

**THE RIFLEMANS ASSOCIATION NORTH EAST**  
**Association Meeting**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021**  
**Gilesgate Reservist Centre Durham**



**Committee Present:**

Chairman: David Nichol (DN)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Darren Roberts (DR)  
Entertainment: Dean Nichol (DJN)  
Heather Trow

**Attendees:**

Mark Munt  
Peter Fenwick  
Brenda Fenwick  
Keith Wilson  
Judith Wilson  
David Mason  
Shaun Haley

**Apologies:**

James Ramsbotham  
Brian Hall  
Michael McCormack  
Eamonn Loftus  
Malcolm Donnison  
Jeff Cornell

**1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting:**

No minutes from Previous Minutes were read due to there being no meetings held since 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Matters Arising:

**2.0 Welcome:**

DN: Welcomed everyone to the Rifleman's Associations NE first face to face meeting at the Gilesgate Reserve Centre, Durham. The formation of the committee was discussed with those present. DN explained that the Association will continue to hold meetings at D Company 8 Rifles Gilesgate Reserve Centre Durham and thanked Capt McNab and 8 Rifles for their support.

DN: Introduction of the Rifleman's Association NE and the concept around the association was explained, and the reasons behind the formation of this new association. DN explained that there is a genuine interest for similar Rifleman's Associations to be developed across over Regions within the United Kingdom.

DN: Discussed the development of the Rifleman's Association NE website and social media platform was discussed with those present and the benefits that these IT solutions bring to the association.

DN explained that the Rifleman's Association NE will continue to display social functions and events on across the social platforms which provide members the facility to purchase tickets for these events securely online.

DN: Discussed the Rifles Association social Web App, “Swift” and their Facebook page “Old and Bold” which has been developed to aid in the communication process between Regular, Reserves and Veterans. DN provide those present with information regarding how to gain access to these social media platforms.

DN: expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all present for the hard work, time and effort that Heather Trow continues to provide to the Association in maintaining the website, planning events and dealing with membership issues. This was echoed by all those present.

### **3.0 Membership:**

DN explained that the last 18 months has been challenging due to the COVID pandemic and the lack of venues to hold face to face meetings during that time. DN explained that he has tried to hold Association meetings using virtual platforms such as Zoom which has been challenging for some members which resulted in a hold of this type of meeting being undertaken.

DR: confirmed that the Rifleman’s Association NE membership numbers stand at:  
47 Paid Members  
22 Unpaid Members

DN: Confirmed that membership numbers were now increasing with new members completing membership applications through the website, paying membership fees and this has been encouraging to see that some of these members have come from 8 Rifles, Royal Green Jackets and from the Light Infantry.

DN: explained that paid members will now receive a Membership Card, Branded Rifleman’s Association NE mug and that the committee were looking at other items such as branded lanyards and pens which would form a membership pack upon joining the Rifleman’s Association NE.

### **4.0 Forecast of Events:**

DN / DR: Discussed the events that the Rifleman’s Association NE has planned for the remaining of 2021, with a detailed explanation of each event being provided.

**2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021:** Oktoberfest – Confirmed at Bishop Auckland 8 Rifles. Tickets £20.00

**6<sup>th</sup> November 2021:** Remembrance Dinner – Confirmed at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Tickets £20.00

**December 2021:** Rifleman’s Family and Children Christmas Party TBC

## **5.0 Correspondence and Email:**

4.1. Nil

## **6.0 Treasures Report:**

DR: Provided Current Association Bank Balance as of the 01<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Cash at Bank: £1691.29

Raised Invoices (Outstanding Membership Fees) : £150.00

## **7.0 AOB:**

DN explained that the Association continue to plan several social events / functions which will include all members of different age groups to be involved in those social events. Those events being planned being:

March 2022 - Rifleman's Association NE Anniversary dinner

April 2022 - Rifleman's Association NE Easter family day

May 2022 - Rifleman's Association NE Regimental Dinner to include all members and partners

June 2022 – Garden Party in Durham

July 2022 - Rifleman's Association NE veterans Golf Day at Close House, Northumberland

August 2022 - Rifleman's Association NE Summer Ball to be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham

October 2022- Oktoberfest in Bishop Auckland

November 2022 – Remembrance Dinner

DN explained that Rifleman's Association NE meetings will be held each month and plans are being made to make these meetings a more social occasion after the meeting which may include, quiz nights or games night.

DN explained the need to for the inclusion of younger members within the association, plans are being made for members to be involved in Hill Walking, Tuff Mudder, days at Horse Racing events and whiskey tasting / clay pigeon shooting events. DN stated that these were all events being planned for 2022 which will give all members something to become involved with.

## **8.0 Date of the Next Meeting:**

14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at Gilesgate Reservist Centre Durham