

Dear members, two weeks ago we had the 2007 Annual General meeting of both the RMA Deal Branch followed by the Deal RMA Club.

The Branch Meeting was very poorly attended by the Ex Marines who are fully paid up members of this Branch.

The following people make up this years committee.

CHAIRMAN PAUL RICHARDSON

**INTERIM SECRETARY AND ACCOUNTS OF ONLY THE BRANCH
BERNIE GRIVELL**

SECRETARY TONY HIGGINS. TREASURER MIKE ELLERKER.

WELFARE REP TONY LEES.

**KEN ROLLINGS BUT WITH NO VOTE DUE TO BEING THE
STEWARD**

MIKE BAXTER

JIM STRATHDEE

JAY ONEILL

MALCOLM HARRIS HAS NOW BECOME THE 4TH TRUSTEE

Club Members:

**BILL BUTLER, BOB SPINDLER, BARRY FINCH, MARGO
MURRAY.**

Brigadier Charlie Hobdon who is the Chief exec of the national RMA spoke to the branch with regards to the current position of the branch constitution which he said was nearly finished.

He also informed members of the situation with regards to the charities commission and how the RMA has to follow the rules of the commission both nationally and at local level. The constitution needs a couple of alterations and then it will be re submitted for approval.

The Chairman informed members that the Branch had recruited many new members however we still had the problem of the Ex Marines using the club, which did little to retain the Royal Marine tradition.

The last 12 months had been very difficult due to several problems which had arisen; it was felt that many of these problems were starting to be dealt with. The committee who are all volunteers had worked extremely hard to sort out these problems.

It was discussed that members be given a choice with regards to paying their subs by direct debit, this will be taken forward.

Due to rise in subs of £5.00 to the RMA we therefore needed to raise our full member's subs by £5.00 to a total of £17.50 this would only apply to those full members under the age of 65.

Over the age of 65 would remain at £12.50.

This would take place from April next year.

The main issues are the need to fund raise which will help the both the branch and central office.

The Club meeting was better attended, again Brigadier Hobson spoke at length with regards to the fact that the club had to follow the RMA rules and that in the new constitution all club members would get a vote at the clubs AGM also the club representatives on the committee should be 1 in 3 of the full members and they should have a vote. The club constitution was also nearly ready to be re submitted to the charities commission.

The charities commission had felt that the club should pay some kind of rent to run its business from the RMA, this was something that had to be worked out as at present the main day to day financial business was from the club , the central office would help us with this aspect.

Many new club members had joined every month and the advertising at the summer concerts and in the local paper had also made a difference.

The chairman again explained the difficult problems that had taken place and how many of them had been dealt with.

The yearly trading accounts showed that the club had not made hardly any profit, as any savings that had been made had been swallowed up by the increase in domestic services.

If any large renovation work occurred then at present there would be a major problem.

Several sub committees at present were looking at aspects to improve this financial position.

- 1. The possibility of a £50,000 load on the mortgage of the building.**
- 2. The daily takings and opening hours.**
- 3. An overhaul of the way we do our business.**
- 4 .The possible introduction of a part time steward from April backed up with some volunteers and casual staff.**
- 5. Job specs for all, including members of the committee.**
- 6. More involvement of the club members in the organisation of events and entertainment.**

All the Club Committee members are involved with these committees and making a real contribution to making the club in general a place to join and enjoy.

Members felt that people who had not paid their subs were still using the club also could a list of member's names be put on the notice board.

I hope by informing you all of the current position, I and my committee are being fair and honest.

Please give us your support and if any of you have any suggestions please either leave them in the club or put them on the clubs web site.

These are not minutes but for general information only. There will be a Christmas draw which will be held on xmas Eve , at present raffle tickets are on sale at a pound per strip, please support this event which will take a different format than in previous years .

Regards to you all

Paul Richardson CHAIRMAN (RIGGO)