

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD 7th FEBRUARY 2009
at STARBECK METHODIST CHURCH, HARROGATE

The District President, Mr. Rob Lolley, welcomed 22 members and 1 guest to the meeting. He extended a warm welcome to Mr. Tim Tatton, Grimsby & District, to his first meeting and to Revd. Nick Witham, Chaplain 3rd Harrogate and minister at Starbeck Methodist, who conducted the opening devotions.

Apologies:- The meeting received the apologies from:- Mr. Ken Haller, Mr. David Burrows, Mr. David Lamle, Miss Janet Mason, Mr Nigel Smith, Mr. Robert Batty, Mr. Mike Dixon. Mr. Jonathan Woodcock and Miss Sarah Dixon.

Minutes:- of the meeting held 18th November 2008 having been circulated were accepted by the meeting, being proposed by Mr. Paddi McGowan and seconded by Mrs. Doreen Phillips were duly signed as a correct record.

Arising:- There had been no matters identified.

The meeting went on to receive the following Reports:-

Finance – Mr. Cowie reported on the financial affairs of the District. He updated the meeting on the National Hospice Appeal. Members were requested to ensure monies sent directly to local hospices or NNHQ to email him the amount sent so that an up to record could be kept. Mr. Cowie informed the meeting that he had not received any requests to build into next years financial detail. Event organisers were asked to respond. Mr. McGowan indicated that he had requested £250 as a training float. Mr. Cowie requested evidence for the required amount.

Mr. McGowan reported on the financial matters for the recently held Cloughton weekend. At the previous meeting he had reported that the weekend would have a possible deficit of around £1,400.00. Following the last meeting and a rally round, numbers had come together. The net result provided a deficit of £160.00, which was inside the budget for the event. He had since secured some sponsorship amounting to £220.00 and after paying staff expenses a net result of £12.00 was achieved. Following the decision at the last Executive further ratification was required as to the running of the weekend. A vote was taken that Cloughton would not continue. The meeting supported this with 1 against, there were no abstentions. The President thanked Mr. Cowie and Mr. McGowan for the work that they had done.

ERCM - Mr. Colin Preston reported that since the last District Executive meeting he had attended 1 Brigade Executive weekend meeting, 1 Regional meeting and along with the District Secretary had attended Battalion Council meetings at Leeds, Sheffield and Hull. He went on to explain matters regarding the Constitutional changes that Brigade had now made and how this would have an effect on the District's constitution, especially regarding the Charity Law changes that had taken place.

The next election for ERCM would last for 3 years. Elections would take place for 10 U26 representatives to have places on the England committee and 1 of the 10 would also become a member of the Executive.

Tom Boyle, Director for Scotland, would be retiring and his job was now advertised. A Development worker had been appointed for Nottingham working in sport. Leicester had appointed a Development worker and the North East had appointed a new Development worker. In Scotland a Development worker for Inverness had been appointed.

Members from Northern Ireland had represented the Brigade at London's Lord Mayor's parade and at the Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph. Members of 11th Northampton had provided the carpet guard at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

He provided details for the 125 National Tattoo to be held on 25th April at Breahead arena.

Mr. Preston reported that 2 new Companies had opened within the District – 1 in Hull and East Yorkshire the other was in Bradford.

The Cross Country event to be held at Nottingham had received only a few enquiries. BB was now a centre for NVQ work. YLT would have additional modules to cover mixed gender

working. He informed the meeting that the booking system had changed and that there was now a waiting list. He echoed Mr. Cowie's request to advise him of money sent directly to local hospices. Around £60,000.00 had been raised to date.

The President thanked Mr. Preston for his immense work for the District.

Young Leaders – Mr. Tom Clayton reported that the meeting planned for today had not taken place due to poor attendance and lack of apologies had meant that it was not cancelled. He reported that he had now a venue for the National 5 A Side contest. Mr. Robert Batty had taken charge of for the Gathering that would follow the Annual Meeting.

The President thanked Mr. Clayton and Mr. Batty for their work with the younger leaders of the District.

Training - Mr. Paddi McGowan reported on the mornings training meeting. He highlighted that the meeting felt that Queen's Badge Advisors had not had enough information to help them assist their Candidates. The meeting had concerns that the Leadership element within QB appeared to have been scaled down. BBHQ had said that information would be coming out in due course.

The Craft course that had been requested had struggled to meet numbers. The request for the course did not equal the numbers that attended. Mr. McGowan insisted that the District would still provide a high level of training and would keep reviewing the required needs inline with Battalion Training Convenors. He reminded members that the Holiday Leadership course was to run on 7th April and that numbers were at this stage low. There would be a Building Your Skills course 15th March and a one days YLT course on 29 March.

The President thanked Mr. McGowan for his work.

Queens Badge – The District Secretary, Mr. Ian Haggas, as acting QB Convenor reported that invitations had gone out to Candidates who required a Completion Residential. The Completion Residential would be held on 3rd 4th April. The Presentation evening was being planned for 8th July at Bradford City Hall. Mr. Michael Colbeck had agreed to run a Skills \ Leadership Course for the District in October. This would encompass Queen's Badge requirements.

The President thanked Mr. Haggas for this additional work.

Website – Dr. Lee Hyland requested information for the web. Members agreed that they could find information on the web.

The President thanked Dr. Hyland for his role as Webmaster.

District Annual Meeting 14 March 2009:- Members approved the agenda for the meeting, including the nominations, none had been received from Battalions and the required co options. The only proposal needing the attention of the Executive was the setting of the District Subscription. The following proposals were put forward:

£25 proposed by Mr. Gary Lemal seconded by Mr. Tim Goddard

£15 proposed by Mr. Chris Bairstow seconded by Mr. Colin Preston

£0 proposed by Mr. Malcolm Binks seconded by Mr. John Cowie

Following debate the President brought the meeting to a voting position. Taking £0 proposal the meeting voted For 2 Against 15, the proposal failed. The substantive proposal £15 was then put to the meeting. The vote was For 14 Against 3 this was carried and was out to the meeting, "That the District Subscription for 2009/10 be £15.00 per Company paid through Battalions. To be paid between 1st January to 31st January 2010." The vote was For 15 Against 2.

As the 'Gathering' was also being held over the Annual Meeting weekend the members of the 'Gathering' had suggested that a donation be given to the Church. The President suggested £50 and Mrs. Doreen Phillips was prepared to second this. Mr. Gary Lemal suggested £50 per activity, that being the meeting and the sleep over event. Mr. Trevor Roberts suggested £100. After discussion the meeting approved £50 for the meeting and £50 for the sleep over.

National 5 A Side 9th May – Mr. Tom Clayton referred back to his earlier comments. The ‘Avenue’ sports Hall in Batley was available; this is where County Battalion hold their event. He was duly authorised to book the centre. He would be looking to obtain the services of Tingley Methodist for sleep over arrangements, Referees were still a problem. He would then be contacting members with regard to logistics of the event.

Derek Robinson – letters from Mr. Robinson to the Executive had been circulated. In addition to these the President read Mr. Robinsons letter of resignation to the meeting along with his reply. Issues were raised regarding a cook with no food, no funds available to obtain food. The course did not appear to have a set plan to follow. It was noted that unlike YLT, HLC, Camp Craft, Captains that QB does not have a set course layout, however, BBHQ are looking at this. If a person, staff member, becomes ill on or before course what is planned for such an event occurring. Does the course have a check list? Mr. Haggas reported that this had happened on a few occasions on the Cloughton Weekend and the courses had been able to continue, mainly due to well prepared staff following up from staff meetings. Mr. Haggas had noted the concerns and that he would build procedures into QB and risk management would be applied.

Any Other Business The 1st Acomb had attended the Celebration Service of Thanksgiving held 4th October at Glasgow Cathedral. They had been chosen to represent their Battalion at the event. They had requested financial support towards £125 having received funds from their Company account and Battalion. The meeting felt that the request was retrospective. It was proposed that £80 be awarded towards the 1st Acomb general fund and not towards the event. This was proposed by Mr. Colin Preston and was seconded by Mr. Paddi McGowan and that this is not a precedent. The meeting was in full favour of this. This now raised other issues for the Executive to consider and perhaps guidelines should be drawn up for discussion. The Secretary would review this.

The President reported of a forthcoming birthday of a ‘member’ and felt that the District should find a way to make this special. The meeting agreed to allow the President to investigate the matter.

Date of Next Meeting The Secretary reported that due to Easter taking up most of April and with the Tattoo at the end of April it would be difficult to meet. Other dates had also proved difficult to find. The earliest date available was 10th October this was penciled in with a possible venue to be found in Halifax, however this would also be reviewed pending the outcome of the Presidents investigations.

There being no other business and the President thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. He thanked Mr. Malcolm Binks for the hospitality provided by 3rd Harrogate and Starbeck Methodist.

Revd. Nick Witham closed the meeting.

**Mr. Rob K Lolley
District President
10th October 2009**

**Mr. Ian Haggas
District Secretary
10th October 2009**