The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

Minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting of the Society for Army Historical Research held at the National Army Museum on Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 17.00 hours

The Chair welcomed members of the Society to this first in-person Annual General Meeting since 2019. It was thus the first meeting he had chaired. Before opening, the Chair paid tribute to the late Field Marshal Sir John Chapple for his time as President and his interest in the Society until his death. A message of condolence had been sent to his widow.

1. There were 29 members present. Apologies had been received from the President, one Vice-President, three members of Council and three members of the Society.

2. Dr John Peaty reported on the 2021 Templer Medal Award and First Book Prize, indicating that the winners would be announced at the reception later that evening. Dr P. McCarty then reported on the Essay Prize Competition for 2022 and announced the winners.

3. Dr John Peaty FRGS FRHistS was re-appointed by acclamation as Chair of the Templer Medal sub-committee.

4. The Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting held on 2nd June 2021 by Zoom were proposed for adoption by Council and agreed without opposition by a show of hands.

5. The adoption of the Honorary Officers' Reports & the Accounts for 1 January to 31 December 2021 was proposed by the Chair and seconded by A. Cormack. They were agreed unanimously.

6. E. O'Keeffe offered the thanks of the Society to the contributors to the Society's Journal.

7. Constitutional Amendment
   The following amendment to the Constitution was introduced by the Secretary. He answered a question from a member before proposing it on behalf of the Council with the Chair as seconder.

   'To vary the terms served by members of the Society's Council and to nominate members to portfolios. The text has been circulated to Members and appears on the website of the Society.

1. *To delete after 5(c) 'and the following functionaries who shall be Officers of the Society.'*
2. *Delete clause 5(d) and re-number 5(e) as 5(d).*
3. *Delete the present 6(a) to 6(f) and replace with:*

(a) The management of the Society shall be vested in a Council of not more than thirteen members of the Society. Each Member of Council will serve as a Trustee of the Society. A minimum of five Members shall form a quorum. Each Member of Council will normally be responsible for an area of the governance of the Society. The area of responsibility shall be indicated on any election paper. Where a Member possesses more general qualities that may be useful to the Society, and a portfolio is not required, they shall be annotated as 'without portfolio.'

(b) All Members of the Council shall retire at each Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election.

(c) Ordinary members may nominate fully paid-up members of the Society for election to Council. In the event of there being only one candidate for each post, the election of Council shall be taken en bloc.

In the event of a nomination for a particular post being received by the announced date and a vote being required, the Secretary shall inform the membership prior to the Annual General Meeting. Statements from candidates giving their reasons for wishing to stand and their qualifications for the post in question shall be circulated by the Secretary. A vote will be held at the Annual General Meeting using a secret ballot and the person with the most votes will be declared as elected.

(d) Council shall have the power to co-opt additional Members of the Society to fill vacant portfolios. It may also co-opt additional persons, who need not be individual members, to assist with its work. As with Trustees any such appointments shall be until the next Annual General Meeting.

Such Members will not be able to administer or disburse Society funds.

Any non-members shall be non-voting Members.

Co-opted non-members will not be required to serve as a Trustees of the Society.

(e) Council shall, in addition, find from amongst the membership a member who is willing and able to serve as Chairman. Council will recommend the person for election at the Annual General Meeting for immediate appointment.

On election the Chair shall serve normally for a maximum period of five years. Council may recommend a single extension of a further period of up to two years.

(f) Renumber clause 6(g) as 6(f) but otherwise it will remain as at present.

(g) Renumber clause 6(h) as 6(g) and amend as consistent with the new foregoing clauses.

4. *Amend 8(b) to read:*

All business for the Annual General Meeting, including any nominations for Council, and items of 'Any Other Business' shall be in the hands of the Secretary not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting.

Any nomination for membership of Council must be signed by the nominee and proposer, both of whom shall be paid-up members of the Society. A reasoned statement as to the portfolio for which the candidate is being proposed must accompany the nomination.'

A card vote was taken by secret ballot. The amendment was agreed by 22 votes for the amendment and 2 votes against. There were no spoiled votes. The majority exceeded the required two-thirds majority required and the amendment was thus passed.

8. Election of Council.

Following the adoption of the amendment to the Constitution the following presented themselves as members of Council with the portfolios as indicated:

Ewan Carmichael (Chair)
Andrew Bamford (Secretary)
Charles Street (Treasurer)
Christopher Palmer (Membership)
Andrew Cormack (Editor)
John Peaty (Templer Committee)
Phil McCarty (Essay Prizes)
Carol Dixon-Smith (Events)
Carol Divall (Schools liaison)
Chris Phillips (Reviews)
Eamonn O'Keeffe (Website)
Robert Fleming (National Army Museum liaison)
Rory Butcher (Student Member)

The members present agreed overwhelmingly by a show of hands that thew above constitute the Council of the Society for the following year.

9. A. Bamford introduced a proposal to introduce a grade of *Fellow of the Society for Army Historical Research*. The proposal had been introduced in the newsletter and details of the scheme had been posted on the website. A discussion of the merits of the proposal then took place. A motion to accept the proposal was proposed by A. Bamford and seconded by P. McCarty. It was passed by a show of hands with votes for being 24 and votes against 0. there was 1 abstention.

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Council proposed the appointment of Haydn Wood (Partner), SRG LLP, of 10 Bolt Court, London, EC4A 3DA as Independent Examiner.

This was accepted unanimously by the members present on a show of hands.

11. Reports were made on the activities of the Society as follows, and the relevant committee members then answered questions.

a. Chair's Report
b. Secretary's Report
c. Treasurer's Report
d. Editor's Report
e. Membership Secretary's Report
f. Report on Research Grants.
g. Report on Future Events
h. Report on Social Media activities

12. Any Other Business.
No other business had been intimated to the Secretary in advance of the meeting. No items were raised from the floor.

a. The Chair expressed his thanks on behalf of the Society to the National Army Museum for being so co-operative in the arrangements of the meeting.

b. The Chair also proposed, and the members present agreed unanimously, that greetings be sent to Field Marshal HRH the Duke of Kent our royal Patron. It was hoped that he might be able to accept an invitation to attend a future event.

c. Finally, the Chair expressed the thanks of the members of the Society, Council and his own gratitude as Chair to the Rev Dr Peter Howson who was standing down as Secretary to the Society. A great debt was owed to Peter for his work behind the scenes in keeping the wheels of the Society turning. A. Truluck, a Vice-President, offered his thanks having, during his time as Chair, been grateful for the advice he had received.

13. The date of the next Annual General Meeting to be in April 2023 on a date and at a venue to be selected by the Society's Council. Council is happy to continue its co-operation with the NAM, though for the sake of variety, an alternative venue may be chosen.

Signed………………………………………. Dated………………………..