

CIRCUIT OF SERVICE LODGES

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD AT FREEMASONS' HALL GREAT QUEEN STREET LONDON 17th October 2011

Present

WBro P Sharpe	President/Chairman
WBro. R.G Simpson	Secretary /Treasurer (Certa Cito)
WBro D Swain	Vice President – Navy Lodge No. 2612
WBro Mal Weobley	Navy Lodge 2612 Vice Chairman
WBro. C Armstrong	RAF Lodge 7335
WBro L Myers	Ubique Lodge 1789
WBro C Brookes	Elthorne and Middlesex 2094
WBro A Aitchison	RNVR 3923
WBro M Taylor	RNVR 3923
WBro S Slade	Aldershot Army and Navy 1971

Apologies were received from:

WBro. Ian McRobbie Elthorne and Middlesex 2094
WBro. R. Porter Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry 3013
WBro P Moss Nil Sine Labore 2736
WBro M Porter RNVR 3923
WBro Bob Coombes Innsworth 8751
WBro John Adams RNVR 3923

Opening remarks

As Chairman WBro P Sharpe opened the meeting with introductory remarks in which he remarked on the Circuit's progress having 21 Lodges and that his ambition was to have 30 Lodges within the Circuit. There were two further definite possibilities in Justinian Lodge (Queensman's Lodge) which will be an Infantry Lodge but open to all servicemen and should be renamed in June 2012. There is one further lodge in Lancashire which has shown a definite interest.

The Army and Navy lodge recently joined the Circuit and they had welcomed our President at a meeting in June 2011 in their centre at Farnborough, over which there is currently some doubt due to development.

The Circuit had an event in Wiltshire this year which had a small attendance - the event related to the Birthplace of History of Military Aviation in the Lark hill area. It was felt that the small attendance was due to the location being out of London. So it was suggested that an event be arranged for the Circuit in London the summer of 2012. (See "Events" item)

The President emphasised that more inter-visiting was required to keep the Circuit thriving and in particular he would be writing to the committee members to assist in visiting each of the Circuit Lodges to maintain interest. He had re-drafted the short brief on the Circuit to be used in presentations at such visits and would circulate this to Committee members.

We needed more notification of large Lodge events that we can support

In an effort to create further awareness the Secretary was tasked with circulating the membership with details of our badges for sale.

The President was able and willing to give a Lecture on the History of the Armed forces and the involvement of the Circuit (Approx. 40 minutes duration)

Minutes of the AGM on November 2010 were not available as the meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather, however the committee had been voted by email and telephone for the year 2010 to 2011.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Election of Chairman and Officers.

It was proposed that WBro. P Sharpe President be re-elected as President and Chairman
By WBro. R G Simpson
Seconded by WBro M Weobley

It was proposed that WBro D Swain be re-elected Vice President
By WBro M Weobley
Seconded by WBro C Brookes

It was proposed that WBro R Stuart Paul be re-elected as Vice President by
WBro P Sharpe and seconded by WBro R G Simpson

It was proposed that WBro M Weobley be elected Vice Chairman
By W Bro D Swain and seconded by WBro R G Simpson

It was proposed that WBro R.G. Simpson be re-elected Secretary and Treasurer
Proposed by WBro Swain and seconded by WBro Weobley

All proposals were confirmed unanimously

Representative's addresses and contacts.

The President expressed the Committee's regret regarding the death of WBro Cdr T Haile
And confirmed that Cdr Mike Porter had taken over the role of Secretary of RNVR Lodge

Elthorne and Middlesex were now meeting at the City University Club.

SECRETARY AND TREASURERS REPORT.

There had been continued interest in the website since the last meeting with many enquiries for Circuit Lodges which had been passed to the interested Secretaries, Certa Cito Lodge had received three recruits through this medium and other lodges had received various introductions. (See report on Website)

The Bank balance had only had minor movement during the period – it currently stood at £613.88 plus an outstanding cheque for £50 just banked from Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge the main movement on the account had been the sale of badges and the website licence fees.

CIRCUIT EVENTS AND PROGRAMME

It was the intention to arrange a visit to the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London through the auspices of the Senior Yeoman Warder who is ex REME – the visit would consist of an evening tour of the Tower followed by an “Inside view” of the Ceremony of the Keys followed by a visit to the Yeoman Warders Mess for a convivial drink. The target date would be early July 2012

WBro L Myers offered to arrange a small mid-year meeting and lunch for the Committee in Rules Restaurant London to review the progress of the Circuit mid-year – The secretary would liaise with him regarding date and attendance

It was suggested that the Secretary emailed all lodges for events and send details to WBro Swain for inclusion in the Website (together with requests for one page histories to be submitted).

Action RGS

In particular Lodges were encouraged to email special events to the webmaster for publication i.e. Waterloo and Trafalgar day Lodge celebrations and particularly anniversaries and centenaries.

Circuit Website

The Circuit Webmaster WBro David Swain reported over the past 12 months the web site has attracted some 3,000 unique visitors (10,000 page views) from 85 different countries. United Kingdom is closely followed by USA, Australia, Germany, Canada, France, Italy, Greece, Belgium and Brazil bringing up the rear is Georgia. Slovenia and Tanzania.

68% of all traffic arrives via a search engine (Google still predominates) 14% from bookmarks and 18% from links on other websites. The most popular page is the History Page, closely followed by Links and Contacts.

The site generates a look at an average of three different pages per visit

19 different browsers have been in evidence: Internet Explorer is the most popular 59% Firefox 17% Chrome 11% Safari 10%

The secretary reported receiving enquiries from non-military masons wishing to re-join lodges and other commercial interested parties selling regalia, mainly from India and Pakistan.

Newsletter

It was agreed that the President would write a current Newsletter and it would be emailed to the webmaster to post on the website with an invitation by email to member lodges to view it via a link

Any other business

The President requested that all Lodges sent him a copy of their Lodge Histories for a long term history of the Circuit project

The President welcomed WBro Slade of Army and Navy Lodge to the meeting and indeed welcomed the lodge to the Circuit.

The President thanked the Committee members for their hard work during the past year in supporting the Circuit activities.

Date of Next Meeting

Would probably be on 17th September 2012 with the meeting of Elthorne and Middlesex at City University Club.