

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
(INCORPORATING THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS) SC 004311
HELD IN THE LECTURE THEATRE CAMERON BARRACKS INVERNESS
SATURDAY 11TH JUNE 2011.**

In attendance:

Major General A P Grant Peterkin CB OBE	President
Brigadier N J Ridley OBE	Chairman & Trustee
Lieutenant Colonel C E Gilmour MBE DL	Trustee
Lieutenant Colonel I J Murray DL	Trustee
Major A F Blincow MBE	Association Treasurer
Mr D E Loftus	Association Secretary & Trustee
Mr P Finlayson	Trustee
Mr D Carruthers	London Branch
Mr J Fraser	Secretary Aberdeen & North East Branch
Mr W Gardner	Ross-shire Branch
Mr W A Gillies	Chairman Edinburgh Branch
Major G Givens	Secretary Notts Branch
Mr C Gusterson	Secretary Caithness Branch
Mr G R MacDonald MBE	Nairn Branch
Mr S McKay	Ross-shire Branch
Mr A MacKenzie	Highland Branch
Mr A McKenzie	Highland Branch
Mr G MacKenzie	Dingwall Branch
Mr I MacLeod	Highland Branch
Mr E C MacPherson	Highland Branch
Mr T C MacQueen	Edinburgh Branch
Mr J Meikle	Nairn Branch
Mr D R Milne	Chairman Strathclyde Branch
Mr G Monaghan	Highland Branch
Major General Seymour Monro	Ross-shire Branch
Mr E Munro	Forres Branch
Mr E Munro	Nairn Branch
Mr B O Murray	Forres Branch
Mr J Mutch	Highland Branch
Mr V F Nicoll	Caithness Branch
Mr D M Oag	Chairman Caithness Branch
Mr A J Paterson	Highland Branch
Mr B Shanks	Southern Branch
Lt Col G Smith	Dingwall Branch
Mr W Williamson	

Apologies:

Tommy Riddell (Notts Branch)

Ser (a)	Item (b)	Action (c)
1.	Welcome	Nil
	The Chairman, Brigadier Nick Ridley, welcomed everyone to the Meeting.	

2.	<p>Obituaries The Chairman invited those present to stand whilst the names of those who had died in the past 12 months.</p> <p>Captain MAD'A Anderson Captain G S Anderson MBE Lt Gen Sir C Blair KCVO OBE MC and bar Mr K Bisset LCpl BJ Botto Mr A E Cockerall Mrs B Darling Mr A Fraser Mr H Gilchrist Major EN Grace MC DL Mr J Green Mr W Gunn MBE Mr E Jenkins Mr JSK Laidlaw Mr J McAllister Mr G McCaffery Piper KN MacDonald Mr W R MacDonald Mr DJ MacKay Mr E de C Mackay-Scobie Mr G Mackenzie Mr W MacKenzie Mr W G Mackenzie MSM Mr A Mackie Mr J Matheson Mrs M Mollett Mr TH Munro Mr A Nicol Mrs M Peddie Captain CH Pelham-Burn Mr F Scott Major MM Stewart Dr JHD Sutherland MB ChB MRCP Captain SB Taylor Mr L Ward Cpl J White</p>	Nil
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3.	<p>Minutes</p> <p>The Minutes of the first Annual General Meeting of the Association had been circulated. These were presented to the Meeting for acceptance.</p> <p>George Monaghan – Proposed and George MacDonald – Seconded that they were. The Meeting accepted them as being an accurate record.</p>	Nil
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>(a) The Northern Ireland Branch has closed down and ceased to function. The residual money in their bank account, circa £2,000 has been paid into the Gathering allocation.</p> <p>(b) The Gathering taking place over the weekend of 11th / 12th June 2011 had been allocated £25,000 at the 2010 Trustees Meeting to meet the expenses of the Weekend. It had become apparent that the original estimate was a gross under estimate with the actual cost being nearer £45,000.00. The Trustees had agreed to fund the additional costs. The Chairman encouraged everyone attending to enjoy themselves. The events and activities for the Weekend had been well planned and organised with a great weekend ahead which would probably be the last major gathering of the Association.</p> <p>(c) The use of Military premises for meetings and events and the charges being levied for the same had been raised at the previous AGM, The Chairman reported that the original charge raised for the use of Cameron Barracks over the weekend had been £5,000 which was after negotiation reduced to £1,200. The Chairman said there was a need to ensure it is written into contracts for Regimental Associations to have access to, and the use of, Military premises free of charge. Defence Estates need to be approached on this matter with a recommendation of a number of days being written into contracts for such use.</p>	Chairman
5.	<p>New Business</p> <p>The Edinburgh Branch had asked that the Christmas Grants the Branch makes to widows be increased from £20.00 to £25.00.</p> <p>The Chairman said that the matter would be discussed by the Trustees.</p>	Trustees
6.	<p>Financial Accounts</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Major David Grant to his new role as Treasurer. In so doing he acknowledged the work Major Frank Blincow had done, as Treasurer, over a substantial number of years and expressed thanks on behalf of all members of the Association.</p> <p>The Chairman referred to the accounts that had been circulated explaining that they were in the format they were in to comply with OSCR. (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator)</p>	

	<p>Major David Grant spoke to the accounts and thanked Major Frank Blicow for his work in preparing them as his final report to the Meeting.</p> <p>Points to note were that the accounts were in a Receipts and Payments format and showed a surplus of £2,960.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded those present that the main aim of the Association was to provide welfare for those in need.</p> <p>Welfare had initially been carried out through RHQ. Subsequently HHQ had taken this on before it finally being accepted as an aspect of the work of the RRS. A lump sum of £7,500 per annum is paid to the RRS for them to disperse to welfare applications with any unspent aspect of the grant being repaid to the Association.</p>	RRS
7.	<p>Branch Reports</p> <p>QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ABERDEEN AND NORTH EAST BRANCH</p> <p>The Branch Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 28th April 2011 at the 22 Club, 551/2 Rose Street, Aberdeen. 8 members were present and 3 apologies accepted.</p> <p>On Saturday 29th January 2011 the Branch held their Regimental Dinner at the Royal British Legion Banchory. This was long overdue as the last Dinner was held in 1996. Guests were Mr George Sutherland, the Chairman of the Gordon Highlanders Association and Mrs Catherine Ross, who is the main organiser for a sponsored walk in aid of a Remembrance Garden at RM Condor based at Arbroath. 24 were present at the Dinner.</p> <p>On Friday 22nd April 2011 8 members attended the Annual Dinner of the Gordon Highlanders Regimental Association, Aberdeen Branch, at the Aberdeen Transport Club. An excellent time was had by all.</p> <p>On Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2010 parades were attended at Aberdeen City Cenotaph. Mr Stewart Fowlie, laid a wreath on behalf of the Queen's Own Highlander's Association. Later Bill Gardner laid a wreath on behalf of the Seaforth Highlanders at the Cenotaph in Tarland.</p> <p>8 Members attended the Armed Forces Day Parade on Saturday 26th June 2010. 4 Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, 2 Seaforth Highlanders and 2 Queen's Own Highlanders. As usual there were many of the Regiments standing on the pavement spectating. An excellent parade with members of the Armed Forces and the Royal Navy, the Army and RAF Association's throughout Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. The Sea, Army and Air Cadets were on parade with many other youth organisations. 1000 took part in the parade. After the parade a Beating of Retreat was held at Bridge of Don Barracks with a buffet and bar being present.</p> <p>It is with great sadness that we received the news that Geordie Anderson had passed away. Our heartfelt condolences are sent to Doris and her family.</p> <p>The Aberdeen Branch has now closed down for the summer holidays and will re-start on Thursday 30th September 2011.</p> <p>QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CAITHNESS BRANCH</p> <p>At the Annual General Meeting on 28th May 2010 the Chairman asked all present to be up standing in a silent tribute to fallen comrades and on this occasion especially to remember recent fatalities that have occurred in battle zones throughout the world. He</p>	Nil

then welcomed all attending and expressed his delight at once again the number present was on par with the previous year. Little did he know that before our next meeting two senior members of the committee would have past on within a week of each other, Willie Gunn MBE Seaforth Highlanders and Willie MacDonald Cameron Highlanders were both long standing members of the committee and would be sadly missed and a great loss to the Branch.

At the August meeting the secretary went over the membership list and report the number of paid up members since the annual general meeting of the branch. He then went onto explain that he had received a letter from Mr Dane Miller an ex-Queens Own Highlander who was resident now in Stornoway interested in becoming a member of the Caithness Branch. After due correspondence we recruited another member in this hard times.

When the election of Office Bearers & committee members took place, a suggestion from the floor, that the Status Quo should remain in place for another year, was proposed and seconded and this was unanimously agreed.

Correspondence received over the summer period included a report on the Regimental Gathering and Commemoration run by the Northern Ireland Branch in September 2009. Also at this time the QOHldrs Anniversary Gathering warning notice to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the forming of the regiment, proposed on the 11th and 12th June 2011. The secretary gave a compiled account of the various items discussed at the Inaugural AGM of the QOH R A and the Seaforth Highlanders on Friday 16th July 2010 in the Nairn Seaforth Social Club.

Under any other business at this time there was nothing to discuss however it was mentioned how both Willie Gunn and Willie MacDonald were regarded in the public by the amount of donations received for their nominated charitable organisations. The Thurso Pipe Band on the Saturday evening of Willie Gunn's funeral played on an unscheduled parade in tribute to their President and a street collection totalled more than a £1000 thousand pounds and with the church collection this came to £2280. The charitable amount given at Willie MacDonald's funeral service was in excess of £1200. At both funerals the Caithness Branch laid a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the QOH RA.

David Oag agreed to laid the Poppy Wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial in Thurso and John Harrold laid the Wreath at the Wick War Memorial after which the Branch members joined the Parade along Bridge Street and up High Street to the Wick St. Fergus, Church of Scotland where the service took place, thereafter the parade marched back down through the centre of Wick and up Sinclair Terrace to the Rifle Hall in Dempster Street where along with other organisations were invited as guests, curtsy of the TA for lunch before several members made there way up to the War Graves part at Wick Cemetery for a short service.

While at the lunch in the TA hall the Chairman presented John Manson with his bar to the Medal received previously indicating that he had continued his outstanding help to the QOH RA Caithness committee and its associated work.

At the November meeting it was recognised that this month was the 70 anniversary of the sinking of the HMS Jarvis Bay in which nine Caithness men lost their lives. However at this point it was described as nasty and dreadful that people young or old could have defaced the plaque situated in the garden area opposite the St. Fergus Church of Scotland at the past weekend. The names of the Caithness dead are commemorated on the plaque.

At the Annual Dinner and Dance run by the Wick Francis Street Club on the 11th December 2010 several members of our Branch along with partners joined many other organisations for a very enjoyable dinner and dance in which both food, wine etc and music was exactly what was required to keep the branch together as a whole and was a first class and enjoyable night out.

At the end of February after our meeting and before the March meeting the secretary

received a letter asking for an update of members eligible to receive either an Associate Medal or bar this coming financial year and which would be presented to the eligible people at the Gathering in June. Two committee members Alistair Bremner due a bar to his existing medal and William McIntosh due a Medal and the secretary submitted both names to Cameron Barracks with details.

At the last meeting of the 2010 / 11 year two members from the Branch namely David Oag and Will Smith mentioned they had attended the Seaforth Highlanders stag night at Dingwall the previous week when all present had an excellent night of fun, food and some slightly stronger tonic. It was also mentioned that although numbers were slightly down from a few years ago it was a very enjoyable night.

The chairman said that himself and his partner had recently enjoyed immensely their Holiday, in Australia and New Zealand. One of many highlights they visited was the Anzac and Gallipoli War Memorial.

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION EDINBURGH BRANCH

The Edinburgh Branch has had a very successful year. Our functions continue to be well attended and a number of new members have been joining the Branch. There are currently one hundred paid up members.

The following reports are from events organised by the Branch and are in chronological order:

Branch AGM – 10th October 2010

The Branch Annual General Meeting took place in Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club with 32 members present and 11 apologies. The meeting started with a minutes silence to remember those members of the Regimental Family who had sadly passed away over the previous year.

Major George Givens reported that a new Branch Standard had been purchased at a very competitive price and a with a very good standard of workmanship; that the Branch remained very active with a number of new members joining the Branch and a good representation at the following events/functions: representation at the 2009 Remembrance Services at the City Chambers, the Garrison Church, and the Garden of Remembrance; a successful Christmas Dance in December 2009 at Leith Ex-servicemen's Club with 90 members and their partners and visitors from the Highlands, the West Coast, Newcastle, Liverpool, and the Borders; A well attended and an entertaining Amalgamation Dinner in February 2010 at Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club at which Richie Turner was the guest of honour; the Armed Forces Day Parade in Edinburgh in June 2010; and an enjoyable Summer Dance in June 2010 at Leith Ex-servicemen's Club.

John Meikle reported on the Income and Expenditure over the period of September 2009 – September 2010. Major Givens thanked Mr Meikle and reported that the Branch funds were in a healthy state.

Major Givens went on to report that he had attended the Regimental AGM at Nairn on the 16th July 2010 and spoke about various items of interest from it. A forecast of events was given for the coming year and it was agreed that there would be no Summer Dance in 2011 as the main emphasis for the summer would be to encourage members to attend the 50th anniversary weekend in Inverness (11th & 12th June 2011)

It was announced that with the death of Alec Mackie a place had become vacant on the Branch Committee. Danny Carruthers proposed that Norman Robertson be elected to the Committee and this was seconded by John Meikle. The proposal was carried.

There being no other business to discuss, the Meeting closed and members joined the

wives and families for a Curry and Salad Lunch.

Remembrance Parade – Sunday 14th November 2010

Despite the inclement weather the Branch managed to produce about thirty members for the 2010 Remembrance Parade in Edinburgh. The parade's RV was at The Hub (the old converted church on Castle Hill where most members of the Branch gathered to have a welcome cup of hot coffee before being finally forming up in the Lawnmarket). John Meikle, carrying the Branch Standard, and Bobby Munro, carrying the Malay Brunei Veterans Association Standard were hived off to form up with all the other Standard Bearers. The rest of the Branch joined the main parade and formed up in three ranks in front of a giant TV screen to watch the proceedings taking place at the Stone of Remembrance just down the road.

True to form, the Branch members were resplendent in tartan, Association Ties, and Regimental head dress and were one of the largest contingents on parade. Shortly after 11.00 am the parade stepped off to a Pipe Band and marched down the High Street to give an eyes left at the saluting Dias and then a right wheel behind St Giles Cathedral, from where the parade fell out

After the parade was over many members made their way down to Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club where the Branch had arranged a hot meal to be laid on. We had previously invited the Royal Scots Regimental Association and the RASC/RCT Regimental Association to join us and therefore we had a somewhat full house! After the Loyal Toast and Toasts to the various Regiments we had our usual raffle (to which half the proceeds went to the Erskine Hospital). We then had the good fortune of three Pipers from the Edinburgh Postal Pipe Band join us and lo and behold their Pipe Major turned out to Johnny Simpson, a former Queen's Own Highlander! We were therefore entertained to a few pipe tunes before a local singer and comedian turned up to entertain the assembled company.

It was good to see so many members turning up for the parade, particularly those from farther a field, as well as some new faces (David McIntosh, Jim Allan, and Dusty Miller to name a few)

Christmas Dance – Saturday 11th December 2010

The Christmas Dance proved to be another big success for the Branch with an excellent turnout of 90 Branch members and their guests. The Q's, a talented musical duo, made their way down the M8 from Glasgow to provide the music for the night – if it was a week earlier the extreme bad weather that we had at the end of last year might have made the night a whole lot different! As it was, the music provided by the group was excellent and much appreciated, judging by the amount of folk on the dance floor.

Apart from all of our usual Branch stalwarts we welcomed Jimmy Cumming back after his long illness (and Annemarie of course). Jimmy also managed to entice Ian and Tricia Hunter along from sunny Alloa – it was good to see them both. We were also graced with the presence of Archie and Rena MacKinnon down from the Highlands, and from the west coast: Tam & Liz Balloch, Duncan MacLeod, Pat Ferguson & Michelle, and Eddie & Morag Chorley.

After another tasty buffet provided by the staff of Leith Ex-Servicemen's Club we were entertained by Bobby Munro trying to figure out the colour of the raffle tickets being drawn! A big thank you went to all our members who generously donated the prizes for the raffle. The star prize of the evening was an original "Kelvin Hunter" dram table in the form of a Queen's Own Highlander in combat dress – won by Margaret Munro (funnily enough, wife of the organiser of the draw!).

Hopefully we managed to get everyone into the festive spirit for Christmas and fired up for our next function – the Amalgamation Dinner in February.

Amalgamation Dinner – 12th February 2011

The 2011 celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Regiment kicked off in good style with a bumper turnout of one hundred and eight members, partners, and friends of the branch turning up for a dinner at Easter Road, the home of Hibernian Football Club. The choice of venue proved to be popular, even for those die hard fans of the Jam Tarts!

George Givens, the Branch Chairman, started the evening by welcoming all those members from the local Lothian and Fife areas, as well as those travelling from further afield – namely Liverpool, Newcastle, Gretna, the Highlands, and Glasgow. This was followed by messages passed on from friends who could not make it to the dinner for various reasons – ie John Gilchrist in New Zealand awaiting the arrival of a new Grandchild, Margaret and Bobby Munro from their cruise liner somewhere off the coast of Japan, Stewart (“Geordie”) Anderson from Liberton Hospital, and Brigadier Nick Ridley from the Borders. Stephen McIntosh, the Secretary of the Highland Branch, passed on very kind best wishes from his members to the Edinburgh Branch. This was followed by a moments silence to remember all those comrades who had sadly passed away since the formation of the Regiment, some fifty years ago.

George then handed over the proceedings to Dougie Shepherd, who presented a special Grace for the anniversary dinner. This went down a storm and hit all the right notes for the start of what proved to be an excellent evening.

The caterers at the venue did us proud and served up a tasty and filling three course meal after which a comfort break was called for. The second half of the evening started with a very fine performance by a Mini Pipe Band from Edinburgh Academy (incidentally the only Cadet Unit to retain the regimental cap badge of the Queen’s Own Highlanders). As usual the young lads, all under the age of eighteen, produced an excellent repertoire of tunes and did themselves proud. This was followed by an extra treat in the form of Pipe Major Michael Gray, a former Queen’s Own Highlander, playing a selection of favourite regimental tunes (The 79th’s Farewell to Gibraltar, Cabar Feidh, March of the Cameron Men, and Pibroch of Donuil Dubh). Michael was then called back and Colonel Mike White thanked him and his Mini Pipe Band for an extremely polished performance. Michael replied by giving the Regimental Toast in Gaelic, which was very well received.

George Givens then gave the Loyal Toast and went on to introduce Colonel White as our Guest of Honour for the evening. Colonel White proceeded to entertain the company with tales of life in the Seaforth Highlanders as a young second lieutenant before the momentous events in February 1961 and re-badging to become a Queen’s Own Highlander. He went on to recount tales of jungle warfare training, pirate hunting, the Brunei Revolt, mechanised warfare training in BAOR, and operational tours in Northern Ireland. His tales, linked to mentions of regimental characters, brought back long forgotten memories to many of the assembled company. To finish off a very entertaining talk, Colonel Mike gave the Regimental Toast, this time in English, to which there was an outstanding reply of **Cabar Feidh Gu Brath**.

George Givens thanked Colonel Mike for a very memorable talk and handed over to Colonel Charlie Millar, who proposed a toast to the 4th Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Scotland (The Highlanders) and wished them a safe and successful operational tour in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

Michael “Dinger” Bell, Johnny Meechan, and Tam Balloch then cracked on with the raffle - the star prize being an original Kelvin Hunter Dram Table in the shape of a Queen’s Own Highlander in Number 2 Dress. Again, a big thank you must go to all those members who generously donated prizes for the raffle.

The evening finished off with dancing to the Kool Kats and the sound of the swinging sixties

All in all, a very successful and enjoyable evening and a good start to the Regiment’s

50th Anniversary Year

Last Post

Over the past year the following Branch members have sadly passed away:

Thomas "Pluto" Munro
Alec Mackie
Frank Scott
Eddie Jenkins
Stewart "Geordie" Anderson

They were all good Branch members and will be greatly missed

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION LONDON BRANCH

The Branch continues to meet at the Union Jack Club on the first Friday of every other month, namely on February, April, June, August, October and December. The AGM is held at the June meeting. We meet in the afternoon from 1pm to 5pm to make it easier for those with a distance to travel and allow them return home at a reasonable hour. The number attending unfortunately is reduced due to aging, incapacity, travelling difficulties for those members living far from London. But the Branch remains extant with the members who are able and do attend regularly. With Peter MacDonald now as Chairman, Allan Ryder, President and Jimmy Fraser, Secretary, we intend keeping going. We keep in contact with our loyal members who are unable to attend the meetings and send out 32 copies of the Minutes of the meetings to them. At Christmas we send out ten Christmas Boxes to our widows.

On Thursday, 11th November, 2010, we attended the annual Field of Remembrance ceremony at Westminster Abbey, attended and reviewed by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. For the review, Jimmy stood in front of the Seaforth plot flanked by the Gordon's representative on the right and the Queens Own Highlanders on the left. When HRH the Duke came round, seeing the Seaforths and Gordons together he gave a laugh and asked, "Have you come to blows?" To which Jimmy replied, "No, Sir. We are now the best of friends" and the Duke laughed again. He was most gracious. After the review, Jimmy attended the short service in Westminster Abbey, attended by the Duke, to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. It was a very moving ceremony.

On Saturday, 20th November, 2010 we held our annual Reunion Lunch in the Union Jack Club. A smaller number attended but all enjoyed a very pleasant, friendly afternoon. It is an event popular with our guests and we intend to keep it going.

On Saturday, 5th February, 2011, Tommy Day and Jimmy Fraser attended the Queens Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) Regimental Association Southern Branch Amalgamation Dinner at the Royal Military School of Music at Twickenham. It was a splendid and very friendly occasion, meeting up with old, regimental friends in the enjoyable, military ambience, and the dinner was a sumptuous one.

We now look forward to the future with confidence and good hope.

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NAIRN BRANCH

The Nairn Branch manages to maintain the reasonable situation of having 22 paid up members. Colonel Bob Towns has settled in as our Branch Chairman and is keeping us in good fighting order. Apart from a £2.00 annual membership fee our fund raising effort is by an annual tombola, which usually generates enough cash to pay any Christmas Welfare Grants required, and to run the Branch.

At Christmas last year we identified 11 people who were worthy of a Christmas Grant

and who received £30.00 each.

The Branch had a good turn out on Remembrance Sunday at the Nairn War Memorial and Church Service; the Secretary laid a Poppy Wreath. The Branch was also represented at the Ardersier Remembrance Service.

Since the last Annual General Meeting, sadly, we report the loss of a long-standing Branch member, Piper Kenny MacDonald from Forres. Kenny was well known in the Piping and Highland Games circuit.

The Nairn Branch members who are attending the 2011 AGM are also looking forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Raising of the Queen's Own Highlanders.

On his retirement we would like to take this opportunity of thanking Major Frank Blincow for all his hard work on our behalf and to wish him a long and happy (second) retirement. We warmly welcome Major David Grant as Frank's successor and look forward to working closely with him.

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTTS BRANCH

Greetings from Notts Branch. We continue to hold our monthly meetings at Pleasley Miners Welfare on the 2nd Friday of the month. Anyone who has served in the Regimental family and who lives in the area or is passing through is more than welcome to come along; we would be delighted to see you. Meetings are held every 2 months and the dates for 2011/12 are; 12 Aug 11 (AGM), 14 Oct 11, 9 Dec 11, 10 Feb 12, 13 Apr 12, 8 Jun 12 (AGM). There is no meeting in June this year due to the Regimental Gathering in Inverness.

Unfortunately during the year we lost Lewis Ward. Known as Dagger or Lew he served from 14 Jun 40 to 1 June 46 with 6th Seaforths. He attained the rank of Sgt and represented the Bn at Football, Boxing, Cricket and Motor Cycle Trials. His funeral was held on 18th February 2011 at Loughborough Crematorium.

We had a very successful annual dinner on the 9th April 2011 which was held in the Masonic Hall, Mansfield. 143 members and guests attended. The meal was superb and the Pipes and Drums display was magnificent. We also had a very good Disco and an excellent night was had by all.

Our Pipes and Drums have picked up on recruitment and have a few more learners attending; we now have 20 Pipers and 7 Drummers. They practice every Thursday evening in the Verney Institute, Pleasley. They led the Mansfield Remembrance Parade again this year. Whilst attending the Nottinghamshire Veterans Meeting in February this year it was very pleasing to here other organisations comment on how well the Pipes and Drums led the Parade.

Thanks to all those are looking after our interests especially Seoras and Dave whose excellent Regimental Website keeps all informed which means those of us at Branch level can pass on information to Members who are not on the internet via meetings and by telephone. We would also like to give special thanks to Bob Towns and his Committee for organising the Regimental Gathering, nothing in life happens, you have to make it happen and we really appreciate all their dedication and hard work which has made this Gathering possible.

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION PIPES AND DRUMS

The Pipes and Drums had a very busy season last year and have an even busier season ahead this year.

The number of members continues to grow, we have had four Pipers and two Drummers join us which

increases the total members to fifty two some of who we only see at annual events.

The playing strength of the band is very health and at the 50th Anniversary gathering

there

Should be at least Twenty Pipers and eight side Drummers two Tenors and a Bass Drummer on parade. The appearance of the band has improved due to the new equipment such as kilts, hose, garter flashes, and a new band tie.

We have also purchased a new set of Drums and new Pipe Chanters which makes for a much better sound from the band and we must thank everyone who has helped towards this by their kind donations to the band fund.

A programme of this year's engagements is attached.

26th May at Fort George 7PM [SAAFA]

9th July Forres Games

7th 10th July Possible Engagement Scottish Golf Tournament

23th July Armed Forces Day Inverness

6th August Moy Fair

13th August Last Night of Inverness Tattoo

31st August Northern Meeting Town House

3rd September Dingwall Rotary Club

Museum Appeal Dinner Fort George 7th October 4 Pipers.

SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION ROSS-SHIRE BRANCH

Branch Membership has shown a small net increase which is heartening.

The Branch Committee meets monthly and is well attended.

Mr Alex MacKenzie Inverness (a veteran of the 1939/45 War) who has served the Branch as a Committee Member over a long period of years was made an Honorary Life President of the branch at our last Annual General Meeting to the satisfaction of all our members.

Branch Members are well represented at the Royal British Legion parades in Dingwall and at other centres throughout Ross and Cromarty.

Some 27 Christmas Grants were distributed to veterans and widows in December last and on this occasion an extra £10 was sent to each recipient from the Estate of our late Chairman Mr Duncan MacKenzie. These gifts are much appreciated.

Our Chairman Mr Ian Macleod welcomed nearly 100 members to our Annual Dinner held in the Ross Hall of the British Legion in Dingwall on 11th March 2011. Members were present from as far apart as Caithness to Kent and this very happy event was much appreciated.

QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN BRANCH

The Southern Branch had hoped to organise an event in the autumn of 2010 but unfortunately we were not able to find a suitable location.

We did however hold an Amalgamation Dinner in February at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall where we were well looked after and served an excellent dinner by the staff. It was a pleasure to have our Association President, Major

	<p>General Peter Grant Peterkin, and Association Chairman, Brigadier Nick Ridley with us on this occasion. In addition the Commandant of Kneller Hall, Colonel Mark Cuthbert Brown (RMP), was also present and it was an opportunity for him and the President to catch up on times past when they served in the same location. A former Regimental Padre, The Rev'd David Coulter (the next Deputy Chaplain General), was also able to be with us so it was certainly more than a Branch re-union!</p> <p>It was a pleasure to welcome Ruaraidh Adams-Cairns and Tristram Carter to their first Branch function and we hope to see them with us on future occasions.</p> <p>Colonel Andrew Duncan, the Branch Chairman, announced he was standing down as Chairman of the Branch and asked David Loftus to take on this responsibility. This was endorsed by those present. Thanks were expressed to Andrew for all he had done for the Branch and particularly the recent recruiting drive to he had undertaken amongst former officers of the Regiment.</p> <p>Robbie Gow attended the Opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey representing the Association. The Branch is pleased to be able to continue to provide this representation on behalf of the Association.</p> <p>A number of the Branch members will be attending the Gathering at Cameron Barracks and are looking forward to catching up with their former colleagues as they share in the activities of the weekend.</p> <p>The wide spread membership makes it impractical to hold too many events. It is hoped that a Branch event can be organised for the autumn with an Amalgamation Dinner being held in the early months of 2012.</p> <p>QUEEN'S OWN HIGHLANDERS REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION STRATHCLYDE BRANCH</p> <p>The anticipation without doubt has been the 50th Anniversary celebrations where we can all join together socially for the first time in a couple of years. Hopefully this will also be the opportunity to meet and discuss the payment of Branch fees with those members who are still on the mailing list which numbers more than 80 people.</p> <p>The Treasurer position should be finalised for next year with Gus Armstrong taking up the helm for the Branch</p> <p>Members have been advised and informed that social nights/activities should be co-ordinated with Edinburgh and any activity from them has been included in Branch letters.</p> <p>Postage costs still remain an issue in whether to include those that have not paid fees recently. Should they still remain on the mailing list or dropped is something that might be discussed generally at an AGM?</p> <p>RHQ have been informed of those deceased members and we pay tribute to them.</p> <p>Nothing else to report at this time except to say that we are looking forward to seeing everyone very soon.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) A vote of thanks was expressed to Bob Towns and his team for all their efforts in getting the weekend Gathering to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) organised and up & running. (ii) The Chairman informed the meeting that the Cameron Highlanders are considering coming in with the Association, as the Seaforth Highlanders had done. If they join the Association it will mean that 	Chairman

	after 50 years there will be one Association. Branches will still exist but any special event for an antecedent Association would be the responsibility of that Association.	
9.	Date of Next Meeting Friday 6 th July 2012 in the Seaforth Club Nairn.	Info: all Action: Secretary

Distribution list:

President All Trustees All Branch Chairmen All Branch Secretaries
Website Administrator