account Holder



Account verified by:



SP Dawson

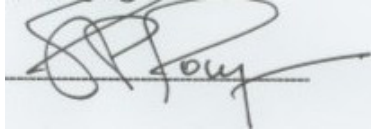
Signature Account Holder

on the 3/11/2023

Minutes agreed and carried unanimously as a true and accurate account:

Proposed: P. Gibson Seconded: L. Jacobson

Chairman, Colonel Simon Donegan:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Donegan', written over a horizontal line.

Secretary, Andrew Williamson:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Williamson', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 03.11.2023

2024 dates:

Association meeting, Friday 9th February 2024.

Paddies Day family event, Sunday 17th March 2024.

Association Dinner, Saturday 11th May 2024, Liverpool Hilton, L1 8LW.

Association meeting, Saturday 8th June 2024.

Away day, Saturday 6th July 2024.

Association AGM, Friday 6th September 2024.

Ulster Branch Dinner, Saturday 7th September 2024.

Remembrance Sunday, 10th November 2024

National AGM & London Branch dinner, Saturday 23rd November 2024 (provisional)

Association Christmas meeting, Friday 6th December 2024.