



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KING'S OWN
SCOTTISH BORDERERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT MOTHERWELL
26 NOVEMBER 2022**

Attending

Colonel AJ Loudon MBE	President KOSB Association
Lieutenant Colonel RS Combe MBE	Vice Chairman KOSB Association
Lieutenant Colonel CGO Hogg OBE DL	Trustee
Major AG Horsburgh	Trustee
Captain Andrew Herberts	Trustee
WO1 J Gillie	Trustee
Major Lance Thornton	Association Executive Officer
WO2 Gerry O'Neill	Museum Officer

Branches

Major EFR Scroggie MBE	Edinburgh
Mr Bryan Stuart	Stranraer
Mr Ronnie Hill	Northern Ireland
Mr Ronnie Rae	Dumfries
Mr Pat McIntyre	Riders
Mr Craig Fretwell	Lanarkshire

Members

There were a total of 31 members in attendance.

Apologies

Brig AD Myrtle CB CBE	
Maj IDA Gibbs	London
Major DP Sturrock TD WS	Trustee
Mr Bill Heaney	Berwick upon Tweed
Capt T Duff	Treasurer

1. Chairman's Welcome

Angus Loudon welcomed all and thanked Craig Fretwell and the Lanarkshire Branch for hosting the meeting in Motherwell. Apologies for the change of date due to factors outside our control. Well done to all who took part in Remembrance services across the country in particular the Cenotaph where we had 51 Borderers on parade. The recent Cruickshank dinner in St Boswells was another excellent evening with our guest speaker Sir Chay Blythe who started out as a Borderer in the Hawick Company of 4 KOSB. The year has been dominated

by the sad death of HM The Queen, many Borderers were involved in the funeral as part of the Royal Company of Archers.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous KOSB Association AGM held on Saturday 15 January 2022 were read and passed as a true record.

Proposer: Colin Hogg

Seconded: John Gillie

3. Matter arising

There were no matters arising as all points were to be covered during this meeting.

4. Accounts

The financial statement is attached to these minutes.

Angus Loudon briefed that the fund is healthy and we are drawing down stock, donations and legacies still make up a good part of our income. A considerable amount has been claimed back in gift aid. Due to market fluctuations the value of the fund has dropped from £595,563 to around £500,000, but this is recovering as the market improves

David Sturrock was not present however he left the following brief which the President expanded on:

The Donations were £3065, Subscriptions £9435 (£7851) and Gift Aid £1998 = £14498

Restricted - the AMOT cash

Stock impairment - w/o of books

Benevolence etc. - £8000 was paid to RHQ Scots. The actual to 31 Borderers was £6498. £100 to SVA

Creditors includes the FC fund and GWA fees

5. Branch Reports

The following reports were submitted and read out to the AGM:

London - I am sorry I will not be with you tomorrow at the AGM and the London Branch will not be represented. I have nothing much to report. It was great seeing everyone at the Remembrance weekend and I would like to thank everyone who came from the north for supporting the service and lunch on the Saturday. Earlier in the year we watched the Major General's rehearsal of the Trooping from the Scotland Office – a very successful event and much enjoyed by all who attended – it was great to be back at Dover House and we hope to get there again next year and any Borderers are welcome to join us – space permitting.

With best wishes to all attendees from all members of the London and Southern Counties Branch

Edinburgh - The Branch has continued to meet for Borderers Breakfasts at the Caley Picture House on Lothian Road. It is a Weatherspoon's establishment that serves excellent breakfasts. We have held breakfasts in February, May, August and October and have another planned for December. They have proved popular are a good way to hold a relaxed meeting where lively conversations are held. It has been encouraging that numbers attending have increased over the year.

So far as events are concerned, we have participated in the following Edinburgh events:

The Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Falkland War on 18 June.
Armed Forces Day on 25th June.

The Opening of the Garden of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens
The Remembrance Day Parade and Service

We had a good turnout for the excellent Minden Day at Berwick and attended the annual commemoration of Piper Danial Laidlaw VC at the church in Norham. As this year it was held on a Sunday, 25th September, we joined the congregation for their morning service. This included everyone leaving the church and gathering at his graveside to mark the event.

Lanarkshire - Gents another eventful year at the Lanarkshire branch
I on behalf of all branch members would like to thank Andy Currie for his hard work in carrying out the roll of Branch Secretary never an easy roll.

I would like to welcome Scott Murdoch as the new Branch Secretary Andy McCluckie carry's on doing a sterling job as Branch treasurer.

We are still meeting at the ex-servicemen's club in Motherwell with 4 meeting a year plus an Annual general meeting in July. Please any one old or new is more than well come to come along and join in we have 78 members and would love to see you there is always a lively banter and I would encourage all ex-borderer to come and join in. There were a few informal functions held over the year. We attended the following events as a Branch

Andy McCluckie and I attended a commemoration ceremony for the Royal British Legion at Hamilton town hall my thanks go to Tam Falkner

Remembrance Day

We had Branch member's parade in Airdrie for the main North Lanarkshire parade, thanks again to Hector McKee for volunteering to carry the standard and to all who attended we nearly managed to keep the step all the way round but I blame the bass drummer for a few dodgy beats . We even managed to get the eyes right on the correct foot with soup and sandwiched served after the parade by North Lanarkshire Council.

Our Christmas function was held on the 4th December at the Ex-servicemen's club in Motherwell we had an excellent night with thanks going

to Andy McCluckie for running the raffle, The event was well attended plenty of food and the entertainment was excellent Great night had by all .

I am very sad to announce the death of the following Branch member's
Jimmy McMullan

Stranraer - This year has been no changes in the Branch. My Self as Secretary and the core team remain the same.

22 events throughout the year.

- Black Hackle Parade where the CO 6 SCOTS was keen to get our Branch involved. RQMS Sammy kindly issued some Hackles for the Branch.
- AFD Stranraer this was supported by 6 SCOTS Recruiting team who paraded and assisted with the set up and collapse of the day.
- Skiffies rowing club, the Branch raised and donated money to allow them to transport their craft and compete in Holland.
- Remembrance weekend x 3 events Armistice day on the Friday where our Branch piper played a part, Stranraer FC requested we laid a wreath on the Saturday before the Game (which they won) And Sunday Spectacular Horses Vehicles Clothing On Border TV which I posted onto the KOSB Page, John Forsyth was the Parade Commander.
- Lord Lieutenants' Special recognition to the Branch.
- The Branch will now run with the Parade every year, council support and do all invites emailing etc. at their cost.

x 2 New members

Northern Ireland – The year started still in lockdown until it was lifted in March. Members were still wary of mixing in a social setting. Our first outing would be to the commemoration of the three RHF soldiers murdered, with members attending the service at Braehead. In April our first meeting was held in Palace Barracks and we continue them every two months, however it was decided to have monthly meetings for breakfast or coffee in members' local areas. This has been good for the morale of members getting together again after a long pause. A few members have lost family members one of our very significant losses was big Murph in June. A few members attended the AFD parade in Banbridge which was well attended by the public, the numbers were so great that the PSNI were turning people away. In July Colin Wilson attended the AFD in Dublin, more members plan to attend next year. Also in July eight of us took part as extras in a film starring Pierce Brosnan called the last Rifleman to be shown next year. Although we were only part of the welcoming home party it should provide some good PR for the Regiment. The Minden weekend arrived with five of us travelling to Berwick, numbers were down due to train strikes and caution. Sadly there was no Minden parade at 1 RANGER due to commitments elsewhere. Due to the death of HM we cancelled our meeting until October. Our secretary Jim Scott resigned due to work commitments and will stay in place until January when we will elect a replacement. We thank him for his dedicated work over the years.

At our last meeting we got a free tour of Hillsborough Castle thanks to Mr Wilson. For remembrance four of our members attended the parade in Palace Barracks with the reminder attending their local services. Our last event of the year will be the Christmas party in December in Carrickfergus to which we have invited some of the RANGER Regiment as a thank you for their support. Finally on behalf of our members may you stay safe and well, and have a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Dumfries - In the wake of the Covid epidemic, the Branch is slowly returning to normal.

We attended a few engagements with Branch Standards on parade.

On Saturday 26/03/2022 we attended the "Admittance of the Royal British Legion of Scotland as a Freeman of Dumfries and Galloway" to mark its Centenary year.

This event was attended by three of her Majesty's Lord Lieutenants from Dumfries and Galloway, as well as dignitaries from Dumfries council and the British Legion Scotland.

We were well represented by veterans, 6 Standard bearers, 16 in the ranks, and 1 motorcyclist, we were the largest contingency on parade.

We attended the Proclamation of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 11/09/2022 at Maxwelltown War memorial. This was very well attended with several Borderers on parade, considering we were only advised of the event the day before.

We also had a large body of Borderers on parade for Armed Forces Day, including Busty Anderson who had just arrived from Spain, still as bright as ever, it was great to see him after a few years absence.

We are planning collection details for the Poppy Appeal, since we took over the running of this appeal, we have raised close to £250k. That is down to the generosity of the Dumfries public and hard work of ex Borderers under Maj William Turner MC.

We are also planning our Christmas Dance to be held in December.

A huge vote of thanks to RHQ for the donation of copies of "Once a Borderers" to all of the local schools and many thanks to Brian Dickie who collected and distributed them.

Thanks again to RHQ for continued support and regular updates on social media.

On a lighter note, approximately 50 years ago A coy were sent to the Trucial Oman States for NI training. A realistic training area apart from the lack of buildings for FIBUA, and camels instead of black taxis for VCPs.

Berwick -The Berwick Branch had another quiet year, like everyone else, due to the continuing Covid-19 situation which had affected all planned events right up until the annual Minden Parade.

The annual Branch 'Raising of The Regiment' Dinner, in the Marshall Meadows Manor House Hotel, took place on Friday 18th March 2022 although there was only an attendance of 21, made up of 13 Borderers with wives and

guests. Covid-19 strikes had reduced the numbers! The next dinner will be held on Saturday 18th March 2023 and the organisation of that is currently in full swing. The Branch Chairman, Bob Bolton, arranged for a second Branch Breakfast to be held in 'The Brewer's Arms' ('The Battery') on Saturday 30th April and ten Borderers attended that. Sadly, with that venue now currently closed any other such function would need to be held elsewhere. With the eventual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, we were able to enjoy a full Minden Parade on Saturday 30th July and there were about 300 Borderers happy to get back in The Barracks to enjoy the day. We hope that the next Minden Parade, on Saturday 29 July 2023, will be even bigger and better! A number of Branch Members, as well as other Borderers and two non-Borderers, were able to help as Museum Volunteers during the summer months. It is vital that all Borderers who live within reasonable travelling distance of Berwick consider helping with this important task. We currently have Borderers travelling from Glasgow, Kinross, South Shields, Edinburgh, Lanarkshire and Midlothian, as well as Kelso and Galashiels, so please do not think that distance is an excuse for not being there. Financial assistance can be given to help to cover travel costs so all Borderers are urged to consider giving at least one day on a weekend during the period March – September 2023 to help. It is YOUR museum and we need YOUR help to project it to the public.

“Once A Borderer, Always A Borderer!”

Riders - A wee update from the Riders Branch we have had a busy time helping our fellow Associations with their Armed forces Days, Remembrance Parade, Erskine bike run, MINDEN DAY at Berwick, and also the National Arboretum Ride to the Wall, myself and Brian Dickie have managed to get Galloway Granite to donate a Granite stone to unveil at the Arboretum details to be confirmed, I would like to thank Willie Dickie, Brian Cruickshank, George McGraw, Brian Dickie, Grant Trail, Jock Adams, Stuart Frizzle, John Crawford, Dick Brown, David Bell, Allan Patch Kyle for attending different events cheers guy's XXV Pat McIntyre.

Benevolence- Colin Hogg gave an update: The constitution states that welfare is an Association Priority. To that end we channel all our welfare requests through HQ SCOTS where they are handled by SO2. The Association transfers money on a regular basis while the SO2 pulls in funds from other areas to get the maximum possible for the claimant. All case are means tested with the neediest getting prioritised. Cases are rising slightly, in 2020 we had 44, in 2021 it was 31, and to date for 2022 it is 40.

6. Regimental Council update

Angus Loudon briefed that the Regimental Council is a forum in which Branches to raise issues or concerns. The meeting is held on Minden Day ahead of the parade, and those members with questions should staff them through their Branches to the EXO for inclusion at the meeting. The meeting is chaired by the

President with Trustees present. The constitution was re written in Jan 2019 and remains extant.

Russell Combe briefed that this was part of making sure there was transparency and openness with work being undertaken by the Trustees and that it would be an annual meeting, most likely on the Minden weekend at Berwick. A calling notice will be issued by the EXO prior to the meeting to gather points for discussion and inviting Branches to be represented, ideally by one or two of their committee members, or by a nominated individual.

7. Barracks and Museum Update

Angus Loudon briefed on the Barracks project. The living Barracks concept is ongoing with £4.2m secured to enable works to begin. The Museum and association Office will remain open until Dec 2023 when it will all re-locate to G Block until early 2026. The build will be in 3 Phases; Ph1-The re-build of the Maltings theatre and Mob Store, Ph2-The development of the East blocks, Ph3-The fit out of the Barracks Museum. Funding is also released to hire 3 specialists to assist in the preservation, curation and move of our Regimental collection on a 12 month contract. Angus thanked the museum team, EXO and Museum Officer for their ongoing planning and work.

Russell Combe briefed that there is an aspiration to loan Regimental items out to local Councils, museums and branches within our area, and also to the City Chambers in Edinburgh. There is also the possibility of disposal by sale or auction of items of silver and property to members of the Association, once the final inventory of items for display in the new museum is established.

Grant Horsburgh provided a brief summary of the proposed layout of the refurbished museum. This included the likely side of the display area and the number of galleries available (possibly as many as 21). However, it was stressed that while remaining principally the KOSB Regimental Museum, that some galleries and displays will no doubt include artefacts from the Town and Barracks Museums to demonstrate the links between Town, Barracks and Regiment. During the questions that followed Peter McCutcheon provided an update on current thinking as to how we might be able to develop a travelling display based on a theme of *The KOSB in XXV items* which would enable the Regiment to have a heritage footprint throughout our traditional recruiting area. The briefing concluded with a reminder of the five individuals involved in planning the refurbishment of the Regimental Museum and a plea for Branches and Association Members more generally to engage with the project by suggesting items they would like to see displayed either in the Museum or within the *The KOSB in XXV items* travelling exhibition.

8. Financing future Minden parades

Angus Loudon briefed that the costs for Minden have risen considerably, in addition in 2022 we had the extra expense of £1950 for traffic management. The cost of the day is around £10,000 with all costs being borne by the Association fund. The fund gets its income from those who subscribe £25 pa meaning that only a proportion of those attending actually contribute. It had been agreed in principal at the Regimental Council Meeting in July 2022 that everyone attending should contribute to the costs of the day and that numbers are controlled.

During the discussion it was raised that many people would not be able to afford £15 per head as suggested for all their family members. Angus Loudon stressed that it was not the intention for all costs to be covered by those attending only a proportion. All members were reminded that during parades in the 1st Bn families would be asked to contribute to the costs of food on the day and that only Borderers on parade would get a Rose.

It was suggested by Ronnie Hill that more use of donation buckets was implemented; this would be looked into, but the use of Cadets may not be possible. He also suggested that we do not need the marquee and was there a possibility of using the Drill Hall next to the Barracks to save costs.

John Gillie stated that it is essential that all those attending make a contribution and that we know how many will be there. This will save on wasted food.

Overall it was agreed that funding needs to improve, it was proposed by Craig Fretwell and seconded by Ronnie Hill that all those attending future Minden Parades be asked to contribute towards costs. The proposal was passed unanimously by all, and it was agreed by Angus Loudon that the Trustees would look at the best solution and that the EXO would look at options for the use of the Drill Hall.

9. Regimental Calendar

Russell Combe covered the calendar and mentioned the memorial to the crashed glider in 1944 which took place on Mon 4 April 2022 and the rededication of the FM Earl Haig statue in France which took place on Sat 18 June 2022. He thanked 6 SCOTS for supporting the FM Haig event. He also thanked Ross Thomson for presenting the Frank Coutts Memorial Award at the Melrose Rugby club awards dinner in May. Following a change to SRU sponsorship, the award has returned to Melrose Rugby Club, who decided it should be awarded annually to the most promising young player each season. As well as the trophy, which is retained by the Club, the winner received a copy of "Always a Borderer".

Branches are encouraged to enter Branch events in the calendar. A draft copy is attached to these minutes.

10. AOCB

- Chronicle - At printers for draft, cost will rise including postage. Only those who subscribe £25 will receive a copy. Stories and articles welcomed from all Borderers.
- Minden 2023 - Planning for Minden Jul 29, bids being submitted and costs may increase.
- Museum fund raising- Grant Horsburgh to lead on museum fund raising. All proceeds from Hiram Dunn's book will go to the museum.
- KOSB property at 1 RANGER – a check was carried out by EXO in March 2022, all items are accounted for and are in reasonable condition. There is close liaison between EXO and QM 1 RANGER. Items will be returned for display in our museum however the majority will remain in the Station Messes at Palace Barracks.
- Association membership is still rising slowly, all members are to encourage their fellow Borderers to join.
- Battlefield tours 2024 - Andy Middlemiss discussed possible ideas for the 80th anniversary of D Day, a briefing note is attached to these minutes.
- SSAFA update - Andy Middlemiss briefed on the new SSAFA pamphlet and how they support the veteran community. He also appealed for people to consider being caseworkers or volunteers. The expected increase has not been seen although COVID has had a big impact on veterans and their families. A SSAFA briefing note is attached to these minutes.

11. Date of next meeting

The meeting closed at 1245hrs, the next meeting will take place in Stranraer hosted by the Stranraer Branch on Sat 7 Oct 2023 TBC starting at 1100hrs.