

Regional Colonel (Midlands)  
MAJOR GENERAL N WELCH OBE

Deputy (1) Regional Colonel (Midlands)  
COLONEL R A HEAD MC

Deputy (2) Regional Colonel (Midlands)  
COLONEL J H BOWRON DSO OBE

Herefordshire County Colonel  
COLONEL A S TAYLOR OBE DL

Shropshire County Colonel  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL R N R JENKINS OBE MA

Birmingham City Colonel  
COLONEL T F L WEEKS OBE

Merseyside City Colonel  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JJV McEVOY BEM



RIFLES OFFICE  
COPTHORNE BARRACKS,  
SHREWSBURY,  
SY3 8LZ

Tel: Shrewsbury (01743) 842025 or 842030  
Shrewsbury Military (94467) 2025 or 2030

e-mail: [shrewsbury@the-rifles.co.uk](mailto:shrewsbury@the-rifles.co.uk)

Regional Secretary  
LT COL A R TRELAWNY

SH/101

See Distribution

15<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> LI COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT RHQ RIFLES, WINCHESTER ON THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 – DRAFT 2**

Present	Lt Gen T P Evans CB CBE DSO Brig J H Bowron DSO OBE Col D H R Stephenson CBE Lt Col P J Wykeham Maj H L Kennedy MBE Capt I I Foster Capt R W Gittings	Chairman LI Committee Member President Buglers Assoc and Member Member Member Asst Sec Fin and Member LI Reunion Coordinator	Chairman      Treasurer
Apologies	Brig C M G Elcomb OBE Col B Denney TD DL Lt Col A R Trelawny Mr I McGregor	Chairman LI Club and Member Member Secretary LI Committee Member	Secretary
In Attendance			

Item (a)	Subject (b)	Discussion and Decisions (c)	Action (d)
1	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Apologies were received from Brig Elcomb, Col Denney and Lt Col Trelawny. No word from Mr McGregor who will be contacted by Chairman.	Chairman
2	Minutes of the	The Minutes of the 27th LI Committee Meeting were accepted as a true	

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	Previous Meeting and Points Arising	record. Proposed by Capt Gittings and seconded by Maj Kennedy Points arising were covered under other agenda items (below).	
3	Membership Changes	<p>It was agreed that clarification of Mr McGregor's situation is needed. Similarly, Brig Bowron's cover by Brig Chamberlain should be reviewed in the light of the former's return to UK. Membership rotation will be discussed at the June 2017 meeting.</p> <p>Mention was made about the possibility of adding Brig Chamberlain to the committee anyway. It was agreed this should be reviewed at the next meeting when Brig Bowron's next appointment will be known.</p>	
4	Finances	<p>The Treasurer briefed that 2016 had been a good year for investments with a capital increase of over £11K, leaving the Committee with sufficient assets to fund the Annual Reunion, under current arrangements, until 2020. Any continuation beyond this point would necessitate a review of funding and the likelihood of having to raise an admittance charge. He advised that a £15K drawdown to meet the 2017 Reunion is required and this was agreed.</p> <p>Some income had been received from the sale of the LI Book "Second to None" but other initiatives to gain some income from the remainder were discussed. It was agreed that sales via Ebay would be tried.</p> <p>The Chairman briefed on the enquiries soliciting support from the Rifles and antecedent Regiments. The replies to date had offered some limited support but this would not be sufficient alone to maintain the Reunion</p> <p>Maj Kennedy briefed that his enquiries on seeking corporate sponsorship for the Reunion showed that it would be extremely difficult and is now further complicated by the uncertainties brought about by Brexit.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Treasurer</p>
5	LI and Rifles Reunion	<p>An interesting discussion took place on the pros and cons of entrance charges for the Reunion and whether the Reunion should continue once the current LI funds run out.</p> <p>It was agreed that there are three broad courses of action (COA), as follows:</p> <p>COA 1 - Continue to run the Reunion as at present for the foreseeable future and levy an admission charge from 2018.</p> <p>COA 2 – Continue to run the Reunion as at present with no admission charge until the funds run out (probably last parade 2020) and then join the Rifles Association Gathering.</p> <p>COA 3 – As COA 2 but, if the Rifles Association Gathering does not take off, be prepared to levy an admission charge for the Reunion from 2019 onwards and run it for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>(There is a variation of COA 3 which is to levy an admission charge for the Reunion from 2018 as a safety measure, but it is felt that this might cause confusion if the decision is made then to join the Rifles Association Gathering.</p> <p>(The first Rifles Association Gathering will take place on 22nd July 2017 at Saracens RFC stadium in north London. It is aimed primarily at serving and retired Riflemen who transited into the Rifles in 2007 or joined it subsequently, but those who served in forming (i.e. LI) or antecedent (e.g. KSLI, DLI) regiments will be welcomed. The exact format is not yet known, but the first gathering is likely to be very casual</p>	

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		<p>and not include a parade or march past. Members of the LI Association will be briefed further once the first gathering has been assessed. It is likely that the venue and date (Saturday closest to Salamanca Day) will be retained in future years).</p> <p>A couple of other factors were highlighted, namely:</p> <p>Capt Gittings is willing to continue to organise the Reunion until 2020 or 2021 but then wishes to retire.</p> <p>At some stage Capt Foster will stand down as accountant on the LI Committee, although he will be able to provide financial details for as long as he remains in his Assistant Regimental Secretary post in RHQ.</p> <p>The general consensus is that it is not yet time to make a decision on the COAs mentioned above, but that Light Infantrymen at the Reunion in June 2017 should be warned that we may have to consider joining the Rifles Gathering (if it is a success) in 2020 or 2021 due to a lack of funding and organisation for the LI Reunion in its current form.</p> <p><b><u>2017 Reunion</u></b></p> <p>Capt Gittings confirmed most plans were in place and tentage booked but there are requirements to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Appoint a reviewing officer.</li> <li>b. Check on the Waterloo Bands ability to meet the commitment and if additional support from the Salamanca band, as in previous years, was available. <i>Done. It is.</i></li> <li>c. Secretary to speak to CO 6 Rifles to identify support of JNCO + 3 from E Coy for the reunion, if support from the Rifles recruiters is not available.</li> <li>d. Confirm the attendance of The Shropshire Regimental Museum Shop now that John Taylor is no longer employed there. This included, if necessary, the agreement to underwrite the cost for John Taylor and his wife setting up and running the shop estimated between £300 and £400. This fee should be paid from shop profits on the day.</li> </ol> <p>Lt Col Wykeham advised that The Bodmin Museum, which houses the Light Infantry collection, would like to put up an information stand. Agreed.</p> <p>Capt Foster also mentioned that the Rifles Museum are putting together a traveling exhibition and he would ascertain if this might be available.</p> <p><b><u>2018 Reunion</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that, for the moment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Royal patronage - The Chairman agreed to make the necessary approaches regarding the availability of Royal attendance at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the Light Infantry in 2018.</li> <li>b. Capt Gittings would continue to act as the event coordinator but that additional support would be needed from Committee</li> </ol>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Secretary</p> <p>Capt Gittings</p> <p>Lt Col Wykeham Capt Gittings</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Chairman</p> <p>Capt Gittings All</p>

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		members.	
6	LI Regimental Association	Nothing particular to report. Ross-on-Wye branch now reformed with 50 members. Attendance at October and Reunion dinners and at local functions generally good but Rifles veterans' involvement is still limited.	
7	Website	Maj Kennedy confirmed he was happy with the website which had recently being updated.	
8	LI Officers' Club	Capt Foster briefed that whilst the Club funds were likely to face a small excess of expenditure over income for the FY 2016/17 this was well within the financial capabilities. The events notifications for 2017 are on the website and a reducing number of hard copy notifications has been sent over the last three years, reducing the postage cost from around £550 to £77 this year. The price of function attendance this year has been retained and currently table leaders are being sought for the two main events in 2017, the Lunch in Salisbury in July and the Dinner in the Cavalry and Guards Club in October.	
9	Obituaries	It was noted that obituaries would be required for Rupert Ridge and Tim Barker. Lt Col Wykeham confirmed this was the responsibility of the County Office concerned within the guidelines laid down for obituaries in both the Bugle and Chronicle, he would however remind the appropriate offices of the need to produce the obituary.	Lt Col Wykeham
10	Bugler's Association	Col Stephenson updated the meeting that there were currently 58 Buglers (including one female) who have attended some 503 events of which 277 were funerals in the last 12 months and in future they will support include the 90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Menin Gate. They were now introducing a training programme for solo players to keep them current. A sound system has also been purchased which along with a playlist, provided by The Band and Bugles of the Rifles, will help to maintain and improve standards.	
11	AOB	<p><u>LI Memorial at NMA.</u> Maj Kennedy raised his concern over the LI Memorial at the NMA which needs cleaning and attention to some of the lettering on the reverse of the memorial which appears to be deteriorating. After discussion, it was agreed that:</p> <p>a. Maj Kennedy and the Secretary would revisit the NMA and speak to the staff about cleaning. The maintenance and insurance of the memorial had been invested in the NMA in perpetuity by the payment of some £17,500 to them.</p> <p>b. Contact should be made with Col Richard Cousens who had been involved in the original project with Maj Gen Barry Lane with view to determining if the problems with the lettering are the responsibility of the original craftsmen and should be referred to them for correction.</p> <p><u>Northern Ireland Veterans Association.</u> Maj Kennedy raised awareness of the event at the NMA on 16th September 2017 which previously members of the Regiment as well as Buglers had attended and asked that details be circulated. It was agreed that a notice drawing attention could be placed on the website.</p> <p><u>Bugle Magazine.</u> Lt Col Wykeham advised that a web copy of the Bugle (including back copies) is being produced and will be available shortly. However, some detail will not be included (e.g. Association Branch contact details).</p>	<p>Maj Kennedy Secretary</p> <p>Maj Kennedy</p> <p>Maj Kennedy</p>

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		<p><u>Regimental Museum in Bodmin.</u> Lt Col Wykeham advised that the retired members had stood down as Trustees of the museum and it was now being “professionally” run. He was glad to report that an increase of 80% in footfall had been achieved and he would provide a copy of the Museum Chairman’s end of year report to be circulated with the minutes.</p>	Lt Col Wykeham
12	Future Meetings	<p>The 2017 Summer Meeting will be at Shrewsbury Town Football Club at <b>0930hrs on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.</b></p> <p>The 2017 Autumn Meeting is due to be held at <b>1400hrs on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017</b> at Davies Street. Due to non-availability of the Chairman, this date and venue may have to be changed. Possible alternatives are <b>1030hrs on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> or Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017</b> at Winchester. This will be discussed at the Summer meeting.</p> <p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 13:10</p>	Chairman

*A R Trelawny*

A R Trelawny  
Lt Col (Retd)

Attachment: Cornwall Regimental Museum (LI Collection) Report

Distribution:

External:

Action:

Information:

All Committee Members   
IT Consultant, RHQ RIFLES  **Please post these minutes on the LI website**  
Bodmin Office   
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Taunton Office 

Brig R Draper CVO OBE   
RHQ Rifles - Regtl Sec   
- Exhib & Pub Curator 