

AGENDA, REPORTS & ACCOUNTS FOR
THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY LIMITED

To be held on Saturday 5th December 2026
starting at 1pm prompt virtually via Zoom.

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THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY LIMITED

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held on Saturday 5th December 2026 starting at 1pm prompt virtually via Zoom.

AGENDA

1. **An explanation of voting via Zoom.**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **To approve the Minutes of the 2025 AGM** held virtually via Zoom on Saturday 6th December 2025, as published in the next following edition of the ACWS newsletter.
4. **To receive the reports of the Directors & Officers for the 2026 season as annexed: -**

4.1. Secretary:	Mrs L Reed
4.2. Webmaster:	Mr M Bussey
4.3. Events	Mrs C McDade
4.4. Treasurer:	Mr I Morris (accounts annexed)
4.5. Membership:	Miss C Morris
4.6. CS Commander:	Mr G Gibson (nothing to report)
4.7. US Commander:	Mr D Paul
4.8. Communications:	Mr J Reed
4.9. Health & Safety:	Mr D McDade
4.10 Chairperson:	Mr D Paul

5. **To receive the audited Accounts**
   Final Profit & Loss Account & Balance Sheet as annexed for Financial Year ended 30th September 2026. Treasurer will advise the meeting of any adjustments/observations from our Accountants.
6. **To re-appoint Spire Accountants (Oswaldtwistle) as Auditors of the Company** & to authorise the Directors to settle their remuneration.
7. **Membership & Registration Fees for the 2027 Season.**
   For 2027, the Board of Directors recommend that the membership and registration fees remain on the same level but reserve the right to adjust registration fees as per ACWS Bye-Law B.9.
8. **Election of Board of Directors**
   The following Directors are standing for re-election for the 2027 Season unopposed: -

a. Chairperson	Mr D Paul
b. Secretary	Mrs L Reed
c. Treasurer	Mr I Morris
d. Membership	Miss C Morris
e. Webmaster	Mr M Bussey
f. Communications	Mr J Reed
g. Events	Mrs C McDade
h. Health and Safety	Mr D McDade

- Note: Mr P Kennelly resigned from his position as Federal Army Representative.
  Mrs A Hooper has agreed to stand as Federal Army Representative and as a Director of the company.

- Note: Mr G Gibson resigned from his position as Confederate Army Commander.
  Mr A Farnsworth has agreed to stand as Confederate Army Commander and as a Director of the company.

9. **Election of Mr D Paul to the position of Federal Army Commander & as a Director**
   by the members of the Federal Army.
10. **Election of Mrs A Hooper to the position of Federal Army Representative & as a Director**
    by the members of the Federal Army.
11. **Election of Mr A Farnsworth to the position of Confederate Army Commander & as a Director**
    by the members of the Confederate Army.

- No other candidates came forward by the due date.
- NOTE - the voting papers at the meeting and the Proxy votes will be for individual candidates – i.e. NO "block votes".

12. **Events Update**
13. **OPEN FORUM**: Members question time, comments, and suggestions.
14. **To transact ANY OTHER BUSINESS of an Annual General Meeting**

On behalf of the Board of Directors
Linda Reed - Company Secretary and Director
8th November 2026

NOTES TO THE AGENDA

Members questions for the AGM may be sent in advance in writing, if you cannot attend, or put forward from the floor on the day at appropriate points in the Agenda, at the Chair's discretion.

Please make sure you use your vote. Either use your proxy votes (if you are NOT attending the AGM) whether delivered to you electronically or in paper form or, better still, come to the virtual AGM and vote in person online. HAVE YOUR SAY. Remember, this your Society.

Any proxy form votes by members NOT attending this AGM need to be returned to the Company Secretary, OR e-mailed using the ACWS website, if you are voting electronically, as instructed in the electronic voting guidance notes, to be received NO LATER than
Wednesday 2nd December 2026.

Either (if by post) AT: -

1. Linda Reed, Secretary ACWS Ltd, 159 Horsley Road, WASHINGTON, Tyne & Wear, NE38 8HJ

OR ELECTRONICALLY by that date.

Those who do send in Proxy Votes & who find that they can attend the Meeting, you are of course very welcome, but please advise the Secretary of this before the Meeting starts, so that the records can be sorted out & a true vote registered.

Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Linda Reed
Company Secretary & Director
8th November 2026

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Hi ya'll,

Unfortunately, Linda has been unable to produce the Secretary's report due to her house being flooded by a burst pipe and having to evacuate whilst repairs and restoration are taking place.

Hopefully Linda might be able to produce a verbal report at the AGM.

Mike Bussey

p.p.Linda Reed
Company Secretary

WEBMASTER DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi y'all

Kept the web site, emails, and the printing and distribution of the Newsletter ticking over.

With my Explosives Officer hat on, accurate budgeting of black powder usage resulted in my store being almost exhausted at the end of the season, allowing us to make another purchase at this year's prices and increase stock levels ready for next year. The availability of black powder is nearly back to normal although the price per kilo has increased slightly and I have had to change brands due to the unavailability of my preferred brand towards the end of the season. I am still getting it at a reduced price which is cheaper than most retailers. A big thank you to those members who are storing powder on behalf of the Society making my job a bit easier.

Availability of percussion caps for us was back to normal in 2026, so we stocked up at the start of the season with just an increase to our purchase costs of 10p per tub to our purchase costs and were still able to provide to members for the same price. We also came across another retailer with a small stock which they were trying to sell off at an even lower price than our regular supplier. (Thanks to Catherine for discovering these.)

That meant that we had enough stocks of percussion caps for 2026, with a surplus at end of season to cover 2027.

Looking forward to, hopefully, another full season of events in 2027.

Keep Your Powder Dry. Take care. Stay safe. See y'all in the field in 2027.

Mike Bussey
Webmaster & Director

EVENTS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Here we are at the end of another busy year. Starting at a cold and windy No Man's Land, with a great skirmish in the woods. We are booked in again for next year and hopefully it will be a bit warmer, although the wind can be useful to blow away those winter cobwebs.

Fort Paull is a lovely site, and gave us time for artillery maintenance, and a well-planned skirmish using the camps as settings. They can't wait to have us back next year and part of the deal is another sing-along in the bar on Saturday night!

Avoncroft was so unbelievably hot – thank goodness for the shade of the trees. It is a lovely site we hope to visit again.

We then performed at five balloon festivals, to thousands and thousands of visitors who always enjoy our camp, displays and kids' drill.

A few members attended Military Odyssey at Detling. It is always great to be alongside our sister society SoSkAn. Hopefully we will be able to work together more in the future if we can find a suitable geographical event.

Our final society event was at Moira, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Artillery. It was a brilliant end to the season with food, music and of course, the unveiling of our new society van.

A huge thank you to everyone who has attended events this year. We are what makes our society so amazing to be part of. Another thank you for all your help setting up camps, roping off etc during events, and basically doing what I ask to keep organisers happy – it is very much appreciated.

We are confirmed for two events in April 2027, and I have a few more in the pipeline and will update everyone if they become confirmed. Please do let me know if you have any suitable sites in your area that I could contact.

Catherine McDade,
Events Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

I hope you are all well and have enjoyed a busy season

As you can see from the enclosed accounts that we have had another profitable year showing a profit of £5,381 compared with £7,603 last year. The income side has increased due to an extra balloon festival, and a slight increase in membership and registration fees.

With the kind donations of the members, especially by purchasing the equipment and uniforms that were kindly donated, with these funds we have been able to purchase a newer van.

On the expenditure side our motor expenses are a lot higher with the new van requiring a towbar and we thought for reliability and recommended by Ford we had the timing belt replaced and it has been given a full service. We also had increased fuel costs due to massive price increase, extra events and swapping the cannons around.

At the year-end our bank balance is a healthy £11,264 which is good seeing we have spent £16.000 on a van which is only 3 years old and only done 53,500 miles.

As we have purchased the van will not need to pay any Corporation Tax this year and shouldn't need to for at least another 2 or 3 years.

If you have any queries or questions please ask at the Virtual AGM, or if you are unable to attend online you can contact me through my email address of treasurer@acws.co.uk

So, stay safe and let's hope, for another successful season next year.

Ian Morris
Treasurer & Director

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY LTD

DRAFT PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2026

		2026			2025	
Main income						
Sponsorship	10,652.00			8,910.00		
Membership	3,225.00			3,058.00		
Registration Fees	2,523.65			2,421.20		
Sale of Percussion Caps	760.00			620.00		
Sale of T shirts Caps etc				8.01		
Advertising Income				50.00		
		17,160.65			15,067.21	
Donated Income						
Sale of Assets						
Rev War Income	25.00					
Donations	3,827.33			3,810.87		
Bank Interest Received	137.52			13.80		
		3,989.85			3,824.67	
TOTAL INCOME			21,150.50			18,891.88
Main Direct Costs						
Opening Stock				3,953.00		
Black powder	1266.40			3,696.00		
Pyros	1445.75			594.60		
Site Licence	130.00					
Percussion Caps	1,410.00			200.00		
Public Liability Insurance	1,220.00			1,220.31		
Toilets						
Wood/Water						
Site Fee						
First Aid equipment	153.06					
		5,625.21			9,663.91	
Other Direct Costs						
Sundry						
Less Closing Stock (Powder/Pyros/Caps)					(4,483.93)	
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS			5,625.21			5,179.98
GROSS PROFIT			15,525.29			13,711.90

		2026			2025	
Overheads						
Motor Fuel	1,127.38			280.00		
Repairs & Servicing	2,344.14			667.62		
Road Tax	423.51			349.13		
Insurance	1,730.98			663.75		
Trailer Repairs	77.13			293.02		
Misc / Van Hire	199.94					
Storage	456.00			882.00		
Subsistence & Travel	3.00					
		6,362.08			3,135.52	
Printing & Stationery						
Printing	74.75			67.35		
Advertising & Marketing						
Post	118.20			303.92		
Stationery	254.89			333.08		
		447.84			704.35	
Fees						
Legal Fees						
Accountancy	600.00			630.00		
PO Box Fees	371.40			353.40		
Board Meeting Expenses						
Computer Hardware				37.99		
Professional Fees	360.80			225.00		
Website Fees	16.88			373.82		
Software Fees	155.88			155.88		
Subscriptions	100.00			100.00		
Donation						
		1,604.96			1,876.09	
Explosive Storage Certificates						
Repairs		535.15			29.68	
Bank Charges and Interest						
Bank Charges	73.84			106.33		
Sundry	20.32			286.05		
		94.16			392.38	
Other Expenses						
Depreciation		1,100.10				
			10,144.29			6,108.34
NET PROFIT/(LOSS)			£5,381.00			£7,603.56

Notes: Due to a change in accounting practice the opening and closing stock are now included in the Black powder, Pyros and Percussion caps figures. These figures are from the Final Accounts that are being submitted by our accountants to HMRC.

American Civil War Society Ltd
Balance Sheet
As at 30th September 2026

Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	275.00	
Other Assets	864.00	
Motor Vehicles	15,013.00	
		16,153.00
Current Assets		
Debtors	0.00	
Prepayments		
Stock	3,910.00	
Cash in hand & at Bank	75.00	
Bank Account	11,264.00	
		15.249.00
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	300.00	
Taxation	0.00	
Accruals		
		300.00
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		31,102.00
Creditors Long Term	0.00	
		0.00
Total Assets less Total Liabilities		31.102.00
Financed by		
Capital & Reserves		
Reserves Brought forward	25,721.00	
Profit & Loss for Year	5,381.00	
		31,102.00

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Dear Friends

I hope this report finds you all safe & well 😊 after a very busy spring and summer reenacting.

2026 saw us have an incredibly busy year, with nine events (twelve if you include Chester-Le-Street, Detling & the one-day event in Edinburgh). Well done to all those who attended these events, we appreciate your support. This year we really have travelled the length and breadth of the country. Huge thanks must go to our incredibly hard-working Events Director, Catherine, whose tireless efforts get us all these fabulous events to attend.

This year we have again ended the season with 148 adult members, 9 of whom are new members, and again 17 junior members. It great to see the future of our society attending regularly and having great fun.

We are still down on 2024's figures of 180 adult members, but if we keep plugging away at recruitment, as sure we can succeed in gaining new members.

For interest our best attended events were the last three of the season, with Moira 90 attendees, Northampton 77, and Doncaster 69.

This year with every renewal we sent out a couple of leaflets and a spare membership form for us all to display/give out to interested parties for potential recruitment. I'm not sure we have reaped much reward for this endeavour, but we will try again in 2027.

If anyone has any new ideas for recruitment, please feel free to message one of the board with your thoughts, and we'll see what we can achieve. If we all do that bit more to advertise ACWS, to friends, family, colleagues and associates, we can grow again.

Please get your annual membership fees in as soon as possible please in 2027. If you are reading this and don't have access to a printer, you can fill in our online forms which you can find on: -

https://acws.co.uk/members-download.

Alternatively, if you need a form to be printed for you, and posted out please email me on: -

membership@acws.co.uk or clairemorris_irishbrigade@hotmail.com or on Facebook messenger

or via phone on 07877442145

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow board members for their continued hard work, dedication & assistance this season, and thanks to Sharon Paul as my assistant who has helped sign in at events.

Stay safe and well, and I hope to see you all at an event in 2027.

Best Wishes
Claire Morris
Membership Secretary & Director

CONFEDERATE ARMY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Glenn sends his apologises for not being able to create a report for the AGM as he has been grieving the loss of his Mam and arrangements for her funeral. In addition, Glenn has been very busy at work and has had a Holiday booked some time ago. This has meant he has had no time spare and able to concentrate on such things.

He would like to thank everybody for all the support afforded to him whilst in the role of Major.

[Mike Bussey on behalf of Glenn Gibson.]

FEDERAL ARMY COMMANDER'S REPORT

Well-oiled machine!!! Springs to mind...

I'm called by my fellow Federal members as "The poser" well yes, I do on occasions like to look smart, but it's a title that I have for the way I stand or look, as if I'm posing for a picture. Well, consider this my brothers and sisters, we are all POSERS, we all look good, our impressions cover the civil war Union very thoroughly and we still have our different units' impressions too. I'm so glad that we can all work together as one company with the one company structure. This season, again we have all worked bloody hard, endured the hot weather and put on the very best displays that you the Federal army could provide. I'm so proud to be your commander, and I do believe we now have a first-class working display camp. Thank you guys for all the guarding around the clock of the camp, it really is a key role as it's the first person that our public see and also love having a picture taken with you, I noticed.

After hearing the sad news of Paul Edensor losing all his and the family's re-enactment gear, it springs to mind the evil that is out there. It could happen to any of us; we must make every effort to secure our belongings. At Moira, it was so good to see Paul and his family attend the party which I personally don't know how I would feel if it had happened to myself having all my long-established collection of kit stolen. I'm sure when I say Paul, we all are behind you, and will help in any way we can to get you and your family back into the ranks. On that note, please check all your belongings place of storage. Not just over the winter, but throughout the season too. Locks, oil, dubbing and moth balls would be a good start.

Just because the season is over and we have settled into our winter quarters does not means that we stop chatting or if not too far apart seeing each other. Please keep in touch with one another even if it's to have a good moan about someone or something.

In the meantime, guys,

Hopefully Santa brings you great new toys, and the new year comes with great new memories.

Major Darren 'Daz' Paul

Federal Commander (because you made it so) **& Director**

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi Everyone,

Unfortunately, Joe was unable to produce a Communications Report due to him being on duty with limited availability of computer access.

Hopefully Joe might be able to produce a verbal report at the AGM.

Mike Bussey p.p. **Joe Reed**
Communications Director

HEALTH & SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hi Everyone.

Winter sparks the end of another great season. I would like to thank you all for your support in making it a safe one.

Since the last event, I have been updating and amending some of our society policies on rules and regulations, health and safety ext.

These updated documents will be available to all members after our AGM in December. The amending points will be highlighted in red for a short time, so that it makes it easier to identify the changes. Please make sure to read them before the start of the next season. Thank you.

Remember, health and safety is everyone`s responsibility, not just mine.

Kind Regards

Dave McDade
Health & Safety Director

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I look back at the beginning of the season, well my first event anyhow, I recall how hot it was. And as we worked our way through, it didn't seem to change much. I suppose if it had rained every event, we would have had a moan about that too.

This season you the members have exceeded, as always, the work put before you. As I looked across from tent, walking around both camps and gazing across the skirmish fields, my eyes could not stop seeing something going on. The activities on both camps are fantastic value for money, and we have had great feedback back from our clients. A fantastic idea has arisen from your board to put a few of them together, some short views of your ACWS onto our posters that are posted up on Facebook and other social media.

So, the question is my fellow members, can we better ourselves, what can you do to improve perfection that is already working, if it's not broken, don't fix it! But just maybe there could be something we could add, something that we used to do, thinking caps on please guys.

I'm not going to start a list of thank you to individuals, I'm just simply going to say a massive thank you to all of you for putting up with each other and working around the clock, not just on camp but off duty at home too.

Congratulations to you all once again for all the fantastic efforts in providing your ACWS with a new van. The new van was showcased at Moira, 50th Artillery Anniversary Event, with, I must add, a large bow on the bonnet.

I would like to take the opportunity to mention how much once again our Catherine McDade has worked her socks off behind the scenes to give us our events this season, thank you Catherine. Also, your board, thank you guys for all the hard work before, during and after events.

It's that time of the season again guys, votes for your board members. Not really on top of every member's Xmas to do list I know, but please when you have the chance, please spare that little time to do those votes, would not take long. Also, if you have any issues, ideas, thoughts or would just simply like to see us and join us at your ACWS AGM it would definitely be great to see and chat with you all.

If not, no worries, see you all in the new season, have a great Christmas and New Year.

Darren Paul
Chairman & Director

ABIGAIL (ABI) – BOARD CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

- **About Me & My Connection**

You all know me as Abi—and as I've been part of this society for as long as I can remember (with no plans to leave anytime soon!), this society is a huge part of my life.

While many of you know my face and what I'm like at camp, you might not know what I do day-to-day: I'm a Customer Service Manager at IONOS (the German website company—yes, the one with Helga in the adverts!).

- **Why I Joined the Board**

I decided to step onto the board because I care deeply about the future of our society. I want to ensure that everything we love about this continues to thrive, grow, and remain strong for years to come—and I want to play an active, hands-on role in making that happen.

- **What I Bring to the table**

Between my professional management career and my time spent in camp life with what I consider my second family; I bring a well-rounded and grounded perspective to the board:

- Active Listening & Open Dialogue: My background in customer service management means I prioritise listening to members, hearing different viewpoints, and encouraging honest, open discussions.
- Fresh & Diverse Ideas: I'm comfortable challenging the status quo thoughtfully and bringing constructive new ideas to the table.
- Community-First Leadership: My experience in collaborative environments has taught me how to bring people together and resolve challenges as a unified team.

As a board member, my goal is to serve as an accessible bridge between the all of us. I am committed to keeping communication up, ensuring every voice feels heard, and helping guide our society toward a great future.

I'm always up for a chat—feel free to catch me around on messenger or email.

P.s. I do tend to take a couple days to reply, so don't panic if that happens. Just like at camp, I'm not glued to my phone haha!

Abigail Hooper - Federal Army Representative Candidate

CONFEDERATE ARMY COMMANDER – BOARD CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

Please accept this as my intention to stand for Confederate Army Commander.

If voted for, I look forward to taking the C.S forces on the field and behind the scenes. To try and grow and encourage further the excellent work the members already show.

I would like to thank the current C.S Army Commander, Major Glenn Gibson, for his unwavering leadership of the Confederate Army over his time as Major.

I would like to thank him personally for his mentorship, and his support in my request to put forward my name as his replacement.

Andrew Farnsworth – Confederate Army Commander Candidate