

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREEN HOWARDS ASSOCIATION (GHA)
74th POST WAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM), HELD AT THE ARMY RESERVE
CENTRE, STOCKTON ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH AT 1830HRS ON SAT 16 OCT 21

Present Committee	Maj Gen A P Farquhar CBE DL Maj (Retd) A Warriner MBE	Patron & Substitute Chairman GHA Secretary
Present Members	Association Members x 89	
Apologies	Brig E D Colthup Maj (Retd) P Ralph MM Maj (Retd) R Helmn BEM Mr P Elliott Mr A Beal	Chairman GHA Treasurer & Assistant Regt Sec YR (North) Assistant Regt Sec YR (South) Withdrew at last minute due to health Withdrew at last minute due to health

ITEM	ACTION
ITEM 1 – CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND PRELIMINARIES	
<p>1. The Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming those attending and thanking Gen Andrew Farquhar for substituting as Chairman, with Brig David Colthup sending his apologies. Maj (Retd) Pat Ralph as Treasurer sent his apologies.</p> <p>2. Gen Farquhar welcomed and thanked members for their continued support to the GHA. He spoke of the sad loss of our Representative Colonel and Chairman GHA, Col Clive Mantell, who died in July. Gen Farquhar said, “As Representative Colonel and Chairman GHA, he did an outstanding job overseeing Regimental matters and Chairing the GHA. Clive, constantly engaged with Branches and independent members, and the Regiment owe him a great debt. More will be mentioned at the Reunion, along with a message of thanks from Clive’s widow, Susan Mantell.”</p> <p>3. Gen Farquhar welcomed our new Representative Colonel and Chairman, Brig David Colthup, who unfortunately had other commitments over Reunion weekend. Brig Colthup was Late Green Howards and Yorkshire Regiment and is now on the General Staff as Director Operations HQ Army Recruiting and Initial Training Command. He is also Deputy Colonel of the Yorkshire Regiment.</p> <p>4. Best wishes from the Regiment were past to all members unable to attend due to ill health, and some who had planned to attend the weekend but had to withdraw at the last moment. A message and apology were received from Mr Pip Elliott, who regrettably was too ill to attend.</p> <p>5. Gen Farquhar thanked 4 YORKS, especially Capt Jon Robinson and his team from Quebec Company for the assistance and support to the GHA Reunion.</p> <p>6. After Note: Later in the evening when more members had gathered, Gen Farquhar paid a tribute to Col Clive Mantell, and readout a message of thanks to the Regiment by his widow Susan Mantell. He also readout a welcome message from Brig Colthup. Both messages are at Item 11 below.</p>	
ITEM 2 – OLD COMRADES – ABSENT FRIENDS	
<p>7. Gen Farquhar read out the names of 54 members of the Association whose deaths had been notified to RHQ since the last AGM in Oct 20. He also spoke of Private Jethro Watson-Pickering, the 1 YORKS soldier who was tragically killed in an accident on Salisbury Plain. It was noted that he had started his military career with 4 YORKS at Stockton Road and was a very well thought of and successful soldier.</p>	

ITEM	ACTION
<p>After the Exhortation members observed a period of silence. The names of the Green Howards absent friends are recorded at Annex A.</p>	
<p>ITEM 3 – CONVENING NOTICE OF MEETING</p>	
<p>8. A copy of the Convening Notice was distributed to members and formally read out by the Chairman.</p>	
<p>ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</p>	
<p>9. The minutes of the last GHA AGM held by Zoom on Sat 17 Oct 20, having been circulated prior to the meeting, were accepted as an accurate copy.</p>	
<p>10. The Minutes of the Last Meeting were reviewed and there were no issues raised. Referring to para 25 to the Last Minutes, the Secretary mentioned that Eric Featherstone was assisting Steve Walker with the GHA website and encouraged members to make use of the site and forum.</p>	
<p>11. Minutes Accepted. Proposed by Maj Mick Lynch, Seconded by Mr D Wardle and CARRIED by all members attending the meeting.</p>	
<p>ITEM 5 – REVIEW OF 2020 AND 2021</p>	
<p>12. Due to Covid-19 restrictions this is the first GHA event since the Reunion in 2019. There has been some movement in branches with the following updates:</p>	
<p>a. Disbandment of branches due to loss of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington disbanded. • Cheshire disbanded. • Middlesbrough disbanded. 	
<p>b. Reforming and continuance of branches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darlington new branch formed. • London will continue with new Chairman and Secretary. 	
<p>13. The Secretary spoke on the number of branches disbanding and made a plea for the younger members in the Cheshire, Middlesbrough and other area where large numbers of Green Howards live, to try and re-establish local branches. Middlesbrough is one of our main areas and it needs someone to take the initiative and try to establish a new branch. RHQ will give any assistance.</p>	All
<p>ITEM 6 – GREEN HOWARDS ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS</p>	
<p>14. Copies of the Association Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 Dec 20, were made available to members. The balance sheet was presented and explained by the Secretary. The Accounts had been adopted at the GHA Executive Meeting held by Zoom on Sat 10 Apr 21. The Secretary highlighted the following entries:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income. £7,772.00. • Expenditure. £2,766.00. • Profit for the Year. £5,007.00. • Accumulated Fund. £40,659.00. 	

ITEM	ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the bank as at 30 Sep 21. £47,875.47. Of that total, the following is ringfenced to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ York Branch – £545.00. ○ Standard Fund – £1,864.00. ○ Regimental Chapel Fund – £2,068.00. 	
<p>ITEM 7 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT BENEVOLENT FUND (YBF)</p>	
<p>15. Gen Farquhar reminded members that the benevolent fund support was delivered by the Yorkshire Regiment. The support will be available to Green Howards who require it, as long as it is required, and Green Howards are around. The fund provides a wide range of support such as, helping fund short term accommodation, arrears of rent, supply of white goods, walk-in showers for the less mobile, saucing and paying for dogs to provide company and assistance where required, removals and many other functions that may be required to help someone who finds themselves requiring some financial support.</p>	
<p>16. During the period from April to October this year, 87 cases from the Yorkshire Regiment and antecedent Regiment Associations have received assistance, with a total spend of £47K, of which about 35% was allocated to Green Howards.</p>	
<p>17. Members were also informed that during the Covid period, many Green Howards and family members have benefited from working at the various Covid Testing Sites setup around the country. An initiative at the introduction of Test Sites by Lt Col Jonathan Brasher Green Howards (Working for SERCO) and Maj Pat Ralph.</p>	
<p>ITEM 8 – YORKSHIRE REGIMENT MATTERS</p>	
<p>18. Gen Farquhar gave a summary on the Yorkshire Regiment three battalions and the Cadets. More details of the battalions’ activities were circulated prior to the meeting, and a copy of the COs’ Forewords are at Annex B. The summary:</p>	
<p>a. 1 YORKS – Alma Lines, Catterick Garrison. CO is Lt Col Tim Exton (Late Green Howards). After disruptions due to Covid the battalion is now able to do more training, especially cadres, sport and social events. The battalion has won the inter-corps and Army 7-aside Rugby, runners-up in the Rugby League, and won the Army Offshore Sailing with a scratch team.</p>	
<p>b. 2 YORKS – Salamanca Barracks, Episkopi, Cyprus. CO is Lt Col James Ashworth (Late Green Howards). The battalion has one year left in Cyprus then will move to Dale Barracks in Chester. The battalion was committed to the Regional Standby Role and deployed to Bahrain and to assist with the evacuation in Kabul, Afghanistan. Throughout the time left in Cyprus the battalion will be engaged with experimentation of future army equipment and techniques. The Yorkshire Regiment (with still many Green Howards) have been in all major conflicts going through Iraq and Afghanistan and were at the final evacuation. CSM Willis of Alpha Company, deployed on every tour in Iraq and Afghanistan, including the final evacuation.</p>	
<p>c. 4 YORKS – RHQ in Worsley Barracks, York. CO is Lt Col Will Blackhurst (Late Mercian). During Covid training was restricted but they have now moved to a more normal training programme. 4 YORKS continue to support the Yorkshire Regiment on deployments as individuals and groups. This summer the battalion has deployed personnel to Malawi on an STTT to train indigenous forces; officers to Morocco on a US Africa Command</p>	

ITEM	ACTION																					
<p>(AFRICOM) multi-national exercise; contributed to UN operations in Cyprus and have also had personnel deployed to Afghanistan to help evacuate British citizens and Afghan nationals embedded within 2 YORKS. The Annual Camp Deployment Exercise, called Ex YORKSHIRE STRIKE, this year was held in Kirkcudbright, Scotland.</p> <p>19. The Future. There is an Army Integrated Review underway, the word is that the Yorkshire Regiment will retain two regular component battalions and one reserve battalion. The orbats, roles and locations will be announced in November 2021.</p> <p>20. Area HQ Personnel. Gen Farquhar gave a special mention and thanks to Majors Pat Ralph and Charlie Helmn, who have done an outstanding job over the Covid period. They have also supported Green Howards and family members by securing employment in the NHS supporting roles with SERCO. This has been a lifeline for many who found themselves out of work through redundancies etc.</p> <p>21. Cadets. The Yorkshire Regiment has a very vibrant group of Cadets who are very much part of the Armies structure, and well supported by the adult instructors. The Yorkshire Regiment Cadets have been mentioned on a number of occasions by the Chief of Staff of the Cadet movement based in London.</p>																						
ITEM 9 – MAJOR GREEN HOWARDS EVENTS FOR 2019/20																						
<p>22. Copies of the Diary Dates were made available to members, with the Secretary highlighting the following major events for 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Remembrance Weekend 12 -14 Nov 21, with arrangements made by Ian Hodgson, London Branch. • Officers' London Lunch – Leathersellers Company Fri 25 Mar 22. • GHA Executive Meeting Sat 2 Apr 22. • Green Howards Sunday 15 May 22. • Crepon Commemoration Sunday 5 Jun 22. • GHA Reunion proposed for 21/22/23 or 28/29/30 Oct 22 at Army Reserve Centre, Stockton Road. TBC and members advised not to book accommodation until confirmed. • Officers' Annual Dinner for 2022 TBC. • Remembrance Sunday 13 Nov 22. Ian Hodgson will publish a programme. • Diary Dates have been circulated. 	<p>Officers Chair/Sec/ All</p>																					
ITEM 10 – ANNUAL JACKPOT DRAW OF THE 800 CLUB																						
<p>23. The seven prizes were drawn at the meeting and winners were as follows:</p>	<p>Secretary</p>																					
<table border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">53</td> <td>Gen Andrew Farquhar – Donated £100 to GHA and £100 to another worthy cause</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£200</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">654</td> <td>Bill Richardson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£150</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">371</td> <td>Norman Shelton – Scarborough Branch</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£75</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">831</td> <td>Rob Robson – Donated to GHA</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£35</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">350</td> <td>George Nicholson</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">439</td> <td>Janette Mayberry – Guisborough Branch</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">294</td> <td>Peter Brown</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	53	Gen Andrew Farquhar – Donated £100 to GHA and £100 to another worthy cause	£200	654	Bill Richardson	£150	371	Norman Shelton – Scarborough Branch	£75	831	Rob Robson – Donated to GHA	£35	350	George Nicholson	£25	439	Janette Mayberry – Guisborough Branch	£20	294	Peter Brown	£15	
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<p>ITEM 11 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>24. The Museum. Gen Farquhar mentioned the Museum Director Lynda Powell and her staff, for the excellent work they do cementing the Regiments ethos and taking forward the golden thread of the Green Howards. The museum does a fantastic job in Richmond and has come through Covid in a reasonably healthy and active way. The museum is now open and hopefully recovering some losses before closing for the Christmas period. Support the museum in any way you can.</p> <p>25. Donations. The Secretary thanked the following for their very generous donations to the GHA during this last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Richardson for £750.00. • Chris Jepson for over £400.00. <p>26. GHA Golf Society. Capt (Retd) Tom Wharton, at the last golf meeting, announced his retirement after 19 years in the role. On behalf of the GHA Golf Society, Pat Callaghan asked, “That a vote of thanks be recorded for Capt (Retd) Tom Wharton for all his hard work and many years of organizing the golf.” Members agreed and applauded Tom for his time and dedication over so many years. It is confirmed that Steve Lawrence will take over the role of organizing GHA Golf Society events.</p> <p>27. Message from Susan Mantell.</p> <p>As it’s Green Howard Reunion this weekend and I know how much Clive wanted to be there, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking GHA members for the very many messages of sympathy and support I received from you at the time of Clive’s death. Your response was moving and uplifting and very much appreciated by me and the whole family but above all it made us very proud of Clive. We will miss him enormously.</p> <p>I know he’ll be with you in spirit this weekend and I’m sure you’ll raise a glass to him - he would want you to.</p> <p>With many thanks and best wishes</p> <p>Sue Mantell</p> <p>28. Message from the Chairman of the Green Howards Association, Brig David Colthup.</p> <p>Dear Association Members,</p> <p>On the occasion of the first Reunion since 2019 and the intervening challenges of Covid, it is great that once again Green Howards are able to assemble to see old friends and enjoy each other’s company. Inevitably it also gives us time to pause for thought and to remember comrades who are no longer with us and while all were special to us as a family, I should of course make special mention of the late Colonel Clive Mantell, known well to all of you of course.</p> <p>Colonel Clive loyally served as Honorary Colonel and Chairman of the Green Howards Association for many years during which he attended, organised and directed many events from Reunions to Richmond Sundays and the relatively recent unveiling of the regimental memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Brigadier David Santa-</p>	<p>All</p>

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Olalla, who spoke at his funeral, told of his passion for the Regiment and how important the Association had been to him, to the very end.</p> <p>Whilst a reunion is very much about catching up with friends and remembering our service together, we should also look to the future, to events to come and we all hope I'm sure, to returning to a semblance of normality. I was delighted to hear that more gold badges will be presented at this Reunion than on any other gathering for many years, possibly ever. That's fantastic news and continues to show the importance of the Association.</p> <p>I am grateful to General Andrew for kindly standing in for me today. It was unavoidable that I would be unable to make this Reunion but please accept my best wishes for a great evening and I look forward to seeing and talking with many of you next year at Green Howards Sunday, if not before.</p> <p>Brigadier David Colthup</p> <p>29. After Note: Attendance and raffle ticket sales for the Reunion 2021 were as follows (2019 figures in brackets):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Tickets. Friday – 101 (83), Saturday – 184 (194) and Sunday 67 (Cancelled). It was hoped that figures for the weekend would have been better, but it may be a backlash from the Covid pandemic. Notwithstanding that, absent friends since the last Reunion in 2019 stand at 104, which has a significant impact. • Future Attendance. Records show that Saturday attendance pre-2019 was always 250 or above. Notwithstanding the number of absent friends, there are many Green Howards who do not attend but possibly could be encouraged. Members who do attend, are asked to canvas other Green Howards to encourage their attendance. • Raffle Tickets. Sale of raffle tickets and blind cards on Friday and Saturday raised £701.00 towards the GHA funds, which was outstanding. 	
<p>ITEM 12 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING</p> <p>30. Arrangements for Next Meeting. The next meeting to be held at the Army Reserve Centre, Stockton Road at 1830hrs on Sat 22 or Sat 29 Oct 22. To be confirmed at a later date once 4 YORKS training programme is published. Members were informed not to book accommodation until dates are confirmed.</p>	All

(Original Signed)

A P FARQUHAR CBE DL
Major General
Patron and Substitute Chairman

Annexes:

- A. Absent Friends Since Last AGM Meeting in Oct 20.
- B. Yorkshire Regiment COs' Forewords.

Distribution:

Maj Gen A P Farquhar CBE DL
Brig E D Colthup
Maj (Retd) P Ralph MM
Maj (Retd) A Warriner MBE
GHA Independent Members
GHA Branch Secretaries

} All by email