

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT DICKIE FRITZ SHELL HOLE, EDENVALE ON 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2015**

Before opening the Annual General Meeting, Chairman Charlie Norris welcomed and thanked all those present for attending.

**Present** – 29 of which 22 were voting members.

**Apologies** – Pat Armstrong; Chris Ras; Dave Pickering; Alf Herbst; Dave Russell; John Cannon; Terry Pittaway; Mark Taunton; Gus Mason; John Cannon; Mike Jansen; Sam Moll; Mark Paxton; Ian Downing; Trevor Desfountain; Paul Harley; Robin Tarr; Eddie Kaschula; Nick Skipworth Michell and Pete Gombart.

The AGM was opened at 11h10.

## **Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting**

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and as there were no matters arising, the Minutes were adopted.

Proposed by Bill Wiggill and Seconded by Len Beechey.

## **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

### **Last Year in Review**

Chairman Charlie Norris reviewed the activities of the Association over the last year and highlighted the following:

- The 2015 Annual Reunion and Remembrance Service went off with well over a hundred in attendance. All feedback from those who attended has been positive.
- The Committee and Association members attended various memorial services throughout the year. Wreaths were laid at the following:
  - \* The SADF Commemoration Service at the Voortrekker Monument.
  - \*The Delville Wood Parade and Memorial at the Transvaal Scottish.
  - \*The Rhodesian Forces Memorial Service at Dickie Fritz.

The Chairman commented on the positive comments he receives when the ouens are dressed in their regimental kit.

- The change in day for the monthly 'prayer meetings' from the first Friday evening of the month to the first Saturday afternoon of the month has been well received and the numbers attending have been very encouraging.

### **Current Projects**

- The committee has started to work on the 2016 Memorial Service and Parade – 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- The committee has recommended the wearing of 'vellies' as footwear to be worn with regimental kit. 'Vellies' can be purchased through the QM.

- A Trooper statuette will be available soon. A sample of the statuette was shown to those who attended and orders will be taken after the AGM. A numbered 'Certificate of Authenticity' signed by Ian Bate and Russell Phillips will be issued with each statuette. Only 100 statuettes will be manufactured and all proceeds will go towards welfare.
- The RLI Memorial project is still on the go. RLI Memorial Project Committee head, Gary Huxham will chat about this later in the AGM.
- A kit hire service for those who wish to hire regimental kit for memorials, funerals etc will soon be available to members at a small hire charge.

## **Welfare**

- The Chairman advised that the RLI RA (Africa) has paid out over R70,000.00 to welfare cases since the last AGM. Payments were made after very careful scrutiny, thorough assessment and discussion amongst the committee members.
- The response to the Chairman's call last year for members to bring food and provisions to a 'prayer meeting' was overwhelming.

Chairman Charlie Norris finished his report by thanking the following:

- James Wessells and Feinschmecker Quality Meats for the generous donation of the two sheep for the 2015 Parade and Service.
- Keith Blanshard for supplying the charcoal for the spits and for cooking the sheep
- Neville Creigh Smith for the donation of a HD TV, a RLI plaque and a RFMC plaque, which will be raffled off to raise funds for the welfare fund.
- Rob Jeffrey for the donation of the RLI display box won by Ann Biddlecombe.
- Andrew Surgeon for the donation of 3 x RLI knives.
- Craig Bone for the painting which has been auctioned off. Jimmy Gallagher made the winning bid.
- Adrian Hagget for willingly buying 'vellies' in Botswana and bringing them through to Jo'burg.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### RLIRA SA REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

#### INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	Year Ended	18 Months Ended
	2014	2013
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership fees	15 933	67 100
Sales of Africa's commandos	47 035	342 276
Profit on Sale of Memorabilia	6 210	35 023
Donations	132 009	9 970
Other Income	6 136	0
	<u>207 323</u>	<u>454 369</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Africa's Commandos costs	0	349 449
Administration Expenses	9 008	12 245
Battalion Anniversary Celebration	8 984	15 751
Shamwari Trust donation	0	35 000
Welfare	73 388	3 000
	<u>91 380</u>	<u>415 445</u>
<b>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u>115 943</u>	<u>38 924</u>

### RLIRA SA REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

#### BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	2 696	58 070
Stock on Hand	72 656	65 281
Cash on Hand and in the Bank	262 580	189 638
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>337 932</u>	<u>312 989</u>
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Surplus available for Welfare etc	337 932	260 095
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Book Creditors	-	32 894
Membership fees in advance	-	20 000
	<u>0</u>	<u>52 894</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<u>337 932</u>	<u>312 989</u>

Notes

### Cash on Hand and in the Bank

Notice Account	152 769	
Current Account	107 061	189 638
Memorial Account	<u>2 750</u>	<u>          </u>
	<u><b>262 580</b></u>	<u><b>189 638</b></u>

### Income statement

#### Income

Income for the year January 2014 to December 2014 was R207 323. This was made up of membership fees R15 933, sales of Africa's Commandos R47 035, profit on sales of merchandise R6 210, donations R132 009 (this figure includes the return of the R35 000 feeder funds paid from the RLI RA to the Shamwari Trust, a donation of R17 000 from Ross Parker made to the Shamwari Trust and an anonymous donation made to the Shamwari Trust of R50 000 plus other smaller donations. There was a donation of R4 500 from Jeremy Hall from royalties from book sales and other donations made throughout the year. Other income totalled R6 000 and included proceeds from a raffle R2 300 and interest earned from the notice account. The profit on sale of merchandise was severely reduced despite sales been almost on a par of the previous periods 18 month period. The reason being was that stock at the end of the previous year proved to be overvalued and was sold at much reduced rates to get it off the books. Also the Committee took the decision to sell item such as berets, beret badges, regimental ties and blazer badges at cost as a means of encouraging members to dress appropriately on ceremonial occasions.

#### Expenditure

The annual birthday reunion costs amounted to R8 984. Administration costs totalled R9 008. This amount will reduce in the next financial year as the online payment site has been closed. A total of R73 388 was paid out to welfare cases.

This left a surplus of R115 943. However, after taking into account the money received back from the Shamwari Trust then the Association broke even for the year.

Treasurer Rob Marsh requested that fund raising efforts be increased as welfare cases are expected to increase.

The Treasurer thanked Len Beechey for the tremendous effort he puts into the sale of memorabilia and asked for a round of applause from the floor for his commitment.

#### Balance sheet

The Subscription Debtors account has been cleaned up and the policy on recording subscriptions was changed to only being recorded as and when cash is received. There was a small amount balance on sundry debtors R2 696 which was cleared in the next financial year.

Stock on hand amounted to R72 000

Cash Resources totalled R262 000 comprising the Notice account R152 000, Current account R107 000 and a Memorial Account - R2 750

The Financial Report was accepted. Proposed by Bucks Theron and Seconded by Gary Huxham.

In closing, Rob Marsh thanked Charlie Norris, Alan Strachan and Len Beechey for an enjoyable and productive three years working on the Committee together..

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### **Correspondence, Resolutions and Meetings**

Correspondence has been of a general nature, mainly in the form of round robin emails received throughout the year inviting Association members to memorial services, parades, shows and other Associations activities. There has also been inter-branch correspondence of a general nature.

Correspondence out has been by the way of replies to invites, thank you letters and general inter branch communication.

No resolutions have been signed since the last AGM.

A total of 20 official minuted Committee meetings have been held since the last AGM. There were a number of other meetings with suppliers, planning events or parades.

### **Membership**

In 2009 we had a total of 233 members, 2010 a total of 283 members, 2011 a total of 387, 2012 a total of 426, 2013 a total of 435 members and this year we have 459 members registered with the Africa branch of the Association. Many of these registered members have never paid subs and have never participated in the affairs of the Association. Secretary Alan Strachan has made a list of what he calls active membership and this brings the number down to 171 members.

The breakdown of the current Africa branch membership is as follows:

Life members – 21 in total within the Association of which 8 belong to the Africa Branch (these members do not pay subs)

Honorary Life Members – 2 in total within the Association of which 1 belongs to the Africa Branch (these members do not pay subs)

Honorary members – 15 (only 7 are paid up)

Honorary Crows – 21 in total within the Association of which 16 belong to the Africa Branch (these members do not pay subs)

Affiliate members - 6 (none are paid up)

Associate members – 6 (none are paid up)

Registered Full members – 407 of which, as mentioned earlier 171 can be considered active.

Only 64 of these members have paid their subs for the 2015.

Therefore the current paid up membership is 96.

Subs paid to date totals R25, 220.00. R1, 510.00 less than last year. Keep in mind that the annual fees for Full membership have dropped from R300 a year to R200.00.

The Secretary asked those present who had not yet paid their subs to do so and asked members to encourage their mates to get their subs paid.

## **SA Legion:**

Alan Strachan advised that the Shamwari Branch of the SA Legion has been formed and 19 members of the RLI have joined. A few Selous Scouts and Rhodesian Air Force chaps have also joined. The annual subs are only R80.00 per year.

Ian Carswell, the army representative, was invited at this point to say something on the SA Legion. Ian gave a short run down to those present.

## **Secretary Notes**

Alan Strachan announced that he will be standing down as Secretary after doing 4 years in this position. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed working with Charlie Norris, Rob Marsh and Len Beechey. He said that over the years and the many meetings held, there had never ever been a bad or angry word said to one another. Despite vastly different personalities, Alan said that they managed to gel as a fine team. If he were to be in a position to choose partners in a business venture he would not hesitate in choosing these fine men. Alan Strachan also thanked CEO Bill Wiggill, Gauteng Representative Bucks Theron and Memorial sub-committee head Gary Huxham for their commitment and support. He thanked all who have supported him over the years and encouraged him with kind compliments. Special thanks were given to Carol Doughty for her support and her understanding of the commitment that is required to hold this post.

Alan Strachan said that he will continue to assist and support the incoming committee and has committed himself to continue to work on the Fireside Chat project. This will be held at Dickie Fritz sometime in August on a Friday night. The idea is to have braziers scattered around the tables outside where the chat will be. 3 guests will give a chat on a subject that will be of interest to anyone interested in military subjects. Each chat will be about 20 minutes with a 15 min break between chats. This will be a 'bring your own food or picnic basket' event along the lines of what Barnyard theatres do. There will be an entry charge for this event and the proceeds will go to the RLI RA for welfare purposes. Dave Scales, who served with the SAS, Selous Scouts and 32 Battalion, has already agreed to give a chat on 3 of his external HALO operations. Members will all be advised of the details closer to the time. Alan advised that if this one is successful then he and the new committee will do a series of them.

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

### **Gauteng**

Gauteng Regional representative was not asked for a report.

### **Eastern Cape**

Mark Taunton was unable to attend but sent a report by e-mail.

During the course of the year Peter Gombart was elected as the Old Bill for Sunset Moth Club and requested that I take over the RLIA functions and duties.

Unfortunately the RLIA in the PE area is only represented by Pete and myself and with the recent addition of Steve Rowley ex Support Cdo 149.

There were a number of parades that Pete and I attended. Pete representing this Shell Hole as the Old Bill and myself representing the RLIA and laying a wreath on behalf of the Association.

### Parades Attended:

- Deville Wood Parade Aloe White Shell Hole 12<sup>th</sup> June
- Battle of Square Hill. SA Legion Aloe White
- Third Generation Parade. Comrades Shell Hole 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- Armistice Day Parade. Civic Remembrance Parade. Walmer War Memorial 9<sup>th</sup> November
- Grey High School Remembrance Parade. 10<sup>th</sup> November
- Outspan Remembrance Day Parade 16<sup>th</sup> November
- Comrades Remembrance Day Parade 23<sup>rd</sup> November
- Services Attended
- SA Legion SAS Mendi Memorial Service
- Battle of Britain Service

### Dinners Attended:

Pete and myself were invited to the following dinners as representatives of the RLIA:

- Prince Alfred Guard.
- Aloe White
- BSAP - Pete and I were guests of honour at the BSAP annual dinner. The master of ceremony Alan Dickenson (AKA Son of Dick) regaled the guests with stories of the love hate relationship the cops had with the RLI. Basically if boiled down to they loved it when we were in the bush and hated it when we were back in bright lights. He mentioned a number of farfetched stories about some pitched Hondo's in town between the two units. However I'm sure not of the stories could be true. He finished off saying how much the BSAP respected the RLI and the roll we played and thanked the RLI for the service and sacrifice we made to the cause.

### Sunset Call:

One of the RLI originals Ockert Barkhuizen died on 14th October 2014. His family requested that Pete and myself attend the funeral representing the RLI which we duly did. His wife Melanie told us he was very proud of having served in the RLI and proudly displayed his RLI beret and belt in his home pub.

It's actually such a shame that we only found out after his death that we had here in PE an ex RLI ouen who would have loved to be involved in the association.

Overall the RLIA has been well represented at the various parades and Moth events. I must say I have been quite overwhelmed by the support from the public and so many Rhodesians come forward and thank us for parading in our RLI blazers and berets and remembering the Rhodesian fallen.

Mark Taunton

### **Kwa Zulu Natal**

Skippy Mitchell was unable to attend but sent a report by e-mail.

KZN has had a quiet year with nothing to report on other than the usual blurb which is recycled every year at this meeting.

Other than the usual monthly prayer meetings which are incorporated into our "All Forces" get together the only notable RLI event on the 2014 calendar was the annual (now legendary!) GFL lunch which was held on 28<sup>th</sup> November at Stokers Arms in Hillcrest. This traditionally has been an "exclusive" Officers occasion but other ranks this year were invited to swell the numbers – there was even a female Other Rank in the form of Dawn Losper (Doughty). Needless to say, there was much frivolity and drinking of beer and have already established a date for 2015 being Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Dave Barr (ex 1Cdo?) who lost both his legs in Angola was in Durban briefly in May last year raising funds for Cheshire homes and we caught up with him at Harley Club Durban – he is in Joburg currently raising funds again.

## **Cape Province**

No report received.

## **MEMORIAL PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE**

Memorial Project sub - Committee Chairman, Gary Huxham, reported that the application made by Bill Wiggill on behalf of the Rhodesian Light Infantry Regimental Association to the Voortrekker Monument Board had been rejected giving no sound reasons for their rejection. Gary Huxham read the letter out to those present and expressed his disappointment. Gary Huxham confirmed that his committee is exploring other avenues as well as resubmitting an application to the Voortrekker Monument board along with letters of support from as many South African military units and associations as he can persuade to do so. Another option is to approach the SA Light Horse Regimental Association for permission to erect the memorial in their grounds.

Bill Wiggill offered to get a letter of support from Col Jan Breytenbach.

Gary Huxham advised that fund raising would be required to meet the costs of the memorial and he would soon be asking for donations. Fund raising ideas will be discussed with the incoming committee.

Ian Bate suggested that the Transvaal Scottish grounds be considered.

## **CEO'S REPORT**

CEO Bill Wiggill congratulated the committee and thanked the committee for their dedication and loyalty to the Association.

Bill Wiggill expressed concern with the way members are using Face book as a means to air their views and said that he will be removing himself from Face book in the near future.

The CEO said that he was sorry to see Charlie Norris stand down as Chairman but said he was pleased that Charlie Norris was staying on to work with Ian Bate on welfare cases.

Bill Wiggill was impressed with the efforts made by the QM, Len Beechey and thanked him for his service. Despite the economic downturn, the QM has managed to sell more this year than ever before.

The CEO passed on greetings from the ExCo and reported that UK Chairman, Sean Ryan, had attended the ANZAC day parade.

The Australian Branch under Jimmy Swan has done a tremendous job and their branch is united and doing well.

## **AWARDS**

The outstanding Crow Awards were presented by Bill Wiggill to Toni Floyd and Lynette Theron.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business the AGM went on to the Election of Office Bearers.



## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2015 / 2016**

Charlie Norris advised that he and Alan Strachan would be standing down so were not available for re-election. Only one nomination for Chairman and one nomination for Secretary had been received. Chris Ras nominated Brian Lewis as Chairman and Bucks Theron as Secretary. The Chairman asked the floor if there were any other nominations and, as no other nominations were made, Brian Lewis is the new Chairman and Bucks Theron the new Secretary. Rob Marsh was prepared to stand again as there were no other nominations, Rob Marsh retains the position of Treasurer.

All three office bearers accepted their nomination.

Chairman Brian Lewis. Proposed by Bruce Upton and Seconded by Stef Calitz  
Secretary Bucks Theron. Proposed by Bill Wiggill and Seconded by Gary Huxham  
Treasurer Rob Marsh. Proposed by Ian Carswell and Seconded by Bruce Upton

### **New Chairman's Acceptance**

Brian Lewis thanked everyone and accepted the position of Chairman. Brian Lewis paid compliment to the outgoing committee and said that any committee can only be as good as the support it receives from its members. Brian Lewis has seen the tremendous amount of support and commitment from members to the past committee and this has resulted in the success the committee has enjoyed. Brian Lewis gave a big vote of thanks to all members of the Association.

Brian Lewis left a simple message for members to consider - he asked for all members to support the new committee and feels that without the continued support and commitment of members his committee will fail. Brian Lewis said he accepts the challenge set for the next three years.

## **CLOSING**

Charlie Norris thanked everyone for coming and expressed how much he had enjoyed the last three years as Chairman of the Afrika Corps.

The meeting was closed at 12H05