



ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington,
Tyne & Wear NE37 9BX

The A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

2017 Winter Edition



KELHAM HALL INTERNATIONAL 2017

ACWS is a Member of NAReS

N·A·Re·S

Issue 183

A.C.W.S. CONTACTS

Directors & Army Commanders

Mr Tim Davies Chairman

Mrs Linda Reed, Secretary

Ian Morris, Treasurer

Mr Peter Holt, Events

Miss Claire Morris, Membership

Mr Martin Cross, Health & Safety

Mrs Val Holt, Communications

Mr Mike Bussey, Webmaster

Mrs Vivienne Corbishley, International Co ordinator

Mr Tim Davis, Federal Commander

Mr Glenn Gibson Confederate Commander

BLANKET SALE

Our usual beginning of the season

Blanket Sale will take place at

KELHAM HALL

On Saturday 6th May 2017

At 17:00 hrs

**Do you have no longer needed kit
or other useful articles or
may be you have something a
collector is looking for to enhance
their collection.**

**Then bring them along and sell
them on to someone who has a use
for them or just drop by and see if
there is something you want for a
reasonable price**

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of The American Civil War Society Ltd

**Held at the United Services Club, 136
Bridge Street, Gainsborough, DN21 1LP**

On Saturday 3rd December 2016

Present:

Directors:

Mr Michael Smart	:Chairman	:MS
Mrs Linda Reed	:Secretary	:LR
Mrs Val Holt	:Communications	:VH
Miss Claire Morris	:Membership	:CM
Mr Ian Morris	:Treasurer	:IM
Mr Peter Holt	:Events	:PH
Mr Martin Cross	:Health & Safety	:MC
Mr Mike Bussey	:Webmaster	:MB
Mr Tim Davies	:US Commander	:TD
Mr Glenn Gibson	:CS Commander	:GG
Mrs Vivienne Corbishley	:International	:VC

Society Officers:

Mr Stephen Griffin	:Minutes Secretary	:SG
Mr Kevin Holden	:Explosives Officer	:KH
Mr Peter Francis-Wemyss	:Marketing	:PFW
Mr Roger Willison-Gray	:Horse master	:RWG

Together with members in the hall making a total of 36 members present

(as some members were late/left early votes fluctuate)

The meeting started at 1.03pm.

MS welcomed everybody to the 41st Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.

1. Apologies were received from the following:

Phil Golder, Paul Draper, Jennifer Clark, Matthew Plumridge, Angela Cross & Matthew LLewllyn.

2. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2015 AGM held at the 6th Gainsborough Sea Scout HQ, Love Lane Gainsborough, Lincolnshire on Saturday 5th December 2015.

This was proposed by Helen Gibson and seconded by Phil Clark, and duly voted upon:

FOR	23	Proxy votes	FOR	42
AGAINST	0	AGAINST		0
ABSTENTIONS	2	ABSTENTIONS		3

This motion was duly approved, and the minutes signed by MS.

3. Motion to receive the reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2016 Season as published and issued to members in November 2016.

3.1 Secretary : Mrs Helen Needham & Mrs Linda Reed

LR and HN had nothing further to add to their reports as published, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.2 Webmaster : Mr Mike Bussey

In addition to his report MB thanked everybody for their well wishes during his time off and apologised for missing the Treasurers Report off the AGM Paper package.

3.3 Events : Mr Peter Holt

PH had nothing further to add to his report as published, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.4 Treasurer : Mr Ian Morris

In addition to his report IM added that the accounts has been audited. The Van, 2 trailers and 8 cannon have depreciated and are now worth £2000 according to the accounts. The only changes the accountant had made to the figures given at the meeting were the deduction of depreciation. The Treasurer also noted that the previous accountant had registered ACWS Ltd with HMRC as a community interest company and therefore with this status we pay no Tax.

3.5 Membership : Miss Claire Morris

CM had nothing further to add to her report as published. Martyn Clarke (2nd SC) asked about a guest from Australia attending the Alamo. CM explained the Alamo was not an ACWS event even though we were attending and the best person to speak with would be GG.

3.6 Confederate Army Commander : Mr Glenn Gibson

GG had nothing further to add to his report as published, and there were no questions.

3.7 Federal Army Commander : Mr Tim Davies

TD had nothing to add to his report as published, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.8 Communications : Mrs Val Holt

VH had nothing to add to her report as published, and there were no questions from the floor.

3.9 Health & Safety : Mr Martin Cross

In addition to his report MC noted he has attended NAReS A.G.M. on behalf of the ACWS. There were no questions from the floor.

3.10 Chairman : Mr Michael Smart

MS had nothing to add to his report as published, and there were no questions from the floor.

Motion to adopt the Directors' reports

This was proposed by Ben St John and seconded by Helen Gibson, and duly voted upon:

FOR	30	Proxy votes FOR	43
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	2

Motion duly approved.

4. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

This motion was proposed by Peter Francis-Wemyss and seconded by Philip Clark and duly voted upon:

FOR	30	Proxy votes FOR	42
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	3

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to Reappoint M S Twist & Co Ltd as Auditors and Directors to approve their fees

This motion was proposed by Philip Clark, and seconded by Sharon Francis-Wemyss and duly voted upon:

FOR	30	Proxy votes FOR	40
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	1
ABSTENTIONS	0	ABSTENTIONS	4

Motion duly approved.

6. Membership & Registration fees for the 2017 season

The proposal was put forward that Membership fees and Registration fees remain at the same level as 2016.

This motion as presented by the Board was proposed by Ben St John, and seconded by Gary Holman, and duly voted upon:

FOR	29	Proxy votes FOR	40
AGAINST	0	AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1	ABSTENTIONS	5

7. Election of Board of Directors

MS clarified to everyone present that the only position being contested was Communications Director to which he asked both VH and Sharon Francis-Wemyss whether they had anything to add to their letters.

LR explained how the secret ballot will work and introduced the tellers who were Gary Holman, Leigh Wardley and Roger Willison-Gray.

There was a short break at 1.26 pm for a secret ballot to take place.

Raffle was drawn and £71 was raised.

Meeting resumed at 2.05 pm.

The results were as follows:

	PRESENT VOTES			PROXY VOTES		
	FOR	AG	AB	FOR	AG	AB
CHAIRMAN						
Michael Smart	31	0	0	43	1	1
TREASURER						
Ian Morris	31	0	0	44	0	1
EVENTS						
Peter Holt	29	1	1	38	1	6
MEMBERSHIP						
Claire Morris	31	0	0	43	0	2
HEALTH & SAFETY						
Martin Cross	30	0	1	43	0	2
WEBMASTER						
Mike Bussey	31	0	0	43	0	2

The above Directors were thus re-elected for the 2017 season.

8.. Election of Mrs Linda Reed as Secretary and as a Director after having been co-opted onto the Board during the 2016 season

FOR	31	Proxy votes	FOR	44
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	1

Mrs Linda Reed was therefore elected as Secretary and Director for the 2017 season.

9. Re-election of Mr Tim Davies as Federal Commanding Officer & as a Director

FOR	15	Proxy votes	FOR	15
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	0

Mr Tim Davies was therefore duly re-elected as the Federal Commanding Officer for the 2017 season.

10. Re-election of Mr Glenn Gibson as Confederate Commanding Officer & as a Director

FOR	10	Proxy votes	FOR	20
AGAINST	2		AGAINST	5
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	3

Mr Glenn Gibson was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for the 2017 season.

11. Election of Mrs Vivienne Corbishley as a Director without portfolio after having been co-opted onto the Board during the 2016 season to help with the International in 2017

FOR	23	Proxy votes	FOR	41
AGAINST	3		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	5		ABSTENTIONS	4

Mrs Vivienne Corbishley was therefore duly elected as a Director without portfolio for the 2017 season.

12. Election for Communications Director where more than one candidate has been duly proposed and nominated

Mrs Sharon Francis-Wemyss

FOR	12	Proxy votes FOR	11
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Mrs Val Holt

FOR	19	Proxy votes FOR	30
ABSTENTIONS	1	ABSTENTIONS	4

Mrs Sharon Francis-Wemyss 23

Mrs Val Holt 49

Val Holt was therefore duly elected as Communications Director for the 2017 season.

The meeting broke at 2.15pm for 10 minutes.

13. Open Forum

Philip Clark read out a letter from Christian Sprakes in his absence off the ACWS facebook page as follows:

Why this sudden Decision.

"A question was raised about the use of Double Barrel Shotguns on the battlefield – the concern being that if used, a discharge could be observed and the weapon considered 'safe' for close approach but one there could still be 'one up the spout'. "

I found this odd that such a ruling follows on the back of a discussion about arms shortage in the Confederacy and the use of such things. Essentially this should not be needed but is here, I believe due to aspects other than safety, sorry to call it!

It has been observed that Peter Francis-Wemyss regularly carries one on the battlefield. If there is justification for it or not is a matter for him and his army commander. On the same count, under the same ruling does this not preclude the banning of any multi chambered weapon as it is not obvious if they are loaded or which chamber is capped or aligned.

Although I occasionally use a Black Powder Double Barrel Shotgun as a safety demonstrator, when in civilian kit I would see no reason to use one in the line of battle and am sure that Dan Lawrence, my CO or Tim Davies as army commander would question it immediately and act accordingly.

It is also an issue as I have had many well considered, sometimes heated, but always productive conversations with Mark George on behalf of Robert Ian Harbottle about the weapons of the cavalry.

Correctly Mark has identified shortened to carbine length, not sawn off, single and preferably double barrel shotguns to be a major weapon of early CS cavalry.

Evidence from Bayonet orders to the UK for these, Letters from Forrest requesting them and the fact they should be 16G and use postal Buck or .69 buck and ball makes them a valid, provable, authentic and most importantly, affordable, useful and obtainable option for the Cavalry arsenal which is now being removed!

The use of double Barrel shotguns in the ranks should have been addressed as an ARMY matter and not brought to the Board here in such a way that it potentially hampers another units through a decision I consider to be a knee jerk reaction to an unresolved chain of command and willingness to enforce issue within the Confederate ranks.

Please could this be read at the AGM as I have to be elsewhere in a museum on that day.

Christian.

MS stated that the matter had been discussed already and a summary was in the last newsletter. MS then read the following from the October 2015 Board Meeting:

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT – Martin Cross

SHOTGUNS – DOUBLE BARREL

I have received a question about the use of Double Barrel Shotguns on the battlefield.

The query was 'have DB Shotguns been banned from the field and what is the Society's view on the field'.

A concern raised was that if used, a discharge could be observed and the weapon considered 'safe' for close approach but one there could still be 'one up the spout'.

I have read through our documentation and can only find....

From the CoC (page 1 – discussing weaponry) “ACWS only permits the use of authentic weapons (usually modern reproductions) of the ACW period 1861-1865.”

Bye Laws, (A) General, Para 2 'Aims', (d) “.. this Society declares it is a blackpowder/gunpowder using Society in its historical impressions and interpretations, limited to the ages of and use of weaponry from the flintlock (for the purposes of the American Indian and Revolutionary Wars only and later) and percussion periods of military history and/or any military weaponry in use during the period of the American Civil War 1861 to 1865”

From the above – a PERCUSSION double barrel shotgun is appropriate to period (CoC), however is such a weapon 'MILITARY' as stated in the bye laws?

My opinion is that IF such a weapon be allowed then ONLY ONE barrel be loaded and the weapon treated as if a musket. If this is not practicable then I propose that such weapon be banned from the battle/skirmish field – this would NOT preclude its use in 'displays' (as with bayonets & ramrods.)

TD asked whether it was a fact that Shotguns were taken off the field years ago.

MB stated that all troops should carry one gun, military (rifled) replica with the emphasis being on three banders.

RWG noted with an exception for Cavalry as single barrel shotguns were used. This has always been permitted as long as the weapon is as period looking as possible. RWG said that it's not practical to use B.P. weapons mounted, so he allows use of

appropriate looking breech loaders which are loaded away from public.

RWG said he has never known for double barrel shotguns to be used in infantry.

MB noted that to be historically accurate there were no shortages of muskets during the American Civil War.

MS stated that it is the responsibility of Army Commanders to make sure that no individual takes a double barrelled shotgun on to the field.

GG to speak with Rob Harbottle regarding the above.

TD mentioned he has spoken with Christian who is now happy with the result.

It was agreed that the matter should have been dealt with at army level and should not be being discussed at an AGM. It was also noted that this does NOT and will NOT affect any Cavalry or Civilian impressions.

RWG gave a good explanation of weaponry that can be used safely on horseback and stated that the 8th Texas Cavalry were yeoman and there is ample evidence that the weaponry they use is historically accurate.

There was a discussion about side venting pistols. MC stated that as safe distances were not in effect for side venting pistols, himself and Robert Harbottle will perform a test at some point to clarify.

MB stated that the Confederate army rules remain the same as previously. Anyone who had a 2 band musket prior to 3 band muskets being preferred can keep theirs but new members must have a 3 band musket.

14. Events Announcements for 2017

PH announced the events to date:

26th January 2017 HULL UNIVERSITY “CITY OF CULTURE 2017”

PH explained he had received a communication from the Department of American Studies at the University of Hull. They are organising a film festival celebrating the life and works of the Hull born film director Anthony Minghella. The festival is supported by the British Film Institute and is part of Hulls’ City of Culture 2017 programme.

They are screening the film Cold Mountain on the evening which starts at 7.30pm. They would like a few members from ACWS to attend in full kit with weapons to mix and talk with the guests. The latest time of arrival will be 6pm and we will depart as the film begins at 7.30pm. There is a possibility of a donation if we attend which PH will confirm.

Martin Clarke offered to do a table display.

Indoor Static Display and Talk

6 – 7.30pm

If Interested please contact Peter Holt

6th – 7th May 2017 KELHAM HALL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. CONFIRMED

Full Society Preparation Event for the International later in the year.

Commanders will advise members on the proposed script.

No Skirmish at this event.

Living History for Infantry, Artillery and Cavalry (self-funded).

Camping from Friday to Monday.

13th – 14th May 2017 MARBURY, CHESHIRE. CONFIRMED

Full Society Event with Pyrotechnics.

Living History, Skirmishes on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry and Artillery.

Separate field for Cavalry if they wish to attend (self-funded).

Camping from Friday afternoon which will be reversed from our last attendance.

**28th-29th May 2017 CARRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.
POSSIBLE**

**17th – 18th June 2017 FRONTLINE SEDGEFIELD.
CO.DURHAM. POSSIBLE**

Multi-Period Event.

Skirmishes on Saturday and Sunday with Infantry and Artillery.
Family Camp with remain in the same place as last year,
authentic camp will be in a different place due to site reduction.

**24th – 25th June 2017 THE ALAMO, WESTON PARK,
SHROPSHIRE**

This is not an ACWS run event; members of the ACWS have
been invited to attend this re-enactment by the Masonic Lodge as
part of the 300 Year Anniversary Celebration of the Grand Lodge
of England.

Living History. Skirmishes Saturday and Sunday.

**12th – 13th August 2017 SPETCHLEY, WORCESTER.
CONFIRMED**

PH has spoken with the organisers about limited space on Con-
federate camp and the same for Cavalry.

Full Society Multi-period Event.

Living History. Skirmishes Saturday and Sunday.

Camping Friday afternoon until Monday morning.

23rd – 24th September 2017 KELHAM HALL, NOTTS

ACWS International 2017.

Full Society Event.

Members Camping from Thursday

James Reed asked whether we will be going back to Sewerby

Hall. PH noted it was the same weekend as the Carrington event however if Carrington was not to progress VC will contact Sewerby with a view to returning.

1. Any Other Business

ALAMO

GG passed on best wishes from Soskan and their members to all our members and Board of Directors. They have had changes on their committee and are looking forward to working with us in the future.

Anyone wanting to take part in the Alamo must register or there will be no access, forms for registration are on facebook.

At present there are 139 Texans (96 firers) and 511 Mexicans (271 firers).

Fundraising for the event is over £24,000 but aiming for £30,000. ACWS Artillery will be used but numbers are low and more artillery personal will be required.

Caz Davies noted about age restrictions for the Alamo as this could prevent one crew from attending.

The Battle plan is to re-enact the final hour.

The Alamo is to be built in January/February and then transported and will be put in storage after the event to be reused.

Both Camps will have a water supply.

Civilian camping will only be allowed if pre-booked at MFEST300.

A Local brewery will provide Ale to order.

A training event is yet to be confirmed but will not be compulsory.

There will be no skirmish fee for this event.

Volunteers can arrive from Wednesday onwards if permission is received.

The next meeting for the Alamo will be in January/February.

ACWS DRUM AND FIFE

James Reed thanked the Board and Members for the continued support the band has received this year. They had another snare drum donated this year that is near complete restoration at no

special thank you to Shaz and Darren Paul who donated £200. The band exceeded expectations for 2016 and will be training during 2017 to provide more camp duties, battle orders and drill. The band still needs more fifers. MC passed on a personal thank you from Angela Cross for the band helping with the Church service at Spetchley.

INTERNATIONAL

The Sub-Committee for the International is being led by MS, Peter Francis-Wemyss, LR, VC and IM.

The Owners at Kelham Hall were very impressed with us this year and look forward to next year.

Registration forms have now been completed and will be available to download off the website soon.

Army Commanders have been busy preparing and maps have been completed to show general setup of camps and battle field.

VC wanted it noting that we are getting paid for the International event. The battle itself will only be a small part of the event.

Kelham Hall will be providing a Fairground and a Re-enactors market and VC is encouraging Kelham Hall for more side

attractions. Hoping to have a Dance similar to the 40th Birthday event. Registration will be £5 for members and £10 for guests.

MC recommended continuation of membership with NARES.

Lots of sponsors look at NARES before booking. NARES is also helpful when lobbying government. MC has been invited to join the executive committee of Nares, ACWS will now be represented.

LR thanked the Tellers for their help and introduced SG as Minutes Secretary and thanked him for his help this year.

MS thanked TD and Caz Davies for booking the venue for today's AGM. Caz and Linda Davies were thanked for providing refreshments.

James Reed was thanked for his continued work with the band as having them present helps lift morale and as a whole it's a vast improvement to any portrayal (keeps everyone in step).

MS expressed thanks to old, new and upcoming members for a hobby we can all enjoy, 41 years for an organisation to last is a huge achievement and we are the makers of things to last. The Chairman told the members it is their society they are the future. He said we would like to carry on for another 41 years. He told the membership we all need to work together, the atmosphere on camp has improved but petty bickering needs to stop.

MS stated this year has been a good year for the society but next year it will be a fantastic year.

MS thanked everybody for coming and wished them Merry Christmas on behalf of all the Board and Officers of the Society.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 3.19pm.

The next AGM meeting will take place on Saturday 2nd December 2017 at a venue to be confirmed.

Please Note. following the resignation of the chairman Mick Smart, we have changed the Society's address for all correspondence, including membership forms. The new address is:

**ACWS Ltd PO Box 270 Washington,
Tyne & Wear NE37 9BX**

Don't worry if you have sent your membership to the form to the old address as Mick will still forward anything to us.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS OF ACWS Ltd

The Board of Directors have to make difficult decisions regarding the running of the Society and the welfare of its members and public every year. At a Board meeting on 21st January 2017, the Board decided not to renew Peter Francis-Wemyss' membership of the American Civil War Society. In the Society's Bye Laws (Section B4) the Board do not need to explain the reasons why. However, the Board did not make this decision lightly and only after long discussions. This decision was based on the actions of the individual over the last few years, tensions on both camps between members, and no guarantee that past incidences would not be repeated in the future with such processes starting all over again. Peter's responsibilities for Marketing, the International and the 2nd South Carolina will be transferred in due course, the latter after consultation with members of the regiment. We ask members not to speculate or be drawn into social media debates and that you contact your respective Army Commanders or Board members.

For and on Behalf of the Board of Directors

Regards

Linda Reed
Secretary

Resignation of Chairman

Dear Members,

By the time you read this some of you will know that I am no longer your Chairman, for others I hope it does not come as too much of a shock. The recent events coupled with the breaking of a confidence from someone I considered to be a friend left me with no choice but to resign as Chairman and leave ACWS. I would like to take this last opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the last four years and I wish you all health and happiness for the future. I would also ask that you give your support and backing to the board who work extremely hard at keeping the Society running and they will need that support over this difficult period. I have made many good friends through ACWS and take with me lots of happy memories and I will keep in touch, but my time is at an end and someone else must lead this great Society forward. If I could ask for one small favour from you the Members. It would be that calm and common sense prevail and you remember we do this as a hobby and for fun. Anyway enough of my ramblings Take care on the field a

Michael Smart

Change of Chairman

On 23rd January, the Board received the unexpected resignation of the Chairman, Michael Smart. Mick had been a calming influence during the troublesome events of last few seasons culminating in the revocation of an individual's membership. Following these and recent events, coupled with the breaking of a confidence from someone Mick considered to be a friend, left him, he felt, with no choice but to resign as Chairman of ACWS.

The Board would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the significant contributions Mick Smart made to ACWS during his time as Chairman and are sorry to see such a good Chairman and friend feeling he had no option but to resign his position.

The running of the Society, however, must go on, therefore, the Board of Directors are pleased to announce that, on 27th January 2017, Mr Tim Davies was co-opted to the position of Chairman until the 2017 AGM when the position will come up for re-election.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Linda Reed
Secretary

29th January 2017



Events Report

Saturday 6th to Sunday 7th May 2017. Kelham Hall and Country Park near Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 5QX, This event is in preparation for the International later in the year Camping from Friday 5th to Monday 8th May 2017, family camp within Hall grounds. Living history for infantry, artillery and cavalry (self-funding). Confirmed full society event open to all members.

Saturday 13th to Sunday 14th May 2017 Marbury Merry Days, Marbury Cheshire SY13 4LN, Camping from Friday – Monday. This is a full society event with infantry and artillery, and there will be space if cavalry wish to attend as self-funding. The Family Camp will be in a new location this time. Confirmed subject to contract

full society event open to all members

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2017, Hardwick Hall East Park, Sedgefield, Co. Durham, TS21 2DN Camping From Friday to Sunday. A multi-period event as last year. Our authentic camps will have a bigger area than last time and be in a more central position. Living History with Infantry Skirmish both days. This is a full society event. Confirmed subject to contract.

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2017 The Alamo Event, Weston Park, Weston-Under-Lizard, Nr. Shifnal, Telford, Shropshire, TF11 8LE Camping from the 23rd, This is NOT an ACWS run event, it is part of MFest 300. Glenn Gibson is our main contact; and details are updated on their Facebook page, This event is open to any society members who wish to attend BUT they need to register on the Remember the Alamo Facebook page. N.B. Everyone who is attending MUST be registered, including children of ANY age.

**Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th
July 2017 St Margaret's
Summer Fayre, Draycott-in
the-Moors, Staffs. ST11 9AE**

Camping Friday – Sunday.
Parade Saturday afternoon.
Saturday evening local rock
group with bar and barbeque.
Sunday Drill Display, Kid's Drill
and Infantry only skirmish. This
is a full society event.
Confirmed subject to contract.

**Saturday 12th and Sunday
13th August 2017, Spetchley
Hall and Gardens, Worcester
WR5 1RS**

Camping from Friday 11th to
Monday 14th August 2017.
Living history with a skirmish
each day, infantry, artillery and
cavalry attendance as self
funding. Confirmed subject to
contract, full society event open
to all members.

**Saturday 26th – Monday 28th
August 2017. (Bank Holiday
Weekend) Oulton Park
Circuit, Cheshire, CW6 9BW.**

Camping from Friday –
Tuesday This is a Historic
racing Weekend with multi-
period History Weekend with
no firing whatsoever. No
Animals Allowed due to the
nature of the event. There is a

restaurant and bar for the use of
re-enactors in the evening.
This is a full society event.
Confirmed subject to contract.

**Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th
September 2017, ACWS
International Event 2017 at
Kelham Hall and Country
Park near Newark,
Nottinghamshire, NG23 5QX.**

Living history and battles each
day involving infantry, artillery
and cavalry. Confirmed subject
to contract full society event
open to all members and
guests.

I am happy to tell you that we
have a provisional booking for
next year at Bloxham Rally,
Smith's Field, Milton Road,
Bloxham, Banbury, Oxon.
OX15 4HD.

23rd & 24th June 2018.

Maps the details of camps etc
will be issued with the Warning
Orders.

The Events Team are still
working to obtain more events
for you to enjoy

Peter Holt and Vivienne
Corbishley

Remember the Alamo Event

This is not an ACWS run event, we have been invited to take part and therefore we have to abide by the rules laid down by the sponsor. All these rules and regulations must be adhered to. Anyone thinking of attending this event must register as soon as possible. The registration form can be found on the Facebook page Remember the Alamo under 'files'. Please note that everyone must register and this includes children of any age. There will be no Registration Fee for the weekend. Those intending to use the Family Camp, which will include re-enactors and the general public, must register and book their place. The following paragraph is a direct quote from the Remember the Alamo site found under 'files'.

“The burning question of where to stay for the event if you don't want to be too far from the action but need/want your comforts - plastic camping.

Next door to where the Alamo has been allocated its site to stage the event, separated by a copse of trees, is the camp site.

They are accepting modern tents, caravans (your car is allowed to stay with you) and also motor homes.

But you will have to book direct through the MFest300 website. There is a charge for this and unfortunately we have been unable to persuade the organisers to let you camp for free, however you won't have to pay an admission fee.

Once you are on the website, across the top are headings, click on tickets - this takes you to the section where tickets for the event can be bought in advance - click on that and then scroll down the page to where it says caravans etc, and book yourself in.”

At present the Early Bird camping fee is £15.00 per night. There will be Warning Orders issued by the organisers nearer the time and will be published on the website. Keep checking the Remember the Alamo site for information. Below there are some

frequently asked questions, I hope the answers are helpful.

When can we arrive? The site will be open for both (Texian and Mexican) Army participants to arrive from 12 noon on Thursday 22nd June 2017. For everyone else - Friday 23rd June 2017.

On Saturday 24th June 2017 there will be NO vehicular movement from 9am.

What facilities are there? Porta loos for our usage (suitably disguised); water via stand pipes and wood.

Is there a skirmish or powder fee? No, there isn't - however, food will be charged at company/battalion level

Is there an entrance fee to the Park? Not, BUT please don't forget your car pass, plus if arriving at busy times, please be patient as you will be logged in manually on site.

When can we arrive if we are modern camping? You may arrive from Friday 23rd June 2017

What are the last dates for ordering kit? Sunday 12th March 2017

What is the last day of registration? Wednesday 31st May 2017

Is there a Traders Row on the Alamo site?

Yes - £30 for the weekend

Is there a beer tent?

There will be a joint Cantina – when you register on arrival you will be given the opportunity to voluntarily purchase Mexican Peso (tokens), valid only in the Cantina.

NB: Dates for your Diaries:

There will be a Commanders only meeting on 19th February starting at 10am – 1pm at The Vernon Arms Sudbury Derbyshire. Army Training/Accreditation weekend – sleeping under canvas – Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th March 2017 at the Vernon Arms Sudbury Derbyshire.

Ladies only Sewing Circle (Mexican costume) Sunday 12th March 2017 from 2pm at The Vernon Arms Sudbury Derbyshire

Civil War Trains found 5 miles off US coastline

In 2013, an underwater diver called Dan Lieb was swimming in the emerald coloured waters off Long Branch, New Jersey when he slowly swam towards the 2 huge “gloomy and spooky” hulking silhouettes. They were both standing upright and side by side over 90 foot down on the seabed. Although heavily encrusted with marine life, there was no mistaking these particular items. They were 2 Civil War era built trains but how on earth did they get to be lying on the seabed over 5 miles out to sea?

The 2 Civil War era trains had initially been located much earlier by Paul Hepler, the captain of a charter boat in 1985, who had been mapping the ocean floor with a magnetometer when he unexpectedly came across the 2 large finds but they had not been inspected or visited. So when Dan Lieb swam out to see them for himself he quickly recognised the wheels and boilers of 2 identical locomotives now over 160 years old. They even had their distinctive smoke stacks still

standing. He said “It looked like they were steaming across the bottom in a race you could imagine them on tracks at a station with steam coming out of the valves, and people and luggage on the platform.” In trying to actually identify the 2 locomotives, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania was contacted for their expertise. Nick Zmijewski, collection manager of the railway archives, surmised that the 2 locomotives were of “ a type that did not get saved for posterity..... they represent a locomotive whose glory days were fading when they were built.....this was the last gasp of that design before four driving wheels and four guide wheels became the standard..... it is a significant archaeological find”. So, to date, no-one actually knows how the 2 Civil War trains got there (although some scholars believe it may have been during a storm whilst being transported from Boston to the Mid Atlantic). In addition, very little is actually known about them. No-one knows their actual design or numbers as no historical records exists for them (although they are of the general Planet Class 2-2-2 T

Models which were already outdated when being actually made). Due to their extreme rarity, there are tentative plans to try and raise the 2 15 ton self-contained leviathans and restore them.

Article by Stewart “Goober”
Douglas, 43rd North Carolina

Sources : Doubtful News, significant archaeological find Feb 2013.

Mama’s Mutterings

I apologise for the lack of historical articles in this edition, but the first newsletter of the year is always the business issue comprising of the A.G.M.Minutes and any other business the Board of Directors has had to deal with.

I promise there will be more next time.

Val Holt, Editor

New Recruit



After All that business and information let’s end on a happy note and introduce this handsome young man and latest member of ACWS.

Congratulations to Pvt Gemma Storer (1st Tenn) and her partner Greg on the birth of their son Theo Lawrence weighing 7lb 14oz on 19th November 2016.



EVENTS CALENDAR 2017

**6th & 7th May 2017
Kelham Hall**

**13th & 14th May 2017
Marbury**

**17th & 18th June 2017
Sedgefield**

**24th & 25th June 2017
The Alamo**

**8th & 9th July 2017
St Margaret's Fayre
Draycot on the Moor**

**12th & 13th August 2017
Spetchley Park**

**26th 27th & 28th August 2017
Oulton Park, Cheshire**

**23rd & 24th September 2017
Kelham Hall International**

Watch this space for future events