



The Armourers' Association

Annual General Meeting

Date: 01 September 2012
Time: 17:45 hrs
Venue: El Alamein Room – Victory Services Club
Members Present: 22

Presiding Member: Mr Andrew Briscoe – Chairman

The Chairman commenced the meeting by thanking members for attending and then gave a brief overview of the reasons for holding the meeting. He also took the opportunity to make members aware that our President has indicated that he would like to stand down after 17 years in the post. Members will also be aware that before becoming President he was our Chairman for 18 years. Eric will stand down in time for the next Annual Reunion dinner and in the mean time we will ballot the membership for a new President.

There is a feeling among some of the membership that we should look at alternative venues in different areas of the country and this meeting is an opportunity to explore and express those opinions.

The Chairman also mentioned that the Secretary had looked at the demographic spread of the membership. This showed that the counties of:

- Cornwall (5)
- Devon (14)
- Dorset (13)
- Essex (13)
- Hampshire (25)
- Hertfordshire (9)
- Kent (23)
- London (9)
- Somerset (5)
- Surrey (5)
- Sussex (16)
- Wiltshire (10)

Accounted for over half of the Association membership at the time of conducting the analysis and would tend to mean that a greater attendance at the dinner would come from this area.

Were we to move elsewhere then the likelihood of having a greater number of attendees diminished the further we moved from London.

The cost of the venue was also mentioned and the fact that in the centre of London we have a venue that offers easy access to all of London and its amenities as well as very reasonably priced accommodation.



The Chairman also reiterated all of our thanks to the member who donated the cost of hiring the venue for this year and reminded everyone that 2014 will be our 60th Anniversary for which we needed to think on how best to celebrate the occasion.

At this point the meeting was opened to the floor, no formal motions were proposed and the following is a brief roundup of the discussions:

1. A suggestion was made that we have some form of annual payment into a dinner fund. This was further expanded to recognise that fact that serving members were less likely to attend and therefore should be exempt. The idea was not taken forward.
2. A general theme was that of looking at ways of getting the younger serving members to attend. It was suggested that we should look at making the evening more attractive to them by perhaps turning it into a dinner dance, a night out in London or combining the evening dinner with a visit to a venue such as the Proof House.
3. In addition to persuading more of the younger members to attend, we should also look at boosting the membership by providing information through the Internet. Del Longstaff has instigated the facebook forum, which has over 500 members as well as link to the Association web site. It was felt that we should try and make more of these assets to bring in more members who would hopefully attend the annual dinners.

Secretaries Note: Since instigating the Association web site in 2009 our membership base has increased from 233 to 316 after taking into account deceased members and those that have not given updated contact details.

4. There was some discussion about the fact that serving members rarely attend our functions. That may be the case now, but our President reminded us that previously the dinners were held at the time of the Bisley annual competition and busloads of Armourers came over from BAOR and also attended the Annual Dinner.
5. During the course of the discussions Peter Laidler volunteered to pay for the venue for next years reunion dinner. Those attending warmly greeted this and the Chairman thanked him for his most generous offer.

The Chairman concluded the meeting by summarising the points made:

1. We should look to use the facebook and association web site more.
2. Serving members are less likely to attend the dinners, but we should do all that we can to encourage them.
3. Peter Laidler has kindly volunteered to pay for the venue for next year.
4. 2014 will be our 60th Annual Reunion dinner.
5. We should look to alternative venues, perhaps at different times of the year.
6. Our president of 17 years will be standing down before the next dinner.

The meeting closed at 18:40hrs.