

# MINUTE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BATTALION COUNCIL HELD AT Battalion Headquarters, Clifford Street, Glasgow, G51 1QL On Thursday 14 June 2018, at 7.30 pm

## 1 Opening Devotions

Rev Neil Galbraith, led the opening devotions remembering those Leaders who had passed away over the preceding year

## 2 Present & Welcome

John Kelly, Battalion President welcomed all to the meeting;  
23 Leaders, 5 Reserve Officers from 18 Companies were represented.  
12 members of Council had tendered their apologies (representing 7 Companies)

## 3 Minutes of Meeting held 14 March 2018

Approved

## 4 President's Report

The President reported on a successful year of events within the Battalion including:-

- The Queen's Badge Ceremony at Glasgow Cathedral in May, where the Principal Guest, Bobby Watson gave a lively address to the Queen's Men.
- The Queen's Badge Completion Residential at Auchengillan Outdoor Centre
- The increased numbers participating in the Kilbryde Hike.
- The participation of the Battalion Pipes & Drums at the World Championships

## 5 Accounts

The Treasurer spoke to the independently examined accounts, copies of which had been circulated, and drew attention to the following:

- Our support costs are well controlled and have reduced slightly compared to 2016/2017. The net out-turn for training & events and supplies & resources activities is also similar.
- We have £88k of support costs to fund each year.
- Investment income is fairly constant, even allowing for investments sold to cover running costs.
- Reserve officer income is important to the Battalion
- Donations and Appeals income is disappointing. As previously reported traditional donors are becoming more selective in who they choose to support. As an organisation with over £500k in reserve we can struggle to justify support from some donors. A re-design of the Annual report in the financial statements has been carried out to demonstrate the positive outcomes we produce for young people.
- There are a number of grants in the pipeline for the current year and we are aware of a small legacy.
- We continue to be dependent on investment realisations to support our activities and over the years since Brigade House was sold, investment performance has produced gains in excess of the realisations required in most years.
- The investment valuation at 31 March 2018 was similar to the value a year ago.
- The present value of investments (June 2018) is some £30k higher than at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and are close to the 31 March 2017 level.
- The Board recognise that the level of deficit in recent years is not sustainable.
- Action is in hand to enable us to make much more targeted applications for funding which will give some profile to the funder. We continue to build relationships with long term supporters as well as developing new relationships.

Council approved the recommendation that the Battalion levy for session 2018/2019 be set at zero. The Board are aware that Companies pay a levy at District level and work is in hand to examine whether this can be recognised through the Battalion accounts whilst still providing the same benefit to Districts. This would be beneficial in our approaches to funders as some expect to see a contribution from members.

The Accounts were received by Council

#### 6 **Board of Trustees Report**

Jim McVean referred to the Trustees Report within the Annual Accounts and the work of the Board since the last Council meeting, the following additional points are noted:-

- **New style recruitment leaflets showing locations and meeting times of multiple Companies in a local area have been produced. These are available Battalion HQ and can be used in schools or at shopping/community centres. In some locations details of Companies near the boundaries of the Battalion will be included.**
- **To encourage and support smaller Companies the Board have agreed to introduce a sessional training credit. Each Company will be allocated a credit balance of £50 for session 2018/2019 to be used against any training course held by Glasgow Battalion. This can be Building Your Skills, Skills for Queen's Badge, Queen's Badge Completion, Youth Leader Training or other Battalion organised payable courses.**

#### 7 **Activity Committee Reports (Appendix 1)**

A report on all Sections was provided with the following points highlighted:-

##### **Anchor Boys Section**

- All participants in the colouring competitions had received a certificate
- The Lego event in March was well attended and very well received.

##### **Junior Section**

- 155 Boys took part in the Indoor Athletics at the Emirates Arena in April
- Figure Marching & Bible Knowledge competitions had been held.

##### **Company & Senior Sections**

The Pipe Band assisted at the Queen's Badge Ceremony

28 Teams had participated in the Kilbryde Hike over the weekend of 9/10<sup>th</sup> June. Senior winners were the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Kilbride, Junior, 25<sup>th</sup> Stirling (Dunblane), Expedition, 2<sup>nd</sup> East Kilbride and Explorer 4<sup>th</sup> East Kilbride. 7 Glasgow Companies entered, 3 for the first time along with teams from the BB in Dunbar, Bonhill, & Vale of Leven.

#### 8 **Training Team Report (Appendix 1)**

Council noted the report.

#### 9 **Scotland Report**

Ronnie Campbell provided a report for Council. The following points are noted.

- The recently announced Brigade Scotland/Church of Scotland Guild project could result in circa £90k of funds to Brigade over the next 3 years. Decisions on the allocation of the monies are still to be made with a possibility that support for Companies in a manner similar to the recent Cashback Scheme is introduced.
- Brigade Council takes place in Edinburgh on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. Leaders are encouraged to attend or where appropriate cast a proxy vote at the Council AGM.
- Discussions at national level to address the 'Northern Ireland' issue from Brigade Council 2017 are ongoing. The recent Presbytery of Ireland announcement of its breaking of ties with the Church of Scotland may

depersonalise the current issues between Northern Ireland District/London District & The Brigade Executive and could be beneficial.

## 10 **Appointments for Session 2018/2019:**

The following appointments were confirmed:

### **Honorary President**

Sir Alex Ferguson CBE

### **Honorary Vice-Presidents**

The Minister of Glasgow Cathedral

Professor Sir Anton Muscattelli

Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden

Lady Ann Calman

Rev. Roy Henderson, Moderator Elect of the Presbytery of Glasgow

**President** Col John Kelly MBE

**Vice-President** Ross Stewart, Lt. 182<sup>nd</sup> Glasgow

### **Board of Trustees**

**Activities & Events** Craig Manson, 2<sup>nd</sup> East Kilbride

### **Committee Chair Posts**

- **Anchor Boys Section Committee**
- **Junior Section Activities Committee**
- **Company Section Activities Committee** Stephen Dott, Lt. 94<sup>th</sup> Glasgow
- **Seniors Activities Committee** Stephen Dott, Lt 94<sup>th</sup> Glasgow

**Chairman of Training Committee** Alan Murray, Capt. 25<sup>th</sup> Glasgow

**Appointment of Independent Examiner** Alan Young FCCA of Cook & Co Ltd

## 11 **Any Other Business**

R McLay (9<sup>th</sup> Glasgow) asked if any arrangements had been made to recognise the 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Brigade. It was noted that this was on the agenda for the next Board of Trustees meeting (16 June 2018). Rev Neil Galbraith advised Council of a service being held at Cathcart Old on 4 November 2018 that will recognise the Glasgow Pals' Battalion including the 16<sup>th</sup> Highland Infantry – The Boys' Brigade Battalion.

## 12 **Closing Comments & Date of next meeting:**

The President thanked all who had assisted with work for the Battalion during the past session. Thanks were expressed in advance for the hospitality provided by the 163<sup>rd</sup> Glasgow. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018 at 7:30pm

## 13 **Closing Devotions**

Rev Neil Galbraith closed the meeting with prayer.