



The Armourers' Association

Annual General Meeting

Date: 01 September 2018
Time: 17:05 hrs
Venue: Marsh Farm Hotel, Royal Wootton Bassett
Members Present: 19

Presiding Member: Mr Nigel Brown – Chairman

Item 1 – Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and passed as a true record of the proceedings:

Proposer: Ted Holroyd

Seconder: Bill Hayles

Carried

Item 2 – Statement of Association Accounts

The Secretary showed members the current status of our accounts.

Cash at Bank £1,925.53

Savings Account £3,182.83

Creditors

Marsh Farm Hotel £750.00 (final payment for dinner)

Kingsley Press £47 (uncashed cheque for printing of newsletter)

Proposer: Andrew Briscoe

Seconder: Si Reed

Carried

Item 3 – Association Presentation Piece “The Armourer”

The President stated that the committee had looked at the possibility of producing a “presentation” piece in cold cast bronze, based on the “Armourer” by Gaudex. A picture of the sculpture held by the Armourers and Braziers Company was shown to members to give an idea of the finished piece.

The mould would cost £750.00 to produce and would become the property of the Association. Some of the parts are too delicate to cold cast and would need to be made of pewter and then fixed to the statue. Before production could begin and any payment made, the Association would “sign off” on the mould.



The cost to the Association for each piece produced would be £65.00. If we sold at £80.00, it would require the sale of 50 sculptures to recoup the cost of the mould. After that we would make a small profit on each item sold.

The President suggested that to ensure we had enough interest in the statue, we should ask for a deposit of £20.00 from anyone wishing to purchase a statue.

Proposer: Ted Holroyd

Seconder: Martin Hayden

For: 17

Against: 2

Carried

Item 4 – Committee Tenure

The Chairman stated that at last year's committee meeting the tenure of the posts other than President was discussed and a proposal made that after 5 years the post comes up for re-election.

From the floor it was stated that this is democratic accountability and enables members to have their say.

This will become part of the Association rules, which will be updated accordingly. The change to tenure to become effective from the date of taking over the post.

Chairman: September 2015, due for re-election September 2020.

Secretary: September 2009, overdue re-election, so post to be advertised for 2019 AGM.

Proposer: Gary Holden

Seconder: Ken Langley

Carried

ACTION: Secretary

Item 5 – Vacant Committee Positions

We have two positions which are not filled at present:

1. Vice Chairman: (to become Trade Champion)

This will be filled by ASM Mark Walker the current Trade Champion, to enable us to keep in contact with the service aspects of members. We are just waiting on a photo and short biography to complete the process.

2. Vice Secretary:

The role of Secretary has been identified for some time as a single point of failure, due to the number of "hats" worn. The duties of the Secretary are varied and include the following:



- a. General secretarial duties
- b. Annual Dinner organisation
- c. Membership database
- d. Association accounts (Treasurer)
- e. News Letter editor and scribe
- f. Sale of Association items
- g. Web site

Due to the way the database is organised, membership and sale of items are closely linked and by association this also means the accounts. But the following could be compartmentalised:

- General secretarial duties
- Annual dinner organisation
- News Letter Editor and scribe
- Web Site

From the floor Gary Holden suggested that we have a different person organise the dinner each year and plan ahead for the next dinner.

It was also suggested that we advertise for volunteers on the web site.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 6 - Armourer Change of Name to “Weapons System Engineer”

The President stated that at last year’s dinner, Col. Heal mentioned a change of name from Armourer to Weapons System Engineer was in the wind. This sounded similar to the changes proposed in 2000, when letters were written to interested parties and the name change reversed.

The President wrote to the Col-in-Chief HRH Duke of Edinburgh, who passed the letter to Lt. Col. Izzard. He responded by saying that there were no plans in place to change the name, however he did write *“we live in changing times and we have to adapt to remain current, and using modern and appropriate language is... important to our success.”*

Much discussion ensued from the floor, but it was agreed that as an Association, we will retain the name Armourer and make appropriate objections to any name change, but would accept changes should they occur.

Item 7 - Overview of the Defence Connect Site

Si Reed gave a brief overview of the new discussion group for Armourers. Defence Connect has initiated a discussion group for Armourers due to security compromises on the Facebook forum. This group is only open to those who have access to the Defence Gateway. It was stated that the Facebook forum members are now using it more appropriately but need to be constantly aware of security.



Item 8 – Venue for 2019 Dinner

Gary Holden proposed that we hold next year's dinner in Nottingham and has looked at venues as follows:

Jury's Inn: which is close to the main railway station, a buffet style meal is approximately £29.00 each with wine and port extra. A double room is £89.00. More information is required on costs and facilities for the venue but does seem viable.

Crowne Plaza: More upmarket and a mile from the station. Costs are slightly higher with dinner approximately £35.00 each and wine and port extra. A double room is £99.00, conference room £100.00.

There is also the possibility of using the Robinhood Rifles bar for the AGM, with alcohol at near cost. This is next to the Crowne Plaza, but a mile away from Jury's Inn.

It was proposed that Gary do more detailed work on venue and costs and liaise with the committee for final decisions.

Proposer: Andrew Briscoe

Seconder: Bill Hayles

Carried

Item 9 – General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The Secretary informed members that he had looked into GDPR for the Association and found that we did not have to pay a registration fee as we are exempt from the regulations. As an Association we would still be guided by the seven principals of GDPR to give members confidence that we would maintain their data securely and provide them with access to their own details should they request it.

A brief run through the document was given to those members present. The document is available for everyone to see on the Association web site, together with a downloadable pdf version.

Members are encouraged to comment on the document and should provide any feedback to a member of the committee.

Item 10 – Any Other Business

The President informed members that our intended guest of honour Lt. Col. Horn, was unable to attend the dinner and had asked Maj. Hockley, OC Basra Company and his wife Lauren to attend in his place.

Si Reed asked all members to give a vote of thanks to the committee for their hard work.

Carried

The meeting closed at 18:30hrs.