

Colchester Guards Club News

July 2006

Issue number 61



Next meeting

2nd August 2006

Annual General Meeting 2006.

This years AGM was held on Wednesday 5th July 2006, in the Garrison Sergeants Mess. There were 16 Members and 12 ladies present. The meeting commenced 20.45. One-minute silence was observed in remembrance of members who have 'passed on'. Our President Major Don Charles opened the meeting with his last address to Club members as its President. He said that during his time as President, there had been a number of great Chairmen. Mick Kinane, Irish Guards and GSM, great for visits to Newmarket and liked a booze up. Alex Thomson, Scots Guards, loved his visits to Ypres and liked a booze up. Now we have Bob Naden, who also loves the Club trips abroad, getting club events going and also likes booze up (no prize for those who have spotted the link). He went on to say, "As you can all see, the Club and members have been well looked after". He also thanked the Officers of the club and the members who, all together, have worked to make the club the success it is. He finished by saying that he and Brenda hope to spend more time in Spain.

Bob thanked Don for all his support and guidance to the Club over the years, giving out his wisdom and words of encouragement. He said that he felt he spoke for all members in saying that we look forward to Don continuing to play a major role in the Clubs future. Don now becomes the Colchester Guards Association's Life Vice President.

The meeting continued with the secretary reading the minutes of last years AGM. The treasurer presented a very healthy account sheet. The officers of the club were voted in place for a further year.

In a ballot for president Mark Etherington was elected. The other candidate, Rick Buckle, said he would be happy to continue serving the club as treasurer.

Finally it was proposed that the income from the evening raffle be donated to the Parachute Regiment, for the bereaved families of soldiers recently killed in Afghanistan. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.33.

We have received the following letter from Mark.

"I would be delighted to accept the Presidency of The Colchester Guards Club. I am deeply honoured that your members should deem me worthy of such a revered position. I only hope that I can serve you for as long and with as much distinction as Major Charles has done. I look forward to hearing from you soon and being kept up to date with all the goings on of the Club."

Dedication of Our Standard.

Sunday the 2nd of July saw a very well turned out squad of Guards Club Members and our Ladies. The gentlemen were resplendent in their best bib, tuckers and 'hats various'. The Ladies



Looking every part as magnificent in their posh frocks and hats. The occasion, of course, the dedication of

our new Standard at the Garrison Church. The Standard was presented at the altar to the Padre, Steven Griffiths, by our Standard bearer, 'The Big John', smart as two Guardsmen. He 'pulled his feet in' at the altar when handing over the Standard, giving the Padre a bit of a shock. Having recovered, the service continued until it was time to troop our newly dedicated Standard through the Church. This of course, as always, called for a celebration, which took place in the Mess. Having wetted the new arrivals head and made a very large hole in the buffet, the assembled squad, now looking a bit the worse for wear, completed the movement with the traditional 'busty hugs' and set off for their lairs. Our sincere thanks to the Padre for the service. (To get an idea of the standard remember Big John is nearly six foot six tall).



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Colchester Military Festival

The sun beat down on Abbey Fields on Saturday 15th of July. The first obstacles our merry band had to overcome were the queues of traffic competing for the same entrance into the 'ground'. It will surprise no one that without any specific plans to rendezvous, we all met at the 2 Para beer tent. It was an excellent event with the finale, in the main arena, made up of mass bands and included all the participants to the Festival, not least of all, Standards of many local organisations. It goes without saying that our Standard, bravely carried by Paul, stood out from the rest for all sorts of reasons, not least that it was larger than the others. Paul stood proudly, ramrod straight for about half an hour, when many of the other Standard Bearers were wilting under the pressure, enough to bring a tear to a glass eye. 'We chose the size of our standard to put all our Battle Honours on, but then found that it was not big enough' Have that on us! The day ended with the traditional picnic on the grass car park. The wagons were formed in a circle and munching began, with some fire water to wash it all down and luckily, no attacks from Indians. Last to leave, of course we were.

Dinner

It looks like we may have lift off on our Annual Dinner. Frank has spoken with the RSM at the MCTC, who has given us Friday the 29th of September, as a free evening in which he would be pleased for us to use his Mess for this event. Frank will be having a meeting with him at the end of the month to discuss and hopefully finalise arrangements. More information in the August Newsletter.

Sick Parade

Douglas Fosker is currently undergoing medical tests. We send him and Margaret our love and hope that he will soon be on the mend.