



Royal Military Police Association Hull & East Riding Branch



Minutes of the Branch Meeting Held 6th March 2019

Members Present:	Andy Plews (AP); Jason McCoubrey (JC); Bob Hare (RH); Fred Hemmerman (FH); Pete Watson (PW); Alison Sayell (AS); Phil Cowan (PC); Sandy Robinson BEM (SR); Tony Walker (TW);
Apologies:	S David Kennedy (DK); Darren Howlett (DH); Terry Scholes (TS); Jim Anderson (JA); Dave Emmerson (DE); Bob Boreland (BB); Frank Maunder (FM); Callum Garton (CG); Mike Walker (MW); Steve Johnson (SJ); Craig Hemmerman (CH); Capt. Whitehead RMP; Bernadette Robinson-Hutton (BRT); Dave Gibbins (DG); Jon Wild (JW);
Not Present:	Steve Woods (SW); Scott Jenkins (SJ2); Michael Sutton (MS); Brian Petch (BP);

Agenda

1. Remembrance
2. Members Present/Apologies Received
3. Absent Friends
4. Minutes of the Previous Branch Meeting
5. Matters Arising.
6. Communications
7. Reports
 - 7.1. CESA
 - 7.2. Standard Bearer
8. Social Events
9. Any Other Business
10. Close of Meeting & Date of Next Meeting

- 1.0 Meeting opened at 20.00hrs. AP gave an introduction and gave the act of remembrance and welcomed the members present.
- 2.0 Members Present/Apologies Received – JW sent apologies, DK sent apologies. Welcome again to Jason McCoubrey, the new Vice Chairman.
- 3.0 Absent Friends – as detailed above.
- 4.0 Minutes of the Previous Branch Meeting – SR proposed that they were a true and accurate record, seconded by BH. All in favour.
- 5.0 Matters Arising – None.
- 6.0 Communications –
 - 6.1 An email was received from the Association Secretary as follows:

Good morning all Branch Secretaries

The attached press release was issued yesterday by me on behalf of the Association.

All relevant parties have been informed and sent copy.

Hopefully we can now set Mr MacDonald and his antics aside and move on, that is until the AGM in May.

Speaking of the AGM please remind any members who have yet to do so to consider attending the reunion weekend which seems to me to be a well planned event thanks to our colleagues in Cheshire & North Wales Branch.

Kind regards to all

Stewart

Statement is in Annex A

7.0 Reports

7.1 CESA

7.2 Standard Bearer – PW confirmed that the Branch Standard had not been carried during February.

8.0 Social Events –

8.1 A discussion was had regarding the next social event, which is the Punch Hotel meal on Saturday 30th March. PW reminded everyone that they had to be seated for 17.00hrs and food ordered for 17.30hrs as the kitchen closes at 18.00hrs.

9.0 Any Other Business

9.1 PW asked whether members thought it would be a good idea to restructure the Branch Meetings to encourage new members in a more sociable setting. It was proposed that The Hop Pole Pub in Willerby would be a good venue as it has a small closed area in the restaurant. BH stated that he would attend the pub to see if we could have use of this room. It was decided that a start of 18.00hrs would be better to give people the chance to eat and socialise, with the normal meeting still happening at 20.00hrs. PW stated that he would let members know through the Facebook site once confirmed.

10.0 The time being 20.46hrs and there being no further business, the meeting was closed by AP. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 18.00 hrs for a 20.00hrs start, St. Vincent's Social Club, Queen Road, Hull.

Agenda for March's Meeting

1. Remembrance
2. Members Present/Apologies Received
3. Absent Friends
4. Minutes of the Previous Branch Meeting
5. Matters Arising.
6. Communications
7. Reports
 - 7.1. CESA
 - 7.2. Standard Bearer
8. Social Events
9. Any Other Business
10. Close of Meeting & Date of Next Meeting

Appendix A

A Statement from the Royal Military Police Association (RMPA) in regard to claims made by Nicholas MacDonald.

In May 2018, this Association published a statement regarding the claims made by Nicholas MacDonald as to his Army service, and his wearing of medals including awards for gallantry and claims of a long and distinguished career with the Royal Military Police (RMP). That statement was made following adverse publicity and considerable interest generated on social media and in the press both locally (Burnham, Thames Valley) and nationally.

The facts known at that time, together with additional evidence gathered since, proves that the RMPA was right in its assertion that Mr MacDonald had no service in the Armed Forces beyond a short and incomplete spell of basic military training in 1974.

The Association therefore stands by its assertion that Mr MacDonald has no right to purport or appear to be a Veteran of any standing and certainly not one who has earned the decorations and awards that he has claimed and worn.

In May 2018, concerns about Mr MacDonald's claims were shared with local Royal British Legion (RBL) officers, who chose at that time to draw the conclusion that they knew best and were satisfied that his claims were correct and that despite the RMPA's assertions to the contrary, they continued to have complete confidence in him and his claimed service record. Subsequently throughout that year 2018, the RBL at the national level, was approached on numerous occasions by many individuals and organisations including the RMPA, all voicing concern as to Mr MacDonald's claims. In December 2018, the Regimental Secretary of the Royal Military Police was invited to share his concerns with the RBL in regard to Mr MacDonald and his claimed record of service.

Mr MacDonald has had a dialogue with the RMPA and with individual members during, which he has admitted his wrong-doing and uttered regret for his actions. He has reportedly also done so on social media. Regrettably however, when challenged, he has then followed such 'admissions' with a denial, claiming that he had not made such admissions and that others were so doing in order to implicate and embarrass him. Despite this, the RMPA has attempted to engage with Mr MacDonald to offer him assistance in making a public apology so as to enable him to move on with his life in a new direction. Sadly, every such approach has either been ignored or rebuffed by him.

Finally, Mr MacDonald's membership of the RMPA will be reviewed and an application made for him to be expelled will be tabled at its next Annual General Meeting in May, in accordance with the Association's rules.