

**Honorary President:**  
Major. Ron Cassidy M.B.E. ®

**Chairman**  
Joe Mills  
(01394) 270552

**Benevolence:**  
John Bevan  
(01394) 396272

**Secretary:**  
Gordon Pilcher  
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**Entertainments:**  
Mick Burtenshaw  
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# The Royal Green Jacket Association

## Suffolk Branch

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 1st of November 1996  
at the Army Cadet Drill Hall Felixstowe

1. **Those Present:** Mick Read, Tommy Evans, Vic Steadman, Brian Pepper, Alfie Adams, Jim Crack, Mick Burtenshaw, Larry Lamb, Jim Hitches, Joe Mills, Gordon Pilcher, John Bevan, Del Hemsley, & Fred Breyer.
2. **Apologies:** Mick Downey, Craig Thomas, Frank Moss, Frank Rimmer, Dave Hazel & Mick Cozzi.
3. The Meeting was opened at 20.05 hrs by Joe Mills.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were read out, proposed by Jim Hitches and seconded by Tommy Evans that the minutes as read be passed.
5. **Matters arising:** Nil
6. **Correspondence:** Sent details to Ron Cassidy for the RGJ Assc meeting. Received letter from Felixstowe Town Hall, giving details of the Remembrance Day Parade and Civic Service on Monday the 11th of November at 1100hrs. Received reply from Ron Cassidy following the Winchester meeting, see details attached.
7. **Finance:** Savings account £1920.74 and Gen account stays at - £3.17 in the Bank, in hand £41.00, outstanding £34.50, figures do not include Bar takings in excess of £200.00
8. **Benevolence:** John had nothing to report.
9. **Remembrance Weekend:** John Bevan had the tickets for the Festival which were £4.00 each for those that wanted to go. Jim Crack confirmed that he would lay the wreath on Sunday. Mick Read confirmed that a coach would be ready at the Leisure Centre to take everyone to the Orwell after the Parade had finished. Mick Burtenshaw advised that with 3 members from Colchester we had 38 sitting down to lunch on Sunday.  
Joe Mills, Fred Edwards, Gordon Pilcher, Mick Burtenshaw, Jim Hitches, Del Hemsley and Alfie Adams with the Standard agreed to attend the Civic Service on Monday the 11th any other members would be most welcome.

10. Any other business:

- a) Mick Read Confirmed that the Buglers Ian Marshman and Carl Harrison with their wives will be at the Ladies Dinner Dance.
- b) Jim Hitches suggested that we should try and get the 5th Bn RGJ TA Band for one of our dances, and that if we were in agreement he would contact Kenny Gray to check possibilities and report back. A good idea and every one keen to hear results.
- c) Gordon put on show some of the Suffolk Assc Cards that he had done, with various designs, with his new PC and could personalise them for individuals. Normal cost is 45p, with an extra 5p per card going to the Assc. Several orders were taken on the night and happy to take more.
- d) Ron's note was discussed and it was agreed that with the poor attendance of the London Branch, despite having over 500 members on their books, we should not jump to quickly and perhaps with the Colchester Branch coming on Strong, maybe London should come under East Anglia, now there's a thought?
- e) Gordon advised that we had received an invite from the RAF Assc, for their Xmas buffet dance which is on Friday the 6th of December. It was agreed that we would go down to the Bowls Club after our meeting had finished.
- e) Date of the next meeting, this is on Friday the 6th of December same place same time.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 2035hrs.

*Joe Mills*  
*Chairman*

*Gordon Pilcher*  
*Secretary*

Major (Retd) R.D. Cassidy MBE, Honorary President Suffolk Branch,  
The Royal Green Jackets Association



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21 October 1996

*Dear G. Cassidy*

I represented you both at The Royal Green Jackets Association meeting yesterday. It was a long day and no doubt the minutes of the meeting will reflect all that was said.

Your views outlined at para 10d of your meeting held on 4 October were aired by me. They were accepted by the Chairman. I have one reservation about London Branch Control.

Later in the meeting when the Chairman had gone, Lt Col Elliott took the Chair for the remainder of the business. Each branch gave a SITREP and it transpired that the London Branch although showing on paper 600 ex RGJ living in the Capital, had only 6 who attended meetings etc. This because it was easy for them because they worked at 4 RGJ. This then is obviously a branch that is there in name only. Therefore I must caution you to wait before coming under their central authority because frankly it will not work.

I believe centrally the Association is still in a muddle, too much is expected from the Central Committee. An example of this is joining a recruit into the Association and thereafter whether he attends a meeting, goes to a function or attends the reunion, we call him an Association member. He's not, he's just a name who receives a newsletter - an expensive way to run an Association!

My view is that members are those who pay annual subscriptions and attempt to turn up for events. This is how the Suffolk branch and some others do it and I am of the opinion that is the way forward for all branches if the Association as such is to survive. Enthusiasm alone will not be enough - one Branch Chairman spoke about sending 500 letters and only ever getting 20 replies, he funds this himself because in his words "he's a Rifleman". If he goes on in this manner he will be a poor Rifleman.

It transpired that officers are already members of the Association and have been since 1971. Where their subscriptions have gone the Lord only knows, perhaps the Association should be asking or even demanding 25 years worth of subscriptions. It would certainly help the Association to be more solvent.

The subject of the lack of officers attending branches/social events/reunions was discussed. Non appearance is nothing new and although when they turn up invariably they have a good time, most see it as a duty rather than a social event. There are some who wouldn't dream of missing an event but these are a small minority.

It's sad because the Riflemen enjoy seeing their officers. Perhaps an example of this is when Stephen Cave attended the social at the Marwell. But it's not a subject that the Association needs to spend too much time on.

Have a good Remembrance Service and lunch, I will be at Grosvenor Gardens for the Rifle Brigade and Royal Green Jackets service. Shirley and I look forward to meeting up with everyone at the Ladies' Dinner night at the end of January, until then,

Sorry, I'm a bit late  
in sending this.

Yours ever  
Ron