

**HIGHLAND BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
THURSDAY 1st MAY 2014  
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION – NAIRN  
MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting those present were introduced to Nina Semple the Welfare Services Manager from the Poppy Scotland Office Inverness. Nina then briefed and took questions from the branch members on the services that are available from the office.

She was thanked for this informative brief by the Chairman and with a warm round of applause from all present.

Chairman            Lt Col (Retd) RJ Towns MBE  
Acting Secretary   Maj (Retd) J Bailey MBE

Serial	Item	Action/Info/Comments																																	
1.	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all to the AGM including the Chairman of the Regimental Association Lt Col (Retd) James Murray.</p>																																		
2.	<p><b>FALLEN COMRADES</b></p> <p>All in attendance stood as a list of fallen comrades was read out by the Secretary which was followed by a minute's silence.</p> <p>The following have sadly passed away since the last AGM in May 2013:</p> <p>Andrew (Speedy) Munro, Alistair McGillivray, Eddie Carruthers, Pat Kyle, Mark Duffus, Ali Meechan, Scott Munro, Johnnie MacLean, Paul Christie, Eddie Blevins, Danny O'Reilly, Billy MacLean, Paddy Mills, John Swanson, Alex Irvine, John Blackhall, Jimmy and Emma Walker, Les Chalmers, Johnny Meehan, Meggie Campbell, Maureen Rattray.</p>																																		
3.	<p><b>ATTENDANCE</b></p> <p>There were members in attendance as follows:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Bob Towns</td> <td>James Murray</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ronnie Sinclair</td> <td>Seoras McIntosh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jock Schneider</td> <td>John Yarrick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>James Murray</td> <td>Jimmy Mutch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cliff Thorpe</td> <td>David Grant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Finlayson</td> <td>John Bailey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Johnston</td> <td>Gordon George</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Douglas Young</td> <td>Ian Mackenzie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roddy Wood</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Colin Gilmour</td> <td>Angus Fairrie</td> <td>Terry Bashford</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sandy Finnie</td> <td>Robbie MacKintosh</td> <td>Steven McIntosh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jed Geddes</td> <td>Sheddie Carr</td> <td>General Seymour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hamish MacPherson</td> <td>Bob Shanks</td> <td>General Peter</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tony Curran</td> <td>David Chapman</td> <td>Larry Young</td> </tr> </table>	Bob Towns	James Murray	Ronnie Sinclair	Seoras McIntosh	Jock Schneider	John Yarrick	James Murray	Jimmy Mutch	Cliff Thorpe	David Grant	Peter Finlayson	John Bailey	John Johnston	Gordon George	Douglas Young	Ian Mackenzie	Roddy Wood		Colin Gilmour	Angus Fairrie	Terry Bashford	Sandy Finnie	Robbie MacKintosh	Steven McIntosh	Jed Geddes	Sheddie Carr	General Seymour	Hamish MacPherson	Bob Shanks	General Peter	Tony Curran	David Chapman	Larry Young	
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4.	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM</b></p> <p>Minutes of the AGM held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2013 were distributed after that meeting and there were no matters arising.</p> <p><b>Proposed Passed By: John Yarrick</b>  <b>Seconded By: David Grant</b></p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>																																	
5.	<p><b>CHAIRMANS REPORT</b></p> <p>The Chairman reminded members of all the activities and events that had taken place since the 2013 AGM.</p> <p>The Dedication of Sid's Bench  WW1 Battlefield Tour  Branch Lunch  Moray Loons  December Dinner  Amalgamation Dinner - special mention was made of the generous request by the 3 SCOTS Sgts Mess Manager and her staff that the gratuity collection handed to them and amounting to £305.19 be donated to Erskine. It was proposed and put to the vote that we match this amount from Branch Funds.</p> <p><b>Proposed Passed By: Cliff Thorpe</b>  <b>Seconded By: Ian Mackenzie</b></p> <p><b>Carried</b></p> <p>Branch Membership currently stood at 154 active members. 24 members who had paid their membership fees in 2013 had yet to pay the fees for the current year. All present agreed that Highland Branch Membership could with a little bit of encouragement reach a target of 200.</p> <p>Membership forms are available from <a href="http://www.cabarfeidh.com">www.cabarfeidh.com</a></p>	<p>Arrangements will be made for a bit of publicity when the cheque is handed over.</p> <p>All members are requested to encourage the renewal of membership and to actively recruit new members.</p>																																
6.	<p><b>TREASURERS REPORT</b></p> <p>Copies of the account were distributed in detailed and abbreviated format for all members to view.</p> <p>The latter is shown here:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>IN BANK AT AGM 2013</b>  <b>£5,249.93</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;"><b>INCOME</b></th> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left;"><b>EXPENDITURE</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>£</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Activity</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>£</b></th> <th style="text-align: left;"><b>Activity</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>£800.00</td> <td>Association Grant</td> <td>£702.53</td> <td>Branch Costs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£900.00</td> <td>Battlefield Tour Grant</td> <td>£900.00</td> <td>Battlefield Tour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1,560.00</td> <td>Function Income</td> <td>£4,170.36</td> <td>Function Costs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£1,279.00</td> <td>Annual Subs</td> <td>£1,000.00</td> <td>Charity Payments</td> </tr> <tr> <td>£20.00</td> <td>Float Hand back</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>£539.71</td> <td>Donations</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>£</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Activity</b>	£800.00	Association Grant	£702.53	Branch Costs	£900.00	Battlefield Tour Grant	£900.00	Battlefield Tour	£1,560.00	Function Income	£4,170.36	Function Costs	£1,279.00	Annual Subs	£1,000.00	Charity Payments	£20.00	Float Hand back			£539.71	Donations			All
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£305.19 For Erskine

**£5,403.90**

**£6,772.89**

**IN BANK AT AGM 2014**

**£3,880.94**

The Branch Account was passed as seen:

**Proposed Passed By: Seoras McIntosh**

**Seconded By: Ronnie Sinclair**

**Carried**

A lengthy discussion ensued about the division of money allocated to Branches by way of the Association Grants this year. Peter Finlayson suggested that more money be made available from the association instead of it all being invested. James Murray said that he is not happy that the way the grants were allocated, currently it was not entirely fair. He is looking into this situation and will report on it at the Association AGM.

The Association Chairman James Murray was asked to give his opinion on whether the branch should make welfare donations direct or to continue using SSAFA. His advice was to remain with SSAFA as they have the resource and move very quickly.

Seoras McIntosh informed the meeting that Ian (Dusty) Miller is not well and requested that card is sent out to him. Sent.

The Chairman encouraged members to try to recruit as many new members as possible. And would like to see the membership increase to 200.

Current active members 154

**7. COMMITTEE CHANGES**

The Chairman thanked his Committee Members for their assistance during the past year highlighting the efforts of the Secretary Steven McIntosh. Due to pressure of work Steven has decided to stand down. A vote of thanks was requested by the Chairman and a warm round of applause followed from all present. Thank you Steven.

David Terron has volunteered to take over.

With immediate effect the Branch Committee is now as follows:

- Chairman & Treasurer - Bob Towns
- Secretary - David Terron
- Vice Chairman - Ronnie Sinclair
- Website - Seoras McIntosh
- Members: - Peter Finlayson, John Yarrick, John Johnston & Sheddie Carr

The Chairman also thanked Seoras McIntosh for his dedicated administration of the Association Website [www.cabarfeidh.com](http://www.cabarfeidh.com)

Volunteers to join the Committee are requested to contact the Chairman at any time.

<p>8.</p>	<p><b>MUSEUM UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Chairman informed those present that his acting secretary, John Bailey had been selected to succeed Mick Low as the Museum Director.</p> <p>The Chairman briefed the meeting from a report provided by Mick Low. He highlighted the following:</p> <p>Since opening after refurbishment the Museum had experienced a steady increase in visitor numbers.</p> <p>There is always a requirement for additional volunteers and the report highlighted the efforts of those currently volunteering. The Chairman made special mention of Jackie McCall, a true ambassador who ensures that all visitors know all about the Camerons before moving upstairs.</p> <p>The WWI Exhibition is currently running and will continue throughout the anniversary period.</p> <p>The Chairman informed those present that he was at the Museum earlier in the week and had witnessed vibrant activity generated by a coach load of visitors and the children from Duncan Forbes Primary. The kids were learning all about WW1 from Lynsey and were really enjoying trying out the various uniforms.</p> <p>The comments in the book at the entrance to the Museum show that it is a much appreciated part of any visit to the Fort.</p> <p><b>NAME</b></p> <p>Discussions took place about the Museum name. Cliff Thorpe felt that it all stemmed from the omission of the QO HLDRS from the title of the HIGHLANDERS (Seaforth Gordons &amp; Camerons). He felt strongly that it should have been (QO HLDRS &amp; GORDONS).</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion where all present contributed it was agreed that we all trusted General Peter wholeheartedly and fully supported the decisions of the Museum Board.</p> <p><b>Proposed Passed By: Seoras McIntosh</b></p> <p><b>Seconded By: Gordon George</b></p> <p><b>Carried (1 Abstention - Cliff Thorpe)</b></p> <p><b>MAURICE &amp; MICK</b></p> <p>During the discussion it was highlighted that Maurice Gibson and Mick Low had received adverse and uncalled for criticism during this period. All present agreed that both had done a great deal for the QO HLDRS cause for a long time and heartfelt thanks for their efforts should be recorded. Thank you Maurice and Mick.</p> <p>A heartening round of applause followed.</p>	<p>All</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p><b>BRANCH/ASSOCIATION PROGRAMME 2014-15</b></p> <p>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Regimental Golf Kinloss</p> <p>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May - Camerons at Kohima Weekend</p> <p>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May - Battalion Footballers Reunion &amp; Brian Christie Memorial Fishing</p> <p>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June - Armed Forces Flag Raising Nairn</p> <p>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Armed Forces Day (Main Parade Stirling)</p> <p>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June - Armed Forces Day Inverness ( 4 SCOTS Homecoming Parade)</p> <p>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July - Association AGM Fort George</p> <p>Summer (Date tbc) - Loch Ness Cruise (Not confirmed)</p> <p>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August - 100 Years since the start of WW1</p> <p>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August - QO HLDRS Golf Forres</p> <p>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August - Cameron Branch Gathering, Cameron Barracks, All welcome</p> <p>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August - WW1 Commemorative Service</p> <p>Thu 4<sup>th</sup> – Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Sep - The Highland Military Tattoo, Fort George</p> <p>Sunday in September - Assaye Day Lunch (date tbc)</p> <p>Fri 19<sup>th</sup> – Sun 21st September - NI Service of Remembrance Weekend, National Arboretum</p> <p>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Moray Loons Seaforth Club Elgin</p> <p>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December - December Dance Chieftain Inverness (John Yarrick was thanked for the effort he has put into organising this. When details appear please book your places quickly)</p> <p>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015 - Amalgamation Dinner</p>	<p>It is important that as many Association Members as possible attend this.</p> <p>Further details of all local events to follow.</p> <p>This is open to all Association Members.</p> <p>Again, further details to follow. Assistance from Association will be requested.</p> <p>Details on cabarfeidh.com our website. Returns to George Givens soonest.</p> <p>It was agreed that the cost of tickets for this Dance be well subsidised in an effort to achieve the maximum attendance of 73.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>OTHER EVENTS TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.</b></p> <p>Thu 12 June - Sunday 13 July - World Cup Football Brazil</p> <p>Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June - European Pipe Band Championships Forres</p> <p>Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> July - Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> August - Commonwealth Games</p> <p>Fri 26<sup>th</sup> - Sun 28<sup>th</sup> September - Ryder Cup</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>MEMORIAL</b></p>	

<p>Queen's Own Highlanders Memorial – It was proposed that we should forward the following proposal to be considered at the Association AGM:</p> <p>That a sub-committee be formed to look into the erection of a suitable memorial to the Queen's Own Highlanders.</p> <p><b>Proposed Passed By: John Johnstone</b></p> <p><b>Seconded By: Cliff Thorpe</b></p> <p><b>Carried</b></p> <p><b>NAMEPLATE</b></p> <p>The Chairman highlighted the fact that the Steam Train Name plates Seaforth Highlander &amp; Cameron Highlander looked great on the Museum stairway wall. He would like to see the Queen's Own Highlander nameplate from the Deltic Diesel Class 55 similarly displayed.</p> <p><b>Vote of Thanks to the Chairman</b></p> <p>Ian Mackenzie asked for the vote of thanks for the work the Chairman does for the Branch. A heartening round of applause was given.</p>	<p>All suggestions/ideas welcome.</p> <p>Further details to follow.</p>
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