

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS 60th POST WAR
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE TA CENTRE, COLDYHILL LANE,
SCARBOROUGH ON SATURDAY 20th OCTOBER 2007**

Present:

Major General A P Farquhar CBE	Deputy Colonel The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)
Lieutenant Colonel C B K Smeeton OBE	Chairman
Major R Martin MBE	Treasurer

In Attendance:

Captain D Appleyard	Acting as Secretary
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1. Deceased Old Comrades.

The Chairman read out the names of 53 members of the Association whose death had been notified since the last AGM, October 2006.

2. Convening Order.

The Chairman read out the Convening Order of the Meeting.

3. Preliminaries.

a. The Chairman welcomed those attending and thanked members for their support for this years Richmond Sunday and for the large turnout of members and Standards at The Yorkshire Regiment Launch event at York on the 22nd September.

b. The Chairman reported that The Yorkshire Regiment Association had held their first meeting on 26th May. GHA members were under no obligation to join but may do so if they wish. Loftus have joined as a complete branch.

c. The Yorkshire Regiment Association are planning to hold a reunion/get together in the Autumn of 2008. (To be confirmed)

4. Green Howards Association Accounts.

a. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2006 were available to members and were presented by the Treasurer, Major R Martin MBE. These had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held at Richmond on 14th April 2007.

5. Benevolent Fund Report.

a. During 2006 payments totalling £68,706 were made to Green Howards in need and other charitable bodies assisting with the welfare of Green Howards. Five supplementary pensions were paid to deserving applicants. We continued to enjoy the closest co-operation and assistance from the Army Benevolent Fund, Royal British Legion and SSAFA Forces Help.

b. The Treasurer informed the members that the assets of the Benevolent Fund (£597,673), along with the other antecedent benevolent funds, were transferred to The Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund, this fund is now responsible for all Benevolence. Members were assured that there has been no change to the level of support given to ex Green Howards who had applied for assistance.

c. Major General Farquhar assured members that the Benevolence system is now as speedy as it has ever been. The only difference is that the cheques are signed at RHQ York. He assured members that as a member of The Yorkshire Regimental Board, he is in a position to make sure that Green Howards Benevolence is conducted fairly. If any member is aware of any case they believe may have gone wrong they are to inform Richmond.

d. The threshold for individual claims has reverted back to £500, before approaching the Army Benevolent Fund for additional monies, because of the 30% increase in benevolence claims already this year.

e. Contributions and bequests to the Regiment for Green Howards benevolence and/or donations to Green Howard funds are to be investigated and instructions issued in the next issue of *The Green Howard* magazine.

6. Green Howards Association Rules

a. The Chairman explained that the rewrite of The Green Howards Association Rules had been presented and passed, with minor amendments, by the Executive Meeting in April. However before the Charities Commission accept them, they have advised that they need to be formally adopted by the Annual General Meeting.

b. It was proposed by Mr C Moir (York Branch) and seconded by Major R I Bailey (Independent) that the revised Rules of The Green Howards Association be formally adopted. This was carried and passed by the members.

7. Reports.

a. 2nd Battalion. The Chairman updated members on the activities of the 2nd Battalion, in particular:

- (1) The move from Chepstow to Weeton Camp.
- (2) The current operational tour in Afghanistan.
- (3) Medal Parade – 30th April 2008 (tbc)

b. Regimental Museum. The Chairman brought members up to date on matters affecting the Museum. He highlighted the following:

- (1) The new professional Museum Curator , Mr David Tetlow.
- (2) Heritage Lottery Fund refurbishment.
- (3) The long term Business Plan.
- (4) Recent accessions – The return of the North Riding Trophy.
 - The York and Lancaster Silver Tiger.
 - Medals of Cpl T Atkinson GC.

8. Reunion 2008.

a. The Chairman informed members that the Reunions are to continue. It will be possible to have the 2008 reunion in October in Scarborough but it will cost more, in that the TA Man Training Days will not be available, therefore extra costs would be incurred. Members agreed that the cost of tickets and the price of a pint of beer should be increased to offset the additional costs (detailed costings to be carried out). A breakdown of costs for the reunion this year was given by the Treasurer. The Chairman reminded members that this was not a long term solution and members were asked to think about different solutions for the future, one option would be to enhance Richmond Sunday.

b. The date (subject to confirmation) for the 2008 reunion will be 24/25/26 October.

8. Crépon 2008.

a. Major Martin outlined the programme for the Green Howards Association Battlefield tour to France taking place 3 – 9 June 2008, the ceremony at Crepon will take place at 1200 hrs on 8th June. The response so far has been good. A Coach (50 seats) has been filled by the GHA, which will ensure that the tour will not be run at a loss, as in previous years. Anyone wishing to put their name down to go will be added to the waiting list.

b. The Chairman on behalf of the members thanked Mr Tom Heron for all his hard work in organising the trip.

9. Annual Jackpot Draw of the 400 Club.

Ticket No	Name	Prize
71	Mrs Martha Hewitson	£200
302	Mrs Diane Atkinson	£150
75	Mr P Brown	£75
70	Mrs Martha Hewitson	£35
125	Colonel R J Belas TD	£25
239	Major R I Bailey	£20
267	J P J D Oliver MBE	£15

10. Diary Dates 2008

The following dates are planned for 2008:

GHA Executive Meeting	12 th April
Richmond Sunday	18 th May
GHA Reunion	25 th - 26 th Oct
AGM	25 th Oct

Diary dates for 2007 and 2008 are attached.

11. Any Other Business.

- a. The Chairman informed member of the welfare of two members who were not well:

Colonel Wally Pryke
Major Jack Riordan

- b. Major general Farquhar clarified the following points post merger:

- (1) The change in our Governance regime.
- (2) Change in Charity Laws.
- (3) RHQ Support.
- (4) The publishing of Obituaries in *The Green Howard* magazine. Obituaries are to be forwarded direct to the Editor or to Richmond.

- c. On behalf of the members Major General Farquhar thanked Major Roger Chapman for an outstanding magazine. It is hoped that Brigadier J S W Powell will take over the role of Editor in April 2008.

- d. Richmond Sunday will continue in its present format.

- e. The official title of Major General Farquhar is 'Deputy Colonel of The Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards)'. No other title is to be used.

- f. Communications within the regimental family are improving all the time and getting better.

- g. The Green Howards Cup, at York Races, has been discontinued, in part to rising costs (sponsorship) and low attendance. The PWO Race day is to be taken over by The Yorkshire Regiment for 2008

- h. Captain Appleyard explained to members about the Cleveland Schools U16's Green Howards Football Trophy final which takes place in March/April each year. Its name will remain the same but the medals will be struck with the Yorkshire Regiment badge.

- i. The Hedley Verity Cricket match, linked to the annual Roses Match, is now a joint venture run by The Yorkshire Regiment.

- j. The Chairman informed members of a service and ceremony at Harrogate on 28th October to rededicate their cenotaph. One of our VC holders is named on the cenotaph 2nd Lt Donald S Bell VC. Anyone who wishes to attend may do so. The Chairman is to lay a wreath.

- k. Major Martin inform the members that The 2nd Bn Yorkshire Regiment are to carry out Freedom Marches through Middlesbrough, Redcar, Richmond, Harrogate, Scarborough and Bridlington between 18th and 21st June 2008.

- l. The important topic of legacies or bequests made in existing wills was raised. Much concern was expressed that a member of the GHA might have donated money in his will intending it to go to the Green Howards Benevolent Fund; as no such fund now exists, there was fear that the money might end up in the Yorkshire Regiment Benevolent Fund, contrary to the benefactor's wishes.

It was thought that the alteration of the wording of earlier wills might be necessary and Mr Rod Hart pointed out cost implications of altering wills.

RHQ were tasked to seek legal advice to ensure that monies which GHA members wish specifically to leave to an appropriate GH Charity (The GHA, The GH Museum or FGHM possibly) did not end up in any Yorkshire Regiment Charity fund.

When this question is resolved advice will be distributed to GHA Branches concerning action necessary both in alteration of old wills and wording for future wills. A notice will also be published in *The Green Howard Magazine*.

m. Warning Order. Major General Farquhar reported that the 2nd Battalion were very keen to hold a Medal Parade in Weeton on the 30th April 2008 (tbc) when they return from Afghanistan. It is anticipated a representative party of GHA members would be invited.

n. Major General Farquhar and the Chairman on behalf of the GHA thanked the staff at RHQ and the work carried out by Mr Ray Gascoyne on his web site.

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date and venue of the next AGM will be 25th October 2008 in Scarborough subject to confirmation.