

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



**Secretary:**  
Gordon Pilcher  
(01394) 285925

**Chairman:**  
Joe Mills  
(01394) 270552

**Entertainments:**  
Mick Burtenshaw  
(01394) 270596

**Benevolence:**  
John Bevan  
(01394) 273016

# The Royal Green Jacket Association

## Suffolk Branch

Minutes of a meeting held on Friday 4th of October 1996  
at the Army Cadet Drill Hall Felixstowe

1. **Those Present:** Mick Read, Tommy Evans, Vic Steedman, Brian Pepper, Alfie Adams, Jim Crack, Mick Burtenshaw, Larry Lamb, Frank Moss, Jim Hitches, Joe Mills, Gordon Pilcher, Ollie Brown, Derek Smith, Tony White, Bing Crosby, Mick O'Connor, Bill Martin & Robbo Robinson..
2. **Apologies:** Del Hemsley, John Bevan, Mick Downey, Craig Thomas, & Mick Cozzi.
3. The Meeting was opened at 20.05 hrs by Joe Mills with a warm welcome to Ollie Brown and his members from the Colchester area.
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 letter of thanks to the Orwell Hotel along with our cheque for the Regimental Birthday Dance. Sent letter to RHQ giving details of our functions for 1996/97 see attached. Received letter of appreciation from the Orwell Hotel with their hope that our first function will be the start to a long and happy association. Received Paper from RHQ giving details of the plans for the Assc over the next five years, see summarised details attached.
7. **Finance:** Savings account £1917.71 and Gen account stays at £152.20
8. **Benevolence:** In Johns absence Gordon reported that Ralph Bolt was now better and quite literally once he had had the "P" or should we say "Pea" taken out of him he soon regained full health. Glad to hear your now back on form Taff and look forward to seeing you at one of our next meetings.
9. **Remembrance Day:** Sunday the 10th of November. The Service this year is in St. John's Church followed by a Service at the Cenotaph. For those not attending the Church Service please make sure your on Parade ready to form up at 1045hrs. Names should be given to Mick Burtenshaw for those wanting lunch - details of transport as per our last minutes.

10. Any other business:

- a. As Gordon or Joe are unable to attend this years Association Meeting in Winchester it was agreed that we should ask Ron Cassidy to represent the Branch.
- b. Ollie Brown, confirmed that they had over thirty members on their books and that they had now got a permanent meeting place in Colchester for their monthly meetings. Their welcome visit to us in Felixstowe was to see how we did things with a hope that we can join together to strengthen the RGJ Assc in the area and increase participation at our separate events and functions.
- c. An invitation was given to Ollie for the Remembrance Day Lunch and the Ladies Dinner Dance and also to join us at Winchester, for which there were several takers on the evening.
- d. RHQ paper on the future of the Association, this was discussed and in general welcomed, with the following observations:-

Officers, if an Officer wanted to join our branch as a member there would be no objection as long as he understood that the position of Chairman was not his by right and that if wanting to stand for election he would have to be voted in by the Members. We already have in Ron as our Honorary President the best possible representation.

If the Assc lacks Officer Support and members apart from those who have come up through the ranks, a possible option to overcome this would be to incorporate the Officers Club into the Assc, the funds then could be held centrally and a benefit to all.

London Branch Control, we could see no problems with our Branch coming under the control of London, and could be beneficial to the branch and our members by giving us a more readily accessible venue as well as point of contact .

Should any member wish to comment on any of the attached points or would like a full copy of the paper please feel free to drop us a line.

- e. This months Pub card was won by Bill Martin, who was rather amazed when we asked him to just sign the bottle and give it us back. A second Pub card was done with the proceeds being given to Ollie to help them with their funds. This practice may well catch on in Essex.
- f. Date of the next meeting, this is on Friday the 1st of November same place same time.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 2045hrs.

*Joe Mills*  
*Chairman*

*Gordon Pilcher*  
*Secretary*

LOYAL GREEN JACKET ASSOCIATION (RGJ ASSOCIATION)

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INTRODUCTION  
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RGJ ASSC FORMED IN 1996 NOW HAS 4391 MEMBERS (1238 SERVING - 3153 RETIRED) WITH SOME 16 BRANCHES. THE BRANCHES ARE WHOLLY DEPENDENT FOR SUCCESS ON THE TIME AND ENERGY THAT THE RESPECTIVE CHAIRMAN OR SECRETARY IS ABLE TO DEVOTE THEM, COMMONLY TWO OR THREE BRANCHES ARE DORMANT AT ANY ONE TIME.

BRANCHES TEND TO LACK SUPPORT FROM OFFICERS (EXCEPT THOSE THAT HAVE COME UP THROUGH THE RANKS) NOT JUST IN TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY AS SEEN BY RHQ IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP.

THE ASSC HAS TENUOUS LINKS WITH THE OLD COMRADES ORGANISATIONS OF THE FORMER REGIMENTS WHICH WHILST FLOURISHING AT PRESENT HAVE AN AGING MEMBERSHIP THAT WILL DWINDLE. RETIRED GREEN JACKETS TEND TO IDENTIFY MORE READILY WITH THEIR FORMER REGIMENTS 1,2, OR 3RD GJ THAN WITH THE REGIMENT AS A WHOLE.

THE AIM OF THE RGJ ASC TO TAKE IT INTO THE 21ST CENTURY IS TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS BETWEEN THE ASSC AND CURRENT REGULAR AND TA REGIMENTS. ADDRESS THE LOYALTIES OF PAST GREEN JACKETS, PULLING THEM ALL TOGETHER UNDER THE ONE ORGANISATION.

OBJECTIVES:  
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1. THE ASC CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN BONDING THE REGIMENT BY PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE TA AND BY FOSTERING LINGS BETWEEN THE SERVING AND RETIRED MEMBERSHIP.
2. FOSTER LINGS WITH THE FORMER REGIMENTS OLD COMRADES.
3. ASSUME FORMAL RGJ OWNERSHIP OF THE ANNUAL REUNIONS IN OXFORD AND LONDON
4. USE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS WHO PROVIDE A COMMITTED BODY OF RECRUITERS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE THE REGIMENT AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL RECRUITS
5. ASSC MEMBERS TO SUPPORT KAPE TOURS AND OTHER REGIMENTAL RECRUITING IF GIVEN NOTICE AND CLEAR DIRECTION.
6. STRENGTHEN LINGS BETWEEN RGJ CAPBADGED CADET UNITS.
7. A RELIABLE DATABASE OF MEMBERS.
8. A WELL ADVERTISED POINT OF CONTACT IN RHQ.
9. A HIGH QUALITY ANNUAL NEWS LETTER AND AN IMPROVED RANGE OF RGJ ITEMS.
10. A REGULAR FLOW OF INFORMATION AND CONTACT WITH SERVING GREEN JACKETS. UNITS TO SPONSOR AND SUPPORT LOCAL BRANCHES WITH RECIPROCAL VISITS.
11. TO FOSTER THE REGIMENTS CLOSER LINKS BETWEEN LONDON, OXFORD AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WITH THE EMPHASIS ON WINCHESTER AS ITS HOME
12. INCREASE MEMBERSHIP BY ENCOURAGING TA SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS TO JOIN, ALL REGULAR SOLDIERS ON JOINING RATHER THAN ON LEAVING THEIR REGULAR UNIT AND CADET OFFICERS.
13. IDENTIFY OFFICERS TO SUPPORT LOCAL BRANCHES AND IN PARTICULAR THE TASK OF CHAIRMAN.
14. REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE ASC RATHER THAN THROUGH RHQ.  
E.G.: LONDON WOULD BE A MAIN BRANCH WITH SUFFOLK, ESSEX AND KENT AS SUB BRANCHES.

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### Suffolk Branch Functions - 96/97

1. 10th November 1996 Remembrance Day Parade & Lunch.
2. 31st January 1997 Ladies Dinner Dance - Maj Gen CGC Vyvyan
3. 4th April 1997 AGM
4. 12 - 13th July 1997 RGJ Assc Reunion Winchester Weekend
5. 22nd August 1997 Suffolk Reunion Dinner & Dance
6. 9th November 1997 Remembrance Day Parade & Lunch
7. Meetings First Friday of every month.

For further details please contact G. Pilcher Secretary.

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