**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KING’S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT LOCHARBRIGGS**

**SOCIAL CLUB DUMFRIES ON SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2019**

**1. Attending**

Colonel (Retd) AJ Loudon MBE President - KOSB Association

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) RS Combe MBE Vice Chairman KOSB Association

Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) CGO Hogg OBE DL Trustee – KOSB Association

Major (Retd) DP Sturrock TD WS Trustee - KOSB Association

Major (Retd) AG Horsburgh Trustee – KOSB Association

Major (Retd) L Thornton EXO - KOSB Association

Association Members x 40

**Apologies**

Major R Stuart SCOTS

Captain (Retd) K Pope

Bill Heaney

John Short

Dougie Gray

**2. Chairman’s Welcome**

a. The President welcomed those attending, appreciating that some attendees had travelled a considerable distance to attend the meeting, and he was delighted to see so many present. He thanked Major Willie Turner for encouraging the AGM to be held once again in Dumfries, after an absence of many years.

b. The President welcomed the new Association EXO, Major (Retd) Lance Thornton, and gave a public thank-you to Peter Walton for his work as the Association Secretary over the past 4 years.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes of the previous KOSB Association AGM held on Saturday 6 October 2018 at the Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh were read and passed as a true record.

Proposer; Andy Middlemiss

Seconded: David Sturrock

**4. Matters Arising**

Nil.

**5. KOSB Association Accounts**

a. David Sturrock presented and explained the KOSB Association accounts for the year ending 31st December 2018 (attached). These were in the form of a shortened version completed by Greaves West & Ayre (Berwick) and had been approved by the KOSB Association Trustees. David Sturrock further explained that there was a link on the KOSB website that would allow members to view the full 22 page account. He expanded on the following points:

* A designated fund is to account for assets that the Trustees have ring-fenced for a specific purpose; for example, the Cruikshank dinner has been brought in as a designated fund, and its funds can only be used for that annual dinner.
* Trading activities are higher because of whisky sales and setup; profit was £1565.
* ‘Always a Borderer’ costs - 93 sold this year, 1487 copies on charge.
* Welfare grants to HQ SCOTS for Borderers amounted to £17500 paid this year.
* Net loss of £23098; subscriptions raised £6158.

b. The President spoke about stock market volatility and that the fund had risen by £18000 in first half of year. It is, however, essentially a ‘sinking’ fund with more going out than coming in. There is no MOD support aside from the salary of the Museum Assistant and the cleaner, and we no longer enjoy income from a One Day’s Pay scheme, and so we must raise funds to help with running costs from our members. Membership is reducing due to natural causes. The long term plan is to seek the continue to provide support for Borderers, maintain the museum, Borderers traditions and ethos, out to 2050, when the last man ‘badged’ as a Borderer and therefore qualifying for Association support, will be about 65.

**6. Subscriptions**

a. The President explained that the £25 annual subscription had been agreed at the last AGM with a view to increasing the annual income of the Association Funds and assist with the costs of running the Association. It is not an ‘order’, but a request, and all members are requested to be generous if they have the means. The fund is for welfare, maintaining the museum, and supporting Regimental events. It was further explained (as per above) that the Association has had no income from the ODPS since merger in 2006.

b. Question was raised by P Lewicki as to how the £25 was agreed, he stated that members were dissatisfied with the amount. The President explained that it was suggested 2 years ago at AGM then passed at last AGM.

c. Bob Bolton asked if non payers could be asked for a donation on Minden day if they attend. The idea of taking a collection during the Minden weekend celebrations at Berwick would be considered, as well as trying to get sponsorship for the various costs of the event, which was about £5000 this year.

d. Willie Turner asked about the ODPS from HQ SCOTS in relation to KOSB veterans, the President explained the HQ SCOTS supports all antecedent veterans on a case by case basis, and costs were shared where appropriate on a pro rata basis between RRS and antecedent regiment such as the KOSB. In addition some of the RRS ODPS funds are used for Adventure Training activities to enhance the life of soldiers.

**7. Constitution**

a. The Vice Chairman explained that the constitution had been amended to update the language, reflect the increase to the voluntary subscription of £25 mentioned, and that it has been posted on the KOSB website. He further stated that all branch members should be members of the KOSB Association in the first instance as stated in the constitution. He also explained the organisational structure of the Association and the establishment of ‘Executive Committees’ to improve the governance of the Association and optimise the work of the Trustees working within these sub-committees. So far, they are established for the museum, the Association and for finance.

b. The President added that the establishment of sub committees allows appropriate non-Trustee members to be involved in the decision making process. For example, Major Davey Harvey, a serving LE officer, is now part of the Association ‘Executive Committee’, as is the new EXO, Major Lance Thornton. The ‘Executive Committee’ structure has also been posted on the website.

c. P Lewicki raised a point stating that the Board of Trustees should contain a member from each branch. This idea will be considered by the Board.

d. David Sturrock then explained the history of the constitution from 1945. The Trustees agreed in 2000 to form 2 separate companies, KOSB Association Funds and KOSB Museum Funds. Both are registered charities, and the Articles of Association can be viewed on the Company House website The Article have the detailed regulation with regard to the Trustees, which therefore also apply to the Association.

d. P Lewicki stated that he feels the interests of members not being fully met and that they have no voice. This concern, however, was not widely held and there is considerable evidence to support the interests of Association members are being met for the majority.

e. Grant Horsburgh spoke about the reality of being a trustee and a member of the museum committee, as well as volunteering at the museum; getting involved is time consuming and requires commitment of time and effort.

f. The President spoke about “the big tent” approach to taking the Association forward and welcomed contributions from all.

g. Bob Bolton raised concerns that a “them & us” scenario was developing between Officers and OR’s, and asked why former OR’s cannot be trustees. David Sturrock explained that there was no reason why not - anyone can become a trustee if so invited by the Board, and he explained the legal responsibilities. The President and Vice Chairman explained that there was no rank bias and that trustees must have the time, skills and commitment to complete the task.

h. Bob Bolton submitted a proposal for a change to the constitution with regards to trustees. This will be looked at ahead of the next AGM. The President thanked Bob for his submission and the Vice Chairman said the paper would be considered as a proposal for the Trustees to consider.

i. Willie Turner raised concerns about communication from RHQ and notice of AGM which should allow branches to submit agenda points. This was noted, and will be actioned by the EXO.

**8. Benevolence and Awards**

a. The President explained that welfare continues to be managed on our behalf by HQ SCOTS; funds from KOSB are made available to RO2 Welfare at HQ SCOTS (Maj Norrie Mackinnon) who then works with SSAFA to almonise the applications with other charities such as ABF, RBL etc to make up grants to our members. Norrie MacKinnon provides an outstanding service for our members, and has released time for the Association staff to perform other tasks.

b. Andy Middlemiss very usefully explained how SSAFA works as the first point of contact for all welfare cases.

c. Willie Turner raised the point about historic NI investigations and what support was available to Borderers; all concerns should be addressed to HQ SCOTS, if necessary via the Association HQ, and there is a legal process in place.

d. Ronnie Rae (Dumfries) asked about the veterans houses in Dumfries and how to access them, they are run by an Edinburgh based charity, the President said he would speak to Lt Col Richard Callander (who runs the charity responsible) reference availability.

**9. President’s Update**

a. Minden Day 2019: Unfortunately the Inter Scaldis Band from the Netherlands were unable to attend this year due to the band playing at a competition over the period of the Minden Day Parade. The Minden continues to be an excellent event. The 2020 Minden Day Parade will take place on Saturday 1st August and will focus on the 50th anniversary of

1 KOSB’s first NI tour. Brigadier Andrew Myrtle, CO on that first tour, will be the guest of honour.

b. WW2 Commemorations: Peter McCutcheon spoke about the recent Arnhem tour and booklets and tour guide that have been produced. He thanked Andy Middlemiss and Euan Scroggie for their very effective support. Planning has begun for a Normandy tour in 2020 to look at the battles of 1st and 6th Bns. An expression of interest form will be on the website soon, with possible tour dates being in April 2020. The President spoke about the 2nd Bn in Burma, noting how the can easily be overlooked despite being in action until August 1945.

c. Op BANNER: The Op BANNER memorial stone is to be laid at Palace Barracks Belfast to remember all those Borderers who died on operations in the Province. The Association will provide the initial funds with further funding coming from donations from an appeal to Association members, and in-Province fundraising activities, which Ronnie Hill of the NI Branch will lead. There is an intention in conjunction with 1 SCOTS to find a suitable date in summer 2020 to dedicate the memorial stone. This will be an appropriate time as it will be the 50th anniversary of the BNs first tour in 1970. There is a possibility of a memorial visit to Derryard in Dec 2019 to remember the last 2 Borderers KIA in NI depending on cost and security. There will be a wreath laying at Kirkowan and Colchester.

d. **AFTERNOTE ON DERRYARD**. Due to security concerns no commemoration took place at the site of the Derryard Action on the 3oth Anniversary on Fri 13 Dec 19. Commemoration events were held as follows:

* The widow and son of Pte Houston were invited to attend a service on 12 Dec in Lisnaskea hosted by SEFF
* 1 SCOTS held a joint Offrs/Sgts Mess event.
* On 13 Dec2019 Borderers gathered at the grave of LCpl Paterson (Kirkcowan), under the direction of Bob Stuart, and at the grave of Pte Houston (Colchester), under the direction of Barney Loughran, to lay wreaths and remember them.

e. Museum Update: Grant Horsburgh spoke about the museum audit and valuation and future plans for the Barracks. The committee will be conducting an extensive programme of works over the winter months and would welcome any help from volunteers, the programme will be published on the website to allow potential volunteers the chance to be involved. Ronnie Rae asked a question about shop stock and how to raise money for the museum; it was agreed that the shop would be consolidated. Willie Turner asked about silver returned from 1 SCOTS. The vice chairman stated this was ongoing and would coincide with the Bn’s move to mainland, planned for 2021.

f. Barracks Partnership: The President spoke about the partnership between KOSB, EH, Berwick Museums and NCC in the possible development of the Barracks as the ‘star’ attraction in Berwick. Consultancy work was ongoing and was due to complete in expected April 2020. At this point the viability of the project should be much clearer.

g. Borderers Chronicle: All members are encouraged to submit articles for the Chronicle by 30 Nov 2019, with a plea that photos must have captions and all personnel named.

h. KOSB Website: This is the official means for information for our Association and members are encouraged to use it to publicise branch or Regimental events. The president thanked Peter Hogg who manages the site from Cyprus, the President acknowledged that FB is a less formal means of communication.

i. Remembrance: The President thanked Peter Hogg and his team for coordinating the KOSB participation in the nation’s remembrance at the Cenotaph in London where over 70 Borderers will parade. He further encouraged all Borderers to participate in local events around the country.

j. Shepherd Fund: This fund came about after fund raising for the funeral of the late Ronnie Shepherd had resulted in a surplus. It was agreed that a designated fund would be set up to assist with funerals of Borderers who requested some assistance with small cost items wreaths etc. This gives Members the opportunity to donate to the fund or to raise money specifically for this. The President thanked Bob Bolton for starting this fund.

k. HRH Brooch: The President mentioned the Regt Brooch worn by HRH Princess Alice during her 60-year tenure as the Colonel in Chief will be returned to Berwick in 2020, thanks to the generosity of her son, the Duke of Gloucester, to go on display in the near future.

l. Branch Closure: The President noted with sadness that the branches at Coldstream and Hawick had closed due to falling numbers and thanked ‘Coosh’ Common and Charlie Bain for their efforts over the years.

**10. Branch and Reunion Reports**

Branch reports were received from the following:

* Dumfries
* Berwick
* London
* Edinburgh
* Northern Ireland
* Stranraer

**11. Volunteering**

The President encouraged members to consider volunteering at the museum in Berwick to assist the small group of individuals currently maintaining the quality of the exhibits. Those members who have provided voluntary assistance to staff the museum throughout the summer have found this to be a rewarding and interesting experience. In response to the request from Frank Roy the EXO will look at accommodation options in Berwick to potentially help members from D&G. For further information please contact the EXO.

**12. Forecast of Forthcoming Events**

a. Opening of the Garden of Remembrance, Edinburgh 28 Oct 2019

b. Remembrance Sunday 10 Nov 2019

c. Cruickshank Dinner 15 Nov 2019

**13. AOB**

a. Possibility of a Minden Parade in Edinburgh will be examined.

b. Request from Edinburgh Branch for more Borderers to attend veteran’s events in Edinburgh.

c. Willie Turner thanked everyone for coming to Dumfries and made an appeal for more volunteers from the Dumfries area to help with the Poppy appeal.

d. Mike Tierney proposed a vote of thanks to the trustees for their tireless efforts in supporting the association.

**14. Date and location of next meeting**

a. Berwick Branch to host. Date to be confirmed (possibly Saturday 17 Oct 2020).

b. AGM closed at 1300.