



I.G.A. North of England Branch

Meeting Minutes

Date:	15 th May 2026
Time:	19.00 Hrs
Location:	Shankly Hotel, Baby Eden Room, Liverpool
Attendees:	A. Williamson, S Donegan, L Jacobson, D Ellis, R Bywater, A Oakes, K Newell, K Owen, M Harris, B Aspinall,
Apologies:	B Ablewhite, J Shanks, P Radley, K Farell, G Ponton, G Mercer, B Fitzgerald, T Harkness
Next Meeting:	Friday, July 31 st , 19.00hrs, Baby Eden Room
2026 NoE Branch Meeting Dates:	27 th June Armed Forces Day, September 19 th Association Dinner, 8 th November Remembrance Day, 4 th December AGM and Xmas drinks.
Association Dinner:	ASSOCIATION DINNER 19th September 2026, Shankly Hotel 6th Floor Function Suite, Millennium House, 60 Victoria St, Liverpool L1 6JD

Agenda Item	Matters Discussed	Actions 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 meeting	Minutes for the previous meeting. Proposed, D Ellis Seconded, A Oakes Carried unanimously as a true record.	Members
Secretary's report	<p>The secretary opened his report with a big thank you to the members who attended.</p> <p>Allan Oakes was asked to give a brief update in AOB to outline our battlefield tour to Caen.</p> <p>I have confirmation that we will have four Chelsea pensioners in attendance for our annual dinner in September.</p> <p>A brief update was given regarding the proposed Regiment marching in Liverpool on the 15th May 2027 to exercise the freedom of the city. I have been in contact with Liverpool City Council and RHQ. It has been agreed that after the Trooping of the Colour commitments I will arrange a date for representatives from the Regiment and RHQ to meet with representatives from Liverpool City Council and the Anglian Cathedral for the proposed church service, prior to the march through the City. I will give a further update at the next meeting.</p> <p>A tasting session has been arranged at the Shankly Hotel by Dave Ellis for Friday the 22nd May, to choose the menu for the Association dinner on the 19th of September.</p>	Andy Williamson

<p>Chairman's Report</p>	<p>At a Meeting held at the Shankly Hotel on Friday the 15th May the Chairman made the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hilary Meredith- Beckham and Ted Beckham (Sir David Beckham's Father) have confirmed their attendance. Membership to think about and produce questions they would like to ask her. I will filter these and give her a list of the types of questions people will be interested in which she can use in her speech. At the Dinner there will be a Question Sheet and Envelope on each table which will be collected and 2 selected by Hilary from a hat for her to comment on. 2. The Chairman announced that he will be retiring at the May 2027 Dinner. He asked all those present to make their views known to Andy on points they wish to pass on to RHQ when considering a replacement. The Chairman will then construct a Resignation Letter from the views made and submit it to General Ghika in August. 3. Discussion was held regarding the Irish Guards Singers – A letter which the Chairman will submit to Jimmy Ross following the July 31st Branch meeting, making the position in relation to the Singers absolutely clear. The choir master's events report will become a standing order on the association agenda and they will report to the IGA Committee. It will no longer be run by 1 individual, and the Chairman position will cease after the 31st July meeting. An annual events report including finance report will be required to be provided at each Association AGM. This will be forwarded to RHQ along with the branch reports and finances. 4. The Chairman talked about a very clever fund raising system he had seen at a recent Dinner where a QR Code was projected onto a screen along with a list of donation categories. Participants clicked on the QR Code using their mobiles which allowed them to make instant donations. Dave Ellis said he would look into this. 	<p>S Donegan</p>
<p>Treasurers report</p>	<p>Laurie reported on the balance of the account as £15,356.88</p> <p>Laurie also reported that the bank card had run out and he was awaiting a new one to be delivered.</p>	<p>Laurie Jacobson</p>

<p>Events Report</p>	<p>Armed forces day, June 27 Dave Spoke about the day and timings, further information will be shared on social media and email.</p> <p>July 31st meeting taking place at the Shankly hotel at 1900 in the Baby Eden Room sandwiches and tea and coffee available</p> <p>September 19 dinner is taking place at the Shankly hotel at 1830 pm price is 49.50 per head. Dinner again will be a set menu chosen by the committee, following their tasting. Entertainment will be the Corps of Drums and Dj. Raffle prizes will also be chosen for the evening.</p> <p>November Remembrance Day 08 taking place at the Shankly hotel buffet plus entertainment plus raffle in the Baby Eden Room.</p> <p>December 04 for AGM plus Xmas drinks taking place at the Shankly hotel in the Baby Eden Room sandwiches and tea and coffee will be available.</p>	<p>D Ellis R Bywater</p>
<p>Welfare</p>	<p>John Roache has now moved to N. Ireland to be with his mum and his niece. He is understood to be doing as well as can be expected. Everything for John is going well for him.</p>	<p>D Ellis</p>

A.O.B	Allan Oakes spoke briefly on the trip and mentioned that the rooms were booked and that he would let people know when he requires the outstanding balance.	
Committee	Chairman – Simon Donegan Vice Chairman – Pete Swain Hon. Secretary – Andy Williamson iganoebranch@gmail.com Treasurer – Laurie Jacobson Event Manager and Assistant – David Ellis & Ray Bywater Welfare - Vacant Draft Minutes 15.05.2026	

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