
MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 2009
at AIREDALE METHODIST CHURCH, AIREDALE.

Present:- Mr Malcolm Binks, District Vice President, was in the chair and welcomed 55 members and guests which represented 20 Companies.

Welcome:- Mr Mike Dixon, President of Yorkshire County Battalion, welcomed the District to County Battalion and home of the 1st Airedale Company.

In responding to the welcome, Mr Binks, thanked Mr Dixon for his warm welcome. He extended his welcome to Sir James Hill Bt OBE DL. District Patron for his attendance.

Devotions:- These were conducted by Revd David Hall. During the devotions the meeting remembered and gave thanks for those who had been called to higher service since the last meeting:- Mr. Chris Greensmith 19th Hull, Tony Clayton 1st Market Weighton, Alf Dean Leeds Battalion, Piers Calvert 1st Market Weighton, Rt Revd David Young former District Patron, Allan Dyer District Hon Vice President, Philip Cookson 4th Hull, Nigel Senior 1st Gomersal, Peter Normington 7th Leeds, George Ripley 3rd Harrogate, Ian Reynolds 53rd Sheffield and Thomas Ogden 21st Halifax.

Apologies:- were received from:- District President – Mr Rob Lolley, District, District Hon Vice Presidents – Mrs. Helen Dean, Revd. G. Trevor Holborn, Mr Dennis Kettlewell, Mr Ian Clarkson, Mr. George Wiskin along with Ms. Francesca Loceki Sheffield, Mr Terry Sweet 6th Sheffield, Mr John Kitchener 20th Sheffield. Mr. Simon Brocksom Leeds Battalion.

Minutes:- of the District Annual Meeting, held 8th March 2008 at Derringham Bank, Methodist Church Hull which had been circulated, were approved by the meeting and were duly signed by Mr. Binks.

Arising:- No matter had been identified.

Presentation of Reviews :-

Finance – Mr John Cowie, District Treasurer, present his review. The accounts had been approved by the Independent Examiner, Mr. Chris Roberts. Mr. Cowie reported that the District had raised £7,037.51 for the National 125 Children Hospice appeal. He reminded the meeting that he needed to be informed of any monies that had been sent either directly to a Hospice or BBHQ by a Company, Battalion or individual. This was the only way a record could be kept. In taking questions on the accounts Mr. John Johnson asked about a subscription that appeared in arrears. Mr. Cowie replied that this had now been collected and would be shown in this years account. Mr. David Burrows asked about interest on the account not showing. Mr. Cowie replied that interest is not added to the General Account but was included in the Investment Account. The meeting approved the Financial Review 1st September 2007 to 31st August 2008. Mr. Binks thanked Mr. Cowie for the work he does on behalf of the District with the finances.

District Executive - Mr Ian Haggas, District Secretary, presented the review on behalf of the Executive. In addition to the review he informed the meeting that Jack Towler – 12th Leeds and Jonathon Bramley – 12th Halifax had been nominated to attend Dr. Ingrid Roscoe Lord Lieutenant West Yorkshire, Young Achievers Garden Party at Bowcliffe Hall on 21 June 2009. The nominations had been successful. The meeting approved the District Executive Review.

On behalf of the District, Mr. Binks thanked the Secretary for his work

England Regional Committee Member – Mr Colin Preston presented his review as shown within the Annual Review. He brought the meeting up dates on Brigade matters and highlighted the many 125 events. The meeting approved his Review with grateful thanks. On behalf of the District, Mr. Binks thanked Mr. Preston for all the work that he carries out in the

name of the District and Brigade at National levels. He highlighted the immense amount of travelling that Mr. Preston does.

Training – Mr. Paddi McGowan, District Training Convenor, presented Training Review as shown within the Annual Review. He sadly reported that following discussion within the Training Committee and the recommendation then being referred to the District Executive for ratification that District residential training at Cloughton would cease with immediate effect. The costs had become too much of a risk to continue. He felt that this would be a great loss to the fellowship of the District. The meeting approved his Review and Mr. Binks thanked him for his thoughtful review and looking at a positive way forward.

Queen's Badge – Mr. Ian Haggas presented the Review, following Mr. Derek Robinson's resignation in October. He thanked Mr. Robinson for having prepared a Review that required very little in the way of updating. He updated the meeting regarding the next Completion Course, at which 16 Candidates had enrolled. The Presentation Evening would be held 8th July at Bradford City Hall. He thanked Sir James Hill, District Patron, for his assistance in providing key contacts for the event. As yet no reply had been received from Lieutenancy Offices. Sir James advised that should the Lord Lieutenant not be available then the Vice Lord Lieutenant should be contacted as he was a local man. Mr. Haggas would liaise with Sir James. Mr. Haggas introduced the meeting to the new Queen's Badge record book and highlighted that only compulsory residential part of QB was the Completion.

Mr. Binks brought to the meetings attention that Mr. Derrick Robinson had on 14th February got married. The meeting requested that the Secretary write to Mr. Robinson thanking him for the service that he had given to District Queen's Badge work and to send congratulations on his marriage to Jayne. The meeting approved the Queen's Badge Review. Mr. Binks thanked Mr. Haggas for taking up this additional work on behalf of the District.

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

Web - Dr. Lee Hyland reported that the site had been running for it's first year. He welcomed comments and any information that needed to go out. Mr. Binks thanked Dr Hyland for his work as Webmaster.

Battalion Reports – Mr. Binks presented the Reviews that had been submitted by Battalions. He reported on how busy Battalions had been and he highlighted some of the events that they had carried out throughout this year. It was pleasing to see that Queen's men from across the District had been involved at National Level and had attended the 125 Queensmen Parade at the Guildhall in London and that some had also been part of the Brigades stewarding team at HM Garden Party. He thanked those who had taken the time to write these Reviews. Mr. Binks then highlighted the 125 Anniversary Dinner held at the House of Lords and that our Patron had attended and had prepared a review of the event. He invited Sir James to speak on the occasion.

125 Anniversary Dinner – Sir James reported that he and Lady Hill were honoured to be invited to attend this prestigious event. The Revd The Lord Griffiths of Burry Port hosted the event and the formal speeches were enjoyable and informative. Our Brigade Secretary, Mr. Steve Dickinson opened followed by our President, Professor Sir Kenneth Calman. Sir Kenneth gave his very personal memories of the BB in Glasgow and as a fellow Rangers supporter introduced his old friend and chief guest Sir Alex Ferguson. Sir Alex gave a thought provoking and at times quite moving account of his early years in Glasgow when the BB came first and always took precedence over his equally beloved football.

He referred to those early years as quite crucial and formative years and a solid foundation for him and what has followed in his extensive football and business career. His faith was always on his sleeve and he was and still is proud of those early Christian connections, he spoke fondly of his family and many old friends and a long and happy marriage.

We all saw and witnessed a different Alex to the one so often seen on the screen or in the press.

Finally our Treasurer, John Williams, gave an passionate appeal for support – financial and in kind, explaining the difficulties facing the Brigade at present on a variety of fronts. Sir James went on to say that the BB now needs to move forward and there's no such thing as bad publicity. We cannot over promote ourselves. The meeting received his Review with thanks.

Election of Officials:- Mr. Binks brought the following nominations of the District Executive forward for approval:-

District Patron	Sir James Hill Bt OBE DL
President	Mr. Rob Lolley
Hon Vice Presidents	Mr. Roy Barson MBE
	Mr. Geoff Brooke
	Mr. Ian Clarkson
	Mr. Cliff Francis
	Revd. G Trevor Holborn
	Mr. Paul Jagger JP
	Mr. Derrick Kershaw
	Mr. Dennis Kettlewell
	Mr. W Alex McLelland
	Mr. Colin Preston

At this point Mr. Binks read messages that had been received from the Hon. Vice Presidents and the meeting was informed that Mr. George Wiskin no longer was wishing to remain in Office. He also informed the meeting at this point that Mr. Ken Haller was wishing to step down from Office of Vice President. He proposed that Mr. Wiskin was removed from the list of HVP and that the name Mr. Haller be added to the list.

The meeting was in agreement for this to proceed. Mr. Binks then invited Mr. Haller to take the Chair to bring forward the next elections.

Mr. Haller, on behalf of the District Executive brought forward the names of the

Vice Presidents	Mr. Chris Bairstow
	Mr. Malcolm Binks
	Mr. Ian Haggas

The meeting approved these nominations and the Chair was returned to Mr. Binks, and the following nominations were brought forward:-

Secretary	Mr. Ian Haggas
Treasurer	Mr. John Cowie
Nomination of England Regional Committee member	Mr. Colin Preston
Training Convenor	Mr. Paddi McGowan
Training Chairman (Co option)	Mr. Trevor Roberts
Queen's Badge Convenor	Mr. Ian Haggas
Chairman U26 (Cooption)	Mr. Tom Clayton
Webmaster (Cooption)	Dr. Lee Hyland
Independent Examiner	Mr. Chris Roberts

The meeting approved the above appointments.

Activities Convenor - as no activities had been arranged the meeting requested the Executive to speak with Mr. Lemal about the situation and the position was held as vacant.

District Subscription:- Mr John Cowie, District Treasurer, on behalf of the District Executive proposed 'The District subscription for the session 1st September 2009 to 31st August 2010 be £15.00 per Company paid through Battalions. This to be paid by 31st January 2010.' Mr. Malcolm Binks 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.

Constitution:- Mr. Colin Preston introduced this topic and explained why the District needs to review its constitution using the following headings:-

Charity Law has changed
Brigade Constitution has changed

Brigade has changed
The District has changed
Brigade Executive has 22 members
England Regional has 18 members
The District has 41 members plus cooptions
The District meeting have not approved the Trustees, but the ultimate responsibility for the money and operation of the Charity are in the hands of the Trustee.
Legalities of the Trustees.
The District is required by Brigade to be an electoral area for the election of an ERCM and Queen's Badge work.
How does the District deliver it's Development Plan?
What style of District shall we be?
There is now a need for a full structural review of the District, review of the Constitution and Articles of Memorandum.
Other issues are feedback to and from Battalions, road shows around Battalions to be completed by 2010.

Mr. Cowie suggested that a draft Constitution be drawn up. He proposed Mr. Preston to head up a working group and look at the legal issues, Battalion queries, concerns, and problems. This was echoed by Mr. David Burrows. Can the Brigade constitution be mirrored across to District Level? Mr. John Johnson suggested that to move the matter forward no more than seven should be approached to discuss the draft and that the Officials develop a frame work. Mr. Johnson proposed and Mr. David Burrows seconded this and the meeting was in favour. Mr. Preston proposed that the Trustees be President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. Mr. Johnson seconded this and the meeting was in favour.

District Annual Meeting 2010:- Mr. John Johnson, President Grimsby and District Battalion, extended a warm welcome for the District to hold the next Annual Meeting on 13th March 2010 in Lincolnshire at venue yet to be decided. The meeting accepted the invitation.

Any Other Business:- Mr. Binks reported that he had not received any additional matters and so invited Mr. Haggas to explain what was the plan for the afternoon. Mr. Haggas gave a brief outline to the Information Platforms. He thanked Mr. Binks for his Chairmanship of the Annual Meeting and the meeting showed its appreciation. Before the meeting broke for lunch Mr. Binks thanked members for their attendance and closed with a grace for lunch.

Afternoon:- Members split down into small groups and at 10 minute intervals moved around the Information Platforms. They were able to ask questions and share problems on the following topics –

Company Administration led by Mr. Malcolm Binks
Staff and Training led by Ms. Vicki Brownlee
Funding led by Mr. Chris Bairstow
Development led by Mr. Colin Preston
Church Relationships led by Mr. Paddi McGowan

The meeting came back together; Mr. Binks once again thanked everyone for their attendance, the leaders of the Information Platforms and Airedale for their hospitality. As Sir James had indicated, he encouraged members to go and promote the BB to a wider audience. Mr. Binks then invited Revd. David Hall to conclude the meeting with devotions.

At the end of the meeting members of the U26 group 'Back row gathering' held an overnight 'Gathering' at which they discussed the Annual Meeting, made a visit to Xscape and attended the morning worship at Airedale.

**Ian Haggas
District Secretary
13th March 2010**

**Rob K Lolley
District President
13th March 2010**