
MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 8th MARCH 2008
at DERRINGHAM BANK METHODIST CHURCH, HULL

Present:- Mr Rob Lolley, District President, was in the chair and he welcomed 60 members and guests representing 21 Companies. There were 8 attending the Annual Meeting for the first time.

Welcome:- Mr Darren Barker, President Hull and East Yorkshire Battalion, welcomed the District to Hull and to the home of the 5th Hull Company.

In responding to the welcome, Mr Lolley, thanked Mr Barker for his warm welcome. He also thanked Mr. Paddi McGowan, Captain 5th Hull, for being the local liaison contact and making the necessary arrangements for the day. He extended his welcome to Sir James Hill Bt OBE DL. District Patron for his attendance.

Devotions:- These were conducted by Revd Mark Street, Chaplain 5th Hull. During the devotions the meeting remembered and gave thanks for those who had been called to higher service since the last meeting:- Mr. Maurice Bell 17th Bradford, Mr. Raymond Downie and Mr. Donald Doyle 20th Bradford, Mr. Ken Francis 3rd Grimsby, Mr. David Lill and Mr. Henry Plumtree 10th Grimsby, Mrs. Susan Lamb and Mr. Ray Pugmire 5th Hull, Mr. Michael McGowan 13th Hull, Mr. Gordon Taylor 10th Sheffield and Ryan Parry 11th Sheffield..

Apologies:- were received from:- District Vice President – Mr. Ken Haller, District Hon Vice Presidents – Mr Roy Barson MBE, Mr Geoff Brookes, Mrs. Helen Dean, Mr. Cliff Francis, Revd. G. Trevor Holborn, Mr Derrick Kershaw, along with Mr. Simon Brocksom Leeds, Mr. David Burrows Bradford, Mr. Tony Drury Smith Sheffield, Mr. Barry Simmons Huddersfield, Mr. Julian Farrar Halifax, Mr. Chris Pratt Alford, Dr. Lee Hyland, Mrs. Susan Blee, Miss. Rachel Blee, Mrs. Ingrid Cole, Mr. John Marsden, Mr. Philip Marsden, Mr. David Milnes and Mr. Mike Fish Hull and East Yorkshire.

Minutes:- of the District Annual Meeting, held 10th March 2007 at New Hey Road, Methodist Church Bradford which had been circulated, were approved, being proposed by Mr. Robert Batty, seconded by Mr Derek Robinson and with the approval of the meeting were duly signed by the District President.

Arising:-

- a) District Appeal – The District Secretary reported that a further £1,400.00 had been for the Noddy Appeal through the Charity Concert held at Brigade Council.

Presentation of Reviews

Finance – Mr John Cowie, District Treasurer, present his review as continued on page 13 of the Annual Review. This covered a seven month period 1st January to 31st August 2007, as the Annual Meeting at Bradford revised the financial year. The accounts had been approved by the Independent Examiner, Mr. Chris Roberts.

In taking questions Mr. John Johnson commented on the colours made it difficult to read. Mr. Darren Thornton asked where the comparison to previous years amounts were as this was requested at the Annual Meeting in 2006. In reply the account pages had been copied from those as signed by the Examiner, so no changes had been made. Regarding yearly comparisons it had been an oversight and was noted. Sir James, through the chairman, asked the Treasurer to remind the meeting of why the financial year had been shortened.

The District President thanked Mr Cowie for his work, requesting that he passed on our thanks to Mr. Chris Roberts and the meeting accepted his review with thanks.

District Executive - Mr Ian Haggas, District Secretary, presented his first review on behalf of the Executive, referring to page 7 of the Annual Review. He explained that it had been difficult this year to obtain full statistical figures as not all Companies had returned them to BBHQ. He reported that he knew of two companies closing this year with a possible third.

From the report he highlighted that it could be seen we had lost 31 leaders and 156 boys, however we had gained 11 seniors. It was therefore that important that Companies, Battalions and District consult to Brigade Development Plan and adapt it to their needs. He reported that he found it a worth while project working with some Battalions and The District on theirs.

In highlighting the none return of statistical information to BBHQ, from a Brigade point of view if a Company fails to pay the Capitation Fees, problems would arise the first being uninsured working. If Companies had difficulties with payment, he urged them to speak with BBHQ, at least the insurance may be covered. Brigade this year have closed Companies for non - payment.

In taking questions Mr. John Johnson asked if the loss of leaders was due to the cost of training, cost of transport to training venues and the 5 year renewal programme. In addressing the questions Mr. Haggas referred to how the training committee had undertaking a review and had become flexible in it's approach to training, working with Battalions. Training was offered as residential weekends at various costs ranging from 'all mod cons' to 'bring your own bed.' Other alternatives were day courses, evening courses and courses specific to a Company on a one to one basis. In regard to the 5 year Renewal, this had ceased almost as quickly as it had been introduced. It is good practice for each officer to keep their training up to date. The only renewal part of being an Officer or Leader is with CRB checks and from the Autumn of 2008 these would be changing and everyone would require a new check.

The District President thanked Mr Haggas for the way that he had conducted the business of the District throughout the year. The meeting accepted his review.

England Regional Committee Member – Mr Colin Preston presented his review as shown on page 14 within the Annual Review. He informed the meeting of further Brigade matters. He had been elected to the Brigade Executive and was involved on the Firm Foundations steering group. Regarding 125 events he reported that 125 Queensmen would parade at the Guild Hall, London on 28th June. It was expected that there would be a Royal presence however not yet confirmed. A service for Leaders and Seniors would be held at Glasgow Cathedral on 4th October. It was hoped that the Brigade would have a presence at the Royal Albert Hall for the festival of Remembrance and again at the Whitehall parade. It was also hoped that a float would be seen at the Lord Mayors parade.

He reported that the Brigade had received £375,000.00 from grant applications. This would be used to for Development in the North West giving 2 new fixed term posts. A Development worker in the South West of England. A part time coordinator to work from Northampton of Engage a Generation. NVQ /SVQ center worker at Felden. Money had also been received to complete the phase 1 redevelopment of the Thurso Centre at Felden.

For Yorkshire and Humberside it was hoped to find partners to provide events such as New Horizons 2009 and a Firm Foundations event in 2010 within the North of England.

He reiterated that the statistical returns must be returned and then put in an appeal. The Brigade constitution would be going to the Brigade Council 2008, with the thoughts from the meeting at Bradford 2007 taken into account.

The District had been asked to consider arranging the National U15 football final in 2009. He reminded the meeting that we should be 'reflectors of information and gate keepers'.

There would be more 125 information in the next Gazette.

The District President thanked Mr Preston for the many meetings that he had attended during the year. The meeting accepted his review.

Training – Mr. Paddi McGowan, District Training Convenor, presented his first Training Review as shown on page 15 of the Annual Review. He added his thanks to Mr. Ian Haggas, who had settled him into the role throughout the year. He gave notice that the bi annual Camp Craft Course, to be held in June, required bookings by the end of March. The Holiday Leadership, 15th March, had been placed on hold as only one booking had been received. Other arrangements, in line with the training review had been offered to the participant. He added that Mr. Ken Haller had been invited to attend the evening meal at the December training weekend, along with passed members of staff. A presentation had been

made to Ken for the many years that he had served the District as Course Leader at Cloughton and Training Chairman. Mr. Trevor Roberts had accepted to become Chairman of the Training Committee.

The District President thanked Mr. McGowan for his review adding once again his grateful thanks to Mr Haller for his Chairmanship and spiritual guidance at the Cloughton weekends. He also recorded his thanks to Mr Haggas who had been Training Convenor since 1991 and had been involved with running Cloughton weekends since 1985. The meeting showed their appreciation and the review was accepted.

Queen's Badge – Mr. Derek Robinson presented his review as shown on page 16 of the Annual Review. He added that that numbers coming through looked good with 74 on the data base, 17 had booked for the April Completion course with 12 from the District. Due to County Battalion having a large number of candidates and the distance required to support them, they had now appointed two Queen's Badge Advisors. In taking questions he was asked about the 2008 presentations. This would be held 2nd July at the Merchant Hall York. The District Secretary reported that he awaited a reply from Lord Crathorne, Lord Lieutenant North Yorkshire. Sir James offered assistance if required on the matter.

The District President paid tribute to Mr. Robinson for his work as District QB Convenor and for maintaining high standards. The meeting accepted his review.

Activities - Mr. Gary Lemal was not in attendance, no review was available.

Web - In the absence of Dr. Lee Hyland, Webmaster, the District Secretary gave a review of the website that had been prepared by Dr. Hyland. Following the review, Mr. W Alex McLelland said that he remembered the idea during his Presidency and what had been presented to the meeting was great and he encouraged the use of the website and thanked Dr. Hyland for the work he had carried out to bring it so far. The meeting also expressed their thanks.

Battalion Reports – The District President reviewed the work of the Battalions as shown on pages 17 – 20 of the Annual Review. He reflected on the good work being done and that it was very encouraging. He spoke of Halifax Centenary events, Market Weighton's 25th events and of 5th Scarborough being part of the Boys' Brigade contingent at the Remembrance Parade Service at London's Whitehall. He made it known that he, along with the District Officials, are available to attend special events, but they do require prior notice. He invited Mr. Michael Colbeck, Captain 5th Scarborough to address the meeting. Mr. Colbeck thanked the District for supporting the Company, both prayerfully and financially for the weekend in London. The event had brought a new clear meaning of Remembrance to the younger generation that had been in the party. The President read letters from the 5th Scarborough.

Brigade Council 2007 – Mr. Colin Preston gave a final review on the events of Brigade Council 2007 held in Bradford. The event had been a huge success many letters of thanks had been received and Mr. Michael Elliott, Chairman England Region Committee, had attended the November Executive meeting, at Grimsby, to express the thanks of the England Committee to the District for it's assistance in making the event a success. Mr. Preston continued that the District needs to build from this as it had showed that the District is capable of working across Yorkshire and Humberside to organise a big event. What can we now do for our boys? How can we build on the involvement given by the young people? It was noted that the event had come within its prescribed budget. In adding his thanks to Mr. Preston, the District President included Mr. Ian Haggas as both had work many hours behind the scenes prior to, during and after Brigade Council. The meeting was unanimous in this.

Election of Officials:- Mr. John Johnson asked if these could be taken en - block. The President declined this request as he wanted to allow comments on certain appointments. On behalf of the District Executive, the District President brought forwarded the nominations:-

District Patron – Sir James Hill Bt, OBE, DL. The meeting accepted the nomination. In responding to his election, Sir James thanked the secretary for keeping him well informed of events and issues over the year. He highlighted events of the past year. He spoke of the many years that he had been Patron and that perhaps he along with the President should

meet within the next year to discuss the future. The President agreed and thanked Sir James for the support that he had given to the District over the past year.

District President – The District Secretary brought the name of Mr Rob Lolley to the meeting. This was accepted and the District President continued with the elections.

Hon Vice Presidents – The President read letters and emails that had been received from those unable to attend and continued to nominate, Mr Roy Barson MBE, Mr Geoff Brookes, Mr Ian G Clarkson, Mrs Helen Dean, Mr J Allan Dyer JP, Revd. G Trevor Holborn, Mr Paul Jagger JP, Mr Derrick Kershaw, Mr Dennis B Kettlewell, Mr W Alex McLelland, Mr Colin Preston and Mr George Wiskin. The meeting had no additional names and the list was accepted by the meeting. The District President said that it was good that six HVP's were present at the meeting.

District Vice Presidents – Mr Chris P Bairstow, Mr Malcolm Binks, Mr Ian Haggas and Mr Ken Haller were all accepted by the meeting. The District President extended his thanks for the work that the DVP's had done throughout the year.

Secretary – Mr Ian Haggas was accepted by the meeting. The District President thanked the Secretary for his work throughout the year and could see continued changes in the way matters were conducted.

Treasurer – Mr John Cowie was accepted by the meeting. The District President thanked Mr Cowie for the past year and for keeping the District financial matters in order.

England Regional Committee Member – The District President reminded the meeting that this was only The Districts nomination and that Battalions could nominate differently if they so wished. The District nomination was Mr Colin Preston. The meeting agreed for his name to be put forward.

Training Convenor - The District President brought the name of Paddi McGowan. The meeting approved the election.

Queen's Badge Convenor – Mr Derek Robinson was re elected to office. The District President, in thanking Mr Robinson added that he was pleased that he was prepared to continue in this vital work.

Activities Convenor – Mr Gary Lemal. The meeting accepted the appointment.

Webmaster – The President reminded the meeting that this was a co-opted position onto the District Executive, but felt that the meeting should approve the co-option of Dr. Lee Hyland as Webmaster. The meeting approved the co-option.

Independent Examiner – Mr Chris Roberts, on behalf the District Treasurer the District President brought the name forward for approval. The meeting accepted Mr. Roberts nomination. The President asked Mr Cowie to pass on our thanks to Mr Roberts for his work and support.

District Subscription:- Mr John Cowie, District Treasurer, on behalf of the District Executive proposed 'The District subscription for the session 1st September 2008 to 31st August 2009 be £25.00 per Company paid through Battalions. This to be paid by 31st January 2009.' Mr. Rob Lolley, District President seconded the proposal. The meeting agreed to the proposal. Mr Cowie said that he would issue an invoice to each Battalion Treasurer when the session starts.

District Annual Meeting 2009:- Mr. Mike Dixon, President Yorkshire County Battalion, extended a warm welcome for the District to hold the next Annual Meeting on 14th March 2009 at Airedale Methodist Church. The meeting accepted the invitation.

Any Other Business:- Mr. John Johnson asked why the logo for 125 did not show the Anchor in its design. In reply Mr. Colin Preston referred Mr. Johnson to the Captains 125 pack pointing out that within the pack two logos had been provided and again these can be found on the BB website. Most had chosen to use the oblong design; however the circle design did show the Anchor with the logo.

The District President informed the meeting that Doncaster Battalion had now ceased. He invited Mr. Trevor Roberts, former President of Doncaster, to address the meeting. He spoke that the Battalion Colours had been laid up at on 17th February 2008 at Priory Methodist Church, home of 7th Doncaster. The service had included thanks for those who had served the Battalion and many former members were present. Doncaster's work would continue with the 7th Doncaster which would in due course transfer to Yorkshire County Battalion.

There being no other business the District President thanked people for their attendance. He reminded the meeting that Mr. Steve Dickinson would be address the meeting at the afternoon session. He closed the meeting with a grace for lunch.

Afternoon:- The District President welcomed Mr. Steve Dickinson, Brigade Secretary and Mr Michael Elliott, chairman of the England committee to the afternoon session. Mr. Dickinson invited discussion on the decline of numbers, not just within the District but Brigade UK. What plans does the District have? What specific role do Battalion Presidents, Secretaries and Officers have? What role is there for the young officer? How can passed members support the District? Having led discussion the meeting broke into groups which gave the following feed back:-

Question 1 - What are the reasons for the decline in the last 10 years?

- Image of the BB
- Schools offering outside activities
- Decline in church attendance
- Decline in influence of church on family life
- Some Companies are in growth
- Some Companies are happy with a small Company
- Changing lifestyle for both adults and young people
- Dynamics of relationship between BB and church
- How the BB sees itself within the church

Question 3 -What plans does the District have to help address these reasons?

- We need to ask the District for help
- District is creating a Development Plan with support included within it
- The District can only provide what we ask for

Question 4 - What is your specific role?

- Motivation - this is the role of Battalion Presidents
- Communicate effectively – this is the role of Battalion Presidents
- Maintain enthusiasm with both staff and boys - Company Captains role
- Administration - Company Captains role
- Go into other Companies as young leaders to both share and gain ideas
- All need to visit other Companies
- Young Officers can help out on courses with training etc
- We all need to act on what young people say
- Everyone has a responsibility

Question 5 – What are the key Priorities?

- Encourage young leaders to take a full and active role
- Focus on Seniors and young officers
- Provide a social network for Seniors and young officers
- Some are disillusioned with the District
- Some would like supportive intervention
- The District is there to support Companies and Battalions
- We need to look to the future!
- We need to look to new leaders
- The District is a Network for support
- Some questioned: What is the District for? – particularly Young Staff

Mr. Dickinson introduced the Brigades Development Plan, The Hope Appeal and Palm in Palm. The District President thanked both Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Elliott for a very informative, thought provoking afternoon of discussion.

Closing Devotions:- The District President on behalf of the District, thanked Hull and East Yorkshire Battalion for inviting the District to Hull and Mr. Paddi McGowan for the days arrangements. He gave a special thanks to Mr. Paul Ulliott who had prepared the powerpoint presentations that had been used throughout the day. Thanks also to Ms. Vicki Brownlee who had assisted Mr. Ulliott with the running of the various productions. In calling upon Revd. Mark Street to close the meeting the District President thanked him for the thoughts he had shared with meeting.

**Ian Haggas
District Secretary
14th March 2009**

**Rob K Lolley
District President
14th March 2009**