

## 21(Gibraltar 1779-83) Battery Association

### 2006 Reunion Report

The 9<sup>th</sup> AGM and reunion was held over the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October at the Ardsley House Hotel in Barnsley.

Members and partners started to arrive earlier than usual and by 5 pm on the Friday afternoon the lounge bar was full of ‘I remember when’s, Hello, you fat “*person*”(or words to that effect) and ”is that really your own hair”?!?! Comradeship, it’s wonderful!

Friday evening saw 50 members, and a borrowed one from 33Bty, enjoy the usual quiz, which raised £38.00 - £18.00 going to the winning team, lead by Phil Stringer and I think very ably assisted by his son and daughter-in-law and of course Bobby!! Second place went to Yorkie Moore, everyone must have helped him!!!!!!

We had some new members join us for the first time, John Compton, Terry Dale, Colin Smedley, Messer’s Clayton and Sidwell, Steve Bell. We were pleased to welcome Mr Hall and Mr Dove and their partners.

Saturday morning and the AGM. Unfortunately the vice-chair Ray MacLean was unable to attend so the Secretary chaired the meeting. The usual matters were discussed including the 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion. (There is a separate report on that.) Our funds were in a healthy state and no welfare cases had been reported. The purchase of an Association Standard was discussed and it was agreed we should purchase one. About £200 had been raised in donations from members, another £200 was raised at the AGM and it was agreed that the raffle proceeds would also be donated to the cost of the standard, plus ceremonial equipment.

Our Charter states that the elected Offices serve a term of three years. We had to elect another committee for the next 3 years. Ray MacLean informed the Secretary prior to the AGM that he would not stand for re-election. A vote of thanks was given to Ray for his efforts for the Association.

The new committee: Chairman –Serving BC, Vice –Chair Chris Ricketts, Secretary Chris Morgan, Treasurer Steve Buck, Committee Tony Hanson and Paul Goldborough.

After the AGM a trip had been organised to visit the National Coal Mine Museum and the ladies (and some men, one who is nearly 50!!) went shopping in Barnsley. Others chose to keep an eye on the bar staff!

The Reunion Function went very well indeed. 65 members enjoyed the cabaret and disco. Plenty of dancing, but for some it was more like doing a BFT!! The raffle raised £200 and a very generous donation from a member made sure we had enough money for the standard. Wink Watson was speaking about his niece who was doing a sponsored walk for another niece who has cerebral palsy, the generosity of the members raised £270 in sponsorship. Amazing! Anne and Wink were very grateful indeed.

The disco finished and it was great reluctance that former BSM Steve Bell lead the community signing, also setting a fine example of demonstrating some rather unusual move to the 'Music Man' and 'Father Abraham'. 'Climbing Sunshine Mountain was also interesting!! Thanks Steve, as always leading from the front!!! Surprising how quickly you can remember those songs!! It's also surprising how quickly you can make a fool of yourselves!!

Some members went for a nightcap while others, chose to wear their nightcaps and went to bed.

Sunday morning arrived all to soon, and a more sedate bunch sat in the hotel lounge, some taking more time than usual over breakfast. With bags packed and bills paid Good-byes were said and promises to sign up a new member each for next year, we went our various ways.

The weekend was a great success, Nearly £1000 was raised for charity and a new Standard, remarkable! I must thank Tony and Cheryl Hanson for organising the whole weekend, Heather Dickinson for organising the Quiz, both Heather and Cheryl for getting us to part with our money for the raffle and to Pete Giles who collected for the sponsorship. Our thanks to you all!

Next year will be our 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion and it is hoped that we may be going to Gibraltar for the reunion to include the dedication of the Association Standard. I am in contact with the Gibraltar Government about this and will send a report to all members and post information on both 21 and 50's web site.

Those of you who didn't attend missed a fantastic weekend! Make sure your there next year!

My thanks to Tony Todd for supplying the pictures to go with this article!

***And just for the record IT IS MY OWN HAIR – (how many people do you know with GREY wigs!)***

TAKE CARE, SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR!

Chris Morgan  
Hon Secretary

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