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The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2013 Winter Edition



Burnside's Bridge

Issue 167

Website :- www.acws.co.uk

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders



Mr David Blackmore, Chairman



Mr Philip Clark, Secretary



Mr Ian Morris, Treasurer



Mr Peter Holt, Projects



Miss Claire Morris, Membership



Mr Roger Willison-Gray, Marketing



Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety



Mrs Val Holt, Communications



Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster



Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander



Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Rep



Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, Projects Assistant



Mr Bill Brown, Confederate Commander



Chairman's Report

Dear Members,

As I write this it is only four weeks since I was elected as your Chairman. Since then we have had Christmas and the New Year, which I hope you all enjoyed. I have been getting to grips with the way that ACWS works and there is not yet much to say that I did not say in my address to the AGM. That has already appeared online and is in the AGM Minutes elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Since the AGM, however, I have been greatly encouraged by members who have contacted me to express their agreement with my address and their support for what I am trying to do. There is no doubt that there are members with the energy, ambition and imagination to rebuild this society to a state of health and vitality. One of the best things that I can do is try to create a culture within ACWS where new ideas are listened to and tried, where ambition is welcome and encouraged and where genuine mistakes are seen as useful lessons, not cause for castigation. If you have an idea, share it, if you have constructive criticism, share it, if you want to do something, share it. I will listen and respond positively.

That culture must also be accepting of all levels of commitment to and styles of re-enacting. We must be inclusive and tolerant.

There is also a limit to what the Board of Directors can do, so Regiments need to take more responsibility for what happens in the society. And everything that I have said about individual members also applies to Regiments. I would also like the Regiments to play their part in our communications. I will be using the Forum and Facebook page to keep in touch, please make sure that this is passed on to any members who do not use the Forum or Facebook.

One thing that has become increasingly clear to me is that ACWS has lacked not just leadership, but also direction. There is no forward planning, everything is reactive. Accordingly I will be taking my ideas and putting them into a forward plan for the society that I will put to the Board of Directors and ask them to adopt.

There is much to be done, but with the willing assistance of you, the members of ACWS, I am confident that we can achieve a positive future for our hobby.

**David Blackmore
Chairman**

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War Society Ltd Held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham

On Saturday 8th December 2012

Present:

Directors:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Mr Philip Clark | : Secretary & Acting Chairman | : PC |
| Mrs Val Holt | : Communications | : VH |
| Mss Claire Morris | : Membership | : CM |
| Mr Ian Morris | : Treasurer | : IM |
| Mr Roger Willison-Gray | : Marketing | : RWG |
| Mr Peter Holt | : Projects | : PH |
| Mrs Vivienne Corbishley | : Assistant Projects | : VC |
| Mr Tony Radcliffe | : Health & Safety | : TR |
| Mr Mike Bussey | : Webmaster | : MB |
| Society Officers: | | |
| Mr Mike Corbishley | : Explosives Officer | : MC |
| Mrs Debbie Davies | : Minutes Secretary | : DD |
| Mrs J Clark | : Company Solicitor | : JC |

Together with members in the hall making a total of 37 members present
The meeting started at 1.00 pm.

1. PC welcomed everybody to the 37th Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.
2. Apologies were received from the following:
G & H Gibson, S Hayllar, T & C Davies, Sheldon, Parrot x 3,
Nightingales x 4.
3. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2011 AGM held at the Rubery & Rednal Royal British Legion Club, 64 New Road, Rubery, Birmingham on Saturday 3rd December 2011.

This was proposed by M Cross and seconded by G Holman, and duly voted upon:

| | | | |
|-------------|----|-----------------------|----|
| FOR | 36 | Proxy votes were: FOR | 49 |
| AGAINST | 0 | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1 | ABSTENTIONS | 2 |

This motion was duly approved, and the minutes signed by PC as Acting Chairman.

4. Motion to receive the Reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2012 Season as published and issued to members in November 2012.

4.1 Secretary & Acting Chairman : Mr P Clark

In addition to his report PC made the following points:

He was pleased that 2012 had been a good, busy and financially sound year, which started with the successful, and well attended "Beer & Bun" event at Sewerby. Unfortunately there were some hassles and tension which led to the resignations of Denis Jarwick as Chairman and Kevin Holden as an H&S Rep. Candidates for the position of Chairman (at one time David Blackmore & Martin Davis , but the latter dropped out subsequently) had asked for their nominations to be voted upon here at AGM, rather than being co-opted mid season. Therefore PC has been Acting Chairman since then. As a result of the issues that arose mid-season, our Protocol document was produced. PC thanked everyone who helped and contributed to its writing. ACWS also now has new and better pyro rules to work to.

PC expressed an urgent need to recruit and expand in all units, for example a return of Signals units on both sides.

He finished by thanking the Board and all those other willing volunteers who have contributed to the 2012 season, for all their hard work and cheerful support.

He welcomed the new directors about to be elected today, there being only one candidate for each post, and he commended M Bussey for his webmaster role, particularly for enabling electronic distribution of AGM paperwork and e-voting facility.

PC emphasised that new blood is welcomed on the Board of Directors and he encouraged members to submit nominations and stand against existing Board members.

1.1 Projects : Mr P Holt

PH expressed how pleased he was with the success of the 2012 season despite problems with cancellations due to bad weather. This is very costly to potential sponsors, and it has been a particularly bad year for them, so PH warned that next year's events may be hard to come by due to lack of funding. D Parkin asked if Kelmarsh event is to be on next year ; PH reported that it is confirmed but there is no requirement for AWI at this stage, so ACWS members may wish to consider attending as other periods, eg WWI, Boers etc.

1.2 Treasurer : Mr I Morris

IM reported an addition to the published accounts, showing a higher profit than anticipated due to the inclusion of £1000 stock of white tents. Also the accountants had overdone the depreciation values in previous years so this has been added back in, giving an overall profit of £2720. IM expressed his pleasure at having the accounts back in the black again finally. P Edensor asked about an apparent massive increase in phone bill. IM explained that VC's phone has been paid a year in advance, so there will be none to pay this year, which will even out the cost again next year.

M Bussey pointed out that the published web costs appear to have dropped dramatically because the fee paid last year was for 5 years in advance.

1.3 Membership : Miss C Morris

CM reported that she and RWG have started a marketing drive for recruitment over the winter period. They are working on new graphic designs for leaflets, banners, and portal web pages. She appealed to members to make positive contributions on Twitter, Facebook etc.

4.5 Marketing : Mr R Willison-Gray

RWG reported that he had made good progress this year on digital channels of advertising, but there is still an urgent need for more people to be active on social media and promote

ACWS – even if it's just "likes".

He appealed to members for volunteers for marketing assistance. He explained that there is a real need for help at the moment due to a change in his personal circumstances in terms of work commitments requiring him to relocate to Scotland.

He confirmed that there is a marketing budget available for recruitment purposes, there just needs to be decisions made about where best to spend it, eg gaming, LARP, student unions etc.

He expressed the need for more events and pointed out that the more people seeking events the better, but reminded everyone that possibilities should always be passed on to the Projects team.

4.6 Confederate Army Representative :

There was no-one in attendance to add anything to the published report.

4.7 Federal Army C.O. : G Holman on behalf of T Davies

GH stated that there was nothing to be added to report the published report.

4.8 Communications : Mrs V Holt

VH had nothing to add to her published report, but appealed for more contributions from members to the Society Newsletter.

4.9 Health & Safety : Mr T Radcliffe

TR had nothing to add to his report, but personally thanked everyone for their support and understanding over the last 5 years he has had this portfolio. He wished Martin Cross all the best and offered his support to him.

Webmaster: Mr M Bussey

MB reported that he has successfully made changes to the website to customise it for mobile phones –

www.acws.co.uk/mobile

He clarified that electronic voting will be emailed to everyone who has submitted their email address. All

paperwork will default to this. If this is not what you want, you need to request - in advance – to receive paperwork through the post instead.

PC further clarified that where there are multiple members living in the same household, individual personal email addresses are required in order to receive individual e-votes, otherwise paper copies will be posted out for the other household members, because there has to be voting security .

PC reported that of the 51 proxy votes received prior to the AGM, 34 were e-votes and 17 postal.

G Holman reported a strange happening on the website a few days ago. M Bussey stated that he was aware of it and it is being dealt with.

Motion to adopt the directors' reports

This was proposed by D Parkin and seconded by H Davies, and duly voted upon:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | all present | Proxy votes were | FOR | 48 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 1 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 2 |

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

IM confirmed that he was satisfied with the audited accounts and commended the motion to receive them.

This motion was proposed by D Blackmore and seconded by D Parkin and duly voted upon:

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | all present | Proxy votes were | FOR | 48 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 3 |

Motion duly approved.

6.. Motion to Reappoint M S Twist & Co Ltd as Auditors

PC explained that Mr Carty has now retired and MS Twist taken

on the audit role.

He commended their charge of £240 per year as extremely reasonable.

This motion was proposed by M Cross, and seconded by J Filer.

| | | | |
|-------------|----|----------------------|----|
| FOR | 36 | Proxy votes were FOR | 49 |
| AGAINST | 0 | AGAINST | 0 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1 | ABSTENTIONS | 2 |

Motion duly approved.

7.. Membership & Registration fees for the 2013 season published report.

Peter Francis-Wemyss asked why there is still the need for registration fees now that the Society is in a profitable position. IM replied that the membership fees don't cover all event costs. PC explained that the charging of registration fees is part of Society rules and if anyone wants to change any rule, it needs to be submitted as a motion for voting on at an AGM. This needs to be submitted in writing in advance of an AGM in accordance with the AGM Notice in the Summer Newsletter, therefore it could not be considered today.

P Olden made a complaint that he had raised exactly this point last year and was "shouted down" then received an email after the AGM discouraging him from proposing abolishing registration fees. He was very upset about this.

P Olden and P Francis-Wemyss quoted SoSkAn as an example, stating that they do not charge registration fees. VC clarified that SoSkAn's membership fees are double ACWS's and that the two Societies have different methods of funding events.

M Bussey stated that the cost of events, ie insurance, powder, petrol etc are not fully covered by the membership fees or sponsorship, and therefore the shortfall is met by registration fees at present. The ultimate aim is to have no registration fees but this is impossible at present. However the proposal is that they be reduced to £5 and £2.50 for 2013.

IM stated that the year end figures would have shown a loss if registration fees had not been charged, especially as Sponsors are not paying huge hiring fees any more.

Sharon Francis-Wemyss asked what proportion of attendance the costs are based on. IM replied that he uses the previous year's attendance figures as a guide to cost out each event. RWG explained that at the beginning of the year the Projects team have a forecast of possible events and this plan is used to balance the number of events and how many members are likely to attend, and then IM works out what the shortfall is for the year and registration fees are set accordingly.

RWG summarised the choices the Society has:

- (i) Membership fees could be set at approximately £50 for a single membership and £80 for a family membership, and no registration fees;
- (ii) Only have or 1 or 2 events per year and no registration fees;
- (iii) Leave membership and registration fees as they are now.

VC pointed out that ACWS operating costs are higher than other societies, eg cannon, trailers, licences, storage, security, etc.

D Parkin asked about the feasibility of selling cannons to individuals instead to cut costs to the Society.

C Smith pointed out that the Society made a decision a few years ago to own the guns for security purposes, in order to avoid the situation where an individual can leave the Society and take the gun with them.

M Cross commended the current charging system which offers a slightly lower annual membership than other societies, with a slightly incremental fee system depending on how many events you attend.

J Filer stated that in his wide experience the same system is operated by at least 50% of societies across the country.

PC stated that all of the points made had been noted. He also explained that the Board had just completed an extensive analysis of artillery costs and come to the conclusion that the current system is the most cost effective.

He re-iterated that if registration fees are to be abolished, then more well paid events are required. He encouraged members to make proposals, nominations etc for the next AGM at the right time ie after AGM Notice published but before closing date for

such items set out in the Notice, and reminded Members that they were entitled to attend Board meetings at any time throughout the year if they wished. PC gave details of the location and the date of next meeting.

The motion to charge membership fees and registration fees as published in the agenda was recommended by the Treasurer as prudent accounting.

The motion was proposed by P Edensor, and seconded by M Cross.

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|------------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 36 | Proxy votes were | FOR | 47 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 4 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1 | | ABSTENTIONS | 0 |

Motion duly approved.

1. Election of Board of Directors

PC again clarified that Martin Cross's was the only nomination received for H&S Director, and Dave Blackmore's for the Chairman's position.

The meeting broke at 2.00pm for 45 minutes, during which election by secret ballot took place.

The results were declared as follows:

| | | PRESENT VOTES | | PROXY VOTES | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----|-------------|-----|----|----|
| | | FOR | AG | AB | FOR | AG | AB |
| Secretary | P Clark | 32 | 2 | 1 | 48 | 1 | 2 |
| Treasurer | I Morris | 32 | 1 | 2 | 50 | 1 | 0 |
| Projects | P Holt | 32 | 2 | 1 | 47 | 3 | 1 |
| Marketing | R W-Gray | 33 | 1 | 1 | 47 | 1 | 3 |
| Membership | C Morris | 32 | 2 | 1 | 50 | 1 | 0 |
| Communications | V Holt | 29 | 2 | 4 | 48 | 2 | 1 |
| Conf Army Rep | G Gibson | 1 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 1 |
| Webmaster | M Bussey | 33 | 1 | 1 | 49 | 1 | 1 |
| Assist Projects | V Corbishley | 23 | 7 | 5 | 44 | 7 | 0 |
| H&S | M Cross | 31 | 1 | 3 | 42 | 3 | 6 |
| Chairman | D Blackmore | 30 | 3 | 0 | 48 | 2 | 1 |

PC then presented T Radcliffe with an engraved hip flask by way of thanks for his service as H&S Director.

D Blackmore then took his place as Chairman of the Board of Directors, and M Cross took his place as H&S Director , PC reverted to the Secretary role and T Radcliffe stood down from the H&S Director post.

1. Re-election of Mr T Davies as Federal Commanding Officer

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|------------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 20 | Proxy votes were | FOR | 21 |
| AGAINST | 3 | | AGAINST | 2 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 0 | | ABSTENTIONS | 0 |

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for 2013.

2. Re-election of Mr B Brown as Confederate Commanding Officer

| | | | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|-------------|----|
| FOR | 3 | Proxy votes were | FOR | 20 |
| AGAINST | 0 | | AGAINST | 1 |
| ABSTENTIONS | 1 | | ABSTENTIONS | 2 |

Mr Bill Brown was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for 2013.

3. Open Forum

DB took this opportunity to address those present, as follows:

First of all I would like to thank all of you who encouraged me to stand for this position. I know who you are and I won't forget! I should also like to thank everyone who voted for me. I appreciate the responsibility that you are entrusting me with and I will do my upmost to justify that trust. What has become clear, talking to members in the last few months, is that there is a demand for someone, apparently me, to do something about the current state of the ACWS.

So what is the current state of the ACWS? If you have read the Directors Reports you could be forgiven for thinking that everything is alright. It is difficult to find any negative comment. But the reality is that the society is in serious decline. Membership is falling, we have lost two Confederate regiments and may lose a third. You nearly lost the cavalry. We have eight guns, but can only transport four and struggle to crew three. The numbers of infantry struggle to represent a company, never

mind a battalion or army. The events programme has become dependent on returning to the same old places with the same old budgets with the consequence that attendance figures are falling. There are currently no Bank Holiday events for next year. Little wonder that we are haemorrhaging members. The expectation that the Projects Team can, year on year, provide the events we need is ludicrous. There has been a lack of leadership within the society. There has been childish and counter-productive sniping, back-biting and bullying by members on the forum. The Board of Directors is disconnected from the membership in a way that an annual barbecue will not fix. There are too many egos standing on their dignity. We have a fine newsletter, but on the whole communications within the society are simply inadequate. I was horrified when I realised recently that the Minutes of the Board meetings are not published for the membership to see. The only upside at the moment would seem to be that our finances are in good shape, for which we owe much to Ian Morris.

This is the point where I should be questioning my sanity for taking on this job. But if I didn't think I could do something about this situation I would not have put myself forward. This situation can be rectified and the society turned into a healthy, vibrant, growing organisation that it is fun and a pleasure to belong to. But I cannot do it alone. It will require the whole hearted support of the directors and the membership. I can only give you a lead, if you choose not to follow there is nothing I can do.

So, what to do?

I have already laid out the broad scope of my thinking in my manifesto for this post. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that the key to the future lies with events and those will be my priority. Put simply; a properly structured calendar of good events brings in money, brings in new members, keeps existing members, encourages high turnouts and provides us with fun, enjoyment and satisfaction.

It is probably already too late to do much about next year. Looking beyond that, we must have at least four fully funded events with adequate budgets for all, infantry, artillery, cavalry, pyros, civilians and non-combatants. These should be on the Late May Bank Holiday, in late June, late July and on the August Bank Holiday. If other events can be found for the Early May Bank Holiday and September, so much the better. Rather than relying on one director, most, eventually all of these events should be found, organised and run by individual regiments with help and advice from the Board. In return, the organising regiments should get a slice of the profits. There are fourteen regiments. That

means every regiment running an event once every three years. That's all.

Many of you will have seen the film, Field of Dreams; well, build it and they will come. An events programme like that will reverse the downward trend in membership and turnout. It will enable us to rebuild the two armies. It will provide more variety and more excitement and more fun. I also hope that it will lead to the end of registration fees.

But it will only happen if you get out there and look and do the work. The Board alone cannot provide, it's up to you.

As for the Board, I said at the last Board meeting that I hoped in three to five years' time that none of us, except Claire, would still be on it and that includes me. We need new, younger, energetic directors, like Claire. At the same meeting Phil Clark stated that he wants to retire as secretary in four years at most. Phil has made an invaluable contribution to the society over the years, most recently in his handling of recent difficulties and his role as acting chairman and we should respect his wishes.

The Board has already undertaken to complete an overhaul of the Code of Conduct and By-Laws during 2013. I also believe that the make-up of the Board and the management structure of the society need to be reviewed. We need to ask ourselves if we really need twelve directors. That review will include communications. For a start Board Minutes must be published. Warning Orders must be issued sooner.

I will be taking steps to enable effective, two-way communication between myself and the membership. This will mostly involve things like the forum and while I realise that not everyone accesses or uses social media I hope that those that do will make sure that everyone in their unit is kept aware of what is going on. That is up to you and your units.

There is a lot to do and this is just a broad outline, just the beginning. I will finish, for the moment, by telling you that it is my intention to institute the Chairman's Cup, to be awarded annually to the unit that has, in my view, advised by the two army commanders, made the greatest contribution to the society. The first award will be announced at the next AGM and a presentation made at the first full society event the following season.

Questions, comments and suggestions were invited from the floor.

Peter Francis-Wemyss asked about the possibility of working with SoSkAn to increase the number of events for both societies? DB stated that he is open to having discussions with other societies.

D Parkin passed on a query that he had received from a member asking if members of the Board get expenses paid for attending Board Meetings. PC/IM/VC confirmed that fuel expenses are paid but this is kept to a minimum by car sharing as much as possible , and only those who have to claim do so. D Parkin then further asked whether savings could be made by holding meetings at events instead. PC replied that it is very difficult to hold meetings at events, and pointed out that the members of the Board are first and foremost re-enactors themselves and wanted to enjoy events rather than hold meetings.

VC expressed how cross she is about the amount of personal money she's already put in to the Society, and felt that a small amount of petrol money 4 times per year was not much to ask.

DB stated that he has been attending Board meetings for about 18 months, and considers that they could be shorter than they are currently, and therefore it may be possible to reconsider holding them at events. Peter Francis-Wemyss asked why the AGM can't be held at, say, the August Bank Holiday event, to ensure higher attendance by members. DB agreed to investigate this possibility further. VC/IM pointed out that the Board could not give a true financial picture at that time of year as the Society's financial year ends in September and holding an AGM in the middle of a field was ridiculous. MB explained that ACWS is a limited company, registered at Companies House as a legal entity with a stated year-end. Angela Cross asked about the legality of changing the year-end at Companies House. PC explained that the current year operates on a re-enacting season basis, in order to allow the Board to assess the financial position each year and to set fees etc for following year. He stated that it is possible to change it legally at Companies House but it would make reports unclear and split over the year-end. JC explained that this would likely show a loss situation, and companies may not trade at a loss, therefore, as Company Solicitor, she would be obliged to issue certain warnings. For this reason she would urge ACWS to keep the year as per its trading year (ie. April – September).

DB summarised that there may be considerable difficulties, but he would look into the possibility.

TR asked about Regimental events that were booked before the main ACWS calendar was published and asked for clarification about how these should be managed. DB re-iterated that he wants to encourage ACWS to get events on Bank Holiday weekends so that regiments know to avoid those weekends, and equally vice versa. VC stated that historically, regiments are encouraged not to confirm any regimental events until the main ACWS calendar is published. DB stated that he

recognises that there will be a transition period, but hopefully will all sort itself out in the end.

Sharon Francis-Wemyss stated that she had heard a rumour that ACWS are turning down events because there is a lack of family camping area. VC stated that this was absolutely not the case. PH further affirmed that in the last 2 years he has not turned down an event.

RWG reported that traditionally ACWS has always taken an annual view of events, but he recommended that it would be far better to take a 3-year view instead. This will require members to take on responsibility to help with this. There are many potential venues across the country, and any possibles should be passed on to the Projects team who will assist in the organisation and contract agreements. RWG also reported that the Board has spent many hours looking into historical links with venues, and had good press coverage on previous occasions. Again, members were encouraged to come forward with any historical information/links etc.

DB emphasised that this doesn't need to be for next year, it can be for 2014 onwards.

VC reminded everyone that ACWS is not necessarily site-related to a UK venue , as most action took place in America, but personal stories and other links are useful to sell the event.

G Holman quoted an experience that he had with the National Trust. He had approached them at one site with lots of promotional information and literature but they put it in the bin as he walked away. DB/RWG agreed that this is the kind of difficulty faced everywhere.

12. Projects Announcements regarding events for 2013

PH stated that he has already come up against the anniversaries of WW1 and WW2 for events for 2014.

PH stated that he is happy to travel and look into sites and events brought to him by members, so re-iterated the appeal to hear from anyone with any suggestions.

He then summarised the events list so far for 2013:

16th February Worcester Living History event at the Guild Hall CONFIRMED

13th – 14th April Confederate Training weekend at Tatton Old Hall CONFIRMED

11th – 12th May Marbury, nr Nantwich CONFIRMED
Infantry & artillery

15th – 16th June Crieff, Perthshire CONFIRMED
Infantry & Cavalry

6th – 7th July Tatton Old Hall CONFIRMED
American car show same weekend. Infantry & Artillery

27th – 28th July Hull UNCONFIRMED
Still under negotiation till new budgets are announced in April.
Infantry, cavalry & artillery

17th – 18th August Hamilton, Scottish Festival of History CONFIRMED
Living History event. Infantry.

17th – 18th August Spetchley Park CONFIRMED
Infantry & artillery. Cavalry invited but no funding available.
Definitely no dogs allowed – applicable to public and traders as well as re-enactors.

NB: 2 options on one weekend gives members a choice, and also brings in 2 fees.

14th – 15th September Ingleton CONFIRMED
There will be more hardstanding made available for camping this year.
Infantry, artillery and cavalry (but again no funding available for cavalry).

There will be no Sheffield event. Howard Giles will be looking for something else and will keep ACWS in mind.

The question of extended camping at the Scottish events was raised, eg Thursday to Tuesday. PH stated that it is usually Friday to Monday, but he would look into the possibility of extending.

J Filer stated that he had researched public campsites in the area of Crieff and found some good ones for less than £10 per night with hook-up, also in the Ingleton area.

PH was asked if there were any events even in the pipeline for the Bank Holiday weekends. He replied that there is nothing at present so urged everyone to help with the search.

22nd Cheshire events

T Radcliffe listed the AWI events for 2013:

23rd February 2013 Meeanee Day Celebrations

2nd March 2013 Chester museum (1 day)

20th April 2013 Wirral Heritage Fair, Birkenhead Town Hall – promotional event including ACW

28th April Avoncroft museum

4th , 5th , 6th May 2013 Grosvenor Park Chester (multiperiod)

11th and 12th May 2013 Ellesmere Port Boat Museum, "Warriors & Washerwomen"

25th , 26th , 27th May Lancaster Georgian Fair – possibility for ACWS in future?

8th , 9th June Mersey River Festival

7th July 2013 Gatley Festival

20th and 21st July 2013 Kelmarsh Hall English Heritage – no AWI groups this year

3rd and 4th August 2013 Ipswich Maritime Festival

17th , 18th August Merseyside Pirate Muster

13th September Wirral Heritage Open Days, Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton

13. Any Other Business

G Holman announced that the Graham Forbes trophy is to be awarded to 14th Brooklyn this year, and the shield will be presented on camp at an event. Their achievement was applauded by all present.

VC reported that SoSkAn's projects officer (Dragon) died on Thursday. PC to write to express sympathy and send condolences.

D Parkin reported that Martin Tidbury (former 2nd USSS commander APNV) had suffered a stroke, and was affected down one side, but is making some progress.

The date for the next AGM was set for Saturday 7th December 2013 at Rubery British Legion club once again.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 3.50pm.



The Projects Team



Let's start by saying we wish you All the Very Best for 2013 and let us hope we have a good season, and that the weather will be better than last year.

We are not going to bore you with repeating what has already been said in the Projects Report in the minutes of the AGM.

Needless to say that we will continue to look for events, across the country for events for you to attend and enjoy.

It is time to clean, repair and generally get your kit in order for this year's season, so keep your powder dry.

Peter Holt and Viv Corbishley



Mama's Mutterings

Best Wishes for 2013. I hope this season will be a good one, and that the weather is better than last year. In all my years of re enacting I have never been towed off sites so many times in one season.

I apologise for the lack of pictures in this issue, but this issue is the 'business' edition of the newsletter, having to print the Minutes of the A.G.M. May I also appeal for more photographs to be sent to me for publication during the season for inclusion in the magazine.

Stewart (Goober) Douglas (43rdNC) has kindly shared, his experiences at the re enactment of Sharpsburg last September, it makes interesting reading. Thanks Goober.

Val Holt, Editor

A personal Journal of the Maryland My Maryland Campaign Event Sept 7 – 9 2012 in Boonsboro, Maryland.

Boonsboro is a small provincial town in Washington County, Maryland and with a population of approximately 3,400 languishes sleepily at the foot of South Mountain. It was founded by George and William Boone and originally known as Boonsborough but the inhabitants preferred the spelling of Boonsboro. It had a very unremarkable history until the onset of the American Civil War when it became a focus of fierce fighting culminating in 2 major battles namely the Battle of South Mountain which immediately preceded the Battle of Sharpsburg in September 1862. As such, it was with both immense pride and trepidation that I travelled with the 4th Texas (UK) to the United States to enrol with the 4th Texas (US) and participate in the prestigious 3 day 150th Anniversary of the Battle of South Mountain at the MarylandMyMaryland Living History Campaign Event. It was listed as a Hardcore/Progressive Event that had been in the planning for many months and many re-enactors were coming from all over the United States, Europe and the UK to participate. Under no

circumstances did I want to let my fellow travellers, comrades or guests down. During this event, we would not only be re-enacting the 4th Texas in battle but also exactly re-enacting the various company movements. On arrival, I kitted up in the campaign car park and rallying point in Boonsboro, Maryland. Having already altered our Confederate uniforms and accoutrements in the UK to the exact authentic 4th Texas Adjunct specifications as required by our hosts, we were issued with our springfield or enfield muskets (kindly borrowed from our guests), bayonets, cartridge tins, (interesting to note that tins are obligatory in some Civil War Regiments in the US due to health and safety regulations), rounds, caps and supplementary authentic rations including dried fruit and beef jerky. At the start, it was a very pleasant and unexpected surprise and reassuring to see other UK re-enactors in the car park preparing for the 3 day Event. We then fell in as Company A, The “Hardeman Rifles” and marched off and within a short distance began our Company A drill and arms inspection. As we would be fighting throughout the campaign in 2 ranks, marching in 4 ranks, and most likely traversing difficult conditions and terrain with full kit at all times, it was vital that everyone was safe and comfortable with their new comrades and particularly our

new weapons. However, it became quickly apparent that we were all proficient and our excellent NCOS and Officers made the necessary small adjustments. We then met the rest of our comrades and on lining up and looking down the long ranks of Confederate troops I remarked to a new colleague what a cracking sight of regiments we had in the Confederate Army. He retorted with a strange look that those "regiments" were in fact companies B to F and this was just the 4th Texas. As Company A, he added, we would be both the right flank and lead company of the whole regiment which in itself was an awesome responsibility. Welcome to Civil War re-enacting in the States. The 4th Texas then marched off and headed into nearby woods where we would bivouac for the night. Having arrived at our destination on a small narrow path, we were told to find a spot and settle for the night. Unfortunately I was far too slow and the only spot for the night was perched upon a tree root covered by brambles. Undeterred, I bagged the spot and unrolled my blanket roll. Following Company A wood and water details, it was a sight to see the 3 day regimental provisions of vast piles of apples, uncooked ears of corn and 6 slabs of beef on a plank at my feet. I joked that I hoped that there were no grizzly bears in the area with all that raw meat around. I was told that there

were no grizzlies but plenty of brown bears and rattlers that would be attracted later on in the night! This, combined with stragglers continuing to arrive throughout the night, falling over and tripping over prostrate fellows led to an eventful night. I did manage to play cards with my new comrades and lose as well as learn how to cut and fry a chunk of beef in a small skillet in the pitch black (fortunately as I'm sure my piece fell out a couple of times!) However, by morning, every available space in the glade had been occupied. It was an amazing sight of the whole 4th Texas Adjunct encamped and sleeping in tight rows in the woods with company fires at regular intervals with soldiers talking, joking and cooking throughout the long night. Morning soon came with reveille at 5.00am in the dark and quickly on the march again in full kit as we would not be returning. Early morning drill quickly followed with Company A drill of 1 hour and then full Battalion drill for another hour. Then followed a sudden and unbelievably severe thunderstorm described by a colleague as a real Southern Baptist downpour and we all received a thorough drenching. We did manage to stack arms but most of the muskets filled up with at least an inch of water so we needed to empty them and cap off numerous times before engaging the enemy who by the sounds of gunfire were nearby. On heading towards the

gunfire, we went into double quick time and before long were engaged in the Battle of Fox's Gap. As the lead company, Company A did a left flank from columns of 4 into a battle line of 2 and by the left wheel we immediately hit the Yanks and drove them through some woods. Many of the boys clearly had their dander up and ran headlong into the blue lines despite the officers and NCOs trying to maintain discipline in the long lines. We then quickly reformed into columns of 4 and having marched through a hedge and fence line we became involved in a massive firefight with a much larger whole Yankee Division across an open field. On falling back, more rain ensued and we achieved another soaking! After retiring, cleaning arms and having what was left of our vittles, We headed off into the night again and this time the Regiment camped along a snake rail fence by the Cornfield where we would attack the Yanks in the early morning. The night was much colder and the fires were limited due to the lack of dry wood and the inability to collect any in the dark. Yet again, it was up early with reveille in the dark at 5.00am and we marched to a small field in waist high foliage and weeds next to the Cornfield. Each soldier then lined up and collected their daily ration of a half a pound of white flour each. Having noticed my quizzical look, I was abruptly informed by the Quartermaster that

it was all General John Bell Hood could find us. Having asked my thanks to be passed onto the General, I mixed it with water to form a dough before managing to burn it over a fire on the end of a stick. I had no time to mourn the loss of my "suicide cake" as the bugle sounded. Company A quickly formed up and marched out with the rest of

The 4th Texas and approached the edge of the Cornfield in a column of companies and passed by the artillery who gave us a massive cheer. Following a left wheel by the entire 4th Texas, we faced the Cornfield and told to kneel. The Cornfield was shrouded in mist and already alive with constant gunfire and cannon and musket flashes. As I sweated and took my breath, a haunting noise suddenly emanated above the constant gunfire and screams of wounded men. To my amazement, a lone Confederate soldier suddenly appeared through the fog and smoke and whilst running along the whole Regiment played a tune for us on his fiddle. The hair on my neck bristled at such an awesome site and sound and I screamed the rebel yell along with the rest of the



The Sunken Road

Regiment as we were suddenly ordered in. Our Confederate Lt Colonel Thomas "Skip" Owens then told us to stand and get ready to



The Cornfield

head straight into this maelstrum. I was awestruck and very nervous. Suddenly, the bugles went and we were ordered to go straight in at the double quick time but always wheeling to the left. Visibility was no more than 5 yards! With mud all over, wounded and dying blue and gray bodies all over and corn stalks ripping your clothing, passing through and keeping formation was both frightening and difficult. Fortunately, our NCOs and Officers found a snake rail fence in the middle on which we all formed up behind. The battle quickly ensued and Companies A and F on the right flank realistically re-enacted their run along the whole of the 4th Texas Regiment in the mistaken belief that a Yankee Flag had signified a flanking movement when in fact it was a captured flag. The rest of the 4th Texas screamed at us to turn and fight and called us cowards but

we were too frightened. This, with the sights and screams of both Yankee and Rebel wounded men pouring out of the mist, was surreal and a memory that will always remain with me. We then all returned to recuperate to a temporary camp before participating in the full re-enactment of Up Comes AP Hill. The depleted 4th Texas Regiment marched on first and coming over a ridge sighted another Yankee division. After firing a couple of volleys with some of the boys breaking and retreating, the 4th Texas pulled back and allowed the whole of the Army of Northern Virginia to move up. The re-enactment sadly finished early due to 3 injuries but fortunately no-one was hurt seriously. After the Campaign, we stayed on the site and in the early evening then visited the Sharpsburg battlefield with superb commentary from our hosts in the 4th Texas including The Dunker Church, The Cornfield, Texas Monument, the Bloody Lane (and Observation Tower) and Burnside Bridge.

A moving end to a memorable event.

None of this would have occurred without my close comrades and friends in the 4th Texas Regiment (UK) namely Wayne Thomas, Rob "Fletch" Fletcher and John Dale. We would all like to thank our most generous and kind hosts, the members of the superb 4th Texas

Regiment (US) and particularly Captain Ron Lauser, Lieutenant Joe Lutsky, First Sergeant Russ Jones and Sharon Jackson. Thank you all so very much.

Historical Notes regarding The Cornfield on 17 September 1862.

- 1) On 17 September 1862, the soldiers of the 4th Texas were issued with a pound of white flour prior to entering the fray at the Cornfield at Sharpsburg
- 2) On 17 September 1862, Companies A and F of the 4th Texas did run along the ranks of the rest of the regiment in the mistaken belief that they had been flanked in the Cornfield
- 3) On 17 September 1862, as the 3rd Arkansas prepared to enter the fray at the Battle of Sharpsburg, a Confederate soldier in the ranks asked his Colonel if he could play the boys into the fight on his fiddle. The Colonel replied that he could provided he only played "Granny Will Your Dog Bite". This was the Colonel's favourite square dance tune. The fiddler obliged and so "Granny Does Your Dog Bite" which I heard during this Campaign Event **WAS** actually played at the Battle Of Sharpsburg. We are all deeply indebted to Lars, a fine fiddler in the Liberty Rifles Authentic Campaign Re-Enactment Group, for allowing us to experience this unforgettable moment.
- 4) On 17 September 1862, during the bloodiest day of the entire American Civil War, the Texas Brigade lost 560 out of 854 men in arms. When asked by General Robert E Lee where his splendid Division was General John Bell Hood replied "They are lying on the field where you sent them Sir, but few have straggled. My Division has almost been wiped out." The 4th Texas lost 107 out of 200 (54%) on that fateful day.
- 5) On 17 September 1862, Confederate Private Henry Travis, Company H, 4th Texas was involved in the fights at the Battles of South Mountain and Sharpsburg. He wrote a few days later to his sister of his experiences. "There has been a heap of hard fighting down here. The Texas Brigade has been cut up pretty bad. The Texas Brigade has got a brave name here for fighting. It will not do it any good if it gets in another fight or two, for it will all be killed. The Texas Boys goes ahead in the fight".

Article by Stewart "Goober" Douglas

Thank you Stewart for sharing your experience in Maryland

Morgan's raiders defeated at Buffington Island

Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's raid into Union-held territory is dealt a serious blow when a large part of his force is captured as they try to escape across the Ohio River at Buffington Island, Ohio. Cut off from the south, Morgan fled north with the remnants of his command and was captured a week later at Salineville, Ohio.

This was the last and most daring of Morgan's four raids into Union-held territory. The main purpose of the raid was to take pressure off of Chattanooga, Tennessee, by drawing Union troops away from the army of General William Rosecrans. It began on July 2 at Burkesville, Kentucky, and continued into Indiana. Morgan departed with more than 2,400 troopers, but he split his force on two occasions, and suffered many casualties in skirmishes with Federal detachments.

Morgan and his forces rode east into Ohio and feigned an advance toward a panicked Cincinnati, but bypassed the city and continued eastward to Pomeroy, Ohio. His men were worn down by the long days in the saddle, and the Yankee pursuit finally caught up at Buffington Island, just outside of Pomeroy. While Morgan made plans to cross the swollen Ohio River,

Federal gunboats guarded the fords and Union cavalry attacked the Confederates. In a short time, Morgan lost 800 men, nearly all of who were captured.

Morgan escaped with 400 of his men, and fled north in search of a more suitable place to cross the river—which they never found. Morgan surrendered on July 26.

THE TWO MINUTE QUIZ

What cavalryman's raids terrorised Tennessee and Kentucky before his 1863 foray of twenty-four days into Indiana and Ohio?

Which Confederate General had on his staff a wire-tap expert who sometimes penetrated the Federal telegraph network?

Upon seizing a telegraph office in Kentucky, which mischievous Confederate General wired countermand orders rescinding Union General Jeremiah Boyle's instructions to pursue him?

Which Confederate General was married at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in December 1862 by Confederate lieutenant general, Leonidas Polk, who was also a bishop?

The answer to all the questions is John Hunt Morgan CSA.

HEADED FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

Most of the 950 men in 23rd Ohio, mustered in June 1862, swore that it was the finest unit in the Federal service. No one would have guessed that both Maj. William McKinley and Col. Rutherford B Hayes would occupy the White House before the century was out by becoming the 25th and 19th Presidents respectively.

Another pair, of notables fought together at Shiloh. Maj Gen U S Grant was almost routed at Pittsburg Landing, but repulsed the rebels on the second day. Brig Gen James A. Garfield almost missed the battle as his brigade did not arrive until the second day when the battle was nearly over.

They went to serve as the 18th and 20th President respectively. James A Garfield and William McKinley were both assassinated. Garfield was shot on July 2, 1881, but he did not die until September 19th of blood poisoning. This was related more to the manner in which the physicians attended to the president than to the wounds themselves. McKinley was shot twice by anarchist Leon Czolgosz while the president was visiting the Pan-American Exhibit in Buffalo, New York on September 6, 1901. He died on September 14, 1901

A.C.W.S. CALVALRY DATES FOR 2013

23/24 March, Training,
Mark Atkinson's yard, details to follow.

27/28 April, Training,
Mark Atkinson's yard, details to follow.

Late May Bank Holiday, tba.

15/16 June, Crieff

August Bank Holiday, tba.

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When the Civil War began, U S Grant tried to answer the call for volunteers, but was rejected.

Lincoln's only surviving son served as Secretary of War in James A Garfield's administration.

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EVENTS CALENDAR 2013

Federal Training Weekend
13-14 April Avoncroft Museum
Confirmed

Confederate Training Weekend
13-14 April Tatton Old Hall
Confirmed

11-12 May Marbury Merridays
Marbury Cheshire
Confirmed

15-16 June Crieff, Scotland
Confirmed

6-7 July Tatton Old Hall
Confirmed

27-28 July Hull Veterans Day
Confirmed

17-18 August Scottish Festival of History
Hamilton Scotland.
Confirmed

17-18 August Spetchly Park
Worcester Re enactors
Confirmed

14-15 Sept Ingleton
North Yorks
Confirmed