



The Royal Green Jackets Association
Suffolk Branch.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROYAL GREEN JACKET ASSOCIATION

HELD AT THE ARMY CADET DRILL HALL ON FRIDAY THE 5th NOVEMBER 1993

1. Those present: John Bevan, Mick Burtenshaw, Jim Crack, Stu Duckett, Barrie Gilmore, Jim Hitches, Curly Hooper, Joe Iakeman, Larry Lamb, Joe Mills, Frank Moss, Brian Pepper, Gordon Pilcher, Mick Read & Vic Steedman.
2. Apologies: Tom Evans, Mick Cozzi, Mick Downey, Bob Stoddart, Ralph Bolt, Del Hemsley.
3. The meeting was opened at 2000hrs by Joe Mills.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were read out, proposed by Frank Moss and seconded by Jim Hitches that the minutes as read be passed.
5. Correspondance: Letter received from Trevor Ellison booking 6 tickets for the Ladies Dinner Night, and wishing eveyone here a Merry Xmas.
6. Benevolence report: John reported that now Barrie was out of hospital there was nothing to report.
7. Finance: Savings a/cc £1855.19 Gen a/cc £447.98, having topped up the benevolence fund by £40.00 and paid £20.00 for picture framing.
8. Remembrance Weekend: 13 tickets for the Festival have been sold the remaining two have been donated to the old folk at Mayes Court.
Sunday service nad lunch has all been arranged names as per previous minutes for the lunch. Raffle prizes are needed.
9. Ladies Dinner Night: Lease make sure all names are in by the December meeting, Date as you know is Friday the 21st January 94.
We have booked the Zephyrs againg and Jim Hitches confirms that John Humphries is all set for MC.

Menue will be agreed and costs advised at the December meeting.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Mick Burtenshaw advised that he had received from Del Hemsley new menues for the Marlborough and that as advised above these would be looked at and advised at next mtg.

b. Mick Burtenshaw also advised that his wife Christine was doing a sponsored wheel chair marathon and was looking for sponsors.

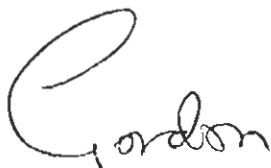
Barrie Gilmore proposed that the Association sponsor Christine for £25.00, this was seconded by Larry Lamh and agreed by all.

c. Barrie Gilmore gave his thanks to John Bevan and all Association members for the bowl of fruit,

d. Congratulations go from us all to Frank & Maddi Moss on becomming Grandparents. Frank brought everyone present a drink to wet the babies head.

cont:-

10. e. Gordon reported that he had been to Winchester to attend the Association meeting and that there was some good news about our band. As you are all aware there has been a lot going on lately with regards to Army bands so it is really good to report that there will now be 7 Army bands paid for and uniformed by the Army, these will consist of 5 Guards Bands, 1 Royal Artillery Band and 1 Royal Green Jacket Band. Our Regimental bands will go but bugle sections will remain. Army bands will be 50 strong although the RGJ band will have a 20 strong bugle section, making our band the biggest in the Army.
- f. Suffolk Association Cards, these have now been received and are on sale at 45p each. Cards have been sent as Xmas cards to all branch secretaries and to RHQ Winchester - the response from the other branches has been great, we have received an order from Liverpool for 200 cards and hopefully there will be more to follow.
- g. RHQ have confirmed that they have received our report for the next News Letter, copy attached for your info.
- h. Our Condolences go to Maddi Moss on the loss of her Mother.
11. Date of next meeting this will be on Friday the 3rd December 1993 same place same time.
12. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 2035hrs.




JOE MILLS
CHAIRMAN

GORDON PILCHER
SECRETARY

NB: PUB CARD. IN THE USUAL MANNER STU DUCKETT WAS THE FIRST AGAIN TO GET HIS NAME ON THE NEW BOTTLE - WELL DONE STU.

WINCHESTER TRIP JULY 94 - FRANK MOSS SAID HE'S GOING NO MATTER WHAT THIS TIME SO MADDI WILL HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL CHRISTENINGS, WEDDINGS ETC ETC ARE HELD ON THAT WEEKEND . PLEASE !!!



SUFFOLK TALES

"Suffolk born and Suffolk bred
Strong in the arm and weak in the head"

That is how the saying goes, and maybe that is why we ex-Green Jackets fit in so well in Suffolk! (On second thoughts, it probably has more to do with the Suffolk girls that we married). Whatever the case, we have started and are continuing to maintain a thriving Association here in darkest Felixstowe.

The Association was born through the passion and patience of Joe Mills nearly seven years ago. After a gestation period that even an elephant would balk at, the Association was finally brought kicking and screaming into the world in July 1987.

From an initial complement of eleven, we have grown to forty-four robust and often raucous diehards who are as proud of their Regiment today as they were when serving. Our membership, whose ages range from over 100 (in the cases of Curly Hooper and Joe Lakeman) to the more tender years of Craig Thomas who is 23, meet on the first Friday of each month at 2000 hours in the Drill Hall, Garrison Lane, Felixstowe. Meetings, taking into account the vagaries of shiftwork, are very well attended. Anybody visiting the area would be sure of a warm welcome, a drink or three and even a bed for the night.

We are very lucky here in Felixstowe as we share an old Drill Hall with the Army Cadets and have received permission from TAVR to treat the property as our own. This gives us a unique opportunity to have prints and paintings permanently displayed in our meeting room. We work very closely with the Cadets and are very pleased that some Green has rubbed off - they have now requested, through MoD, to re-badge to RGJ.

We have held various functions, ranging from cheese and wine parties and fish suppers to our now traditional annual Ladies' Dinner Night which is held on the third Friday in January, and the Remembrance Luncheon held on the nearest Sunday to Remembrance Day. Both of these functions take place at the Marlborough Hotel in Felixstowe and are extremely well attended. Our guests have included Ken Gray, Col Tim Manners-Smith, General Sir Peter Hudson (who

had the temerity to win our star raffle prize of an "Arsehole Grooming Kit") and Ron Cassidy who is now our President (a post offered him as it was our only hope of stopping him making a speech in the future).

Our last Ladies' Dinner Night, held on 22 January 1993 was an outstanding success. Seventy people, headed by Col George and Liz Elliott, sat down after being called to dinner by Bugle Major Fred Rogers and his Bugle Section; our thanks go to Lt Col of 5RGJ for once again supporting us. After the port and two short but nonetheless memorable speeches by Col George Elliott and our Chairman Joe Mills, people were persuaded to leave the table, and dancing to a live band began and continued until 1.30 am.

This year we held a Birthday Bash on Friday 27 August, again at the Marlborough Hotel. We had a very good turn out and were especially pleased to see Steve Horsley, Dave Marsh, John Latimer and Dougie George enjoy the evening with us. Thirty-five raffle prizes were donated, which is a very good indication of how successful our functions are; this will now become another annual event for us.

So successful have our functions been that our fame has spread out of Suffolk to the West Country and even north of Watford, and we are admirably supported by members from as far away as:

Somerset - Fred and Lally Edwards
 Devon - John and Pauline Cousins
 Scotland - Davie Muir
 Swindon - Trevor and Sue Ellison
 Southend-on-Sea - Bryn and Leslie Shore
 Cambridge - John and Jenny Powell
 Sheerness - Albert Storey

For the third year running we laid on a coach and spent the weekend at the Marwell Resort Hotel to enjoy this year's Annual Reunion at Winchester. Many old friendships were renewed and we gained a few new members whilst there - which can't be bad.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Regiment and, in particular, George Elliott and Ron Cassidy for their continued advice and support.

The Committee: