



## Minutes of Rifleman's Association NE Meeting

**Date:** 05/03/2022

**Time:** 19:00 hrs

**Venue:** Durham Army Reserve Centre

**Committee Present:** David Nichol (DN) – Chairman  
Brian Hall (BH) – Vice Chairman  
Dean J Nichol (DJN) - Entertainment

**Committee Absent:** Darren Roberts (DR) – Secretary  
Heather Trow (HT) - Entertainment

<b>Attendees:</b>	Muriel Nichol	Edith Wilson
	Keith Wilson	Brenda Fenwick
	Peter Fenwick	Kathryn Barrett
	James Barrett	Jaqueline Newman
	Robert Newman	Shaun Haley
	Jeff Cornell	

<b>Apologies:</b>	James Ramsbotham	Baz Melia
	Eamonn Loftus	Naomi Loftus
	Chris Coxon	Mark Munt

**Meeting commenced:** 19:00hrs

### 1.0 Previous Minutes

No minutes from the previous meeting were read due to there being no meetings held since 2021.

### 2.0 Welcome

DN: Welcomed everyone to the Rifleman's Association NE first meeting of 2022 at Durham Army Reserve Centre and outlined the agenda for the meeting and gave thanks to those who had attended.

DN: Discussed current membership fees remaining at £15.00 for the year and confirmed that due to the pandemic fees were waived for those that were due renewal.

### 3.0 Membership

DN: Discussed current membership fees remaining at £15.00 for the year and confirmed that due to the pandemic fees were waived for those that were due for renewal.

DN: Advised that membership cards are issued to all members upon initial subscription to the association and also advised that if any member has not received their card they should notify DJN.

DN: discussed how membership is steadily growing and there is increasing interest for the association from RHQ and the Swift platform (Swift will be discussed in AOB).

DN: confirmed that current membership numbers for the Rifleman's Association NE are:

- **Paid:** 62 Members
- **Unpaid:** 18 Members

## 4.0 Finances

DN: explained for those that didn't know, the association was set up through the Royal Green Jackets in Winchester and in the last 2 years this has switched over to the Rifleman's Association via The Rifles. Since establishing the association all funds have been generated via memberships, events and DN.

DN: advises that a setup grant of £500.00 has now been received from RHQ to cover initial costs for the website etc.

DN: confirms that the current association bank balance is £2734.73

## 5.0 Meetings, Events & Sporting Societies

### Meetings

DN: Advises that meetings will be held at Durham ARC on a quarterly basis and to assist making the meetings more of a social occasion following each meeting a pub style quiz and food will be available for those that would like to stay behind and participate.

### Events

DN: discussed the two events that were successfully held in 2021, Oktoberfest and Remembrance Dinner, which were both well received however numbers lacked at the Oktoberfest event due to road closures and the remaining restrictions and pressures placed on us from the pandemic.

DN: Discusses what our original plans were with regards to offering 1 event per month however as numbers and interest were minimal, we were required to cancel a number of events for this reason.

Golf Day (Close House) 07/07/2022 - This date will be reviewed and readvertised due to the event coinciding with Winchester.

Summer Ball 13/08/2022 – This event was planned to take place at the Radisson Blu in Durham City however after opening this discussion up to members it was echoed in agreement that the main of the events such as this, should be held in an ARC in order to keep costs to a minimum. Members agreed that the key event of the year, the Remembrance Dinner, should be held at the Radisson Blu so as to keep it 'special'.

DN confirmed that the location and date for this event will now be reviewed.

Remembrance Dinner 05/11/2022 – DN confirms that this event will take place as planned at the Radisson Blu, Durham however ticket fees will be increased to accommodate growing interest rates etc. All members agreed that they are happy with an increased fee for this event of £35.00 per person.

DN: concludes that all dates, with the exception of Remembrance, will be reviewed and posted on our website, Swift and social media pages in the coming days.

### Golf Society

BH: Discusses the overall concept of the Veterans 'Fore' Brothers Golf Society being to encourage everyone with likeminded interest to get together and take part in the sport. The society is open to any men, women and children who would like to play and assists in promoting positive mental health and physical well-being.

Previous outings:

- 23/12/2021 Sharpley Hall Golf Club x 7
- 30/01/2022 Sharply Hall Golf Club x 12

Next planned outing

- 20/03/2022 Prudhoe Golf Club – current attendee list x 10

DN: discussed that we are also looking to establish a football society and fishing society and this is currently in discussion and awaiting ownership.

## 6.0 AOB

### SWIFT

DJN: explained how himself and HT have had a number of meetings with RHQ with regards to mirroring the current website platform onto Swift. DJN explains to those who are not already aware of the Swift platform that it was an application developed for the Rifles and it's forming regiments to enable everyone to keep in touch and view events and gatherings etc. across the regiment. DJN explains that the Rifleman's Association NE was the first of its kind to be formed and we have been extremely well accepted by RHQ, so much so that our concept has been rolled out across the country and there are now active branches established in the South, South West, North West, Yorkshire and Midlands. A list of our current members has been submitted to RHQ where our NE branch page is currently being constructed.

DJN further explains that having a page set up on the Swift application allows us to grow our members community and assist in sales for ticketed events, further allowing us to develop the association and generate income into the association account. The current website and social media platforms will remain live and active with the opportunity to now book tickets for events via either the website or Swift application platforms.

DJN and HT now have administration rights and access to the Swift application and this will be controlled on a day to day basis by themselves.

DJN advises that all members will receive an email from Swift with a link to accept the invitation to enable them to be added into the branch page.

### Regimental Events / Association Events

Sounding the Retreat - Horse Guards Parade 08 – 09 June 2022

DN: Discussed the possibility of creating a Breakfast Club at the beginning or end of each month that will be open for everyone to attend. A small fee will be required to cover the cost of the breakfast.

## 7.0 Proposed Meeting Dates

- Saturday 25 June 2022 – Durham Army Reserve Centre\*
- Saturday 10 September 2022 – Durham Army Reserve Centre\*
- Saturday 03 December 2022 – Durham Army Reserve Centre

\*Awaiting confirmation from Durham ARC

**Meeting Closed: 19:45hrs**

