

The Royal Marines Association
North Wales Branch
Cymdeithas y Môr-filwyr Brenhinol
Cangen Gogledd Cymru



Minutes of the Meeting held on *Monday 8 October 2008*
At 1930 hrs. In The Kings Head, Rhuddlan.

Members Present

Mike Becket	Richard Beckett	Eric Borman
Nora Borman	Derek Bellis	Barry Cahill
Tim Cahill	Leon Davies	David Drysdale
John Fryatt	Jim Green	Ron Hooper
Jeff Jones	Mervyn Jones	Roy Lockyear
Mike O'Rourke	Chris Stallard	Helen Stallard
Allan Thomas	Peter Wood	Phil Williams-Jones

Apologies

Martin Ashworth

Minute's Silence was observed for absent friends

Minutes of last meeting

It was proposed by Chris Stallard, seconded by Ron Hooper that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting and passed unanimously.

Matters Arising

The President reported that to date 30 members were coming to the Birthday Dinner. Brig. Simon Hill and his wife Barbara will be the principal Guests. Mrs. Emerson, whose son had been in 42 Cdo, but had rebadged to Royal Artillery and was currently in Afghanistan, had accepted. Col. P. Eaton –Jones, Deputy Lieutenant of Clwyd and President of North Wales RBL had been invited as had the OC of the Sea Cadets in Rhyl but as yet they had not replied. It was confirmed that the dress would be Dinner Jackets or Regimental Blazers with miniatures.

Eric Borman reported that he and Nora had arranged a shoebox collection at Aldi's Store in Prestatyn, where they collected £257. 80p over two days, the bulk of the money being spent in Aldi's on items for the shoeboxes and the balance at other stores, they had filled 40 boxes to date and he produced one sample box for the meeting to see. The members showed their appreciation for Eric and Nora's initiative.

Peter and Leon have brought 150 special shoeboxes back from CTCRM.

The Secretary had received instructions from Central Office that the full shoeboxes were to be packed in large boxes, holding up to 100 shoeboxes and these to be ready for collection by 27 October. It was decided that we would require three of these boxes, but that it was doubtful if we could manage to have them all ready by the 27 October. The Secretary is

to check if there was a later date in November that we could aim for. Boxes filled later could be sent by post. There was some discussion about where we could pack the boxes and store them ready for collection. The Secretary to look into this and make the necessary arrangements, which would be circulated with the minutes.

Peter, the Vice Chairman reported that the Reunion at CTCRM, which he had attended with Leon, had, once again, been a great success. He attended the AGM but there was nothing outstanding to report, the Association was in very good form and financially sound. The Commandant CTCRM gave a very interesting address; it would appear that the Corps is in great shape at present time and recruiting is doing well. He also mentioned that it was pleasing to see the “Drysdale Trophy” being presented.

Chairman’s Report

The Chairman read out an e-mail from Alan McGregor thanking the members for his get-well card.

He had a number of RM Band tapes which he was donating to be sold in aid of the Branch Funds. (Roy bought these for £10.00).

There will be a parade to dedicate a headstone on the grave of a WWI Soldier in Prestatyn at 1100 hrs on Saturday 18 October 2008. (Details from Barry Carhill)

The Members are reminded that we will be parading with the Standard at Llangollen on Remembrance Sunday, 9 November 2008. A good turnout is expected.

At our next meeting we will be having a talk by Swazi Turner MBE, who has stated that all money raised at the meeting will be donated to the RM Benevolent fund

Treasurers Report

Money collected at last meeting

Raffle	£ 26. 00
RMA raffle	£ 52. 00
Subs	£ 26. 00
Membershp	£ 15. 00
Corps Dinner	£210. 00
Donations	<u>£ 30. 00</u>
	£359. 00

Expenditure

Raffle prizes	<u>£ 14. 50</u>
Total	<u>£344. 50</u>

Cash in Banks

HSBC	£1145. 16	
Paid in	<u>£ 344. 50</u>	£1489.66
<u>Less</u>		
Shirts	£ 234. 50	
Diaries	£ 183. 30	
Secretary’s expenses	<u>£ 91. 41</u>	<u>£ 509.21</u>
Total		<u>£ 980.45</u>

Nat West

Total	£1177. 34	
Less RMA Raffle	<u>£ 52. 00</u>	<u>£1125. 34</u>

The Treasurer said that the shirts were being sold tonight; the Diaries should be in by the next meeting.

Liaison Officers report

Peter reported that George Greatbach had been in hospital and was not too well; he had once again sent us a donation.

Ken Hawkins' son in law had passed away.

The meeting expressed their condolences to Ken and his family, and sent best wishes to Alan McGregor, Charles Greatbach and Will Parry, who has also sent a further donation of £50.00 towards our shoebox appeal.

Peter further reported a visit by Col. David Evans RM (Ret), a member of the RM Historical Society, and a friend of our President. Who came down to record some memories of Ken, unfortunately, at the time Ken did not feel up to this, and now Peter is to be tasked with being a recordist.

Any other business

Mike noted that we had now over 40 members.

The next meeting will be at 1930 hrs. on Monday 17 November 2008 at the Kings Head.

Forthcoming Events

Corps Birthday Dinner, Colwyn Bay Tuesday 21 October 2008.

Shoebox appeal in October details to be announced.

Remembrance Parade in Llangollen on. 9 November.

Talk by Swazi Turner MBE at Branch Meeting 17 November 2008.

Mountbatten Festival of Music, Royal Albert Hall, 19 to 21 February 2009

25th. Anniversary of the Northern Region 20/23 March 2009 in Southport

North Wales Branch collection at Asda, Kinmal Bay, 11 April 2009

Graspan Parade Sunday 17 May 2009.

Parade & Reception at National Memorial Arboretum prov. 31 May 2009.

The Spean Bridge Parade Fort William June 2009

Veterans Day to be announced

Reunion at CTCRM Saturday & Sunday 26/27 September 2009.

(Opening of RM Memorial Wall at CTCRM)

Shoebox Appeal, 2008. - Update

The day after the meeting I rang Central Office and ordered three large MOD boxes, sufficient to take 225 to 300 shoeboxes. I also enquired if we could have a later date than 27 October. I was informed that the 7 November was the latest date, but that the 27 October was preferable.

On the following day a telephone call from the Chief Executive reported that the large MOD boxes would not be forthcoming and suggested that we obtained sufficient large boxes to hold all our shoeboxes. These would then be collected on or about the 27 October or at the latest 7 November.

On Friday the following announcement was contained in the RM Reporting Network.

SHOE BOXES

You may have heard, correctly, that the MOD is not allowing unsolicited parcels to go to Afghanistan at all. Apparently the Nation's efforts are costing too much, hampering personal mail and stores and taking too many helicopter flying hours to deliver the parcels. However the RMA has been given dispensation to continue for this year only, because we were negotiation with the MOD ages ago.

My advice is keep your head down, do not go complaining to the press (or we will lose our dispensation) and follow the instructions in our letters to Branches and individuals to the letter. That way we will get our parcels through. So far we have arranged for roughly 8,000 parcels to go by road to Camp Bastion.

Thank you very much for your outstanding support to this very worthy cause and we will take up the cudgels for next year.

It seems imperative that we get cracking and endeavour to get as many shoeboxes ready by 27 October. Eric and Nora have already packed 40 odd boxes. I propose to purchase 5 large boxes which will hold 40 + shoeboxes each. Peter, Eric & Nora are going to Tesco's on Monday 13 October to get more items, I will then co-ordinate people to pack more boxes and arrange to collect them and store them centrally. If you can assist in any way please e-mail me, or ring me on 01248 716 203, if I am out please leave a message. It appears that we will not be able to post individual boxes this time round.