



ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PORTSMOUTH BRANCH



'Otia Tuta'

MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING HELD ON 4th MARCH 2010.

The President opened the meeting at 2001 welcoming all those attending, especially David "Chick" Fowler (Cws 1950 – 53), attending his first meeting.

ITEM 1: MEMBERS PRESENT.

Dick Field RVM; Derek Alsford (Snr); Victor Webb MBE; Andy Pope; Norman Aplin; Derek Alsford (Jnr); Ron Lansley; Tony Golds; Colin Erridge; Chick Fowler; Ted Wright; Ted Pearn OBE. QFSM; Rebecca Pope; Bev Pope.

ITEM 2: APOLOGIES.

Mike Harmsworth; Les Darton; Nic Hobbs BSc; Ian Annett MSc; Hannah Scott B.Eng; Liliash Sheepshanks OBE; Ken Wilson; Andy Smith; Peter Lee; Paul Goodridge-Hobson; Lucy Vollentine; Bernard Eastmead; Bob & Maggie Good; Andrew Alderson; Ken Mulford; Michelle Powell; Ray McWilliams; Les Darley; Dave Quade; Bernard Clarke MA RN; Andrew Piggott; Jason Erskine; Barry Kensall; Paul Watson; Trevor Spencer; Ian Rosenberg; Ian Boatman; John Troke; Nigel Price; Kez Poolton; John Giblett RVM; Arthur Coleman OBE. PhD. FRSC; Peter Jesse; John Bunce; Bob Lavens; Andy Bolam; Dave Bolton; Mike Hedges; Sandy Wood; Ian Daysh; Colin McPhee; Steve Corless; Tom Tonge; John Giblett RVM; Ken Alsford; John Donaldson; Richard Hardcastle; Dave Russell; Paul Watson; Basil Trott; Mike Hedges; Stuart Wood; Richard Brown; Ray Cappi BSc; Brian Burton; David Greenfield; Paul Marshall (LVP); Paul Domican; Danny Collins;

ITEM 3: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Copies of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4th February 2010 were circulated and read. Ron Lansley proposed that they be accepted as a true and accurate account of that meeting. This proposal was seconded by Victor Webb and carried by all present.

Matters Arising.

Re: Item 10.7. Dick Field pointed out that the Plymouth Dinner will be held on Sat 10th July, NOT Sat 11th as published.

ITEM 4: NEW MEMBERS: There were no applications for Branch membership this month. The full details of the 2009 Leavers have now been released by the School. Once sorted, any further new members will be added to the records.

Continued

ITEM 5: TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer presented the Branch accounts as follows;

Cash Box	£	134.84
Current Account	£	46.04
Deposit Account	£	852.57
Charles Hall Mem Fund	£	876.38
TOTAL	£	<u>1,909.83</u>

All bills have been paid and there are no items outstanding. Ted Pearn proposed that this report be accepted. This proposal was seconded by Chick Fowler and carried by all those present.

A full financial report is available from the Treasurer on request.

ITEM 6: CORRESPONDENCE:

The Secretary has received the following:-

Letter from Henry Strutt (Chairman of Board of Governors RHS), thanking the Branch for the invitation to be the principal guest at the Spring Ball. Mr Strutt regrets he is unable to attend but wishes the Branch a happy and successful evening.

Email from Dave Russell (St.V 1958 – 63). Dave writes *“I can’t make the March meeting I’m afraid, so please give my apologies.”*

Email from Steve Corless (Ral 1981 – 88). Steve writes *“Again, I must send my apologies for my absence from the meeting but I am offshore in the North Sea assisting in a well work-over for Shell. I have, however, booked time off for the Spring Ball in May, as I am due to be away in Libya in April.*

I have been following the proposed changes that have come from RHS through the emails you have forwarded, and feel this is not the direction most of us would wish to see the RHSA go. I look forward to seeing if a compromise or no-change, ever takes place.”

Email from Basil Trott (GRHS 1931 – 35). Basil writes *“Please give my apologies. Once again I won’t be able to make it.”*

Email from Paul Marshall (Ral 1947 – 52). Paul writes *“Thank you for the February minutes. Sadly you missed me out of the list of Members apologies. Sad about Ken Jeffries, he was a good friend of the School and he certainly helped the ‘Friends of RHS’ financially. I am pleased to see the School is planning an event on HMS Warrior, it is a good venue, well worth the effort to attend if you have never been on board.*

Interesting that in the Headmaster’ letter, he wishes the RHSA to assist with the establishment of an archive/museum. What happened to all the items that were in the Entrance Hall? If I remember rightly, several years ago we were trying to have space allocated to us so that the items collected by Peter Crick, and items donated by Old Boys, would be available for display.

I will put the dates in my diary but our program, after our return to the UK, is fluid at the moment as I am waiting for my Dartmouth class to firm up on the arrangements for our next Reunion in Australia. The older we get, the further they want to travel but I suppose we have to appease the Colonials as, for many years, we asked the Aussies, Kiwis, Pakistanis and SE Asians to come to the UK. At last the sun has got its hat on and Florida is returning to normal. The contrast between the England-Wales rugby match and the Super Bowl has left some of my American friends wondering about the sanity of the Brits.”

Continued.

ITEM 6: CORRESPONDENCE contd.

Email from Brian Burton (Hd 1956 - 61). Brian writes *"I was fully intending to go to the meeting tomorrow but, my Dad is in hospital and is quite ill, so if I don't turn up, please give my apologies."* [The Branch wishes Brian's dad all the best].

Email from Bob & Maggie Good apologising for non-attendance at the meeting.

Email from Adrian Martienssen (Cws 1953 – 59). Adrian writes *"Much regret unable to attend the meeting on 4th March. I am Vice chairman of an amateur dramatic club in Bembridge and I have arranged a Club Night for Thursday evening. As I arranged it, I have to be there. Please keep sending the details and I will make it one of these days."*

Email from Bill Lake (Drk 1960 – 66). Bill writes *"I have a little story about 3 guys from RHS that did not meet for 50 years. (see attached). Wish the Pompey guys well from me."*

Email from David Greenfield (Cws 1970 – 77). David writes *"Sorry, will not be able to make it, otherwise engaged with a squash league match. Please pass on my apologies. I'll get there one day."*

Email from Ian Rosenberg (Hwe 1954 – 58) tendering his apologies for non-attendance.

ITEM 7: RHSA MARCH WEEKEND

The RHSA March Weekend will take place this coming weekend, 6th/7th March. There will be a meeting of the RHSA General Committee on the Saturday morning, followed, hopefully, by football and netball matches against the School, and an East v West Old Boys' rugby match. Saturday evening there will be the unveiling of the sponsored Music Practice rooms in the New Music Centre. The RHSA have sponsored a room to be called the Peter Crick Room, followed by a concert by the School's Music Scholars.

ITEM 8: BRANCH DINNER DANCE

The 2010 Portsmouth Branch Spring Ball will held in the WO & Snr Rates Mess HMS Collingwood on Saturday 1st May. Unfortunately, due to Service constraints, the mess is unable to offer us accommodation this year. The Secretary is trying to negotiate reduced cost rooms at the Holiday Inn, Fareham. The cost for the evening will be £39.50 per head, to include a four course meal, port, dancing to a live band and a couple of surprises that the Committee have come up with. Booking forms are attached to these minutes.

ITEM 9: PLYMOUTH & SW BRANCH ANNUAL DINNER.

The Plymouth & SW Branch Annual Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 10th July 2010 at the Royal Western Yacht Club. For further information, and to book, please contact Neville Edwards on 01752 346934.

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Branch Annual BBQ has been booked for Saturday 14th August, at the Cannon Ball Site, Queen Elizabeth Country Park. More details closer to the date.
2. The Branch discussed additional Social Events; one suggestion was a "Pig Racing" evening. If any Member has any other suggestions, please advise the Branch Secretary.

Continued.

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS contd.

3. The Branch also discussed the matter of alternative venues for Branch meetings and Socials, including the Branch Dinner Dance.
4. Ted Pearn (RHSA Vice president) addressed the meeting with the concern of circulation of the Branch minutes. Ted advised that care should be taken as to who receives copies of the minutes, and that the content, if sent via the internet, could be accessed by outside parties.
5. Norman Aplin asked if there had been any developments from the Headmaster's letter, published with last month's minutes. Ted Pearn answered that, at the General Committee's meeting in February, it was agreed that the RHSA is already fulfilling the requests of the Headmaster to the best of our ability at this time. There are obviously two agendas in play; The School has its agenda, namely to build up its capacity to raise funds, and the RHSA has a long standing mandate, together with its separate agenda, which is to keep its members in touch with each other. There is no reason why parts of these may not cross.
There followed a fairly lively and in depth discussion. It was agreed that, communication and support is a two-way thing. It was felt that, if the Headmaster / School were seen to be actively supporting the RHSA and if the Headmaster / School were seen to be actively encouraging current pupils to join the RHSA then, the RHSA Members would be more likely to support the School and the Headmaster's initiatives.

6. Dates for your Diaries

Portsmouth Branch Spring Ball	WO & Snr Rates Mess HMS Collingwood	1900	Sat 1 st May	£39.50
Summer Concert	Chapel RHS	1930	Sat 15 th May	£6.00
RHSA Reunion Weekend	RHS		26th/27th June 2010	TBA
Plymouth & SW Branch Dinner (Contact Neville Edwards on 01752 346934)	Royal Western Yacht Club Plymouth	1900	Sat 10 th July	TBA
RHS Community Lunch (Contact Katherine Alexander on 01473 326136)	HMS Warrior	1230	Fri 10 th Sept	£15 - £25
RHSA Remembrance Weekend	RHS		13 th /14 th Nov	

7. Happy Birthday this month to;

Neale Marston (Cwd 1978 – 83) on 10th
 Colin Mackie (Nel 1981 – 88) on 10th
 Nick May (Ans 1973 – 80) on 17th
 Bob Good (Hon L.M.) on 20th
 Nick Pope (Hwe 1974 – 79) on 23rd
 Steve Booth (Cwd 1967 – 72) on 24th
 Gavin Privett (St.V 1973 – 78) on 24th
 Trevor Lewing (Blk 1963 – 68) on 27th
 Chris Pope (Ans 1965 – 70) on 27th

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS contd.

8. Ted Wright advised the meeting that Gert Flood is cherypy and bright, and sends her best wishes to the Branch. Rob Green & Harry White also send their best wishes. Ted had a fare from Heathrow who turned out to be Mark Warren who was in Drake in the 1950s; small world!

ITEM 11: RICHARD'S RAFFLE

The President asked Chick Fowler to make the draw. The winning ticket, No: 295, was held by Dick Field.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 2107.

This Month's Trivia

On 4th March

- 1152 Frederick 1 Barbarossa was elected King of the Germans.
- 1386 Wladyslaw II Jagiatto was crowned King of Poland.
- 1610 English portraitist and painter, William Dobson, was born.
- 1851 British explorer, James Richardson, died aged 46.
- 1918 The first case of Spanish Flu occurred, starting a devastating world wide pandemic.
- 1968 English Actress, Patsy Kensit, was born.
- 2001 British Bio-Engineer, Martin Wright, died aged 89.

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Dramatic Wartime Escape re-unites 3 RHS boys 68 years later

Christmas Day 1941, after the surrender of Hong Kong, 68 men made a dramatic escape on 5 Motor Torpedo Boats. The escape was planned to ensure a one legged Admiral of the Chinese Navy and a few others of importance to evade the clutches of the Japanese forces. Admiral Chan Chak was to become the leader of this force and through his numerous contacts and forcefulness was able to assist all of the force to evade capture and probable torture and death at the hands of the Japanese.

They escaped from Aberdeen harbour (in Hong Kong) as soon as they knew the surrender had been signed, and made their way up to Nan Ao in southern China and by way of a five day march to Waichow. A few stayed on in China and helped set up the British Army Aid Group who's main aim was to assist other British servicemen get safely out of China which at that time was crawling with Japanese, but most of them went all the way across China and into Burma (now called Myanmar) and left Rangoon and then on to England and complete safety.

Researching the history of this dramatic escape and the Fall of Hong Kong led to three RHS boys (who as it happened went to RHS at the same time 1956-65) meeting each other for the first time in 50 years in Hong Kong where it all happened.



Richard Hide
(Ral 1959 – 63)

Bill Lake
(Drk 1960 – 65)

David Hide
(Ral 1956 – 60)

David Hide (Raleigh-1956-60) and Richard Hide (Raleigh-1959-63) had created a website titled Mwadui (from his days in Africa) which included tales of his fathers (Steve "Buddy" Hide) part in this dramatic escape and also stories and pictures of RHS. Bill Lake (Drake-1961-65) who lives in Hong Kong was researching the Battle of Hong Kong (18 days battle and the 3 ½ years incarceration). Of course one of the actions he was covering was the escape, but each time, it kept linking him back to RHS. When Bill Lake finally got in contact with Richard Hide and they started conversing on skype, it wasn't long before they realized they had both been to RHS and not only that, they soon worked out they were there at the same time and probably knew each other.

Through Richard's hard work and dedication he organized the descendants of the original escape force to recreate the journey, and retrace the footsteps of their fathers. The organization Richard helped to set up was named HERO (Hong Kong Escape Re-enactment Organisation). In the process, the Museum of Coastal Defence were to set up an exhibition describing the story of this exciting escape. After speaking to each other on skype for about 8 months Bill finally met Richard and David (after a gap of 50 years) on Christmas Eve this year at the opening of the exhibition titled ESCAPE FROM HONG KONG – THE ROAD TO WAICHOW, which is open for the next two years.





**ROYAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
PORTSMOUTH BRANCH
DINNER DANCE 2010**



Dear Member/Friend

The R.H.S.A. Portsmouth Branch Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 1st May 2010 in the WO & Snr Rates Mess, HMS Collingwood, Newgate Lane, Fareham PO14 1AS. **1900 for 1930** start. All Members, partners, and parents are welcome. The cost will be **£39.50 per head**; *Note: Due to Service constraints, accommodation will **NOT** be available this year.*

Dress: Dinner Jacket/Lounge Suit (Serving members may wear the appropriate uniform if preferred)

The menu will be as follows:-

Monk Fish and Salmon Terrine
*(Served with Baby Leaf and Herb Salad,
Pink Grapefruit and Orange
And a Chilled Pernod Cream & Herb Sauce)*

Cannon of Lamb with a Mint, Honey and Balsamic Glaze
(Served with a Herb and Madeira Jus)

Both Served with Seasonal Vegetables and Potatoes

Raspberry Vanilla Cheesecake
(Served with Raspberry Sauce and Fruits)

Coffee & Mints
Port

There will be a chicken alternative for those who cannot eat lamb.

We will be seated at round tables of 10, with dancing to **live band** and surprise extras.

Would you kindly fill in the form below and **RETURN IT, with payment, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 16th APRIL 2010.** Please note, due to security considerations, names of ALL those attending and vehicle Registration Numbers must be logged by this date.



NAME (Please print) Vehicle Reg No:

I will/will not* be attending the Portsmouth Branch Dinner & Dance on Saturday 1ST May 2010.

I shall be bringing* guests. (* Please enter number)

I/We would like to be seated with

I enclose cheque*/cash to the sum of £
(* Please make cheques payable to R.H.S.A. Portsmouth).

I/We will require the following specialist meals:-

- Chicken x*
- Vegetarian x*
- Vegan x* (*Insert number required)

Signature

<p>My Guests will be</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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Please return completed form and payment to the Branch Secretary;
Andy Pope, 4 Kimbolton Road, Baffins, Portsmouth, Hants PO3 6BY.