



Military Survey (Geographic) Branch Royal Engineers Association



MINUTES OF THE 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT DENISON BARRACKS, HERMITAGE AT 1730HRS ON 04 SEPTEMBER 2010

In attendance:	President:	Brig John Elder
	Chairman:	Angus Cross
	Secretary:	Ken Hall
	Treasurer:	Mike Gowlett
	Military Representative:	WO1 (RSM) A Connetta RE
	Newsletter Editor:	Alan Gordon
	Branch Webmaster:	Albie Field

31 Members were present. A list is attached.

ITEM 1 – CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed those present, thanking them for their attendance and noting the presence of Rab Martin from Canada. He continued by explaining the **obligation** to hold an AGM, drawing particular attention to the very significant input from Event Coordinator Mick Perry, RSM A Connetta RE, and S/Sgt Wallis RE, without which the event could not take place at all.

ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

The names of those members who had tendered their apologies were listed on notice boards, and are attached to these minutes.

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE 10TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

There had been no errors or omissions notified in respect of the minutes of the 9th AGM (which had been published on the Branch website and were available at this meeting) nor were any raised from the floor. The Honorary Secretary reported, briefly, the outcome of an action on him at the previous AGM, before acceptance of the minutes, as a true record of that meeting, was requested and received, as under:-

Proposed: Charlie Marks
Seconded by: John Hughes
Carried unanimously.

ITEM 4 - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10

The Chairman outlined the situation regarding the need to increase Branch membership, and mentioned a number of related matters including production of a pack which could be used, via the CD which it will contain, for presentations in respect of membership of the Branch. Further, the Branch will sponsor the Survey Units sports presentation night to the sum of £500.

A suggestion from Chris Nash about holding a photo competition received agreement by general assent.

The Chairman then expressed gratitude, on behalf of the membership, for the excellent service we continue to receive from our Standard Bearers as and when required.

The Newsletter and Website continued to serve in keeping members in touch and both are greatly appreciated.

ITEM 5 – FINANCIAL STATUS

Treasurer Mike Gowlett presented the headline statistics of the Branch finances, identifying payments from the Geo. Support Fund, general trends in income and expenditure, and so on.

The RSM, on behalf of the soldiers, thanked the meeting for Geo. Funded support.

Chris Nash raised the potential difficulty of collecting subscriptions in future, when (*now if*) cheques are phased out by banks.

ITEM 6 –AUDITED ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer led the meeting through the Audited Accounts. Auditors' report was all good – indeed complimentary.

Acceptance of the accounts was Proposed : Albie Field
Seconded by: Rod Siggs
Carried unanimously.

Finally, Alf Isherwood proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Gowlett, for his sterling work.

ITEM 7 –ELECTION OF AUDITOR/INDEPENDENT EXAMINER FOR 2010/2011

Following the Chairman's suggestion, and a formal vote, Chris Nash was re-appointed for 2010.

Proposed by: The Chairman
Seconded by: Gen. Roy Wood
Carried unanimously.

ITEM 8 – STANDARD BEARERS' REPORT

Hon. Secretary Ken Hall read out the report. The Chairman proposed formal thanks to the Standard Bearers.

ITEM 9 – COMMITTEE

The President identified current committee members, and the requirements for periodic change of the officers. Ken Hall would have served the three year term of Hon. Sec. by Christmas and so would be due for replacement. Rod Siggs was proposed for the post by President John Elder. All present were in favour.

Treasurer Mike Gowlett, despite having exceeded the three year term was happy to continue until the next AGM.

The President then extolled the virtues of committee membership, encouraging members to come forward, and calling, in particular, for a volunteer to take up the mantle of AGM Coordinator.

He then explained that he, too, was stepping down.

ITEM 9 – MILITARY SURVEY HISTORY UPDATE

In the absence of Chris Nash an overview of the objectives and progress was given by Alan Gordon who also appealed for members to forward (recent) historic anecdotes and images to him.

ITEM 10 - AOB

Two matters had been put forward for consideration.

- **Wreaths at Members' Funerals**

After much debate, the following was **agreed**.

The Branch Standard is the Branch's recognition of the event. If the Standard is not possible then a wreath is to be sent (either "poppy" or Interflora) if requested by the family.

The matter to be further considered by the committee.

Proposed: Noel Grimmett
Seconded: Mike Nolan
Carried unanimously

- **Annual Donation to REA – from Mil. Svy. funds**

Chris Nash, set out Mil. Survey/Geo position succinctly.

The Chairman pointed out that REA funds are "rich"

General Wood (a former Chairman of REA) spoke against the proposal.

Proposed: Mike Payne
Seconded: Chris Nash
Defeated unanimously

ITEM 11 – DATE & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman outlined the committee's thoughts on venturing to 135 Squadron RE (TA) or DGC (Feltham). Although there is a natural affinity with Hermitage it was agreed to give further thought to the matter.

ITEM 12 – CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked, again, Mick Perry, RSM, S/Sgt Wallis, the Standard Bearers, and attending members, wishing all a safe journey.

He then thanked outgoing President John Elder for his wisdom, input and effort, which was supported by great acclamation from the floor.

Finally, The Chairmen introduced Bob Avenall as the new President.

Meeting closed at 18.45

Ken Hall
Honorary Secretary
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch
Royal Engineers Association

Attachments: