



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

Minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 5.00 pm at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence & Security Studies, Whitehall, London, SW1A 2ET.

The President took the chair and welcomed members and guests. He reported that HRH The Duke of Kent would have hoped to have attended but that other duties had prevented it. The President told members that the gathering this year was of a larger number than in previous years. He was delighted to see so many members and guests present.

1. Apologies for absence.

The names of fifty-three members of the Society were recorded as in attendance. Three apologies had been received.

2. Reports on the 2016 Templer Medal Award and Prize and 2017 Essay Prizes and announcement of the winners

- a. P McCarty reported on the 2017 Essay Prize competition. He thanked all those who had helped publicise it and those who had acted as judges, notably Dr I Berkovich. He thanked Dr P Kerry for his hard work in previous years and for his advice in the preparation for the competition this year. There had been a significant increase in the number of entries for the awards. He hoped that members would make the competition known for next year. He announced that the winners were, as follows:

6th Form

FREDDIE HYDE 1ST PRIZE SALE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Who was responsible for the Charge of the Light Brigade?

JOSHUA COLE 2nd PRIZE WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL

Was Sir Redvers Buller right to be judged as a poor officer?

Undergraduate

SAMUEL WALLACE 1ST PRIZE YORK UNIVER SITY

Stirrups to Steering Wheels: The Issues of Cavalry Mechanisation in the Interwar Period

MIRANDA HARRISON 2ND PRIZE OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Adult Education and Social Transformation in the British Army during the Second World War: The Impact of Army Education Schemes.

- b. J Peaty presented the report of the Templer Medal sub-committee. He noted that publishers were keen to provide books. A total of forty-nine had been ‘called-in,’ a near record. They came from three continents and a variety of different publishers. He expressed thanks to the members of the sub-committee for their willingness to undertake the reading and grading process. He revealed that the awards for 2016 were being made as follows:

The Templer Medal for 2016 was awarded to Stewart Stansfield for ‘Early Modern Systems of Command: Queen Anne’s Generals, Staff Officers and the Direction of Allied Warfare in the Low Countries and Germany, 1702-1711’ (Wolverhampton Military Studies 11) (Helion)

The runners-up were:

‘The First Victory: The Second World War and the East Africa Campaign,’ by Andrew Stewart (Yale University Press)

‘Race and Imperial Defence in the British World, 1870–1914,’ by J C Mitcham (Cambridge University Press)

The prize for the best 1st Book was awarded to Randall Nichol for, ‘Till the Trumpet Sounds Again: The Scots Guards 1914-19 in their own words’ (Helion)

The runners-up were:

‘The Irish amateur military tradition in the British Army, 1854-1992,’ by William Butler (Manchester University Press)

‘The Struggle for North America, 1754-1758,’ by George Yagi (Bloomsbury Studies in Military History)

3. Appointment of the Templer Medal Sub-committee chairman.

Council nominated the Dr John Peaty FRGS FRHistS for a further year. Before asking for the agreement of the meeting, the President thanked Dr Peaty and through him, the sub-committee, for their hard work over the past year. The members expressed their appreciation of Dr Peaty’s work and enthusiastically agreed that he continue for a further year.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting held on 27 April 2016.

These had been circulated. There were no questions or comments. Their adoption as a true record was put to the meeting.

Proposer: Dr J McAdam

Seconder: M Meech

Vote: Agreed without dissent.

The copy of the minutes was signed by the President.

5. Adoption of the Honorary Officers' Reports & the Accounts for 1 January to 31 December 2016.

These had been circulated. There were no questions or comments. Their adoption was put to the meeting:

Proposer: A Cormack

Seconder: K Holland

Vote: Agreed without dissent.

6. Thanks to the contributors to the Society's Journal.

Mr J Carbis proposed a vote of thanks to the contributors to the Journal of the Society. In doing so he commented that, as a relatively new member, he was delighted to receive the Journal. He found the articles and other material to be of a high quality. The members endorsed the vote of thanks.

7. Election of Council.

The President expressed the thanks of the Society to Professor Gary Sheffield for his service as a member of Council. He regretted that the pressure of other commitments had led to his resignation. He then asked members to vote for the Council and Officers for the coming year, in the following categories:

- a. The following who has indicated his willingness to join the Council having previously served as the Student Member:

Adam Storning

The President thanked Adam, who was unable to attend owing to study commitments abroad, for his contribution as Student Member, and looked forward to his time on Council in a new role.

Proposed: P Jobson

Seconded: M Meech

Vote: Agreed without dissent.

- b. The following who has indicated his willingness to join the Council having previously been a co-opted member:

Eamonn O'Keeffe (Student Member)

Proposed: A Cormack

Seconded: J Peaty

Vote: Agreed without dissent.

- c. The following members of Council who are eligible to continue for a further year:

Ashley Truluck CB CBE (who is serving as Chair)

John Peaty FRGS FRHistS

Philip McCarty

Peter Johnston

Ismini Pells

Andrew Bamford

Proposed: D Saunders
Seconded: R Courtney-Bennett
Vote: Agreed without dissent

8. Election of Honorary Officers.

The following are nominated by Council for election for the year 2017-2018.

Andrew E Cormack, FSA FRHistS (Editor)
Charles Street FCCA (Treasurer)
Philip Jobson (Membership Secretary)
The Reverend Dr Peter J. Howson FCMI FRHistS (Hon Sec)

Proposed: A Bamford
Seconded: J Peaty
Vote: Agreed without dissent.

9. Appointment of a Vice-President

The President announced that the Council were unanimous in bringing the name of Lt Col (Rtd) David Saunders for appointment as an Honorary Vice-President of the Society. David had been a long serving member of Council and then, for many years, the Membership Secretary. The following was being Proposed by the Chair and Seconded by the Secretary:

That under Section 5(c) of the Society's Constitution Council unanimously recommends the election of the following as a Vice-President.

Lt Col (Retd) David Saunders.

The meeting was delighted to agree to the proposal.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

To propose the appointment of Haydn Wood (Partner), SRG LLP, of 28 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6AA as Independent Examiner.

Proposed: M Meech
Seconded: A Cormack
Vote: Agreed without dissent.

11. Reports on the activities of the Society

- a. **Chair:** The Chair reported that the Society had had a good year and was in excellent heart. It has been agreed that the Officers, and members of Council with areas of responsibility, would brief the meeting about their future plans. He was delighted to thank the members of Council for their hard work over the past year. He reported that it was intended to ask someone with a knowledge of societies such as ours to help with a plan for recruitment and retention of members.
- b. **Secretary:** The Secretary reported that consideration was being given to holding an Annual General Meeting outside London. A good number of those present had travelled to London for this meeting. Even so they expressed a view that they might find travel elsewhere to be difficult.

The Secretary reported that discussions had begun with a possible location for celebrations to mark the Centenary of the Society in 2021. An outline programme was being brought to Council.

- d. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer reported that the Society was in a healthy financial position. He looked forward to some of the funds being used to consider ways in which the Society might grow and develop. He thus supported the proposal by the Chair for a review of the ways used for recruitment and retention of members. He also indicated that the Society was encouraging the use of PayPal® as the preferred method of payment.
- e. **Editor:** The Editor reported that he had stocks of new designs of a tie for members and a lapel badge, available for sale. In respect of the Journal the major development was an agreement for past copies to be digitised and appear on JSTOR. There would be a two-year embargo before new copies were made available through the site. He hoped that a method would be available for all members to access these digital copies. The ‘Great War’ Special Edition would now probably appear in the summer of 2018.
- f. **Membership Secretary:** The Membership Secretary reported that there had been a trend showing an increase, albeit small, in membership.
- g. **Research Grants:** Report on Research Grants. Dr I Pells was the Council lead on Research Grants. In her, unavoidable, absence the Secretary read her report. The details of the 2016 recipients had been circulated. Members were encouraged to let students know of the existence of the grants. In a new development, Council had agreed to make grants available to independent researchers not currently affiliated to any academic institution. Those making applications would need to be members of the Society.
- h. **Future Events:** Report on Future Events: As the member of Council responsible for the events programme Peter Johnston outlined his proposal for the coming year. It was intended to organize a tour of the newly re-opened National Army Museum. It was hoped that the seminars at universities would continue. Council was also looking at ways in which it could partner with other learned societies. It was intended to hold a Templer Lecture and dinner in the autumn. The Chair, proposed that a battlefield tour, for which the company he ran would be responsible and would offer a preferred rate, take place. It could be organized in Spring 2018, with the alternatives of Malta and the Peninsula campaign being proposed.
- i. **Social Media:** Report on Social Media: As the member of Council responsible for activities on social media, Andrew Bamford reported that there had been over 5000 followers on the Society’s ‘Linked-In’® and ‘Face Book’© postings. He intended to publish further ‘lists’ to which members would be asked to contribute. He looked forward to the new website.
- j. **Website:** Report on Publicity and website: The Chair spoke about the relaunch of the Society’s website. It had been hoped that it would have been available in time for the meeting. It would offer much more opportunity for interaction, including a method of buying the new tie. Details of the website would be made available as soon as possible.

12. Any Other Business.

A request was made that the details of the Society's bank account be made available to assist with transfer of funds. The Treasurer and Editor would discuss the appropriate format for this.

13. The date of the 2018 Annual General Meeting to be 24th April 2018 at a venue to be selected by the Society's Council. This avoids meeting on 25th April which is ANZAC Day, a day on which our Royal Patron would, as this year, be unlikely to be available.

Signed.....

Date.....

The Meeting was followed by a lecture from Dr Michael Lo Cicero on an overlooked battle on the Passchendaele Ridge that had taken place in early December 1917.

Members and guests attended a reception at which awards were to winners of the Essay Prize 2017 competition, to those in the First Book category, and to those in the Templer Medal competition, culminating in the presentation of the Society's Templer Medal.