



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Society for Army Historical Research held at the National Army Museum on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 17.00

1. There were 56 members present. Apologies had been received from our Patron, three members of Council, and six members of the Society.
2. Major General Ashley Truluck explained the reason for his return as Chair due to the resignation of Major General Ewan Carmichael to attend to essential personal matters. He had kept himself informed of the Society's activities since the end of his first tenure as Chair, and gave a resumé of its current status. The 'triple-whammy' of Brexit, COVID, and the Ukraine war had made recent months difficult for charities but whereas many had folded, SAHR had seen only a levelling off of membership numbers. He remarked upon three recent events:
 - The Presentation of the inaugural SAHR Fellowship to our Royal Patron HRH the Duke of Kent.
 - The recent memorial service to our late President, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple.
 - The funeral of Major General Sebastian Roberts, a past Chair of Council.Looking ahead, it was five years since the last strategic review of the Society's activities and another such review was due, to take into account the changed circumstances of today's world. Amongst other issues, it was hoped to build on our close relationship with NAM, improve ties with the Army, and review the terms of reference of the Templer Medal to take account of the extent to which the competition has grown.
Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner offered the Society's formal thanks to Major General Ewan Carmichael for his service as Chair 2020-2022.
3. Dr John Peaty reported on the 2022 Templer Medal Award and First Book Prize,

indicating that the winners would be announced at the reception later that evening. Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner offered the Society's formal thanks to Dr Peaty who was standing down as Chair of the Templer Medal subcommittee after 11 years.

In the absence of Dr Phil McCarty, Dr Andrew Bamford then reported on the Essay Prize Competition for 2023 and announced the winners. He invited members to spread the word of this competition and encourage eligible contacts to enter.

4. The Minutes of the 94th Annual General Meeting, held on 27 April 2022 at the National Army Museum, were proposed for adoption by Peter Robinson, seconded by Chris Palmer, and agreed unanimously by a show of hands.
5. The adoption of the Honorary Officers' Reports & the Accounts for 1 January to 31 December 2022 was proposed by Dr Andrew Cormack and seconded by Dr John Peaty. They were agreed unanimously.
6. Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner offered the Society's thanks to Dr Andrew Cormack for his work as Hon. Editor of the Journal. David Rowlands proposed a vote of thanks to the contributors to the Journal, which was seconded by Dr Andrew Bamford and approved unanimously.
7. Change to overseas subscription rates.
The Hon. Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer, requested the meeting's approval to increase annual subscription rates for members with mailing addresses in Europe, and to bring them in line with the rates for members with mailing addresses in the USA and the Rest of the World (i.e. all mailing addresses outside the United Kingdom and Europe). He outlined the reasons for this change and formally proposed the amendments noted below (previously circulated as part of the agenda), which were seconded by Dr Andrew Cormack:
 1. That the three geographical membership subscription classes (UK, Europe, and Rest of World) be revised to two (UK and International).
 2. That the current rates for Full Membership Europe excluding UK (£45.00) and Student Membership Europe excluding UK (£30.00) be abolished. The annual subscriptions for members with mailing addresses in Europe be increased to equal that for members with mailing addresses in all other international destinations, i.e. £55.00 p.a., with the Student Membership remaining at £30.00 p.a.
 3. That these changes be implemented with effect from 1 January 2024.The changes were agreed without opposition by a show of hands.

8. Election of Council.

The following were presented for election en bloc as members of the Council of the Society with the areas of responsibility as indicated:

Ashley Truluck (Chair)
Andrew Bamford (Hon. Secretary)
Rohan Saravanamuttu (Hon. Treasurer)

Christopher Palmer (Hon. Membership Secretary)
Andrew Cormack (Hon. Editor)
Carole Divall (Schools Liaison)
Chris Phillips (Book Reviews Editor)
Eamonn O’Keeffe (Digital Media)
Rory Butcher (Student Member)
Glyn Pryor (National Army Museum Liaison)

Their election was proposed by Dr Ismini Pells and seconded by Professor Gary Sheffield. The members present agreed overwhelmingly by a show of hands that the above constitute the Council of the Society for the following year.

9. Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner introduced the proposal that the Rev. Dr Peter Howson be elected a Vice-President of the Society. Peter had served for many years on Council, most recently in a lengthy stint as Hon. Secretary. Council’s recommendation was that he be appointed a Vice-President to both recognize and reward his distinguished service and to enable the Society to continue to draw upon his advice and experience. His election was commended to the membership with the unanimous backing of the Society’s Council, and was unanimously passed by a show of hands.
10. Rohan Saravanamuttu proposed, and Dr Andrew Cormack seconded, 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.
 - a. Secretary’s Report by Dr Andrew Bamford, who noted that he would be standing down in a year’s time due to work commitments and sought expressions of interest in taking over the role. He thanked Colonel Dudley Giles for all his effort with the Society’s programme of online talks.
 - b. Treasurer’s Report by Rohan Saravanamuttu and Charles Street.
 - c. Editor’s Report by Dr Andrew Cormack. As part of this report it was noted that plans were under consideration for a Special edition of the Journal to mark the 250th anniversary of the American War of Independence. Contributions and sponsorship were being sought.
 - d. Membership Secretary’s Report by Chris Palmer, who noted that he would be standing down in a year’s time and sought expressions of interest in taking over the role.
 - e. Report on Research Grants by Dr Andrew Cormack, acting Grants Officer, who reminded members that they were eligible to apply for the Society’s Independent Research Grant.
 - f. Report on Digital Media by Dr Eamonn O’Keeffe.
 - g. Report on Student Activities delivered by Dr Andrew Bamford from notes prepared by Rory Butcher who was absent due to teaching commitments.
12. Any Other Business.

No other business had been intimated to the Hon. Secretary in advance of the meeting. Major General Ashley Truluck therefore opened the floor to questions and observations.

- a. David Rowlands observed that name badges for all attendees would be welcome at future AGMs.
- b. Colonel Dudley Giles reminded members that all who registered for online talks would receive a recording, even if they did not attend live.
- c. The Rev. Dr Peter Howson asked whether there would be a resumption of the Society's battlefield tour programme. It was agreed that this would be desirable, and suggestions were invited for possible destinations.
- d. Lieutenant General Sir Barney White-Spunner reiterated the request for possible sponsors for the proposed Special Journal, and also stressed that it would be wonderful to be able to have HRH the Duke of Kent attend the 2024 AGM and recommended that the date for this be left open for the time being in order to allow for coordination with the Duke's other commitments.

13. The date of the next Annual General Meeting to be in Spring 2024 on a date and at a venue to be selected by the Society's Council.

Signed.....

Dated.....