



## Minutes of Rifleman's Association NE Meeting

**Date:** 18/06/2022

**Time:** 19:00 hrs

**Venue:** Durham Army Reserve Centre

**Committee Present:** David Nichol (DN) – Chairman  
Brian Hall (BH) – Vice Chairman  
Darren Roberts (DR) – Secretary  
Dean J Nichol (DJN) – Entertainment  
Heather Trow (HT) - Entertainment

**Committee Absent:**

<b>Attendees:</b> Muriel Nichol	Edith Wilson
Keith Wilson	Brenda Fenwick
Peter Fenwick	Kathryn Barrett
James Barrett	Naomi Loftus
Eamonn Loftus	Heather Roberts

**Apologies:** James Ramsbotham  
Jeff Cornell  
Kevin Smiles

**Meeting commenced:** 19:00hrs

### 1.0 Previous Minutes

No minutes from the previous meeting were read.

### 2.0 Welcome

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

### 3.0 Membership

DR: Discussed current membership fees remaining at £15.00 for the year however other branches are charging £10.00. DN advises that this will be reviewed at the AGM in January.

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

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

## 4.0 Finances

DR: confirms that the current association bank balance is £4081.36

DR: confirms that a £500.00 set up grant has now been received from RHQ.

## 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.

DN: advises that an AGM may be planned for January 2023.

### Events 2022

DN discussed how the events planned for 2022 were receiving poor response with regards to bookings. The regimental dinner that was put forward and planned to take place in July has now been cancelled, again due to poor response.

From 28<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July a number of events will be held across the region by The Rifles. Details for all events have been posted within the group FB page.

**August** – No events planned

**September** - Golf Day (Close House) 20/09/2022 - This has received excellent interest and is now approaching being fully booked.

**October** – Sports/Social Night this is in the process of planning.

**November** – Remembrance Dinner numbers have been increased to 120 this year.

HT advised that we have currently sold 86 tickets to date with the remaining tickets provisionally booked up to a maximum of 120.

DR advises that ticket fees have been increased this year to £35.00 as last year was heavily subsidised by DN.

DN advises that all entertainment is booked and will follow a similar format to last year.

**December** – Christmas party and meeting

DJN advises all that we are looking to events for the female members and these will be advertised once confirmed.

DN puts forward the opportunity to organise breakfast mornings in the local area. All members present agree and this will be planned to move forward and discussed at the next meeting.

### Events 2023

DN discusses plans for events moving into next year.

HT and DJN discuss plans for potentially holding a gathering in Newcastle. A number of venues have been identified such as Durham Cricket Ground and the Utilita Arena in Newcastle. Event will include, exhibition tents, market stalls, live bands etc in the hope to make the gathering more of a family day.

A meeting will be held with James Ramsbotham to discuss ways in which we can fund the event through sponsorship packages and volunteer funding.

Details will be put forward for discussion at the next meeting.

## **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 has now been set up for 6 months and has received positive feedback and attendance rates. All dates are advertised on Swift, the website, our FB pages and the West Midlands association branch page.

BH would like to encourage more women to start attending the outings.

Next planned outings

- 19/06/2022 Beamish Golf Club
- 10/07/2022 Hobson Golf Club
- 07/08/2022 Ryton Golf Club
- 23/10/2022 Roseberry Grange Golf Club

There are no society outings planned for September due to the event planned at Close House and BH being on holiday.

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

## **6.0 AOB**

### **AGM Winchester – Email correspondence**

DN received an email and minutes regarding the AGM at Winchester.

The email confirms that arrangements are in hand and will be published, bullet points regarding the annual reunion are as follows:

- Gates will open at 12:30hrs
- Buses will be available from King Alfred's statue to Sir John Moore barracks at 12:00, 13:00 and 14:00 with one return trip at 18:35
- F1 Race simulator is booked
- Representatives from 4 Rangers will be present this year and will bring tank simulators

Future Reunions - Discussions have been had within RHQ regarding the future of the reunions.

RHQ are seeking volunteers to step forward in organising the reunions as without them future reunions may not take place. A suggestion was put forward and will be followed up with RGJ council about the possibility of sourcing a management team for the reunion and other supported functions.

No potential venues have been identified at this time.

Bugles – Anyone wishing to book the Bugles for any functions must do so through the regional secretaries. All buglers have now formed a Buglers Association and funding will go through the regional secretaries for all bookings.

During the AGM its was discussed and confirmed that all RGJ branches must now refocus and accept Rifles within their regional branches.

Label Pins – These will be provided to all branches from RHQ to distribute to paid members.

### **Association branches**

DJN confirmed that a number of regional association branches have now been established in the following areas:

- North East
- North West

- South
- South West
- Yorkshire
- Midlands

### **Association clothing**

DN discusses the opportunity for developing a clothing range to brand the association.

All members present agree they would like to see this happen and would be open to purchasing.

## **7.0 Proposed Meeting Dates**

- Saturday 10 September 2022 – Durham Army Reserve Centre
- Saturday 03 December 2022 – Durham Army Reserve Centre

**Meeting Closed: 19:50hrs**

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