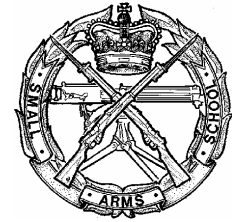




**Regimental Secretary**  
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Reference: RS/3/8/1

See Distribution

Date: 10 August 2009

**MINUTES OF THE 63rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SMALL ARMS SCHOOL CORPS COMRADES ASSOCIATION HELD AT WARMINSTER ON SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009**

Present	Col E Brown Lt Col W Paterson WO1 M P Lynch Maj (Retd) N Benson	Comdt CI SASC RSM SASC Regtl Sec SASC	Chairman  Sec
In Attendance	There were 80 Members in attendance		

<p><b>ITEM 1 - WELCOME</b></p> <p>1. Col Brown welcomed everyone present and then passed over to the CI SASC, Lt Col Paterson, who then called the Regimental Secretary to comment on Item 2. Apologies for Absence.</p>	Chairman
<p><b>ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>2. The Secretary said that he has a list of the apologies and best wishes received from the Association members. Rather than read them out a copy of the list of those apologies received has been made available to members present; should anyone not have a copy and require one, please see Regimental Secretary afterwards.</p>	Secretary
<p><b>ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>3. The Minutes of the 62nd Meeting that was held on Sat 20<sup>th</sup> July 08 were approved as read.          Proposed by:          Seconded by</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	Maj Crowther Capt Hirst
<p><b>ITEM 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING</b></p> <p>4. There were no matters outstanding or arising from the last meeting.</p>	Chairman



**ITEM 5 - LOYAL GREETINGS**

5. The Secretary explained a message was sent to HM The Queen on behalf of the Comrades Association informing her of the 63rd Meeting and he had received correspondence from Her Majesty and it reads as follows: *“Please convey to all members of The Comrades Association of the Small Arms School, assembled at Warminster for their 63rd Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting, my warm thanks for their message of loyal greetings. I much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes for a most successful and enjoyable gathering”*. ELIZABETH R.

Secretary

6. A Loyal Greeting was also sent to our Col-in-Chief, HRH The Duke of York and he had received correspondence from the Colonel in Chief, and it is as follows: *“As Colonel in Chief, I much appreciated the message of loyal greetings sent from you on behalf of all those attending the 63rd Annual Reunion and Annual General Meeting of the Comrades Association of the Small Arms School Corps at Warminster today. I hope that the occasion is memorable and highly enjoyable for all those present.”* HRH The Duke of York KG.

**ITEM 6 - CORPS UPDATE**

7. The CI SASC, Lt Col Paterson explained his brief on the Corps will be short as the information is in this years Journal and he encourages everyone to read it afterwards. He went on to say there were a number of initiatives being taken forward, however it was too early to give an insight to what they are as we do not know at this stage if they will prove successful or not. An update for serving members will follow as part of the normal briefing on study days and get togethers, for retired members it will be the AGM next year.

CI SASC

**ITEM 7 - CORPS SHOOTING**

8. The Chairman introduced item 7.

9. **Pistol.** The Corps RSM informed those present of the Corps Shooting results for 2009 starting with the Army Pistol Championship held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2009, two SASC members went on to the Army Pistol 20, Sgt Blair coming 10<sup>th</sup> and DSM Robinson being placed 17<sup>th</sup>.

SMI SASC

10. **Methuen 2009.** The same as last year two teams were entered, the Gold Team and the Blue Team. The Gold Team scored 1180 points and were 11<sup>th</sup> overall; the Blue Team scored 1074 points and attained 15<sup>th</sup> position.

11. **Army 100 results.** This year 5 SASC members got into the Army 100; Sgt Gurung at 5<sup>th</sup>, Sgt Blair at 61<sup>st</sup>, WO2 (DSM) Robinson at 68<sup>th</sup>, Sgt Stewart at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Sgt Blackett at 94<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all concerned. The Challenge Cup, which is awarded to the person with the highest aggregate score from phase one and two of the Queens Medal Competition, went to Sgt Gurung. The Goodwin Cup, awarded to the highest placing in the Army 100 also went to Sgt Gurung. The Hale Trophy, which is for the highest individual SASC score in the Methuen competition went to Sgt Stewart. This was after a count-back on practice five, as he drew with Sgt Gurung.

Army 100 badges were presented to the two members who had newly appeared in the list, namely WO2 (DSM) Robinson and Sgt Stewart. The COS is to present them with their badges.

Sgt Gurung has also been selected for the Army Development Squad, and he is considering this option at the moment, as he is in the process of moving from Brunei to



Brecon.

12. **Methuen 2010.** Next year it is planned to field a team made up of the top scorers of this year, plus high scorers of last year. Hopefully a team will be able to win the Cup next year as it is now 31 years since the Corp have won it.

#### ITEM 8 - FINANCE

13. **SASC Fund.** The Secretary said that a current 1514 was available for the fund and was planning to use these figures in his brief. He then explained the statistics as follows:

Secretary

a. **Main Sources of Income.**

Subscriptions £ 17,139.38 an increase of £2656.55 caused by the January and February 08 payments not being applied until after the 08 year end audit date.

CB interest £895.07 a decrease of £420.30.

Investment – Unrealised loss £7129.30 an increased loss on last year of £6274.00, which can be blamed on the state of the economy and the current markets. However, this is only an unrealised loss, and no doubt in time the situation will improve.

Dividend Income £2281.44 an increase of £145.48 which is good.

Advertising in the Journal £325.00 – bare minimum again this year, only obtained one advert from Riflecraft.

Total Income £22,595.22.

This is an increase on last year's income of £702.16.

b. **Main Sources of Expenditure.**

Grants and Donations £460.60, a decrease on last year of £2991.90.

However, this is partly due to the planned donation of £1500.00 to the ABF (which was voted for last year) not being sent. However this has now been rectified. We also support adventure training, charity fund raising events, sporting events, RBL, ABF, SAAFA as well as flowers or donations for any comrades funeral as required.

Welfare – this year we have spent £2940.00 which is an increase of £489.00.

Financial assistance is given to serving and retired association members, as well as some widows in some cases who seek our support. (The ABF continue to support us with cases requiring more than £500.00).

c. **Presentations.**

£1204.80 a decrease of £876.66. This again reflects the number of WOs and Offrs leaving the Corps and commissions over the last 12 months, as those commissioned also receive a statuette. SASC candidates receive stable belts, rank slides and TRF flashes. Those commissioned receive buttons and rank stars. Framed SASC prints and plaques are given to establishments, the occasional visitor and VIPs. Christmas cards are sent to comrades and widows. We frame the annual regimental photographs, give plaques, trinket boxes and shower proof fleeces to the staff at Bisley and have presented 2 umbrellas and 2 Polo shirts to the Golf Tournament this year.

d. **Accumulated General Purpose Fund.**



£113,437.25 an increase of £591.71

The main components of the AGPF are:

(a) Cash in Bank £29,225.87

Shop Stock £20,900.18

Investments £63,474.75 - this is down on last year by £7129.30 but as explained previously this is an unrealised loss which hopefully will improve in the future.

**e. Investments.**

In accordance with our charter, it is the OIC of the fund's duty & policy to invest to increase the investments to protect the longevity of the fund. Those who contribute to or have done so in the past will want to be assured that if they ever did need assistance from the fund, it would be available.

The net working capital, less liabilities is just over 50k, take out the shop stock you can see that we have just over 58% of our NWC sat in the bank (over £29,000.00) Last year it was suggested not to invest anything further, due to the economic climate, and it is recommended that the same applies this year. The Regimental Secretary is considering other options; i.e. savings accounts, premium bonds, leaving it where it is? He asked for any opinions or views from those present. Maj Reddinge asked if a financial adviser had been consulted, to which the Secretary replied that he would look into it, but investments at the moment are not particularly good. It was said that Barclays Bank was advertising a good interest rate, common when the banks were short of money. Major (Retd) Stevens suggested that as the market was low at the moment, now is the time to buy into it and wait for the market to rise. All options will be looked into.

14. The Secretary went on to say he is pleased to announce that the fund is in good shape, the shop is going steady with sales of £2752.77 last year and a percentage profit of 10.46%. He also mentioned there are still some commemorative tankards and plates left, but only one umbrella. The watch straps are going well, the braces situation is on-going and other suggestions of items to sell have been received from various people. They include socks, trouser belts and pencil rubbers. All suggestions will be considered. The Secretary reminded the meeting that the SASC receives support from the ABF and we were going to donate £1500 last year, which has already been mentioned and dealt with. He would therefore be asking for a proposer and seconder to agree to donate £1500 again this year. He asked for a proposer and seconder for the donation of £1500 to the ABF.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Carried

15. The Secretary explained it was at this juncture he would be asking for funds to be voted across to offset the cost of the four Corps functions in the coming year, reduced because the Regimental Dinner will not be held this year. This year the amount needed to be voted across has decreased by £350. The AGM will require £3500.00, the golf championship will require £400.00, down from last years grant of £600.00, however, the golf costs do not include the presentations of polo shirts, umbrellas, tankards etc. Methuen needs £1000.00; a considerable increase due to the fact that there are now two teams entered who all receive medals. There is also lunch for 70 +, all of which must be paid for. Remembrance Weekend needs £500.00, which

Lt Col (Retd) P Hall  
Maj (Retd) P Read



includes £50.00 for the wreath and the social. Transport also figures in this, although last year there was no call on this. The total need to offset the cost of all 4 functions this year is £5400.00, which is a decrease of £1350.00. The Secretary asked for a proposer and seconder for the amount of £5400.00 to be voted across to offset the cost of the 4 Corps functions in the coming year.

16. Maj Riddell asked before the vote is taken whether it could be on individual functions, rather than a blanket vote on the total to be voted across as they may agree with some of the functions but not necessarily all of them. The Secretary and the Chairman agreed that each function should be discussed individually and voted on. The AGM last year cost £3582.00, £4000 was voted over to offset the cost, but only £3500.00 is asked for this year. The majority of the bill is for labour; waiting, cooking and housekeeping staff, making a total of just under £3000.00. The disco is £200.00, flowers £100.00, flowers and organist for the church £40.00. The Secretary has suggested to the kitchen staff that the puddings are cut back a bit to save on costs, but there must always be a pudding for everyone that wants one so there will be food left over. Major Paul Redding said that the disco was perhaps unnecessary as hardly anyone dances. The Secretary said that it was being considered for next year that someone will be nominated to bring in a sound system and perhaps play background music at the function. The decision this year to have the disco for perhaps the last time had already been discussed at headquarters. The Reg Sec made it clear that although £3500.00 is voted over, it is not the intention to HAVE to spend that amount; it was just in case it was needed. Previous AGM's had charged for everything, accommodation, afternoon tea etc, and it was felt that as many comrades had paid in over past years, and serving members were paying at present, it was only right that all members should get the benefit. The charge of £18.50 for the dinner, wine and accommodation was thought to be quite reasonable and helped to offset the entire cost of the weekend.

17. The golf competition requires £400.00, down £200.00 from last year. Most of this is to cover engraving of the trophies and prizes (£340.00 this year). A lively debate followed, with contributions from both golfers and non-golfers. Lt Col (Retd) Hall wanted it made clear that the golfers pay £45.00? to enter, they do not get in for free. Some years the number of serving members can be particularly low, but if the dates clash with other diary dates then it's unfortunate. Most years there is a good turn-out; however this year the numbers attending was 14. A non-golfing member said that as it was a corps tradition, it should be supported. There were no further comments.

18. The Methuen grant of £1000.00 is quite a large increase, but has to be done if, as agreed last year, both competing teams receive a medal. There followed a lengthy discussion about the awarding of medals or just bars. The SMI explained that it was a logistical nightmare, as team members are unknown until very shortly before the competition, medals have to be ordered in advance so there could be a situation where there are too many medals, thereby wasting more money than being saved by having medals barred. The Secretary stated a new supplier of medals is being investigated at the moment. Last year the cost of medals was £460.00 and the meal that was provided was approximately £416.00. Adding in the cost of the items given for presentations etc the grant needs to be increased from last year. The CI SASC said he would be loathe to dampen any enthusiasm for anyone entering the Methuen Competition, as a lot of the medals are won by new members to the Corps, which is good encouragement. In monetary terms, the value of the medal is not as important as the fact of being presented one to the people concerned. There were no further



comments.

19 The Remembrance Weekend grant of £500.00 is more than what was spent last year (£400.00). The RSM and Reg Sec have been tasked with looking into the venue- perhaps moving to somewhere else, or staying where it is, but looking to improve the ambience. A sit down meal option is being considered, rather than meals on laps. Lt Col (Retd) Lacey asked if it was going to be developed more into an official SASC function, rather than as the background support that the Corps seems to be at the moment. CI SASC said that all options are being looked at but he just felt that it could be a bit better than has been most recently.

The vote was then taken to vote across the sum of £5400.00, and was carried.

Proposed by:

Seconded by:

Carried

20. **Decision.** Following the meeting it was agreed the £5400.00 would be allocated as follows: AGM £3500.00, Golf £400.00, Methuen Day £1000.00, and Remembrance Weekend £500.00.

Other points to note are the purchase of a 1952 Queens' medal won by WO2 (QMSI) Seaman, which was auctioned through Spinks auction house. The total cost including postage, packaging and commission to the auctioneers, plus the actual hammer price of £2000.00 was £2468.00. The significance of this particular medal is that it was the first one issued in Elizabeth II reign. It will be framed and a write-up will be done to go with it, although who sold it and the reason behind its sale is unknown.

Welfare assistance to help top up nursing home fees for a Mrs Agnes Cowan, whose husband joined the Corps in 1939, has been on-going for three years. Mrs Cowan passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and we have been refunded £666.51 from the amount of £1000 that we had contributed this year. There had also been financial contributions for Mrs Cowan from ABF (who top up nursing home fees by £30 per week) and the Scots Guards. On the subject of ABF, the Secretary mentioned that the sum voted for last year of £1500 had not been sent to the ABF, but the matter was being dealt with.

21. **Weapons Collection Fund.** The Fund Manager apologised for not having a F1514 for the Fund as it had been audited at the end of April and was still not complete. He did however brief the meeting using the monthly statement for Jun 09, using the figures on the left as they are the year-end audit figures.

Main sources of income are as follows.

Donations	£1909.32 - an increase of £535.07.
Sales of weapons	£100.00 – a decrease on last year, purely because we didn't have many weapons to sell. This year there are more sales to be arranged.
Research charges	£150.00.
CB interest:	£574.55 – a decrease of £185.70.
Investment:	Unrealised loss of £634.66 which is £437.77 more than last year.
Dividend income:	£947.91 - an increase of £15.26.
Total income	£3681.78 – a decrease of £2045.48, partly due to the current economic situation, partly because we haven't sold much,

Lt Col Lacey  
Maj Adams

Secretary



although as previously stated, this is on-going. Some .22 rifles have been sold to Fultons between audit date and now, raising the sum of £1700.

The main expenditure items for the Weapons Collection are as follows.

Open Day 2008	£820.09 for lunch and ammunition
Website services	£174.75
Pistol parts for repair	£71.63
Refurbishments	£97.47 for varnish, new linoleum etc.
Repair of Ferguson rifle	£100.00
Property depreciation	£3106.00. This is the main reason that the fund's income has been exceeded by expenditure for the last few years. The audio package is being depreciated by £2680.00 per annum over five years, and the video entry system is also depreciated over five years. Once the time has elapsed then the fund will hopefully improve.
AGPF	£46,961.74 an increase of £1745.09.
Cash in bank	£17,537.51, an increase of £1995.57.
Investments	£19,259.85, a decrease of £634.66 but it must be remembered that this is an unrealised loss.
Total fixed assets	£29,424.23, a decrease of £3740.66.

The Secretary said that the fund is still in good shape with over £17,000.00 in the bank, so there is enough to cover any immediate needs. The Open Day is hoped to encourage more visitors, particularly civilian visitors who usually donate £5.00 per head. The store room is also being cleared and anything surplus to requirements is being disposed of, either by sales or other means. There were no comments from the assembled members regarding the performance of the fund.

**ITEM 9 - THE WEAPONS COLLECTION**

22. **Acquisitions and Disposals.** The OIC briefed the meeting that during the past year 9 weapons and ancillaries were brought onto the books and 2 items were disposed of. The disposals consisted of a camera gun (just took pictures, not fired anything) and an AGL 17 tripod. Items like these and webbings etc have been sold on Ebay, purely to raise a bit of money for the Collection. The acquisitions were carried out thanks to agencies such as QM Tech, Shrivenham and ITDU, with ITDU providing us with the L115 A3. Major John Butler, who is in the TA, acquired some weapons that we wanted from Afghanistan, which have eventually arrived here. As always more weapons mostly modern European/NATO weapons are required, so if you know of anyone who has anything of interest, let us know as we can take steps to get them to the Collection.

23. **Visitors.** The number of visitors for the period last year to Jul 09 is 1331, this is an increase on last year of 100 and is broken down as follows:

	Jul 07 – Jul 08	Jul 08 – Jul 09
Military/TA	568	402
Cadets/POs	277	391
UK Gov/MOD	42	35

Secretary



Civilians	273	409
SASC Candidates	18	10
Foreigners	53	84
Demo/LFs	0	0

The civilian numbers have gone up considerably, although military numbers are down by 166. There have been a lot of cadets in between April and now and 350 are due to visit the Collection in August.

24. **Trustees.** It is with regret to say that Major Fogwell passed away in May; he will be sadly missed. At present there are 5 trustees, and hopefully two more will be appointed in the future. The Secretary has drafted a letter for the COS to send to some possible candidates, Col Mickey Toomey, Col Jim Condon and Col Paddy Dunsheath. No doubt there will be a response from them in due course.

25. **Improvements in the Weapons Room.** As previously mentioned, some work has been on-going in the anti-tank room, with some lino having been purchased to tidy up a few areas. There is also lino on the weapons handling tables so as to not damage the surfaces during handling. Some of the labels/display cards are being re-vamped as a laminator was purchased some time ago, thus enabling us to do the necessary work on new labels.

Before moving on to the prize draw, Maj Crowther asked for a clearer explanation of what unrealised loss means. If investments are purchased at one price and thereafter the share price drops, the investment would therefore be worth less, but only if sold would there be an actual loss. Unrealised loss (or gain) is the difference between actual purchase price and the theoretical value if sold on any given date.

#### ITEM 10 THE PRIZE DRAW

26. The Chairman introduced the Prize Draw and handed over proceedings to the Secretary. He reminded everyone of the purpose of the sale of these tickets is to fund good causes and the price has remained at £1 per ticket resulting this year in sales of 450.

Retired members contributed £256.00.  
Serving members bought £194.00.

Prize money this year is £354.00 (79%), slight change on usual percentage of 80, but this was because the cheques had already been written out when someone finally sent their return in and bought a few more tickets. The tickets were drawn by the RSM and participating members of the audience,

Retired members first ticket will win	£116.00 - Won by David Cuthbertson
Second ticket will win	£87.00 - Won by David Evans
Serving members first ticket will win	£86.50 - Won by Capt MacMahon
Second ticket will win	£64.50 - Won by Major Rose



