



The Society for Army Historical Research

Registered Charity No. 247844

MINUTES OF THE 89TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH 27th April 2016

The meeting was held at the Officers' Mess, HQ Royal Regiments of Fusiliers, HM The Tower of London, London, EC3N 4AB.

Professor Brian Holden-Reid, Vice-President, took the chair. The meeting began at 17:15 hrs. The minutes were taken by the Reverend Dr Peter Howson. 54 members were present.

Major General Ashley Truluck, Chair of Council, welcomed the Vice President and thanked him for agreeing to chair this meeting. He extended a welcome to all members and guests present.

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from twelve members.

2. Reports on the 2015 Templer Medal awards and the 2016 Essay Prizes

Dr John Peaty reported on the 2015 Templer Medal award.

50 entries had been listed. He reported that publishers had shown a keen interest in the prize. He thanked all the judges for their hard work in helping to arrive at the winners. Whilst not unanimous the judges had concurred on the decisions.

The results for the Templer Medal were:

Winner: Rory Muir for Wellington (YUP)

Runner-up: Craig Stockings for Hutton (CUP)

Commended: Adrian Greenwood for Campbell (HP)

The results for the best first book were:

Winner: Christopher Elliott for High Command: British Generalship in Iraq and Afghanistan (Hurst)

Runner-up: Simon Peaple for 46 Div in the Great War (Helion)
Commended: Mark Thompson for Sappers in the Peninsula (Pen & Sword)

Dr Philip Kerry reported on the 2016 Essay Prizes:

There had been one entry in the schools' section. It was not judged to have been of sufficient standard to receive an award. Four entries were received for the undergraduate section. Two stood out. By a divided vote Eamonn O'Keeffe of Merton College, University of Oxford was declared the runner-up. The winner was Matthew Mallia of the University of Malta. Both entrants would be attending the ceremony this evening. It was significant that the winner had been able to travel from Malta for the event.

Dr Kerry was to liaise with the Hon. Ed. about the publication of essays in the Journal.

Thanks were expressed to all those who had taken part in the judging. Thanks were also expressed to Dr Kerry for his oversight of the completion during the previous eight years.

P. McCarty was to take over responsibility for the 2017 competition. He would brief Council on what changes might be made to increase the number of entries.

3. Appointment of the Templer Medal sub-committee chairman.

Dr Peaty was unanimously requested to continue and agreed to do so for another year.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of the 88th Annual General Meeting held on 29th April 2015.

The minutes had been previously made available on the Society's website and copies provided at the meeting. No matters arising having been registered and none arising from the floor, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Michael Meech and seconded by Dr John McAdam. They were accepted unanimously.

5. Adoption of Honorary Officers' Reports and the Accounts for 1 January to 31 December 2015.

The Honorary Officers' reports as circulated with the 2015 accounts were proposed by Michael Meech, seconded by Andrew Cormack and accepted without dissent.

6. Thanks to the contributors to the Society's *Journal*.

Michael Meech proposed a vote of thanks for contributors to the Journal, noting the quality and quantity of the articles, which was received with universal acceptance from the members.

7. Election of Council.

- (a) Andrew Bamford, Dr Peter Johnston and Philip McCarty were proposed by Dr Philip Kerry and seconded by Dr Peter Robinson as members of Council for the period 2016 to 2021. They were elected without dissent.
- (b) Major General (retired) Ashley Truluck, Dr John Peaty FRGC FRHistS, Dr Ismini Pells, Professor Gary Sheffield FRHistS FRSA and Adam Storing (Student member of Council) being eligible offered themselves for re-election. They were proposed by Philip McCarty and seconded by Michael Meech. The meeting agreed.

8. Election of Honorary Officers.

The following were nominated by Council to serve as Officers for 2016 – 2017

Andrew E. Cormack FSA FRHistS (Hon Editor)
Charles Street FCCA (Hon Treasurer)
Philip Jobson (Membership Secretary)
The Revd Dr Peter J Howson FCMI FRHistS (Hon Sec)

Their appointment was proposed by Dr John Peaty, seconded by Dr Philip Kerry, and agreed by the members present.

9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner.

Haydn Wood (Partner) of SRG LLP of 28 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6AA was appointed Independent Examiner, proposed by Michael Meech, seconded by Andrew Cormack and agreed unanimously.

10. University Research Grants.

Ms Ismini Pells reported on the grants made during the previous year. She noted that there had been an increased number of application in 2016, with a corresponding increase in quality. The major grant, in particular, was extremely closely contested, going down to a casting vote in Council.

The minor grants were awarded to:

- 1) Mason Watson (Ohio State University) for his research on changing perceptions of the BEF during the inter-war years.
- 2) Adam Prime (University of Leicester) for his research into British officers in the Army of India 1861-1921.

The major grant was awarded to:

Nicola Watson (University of Stirling), who thesis studies ‘cultural paradigms of British imperialism in the militarisation of Scotland and North America 1745-76’.

Bryce Abraham (Newcastle University, NSW) received a special commendation from the Council for his project on Australian recipients of the Victoria Cross and was given honorary student membership of the SAHR.

Considering the increase in quality of the applications for the URGs and the SAHR's healthy financial situation, the Council voted in February to increase the prize money on offer to £500 (from £250) for the two minor grants and £1,000 (from £750) for the major grants. It is hoped that this will attract the very best researchers to the SAHR competitions, who are potential members and secure high-quality articles for the journal from the prize winners, as well as putting the SAHR grants on a par with those offered by other leading organisations

11. Future Events being organised by the Society.

Major General (retired) Ashley Truluck outlined the intentions of Council to organise a programme for the forthcoming year. Dr Peter Johnston would act as co-ordinator with Adam Storrington organising events for undergraduates.

12. Alterations to the Constitution of the Society.

The following, which had appeared in the agenda for the meeting and on the Society's website were proposed by Andrew Cormack and seconded by Dr Ismini Pells,

Section 4: **Subscriptions**

Delete a) Each member shall pay a subscription upon joining the Society and subsequently on 1st January in each year.

Insert a) Each member shall pay a subscription on joining the Society and, if paying by traditional means – cheque, credit card, or bank Standing Order – in the month of January in each subsequent year. Members paying by PayPal®, subsequent payment of which subscriptions are received in the anniversary of the first payment, shall be considered as being on a rolling subscription and they will enjoy all the privileges of membership as if they had paid they had paid a subscription in January of that year.

Delete c) No publications shall be sent to any members whose subscription is more than six months in arrears, at which time their membership will be deemed to have lapsed.

Insert c) Publications will be sent to all members who have paid their subscriptions by traditional means before 30th June each year or whose rolling subscription will be received during the current year.

Section 8: **Annual General Meeting**

Amend c) by deleting 'send' and inserting 'made available'.

[This will allow Council to make reports and accounts available on the website and thus reduce the considerable cost of sending paper copies to all members.

Those who wish a printed copy will be able to receive one by requesting it from the appropriate officer.]

Delete d) Only Life Members and fully paid up individual members present shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

Insert d) Members eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting shall be:

Life Members,
Members whose subscriptions have been received by traditional means,
Members on rolling subscriptions.

Section 9: **Extraordinary Meetings**

Delete 'paid-up'.

The proposals were agreed unanimously thus receiving the required two-thirds majority of those members present and voting.

13. The Centenary of the Society in 2021.

The Honorary Secretary informed the members that Council had already begun to consider how the centenary of their Society should be marked in 2021. Council had agreed to put aside a sum each year towards the costs of marking the centenary. He asked whether any member would be willing to help co-ordinate the arrangements for that year.

14. Any Other Business.

No business had been raised before the meeting. The Chair allowed questions from the floor.

A question was asked about how to contact the officers of the Society. In reply the Secretary indicated that it was hoped to renew the website through which it would become easier for members to contact the relevant officer. It was hoped that this would allow, and encourage, members to comment on the programme being offered.

Andrew Cormack drew attention to the new recruitment leaflet and encouraged members to make it available as widely as possible.

Michael Meech asked how the Templer Medal had become so popular. Dr John Peaty replied that it was due to a combination of factors. These included, the current popularity of military history, not least because of the anniversaries that fell in 2015, and that the sub-committee had been pro-active in contacting publishers. The award that recognised new scholarship was also welcomed by publishers.

15. Date of Next Meeting.

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday 26th April at a venue to be decided by Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 17.53 hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....

The meeting was followed by a lecture from Professor William Philpott on ‘The Last Day of the Somme.’

Following the lecture a reception was held. During the reception, the winners of the Templer Medal, First Published Book, and the Essay Prizes were announced formally and presentations made to those able to attend.