



**THE LONDON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Regimental Headquarters**  
**Block 7, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk**  
**LONDON, SW1E 6HQ**



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See Distr

1 Mar 22

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON REGIMENT ASSOCIATION (LRA) HELD ON MON 28 FEB 22 AT 1900 HRS, AT BATTALION HEADQUARTERS OF THE LONDON REGIMENT, 27 ST JOHN'S HILL, LONDON SW11 1TT**

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| <b>Present:</b> | Lt Col Rupert Clements (RC)     | Chairman, LRA        |
|                 | Lt Col Greg Truman (GT)         | Deputy Chairman, LRA |
|                 | Lt Col Nic Storey (NS)          | Treasurer, LRA       |
|                 | Lt Col Brian Fahy (BF)          | Regtl Adjt           |
|                 | Lt Col Andy Husband (AH) *      |                      |
|                 | Lt Col Milan Torbica (MT)       |                      |
|                 | Lt Col (Retd) Alex Wong (AW)    |                      |
|                 | Maj Iaian Buchanan (IB) *       |                      |
|                 | Maj (Retd) Derrick Harwood (DH) | Regtl Historian      |
|                 | Maj Giles Morgan (GM)           |                      |
|                 | Capt Tom Hallett (TH)           |                      |
|                 | Capt James Wootton (JW) *       |                      |
|                 | WO1 (Retd) Edward Holroyd (EH)  |                      |
|                 | WO2 David Barrow (DB)           |                      |
|                 | Mr Gary Reynolds *              |                      |
|                 | Ed Murphy (EM)                  | Secretary, LRA (Sec) |

\* Denotes joined by conference call.

| Item | Discussion  | Action |
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| 1.   | <p><b>Chairman’s Opening Comments</b></p> <p>a. RC thanked attendees for supporting the LRA at the AGM and over the previous two years. He said that the purpose of the LRA was to bind together the London Regiment family, which comprised all those previously eligible to join the LRA under the Constitution, and to celebrate the recent past. He said that he wished for this to be sustained where possible, given the current changes.</p> <p>b. RC opined that it was an exciting time for those serving with LONDONS, offering opportunities as 1 LONDON GDS that should be welcomed. He noted, however, that the focus for the LRA would consequently need to change, as there was no desire to remain as an organisation that hadn’t evolved in parallel with the serving element. He asked for continued support to the LRA.</p>  |        |
| 2.   | <p><b>Update on IR Changes</b></p> <p>a. BF stated that LONDONS would be re-designated as 1 LONDONS GDS from 1 Apr 22, and emphasised the distinction from disbandment, although he acknowledged that little would remain that was recognisable as the current LONDONS. He said that nevertheless there was an effort to underpin the lineage that went back to 1993 and even to 1908, and to represent that to Ft Gds.</p> <p>b. BF confirmed that current LONDONS Coys would become Res Coys of Ft Gd regiments as follows: A (London Scottish) Coy to G (Messines) Coy SG; D (London Irish Rifles) Coy to No 15 (Loos) Coy IG; F (RIFLES) Coy to No 17 Coy COLDM GDS; and G (Guards) Coy to Ypres Coy GREN GDS, all adopting the ranks of Guardsman and Lance Sergeant. He noted that, although Coy personnel would routinely transfer to the respective Ft Gd regiment, officers and soldiers with a strong affinity to Wales could opt to join WG. He said that the Coys would be battlegrouped under Bn HQ of 1 LONDON GDS, although emphasised that there would not be a regiment of LONDON GDS. However, he noted that there were certain special conditions for 1 LONDON GDS that could be misconstrued as indicators of regimental status: Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Adjutant and Council. He confirmed that, for one year, Dep Hon Cols for the existing Coys would continue in post to provide continuity. Thereafter, they would be replaced by senior representatives of respective Ft Gd regiments.</p> <p>c. BF stated that the role of 1 LONDON GDS was to support Ft Gd battalions in warfighting, through routine recruitment and training, and holding trained strength at readiness. He said that clarity would be provided by the Implementation Order, due to be issued by 4 Mar 22, not least on whether 1 LONDON GDS would be under HQ LONDIST,</p> |        |

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|           | <p>which does have operational outputs, or 19 Bde (the Army Res brigade). He said that, as a minimum, 1 LONDON GDS would be paired with the Ft Gd battalions in 4 Brigade Combat Team (BCT) but would also provide some limited State Ceremonial and Public Duties (SCPD) support.</p> <p>d. BF stated that there would be a Presentation of Colours, postponed to early summer 2023, and confirmed that HM The Queen had approved the design. He said that the parade would be for a guard of approximately 100 in Home Service tunics and bearskins, receiving colours from HRH The Earl of Wessex as Colonel, ideally inside Buckingham Palace.</p> <p>e. BF stated that, whilst a draft Charter had been approved by the Maj Gen, there was still an amount of work to do, and he noted that the LRA was making progress with matters related to property.</p> <p>f. TH added, in respect of the serving Bn, that Coys were tying into Ft Gd regiments and seeking opportunities from the integration.</p>   |  |
| <p>3.</p> | <p><b>Presentation of the Accounts</b></p> <p>a. NS presented an overview of the LRA account and stated that there had been three main changes since the last meeting: continued recruitment for LRA and associated subscriptions; the Anzio Dinner in July 2021; and the Carol Service in December 2021. He noted that the Anzio Dinner and Carol Service were both successful events, with each turning a small profit. He further noted that ticket income received did not cover total ticket revenue as some attendees paid using existing credit from 2020.</p> <p>b. NS stated that there had been revenue of £7848.37 (£1175.92 subs, £5677.45 Anzio dinner tickets, £500.00 City Lieutenancy grant and £495.00 Carol Service Tickets) with expenditure of £6718.35 (£451.20 webpage set up and maintenance, £5927.15 for Anzio Dinner bill, £340.00 2021 Carol Service costs). He said that this gave cash in bank of £3409.24.</p> <p>c. NS said that Debtors amounted to £73.00, owing to ticket underpayments. He said that Creditors amounted to £804.65 comprising: those retaining credit on record for previous overpayments (£747.65), and small outstanding payments (£57.20). He confirmed that Creditors was reduced at each successive event as those with credit used it to pay for attendance.</p> <p>d. NS confirmed that the fund value was therefore £2677.59, with £2604.59 available to spend. He noted that this would provide the means to sustain the LRA for a number of years. GT advised that LRA events should still seek to make a profit, to eke out the funds already available for as long as possible.</p> |  |

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|           | <p>e. NS stated that, from 1 Apr 22, there would be no formal membership of the LRA and therefore no set subscription cost. He said that there would be ongoing costs, such as maintenance of the website, totalling not more than £500.00. He said that he would write to existing paid-up members of the LRA to invite them to elect to maintain, increase, reduce or cancel their Standing Order. It was noted that continued payments would be taken as donations, which wouldn't carry any commitment to provide a service, including discounts on events.</p> <p>f. EM tabled the motion that the accounts as presented by the Treasurer be approved. This was proposed by BM, seconded by TH and passed by the AGM.</p>  |  |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><b>Forecast of Events</b></p> <p>1. EM stated that the LRA was seeking to maintain a schedule of four events throughout the year:</p> <p>a. <b>Anzio Dinner.</b> EM noted that the dinner was held on the Thursday closest to Anzio Day on 14 May, and confirmed that the next date was 12 May 22, at the Cavalry and Guards Club. He said it was currently open to serving and retired officers and, from 2022, serving and retired warrant officers, with an option to widen eligibility further in future years</p> <p>b. <b>Cenotaph Parade and Lunch.</b> EM said that the successful event in 2021 would be repeated on 13 Nov 22, followed by a buffet lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Club. He confirmed that this was open to all serving and retired members of the Regimental 'family', and that the stipulations on headdress would be relaxed to allow adequate demonstration of LONDONS' lineage.</p> <p>c. <b>Carol Service.</b> EM said that this would be arranged for early December. He said that, following the precedent of the 25 years from 1993, planning was underway to return the Service to HM Tower of London, although he recognised the presentational benefit of transitional arrangements, highlighted by BF, to retain the Service at the Guards Chapel for a further year; he confirmed that the LRA would remain open to a proposal with a clear intent and rationale. GT noted that further delay to any return to the Tower might jeopardise the opportunity to do so.</p> <p>d. <b>Last Thursday.</b> EM reiterated that these informal drinks were held monthly at The Leicester Arms on Glasshouse Street. GT said that Last Thursday had become established and the LRA was committed to running it monthly except in December. He encouraged those working in London to attend.</p> |  |

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|           | <p>2. EM said that the LRA would balance good ideas for additional events, such as a summer cocktail party, against the sustainability of these events and the capacity of the LRA to manage them effectively. BF confirmed that precedent suggested that there would be the opportunity for the LRA to attend the Colours Parade and any social events surrounding that.</p>   |  |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><b>Changes to the Association and Constitution</b></p> <p>a. EM reiterated the prime importance of ensuring that decisions on the future of the LRA appeared logical and meaningful to serving personnel in five- or ten-years' time.</p> <p>b. EM referenced BF's update on changes to the identity of serving personnel and suggested that affiliation would increasingly be to respective Ft Gd Associations; and secondarily to previous capbadge Associations, and officer and soldiers serving in Res rifle companies of Ft Gd battalions would then be best supported in the long term by welfare and benevolence arrangements of their parent Ft Gd regiment.</p> <p>c. EM said that these conditions affected the LRA's ability to raise subscription income. He said that there was a need to avoid 'managed decline' yet with existing administrative overheads, particularly in respect of governance. He confirmed that accordingly a decision had been taken to re-position as 'LRA-light' to provide fellowship for the wider London Regiment 'family'.</p> <p>d. EM highlighted the amended Objectives from the updated Constitution, which he noted had been approved by the Management Committee, as being to promote the traditions of The London Regiment and the interests of the Regimental 'family'; to facilitate social activities and provide a forum for members of the Regimental 'family' to maintain contact.</p> <p>e. EM summarised the changes to the Association and the Constitution as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) No formal membership of subscriptions.</li> <li>(2) Self-funding profit-generating social activity only, to fund maintenance of the website and Guards Museum display.</li> <li>(3) London Regiment Welfare &amp; Benevolent Fund (W&amp;BF) remained but completely separate from the LRA.</li> <li>(4) Guards Reserve Club (GRC) (officers' dining club) subsumed fully into the LRA. It was, however, agreed to retain the GRC brand to apply to certain specific events.</li> </ul> |  |

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|           | <p>(5) No governance structure beyond existing four officer (of the LRA) posts.</p> <p>f. EM reiterated the definition of the Regimental ‘family’ as set out in the Constitution and confirmed that this included Corps-attached personnel who had served with LONDONS or an antecedent. RC noted that one of the drivers for the establishment of the LRA was to include Corps-attached personnel as they had previously been left out of previous consideration.</p> <p>g. EM confirmed that officers and soldiers serving with 1 LONDON GDS, now or in the future, would be invited and encouraged to attend LRA events. He said 1 LONDON GDS personnel should be in no doubt that they were as welcome at the LRA as anyone else, whilst recognising that primary alignment was likely to be to parent Ft Gd associations.</p> <p>h. EM tabled the motion that the changes to the Association and the Constitution as presented be endorsed and ratified. This was proposed by MT, seconded by GM and passed by the AGM.</p>  |  |
| <p>6.</p> | <p><b>Regimental Trust</b></p> <p>a. EM stated that it was the intent of the Regtl Lt Col and the Council to establish a separate and irrevocable Trust to secure, maintain, preserve and manage all items of property belonging to The London Regiment, as distinct from the property of its antecedents.</p> <p>b. EM said that the proposal was for a Board of five Trustees, plus CO 1 LONDON GDS, <i>ex officio</i>. He noted that three Trustees (RC, EM and DH) had already volunteered, leaving vacancies for two more, for which BF registered his interest. EM noted that the commitment would be light, with a single Board meeting per year.</p> <p>c. EM said that there was an ongoing audit of property and chattels, to produce a schedule and illustrated catalogue. BF advised that, in line with Army guidance, the catalogue should not be made available on the public LRA website as this might invite unwelcome attention. EM confirmed that insurance was a cost that the Trust would have to bear if necessary or accept the risk if the cost was unsustainable.</p> <p>d. EM said that the proposal would be tabled for approval by the Regtl Council on 10 Mar 22, and the Regtl Lt Col and Regtl Adjt invited to sign the Trust Deed on behalf of the Council. This would irrevocably transfer ownership of the property and chattels of The London Regiment to the Trust.</p> <p>e. EM confirmed that the Trust would not apply for charitable status at present, as it would not meet the £5000 income threshold. He also confirmed that the ultimate beneficiary of the Trust was difficult to</p> |  |

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|    | specify at this stage but that a disposal plan would be drawn up by the Trustees for each item, in line with the Purpose and Objectives of the Trust. He agreed that any assets held in cash would likely be paid over to the W&BF.  |  |
| 7. | <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>a. BF confirmed that it was too soon to say where the existing LONDONS Colours would be laid up, and said that this would be a matter for discussion between CO, Lt Col and possibly Col 1 LONDON GDS. It was agreed that St Mary's Battersea and the Guards Chapel were both viable options.</p> <p>b. BF said that the plan for existing relationships with local civic authorities and Livery Companies was that these would transition across to 1 LONDON GDS, without dictating to either Coys or Livery Companies. He said that he was also working with the City of London Corporation over the Privileged Regiment status currently enjoyed by LONDONS and noted that the Corporation was positive about transferring this to 1 LONDON GDS as the re-designated LONDONS, which could be marked on Lord Mayor's Parade in 2023.</p> |  |
| 8. | <p><b>Chairman's Closing Comments.</b> RC thanked all attendees for their contribution. He also thanked those who had contributed their hard work to the establishment and management of the LRA over the past two years.</p>  |  |



E J A P Murphy  
 Sec  
 LRA

Enclosure:

Distr:

LRA Mgmt Cttee Members

Copy to:

Regtl Lt Col