The Beachley Old Boys’ Association Newsletter

Edition No. 20 ~ April 2014

Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contents</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chairman’s Jottings &amp; President’s Thoughts</td>
<td>2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ladies Page</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ken Morris Story</td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mess Orderlies</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editor’s Hurrah &amp; Heritage</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memoriam &amp; Cenotaph Parade</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memoirs</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whizzy’s Boys’ Reunion</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013 AGM Minutes</td>
<td>15-18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reunion Detail, Itinerary &amp; Booking Form</td>
<td>19-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation Guide</td>
<td>23 &amp; 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Summary</td>
<td>25 &amp; 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Report &amp; Standing Order</td>
<td>27 &amp; 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOK Form</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review of Our Rules</td>
<td>30-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First Robot</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to ABF</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBA Shop</td>
<td>36 &amp; 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notices</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf Report &amp; Application Form</td>
<td>39 &amp; 40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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100 Years Ago

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100 Years Ago

Sir Edwin Lutyens
Cenotaph sketch of 1919
Chairman’s Jottings

They say we ‘Brits’ are always talking about the weather and I guess I’m no different. Without doubt we all had a fairly rough winter, some more so than others; hopefully you have all come through it unscathed and can look forward to a fine spring and a glorious summer.

Going back to our reunion weekend I’ve got say a resounding thanks to those who attended the AGM and voted in favour of my further extension of office. I do enjoy being Chairman of the Association and look forward to supporting you all until my term ends in 2016. Likewise on behalf of all the members I would like to thank the executive committee for their support and total commitment to the Association, the efforts they put into BOBA is remarkable. I cannot close this particular paragraph without thanking our President for his guiding hand on the tiller, we all know that he has suffered a sad loss in recent months but this has not stopped him maintaining his keen interest in all that the committee do.

By tradition I always look back to last year’s reunion, I do this for a number of reasons. The main reason is to highlight to those readers of the Echoes who do not attend the reunion weekend what they are actually missing. What are they missing? A relaxed and entertaining Friday evening in the Sjt's Mess at Beachley complimented with reasonably priced drinks and a good old fashioned curry supper. On the Saturday morning they are missing a superb heritage display put on by our heritage member and his army of helpers. This is swiftly followed in the early afternoon by the Association’s AGM, boring I hear you say, not at all. We have some lively banter but also complete the necessary business of the day. The reunion dinner held on the Saturday evening in the banqueting suite of Chepstow Racecourse gives the members and their ladies the opportunity to socialise with their peers while enjoying a fine meal. The music after the meal allows us to shake off some calories and show off our skills on the dance floor. To close the weekend we all assemble on the square at Beachley and march to church for our founders day service, the parade is not at all daunting and the chat within the ranks is good to hear. The service in St George's church is a fitting opportunity to remember those ex boys who are no longer with us. Our Padre, Joe Rooney, is to be commended on his style of preaching and his sermons are not to be missed. To close on this particular subject we feel that the reunion last year ran smoothly and true to course and all who were involved in its organisation are to be congratulated.

At the AGM last year the committee took an action to have a look at our rules with a view to bringing them up to date. This we have done and within the pages of this issue you will see the rules and our suggested amendments. Can I ask that you have a look at the proposed changes and get back to me or any of the committee with any other suggested changes. We need to approve the changes at the AGM in September, so the sooner you can get your suggestions to us the better.

We held our last executive committee meeting in February, as always the meeting was held in the Old School House. Since that date repairs to the property have moved on at a fair pace, scaffold has been erected and I’m told the building will undergo repairs to the roof, gutters and valleys. Lead work and some wall pointing will also be carried out. As we know the MoD is bust so to see this level of repair on what is classified as a non-operational building is very pleasing indeed. The budget holder for this type of work is the QM 1 Rifles so next time I’m visiting Beachley I shall pass on the thanks of the Association.

The website is there for all to see, it contains a mine of information essentially in two parts. The AAC site and the BOBA site, within the site are links to other organisations, one in particular is the Army Apprentice National Memorial. Please look at their site and you will see what their committee is up to with regards to this excellent memorial to the four apprentice training establishments.

Finally I’d like to offer our very many thanks to the editor of the Echoes, somehow Ken Reader agreed to take over this post from the previous editor and his work is to be admired. Please give Ken the justice he deserves and give this issue of the Echoes a good read, like the website it contains a lot of information that you may need especially if your intention is to join us at the reunion later this year. You will also have a clear picture of the Association’s finances, the Treasurer has provided a comprehensive breakdown of our income and expenditure. If you have any queries for him please come along to the AGM and put them to him. Likewise the Membership Secretaries report is always interesting reading, is our membership falling, perhaps yes. What can we ALL do about it? How can we get new members to join and the lapsed members to return to the fold? How do we get a large portion of the membership to pay their subscriptions, it's remained at £10 since the members agreed in 1994 that BOBA should continue when the college closed. That's a total of twenty years without an increase, a fair record I think!

Perhaps I'm getting to be a bit long winded but I'm sure you will appreciate that this article is the only opportunity I have to converse with all the membership rather than just those who turn up at the AGMs. Thank you for your patience, I believe it is time to conclude these jottings and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible later this year in September.

Brian Henderson  (65A C Coy)
The President’s Thoughts for 2014

A very sad year for me – Gaynor finally lost her war with Cancer. After 5 years of treatment, 4 major operations, and long spells of chemo she finally passed away peacefully in ‘Y Bwthyn Newydd’, Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend on the 12 November. Her popularity can be judged by the attendance at the funeral – the church was overflowing as was the short service at the Crematorium. My sincere thanks for all the messages I received and to those who were able to attend her funeral. The BOBA Reunion was her last ‘night out’ R.I.P.

Once again we look forward to the reunion and I am sure that it will be a good one, your committee have toiled to make sure that all the little niggles have been rectified and your enjoyment has been their watchword. Whilst we try, there are some people that just cannot be pleased and in this respect I ask them to bear with us or, better still, offer their services to help organise the event.

I will not go into chapter and verse again this year but ask that you make a concerted effort to attend both the AGM and the Saturday REUNION DINNER. A big turnout is needed for the good of the Association and to ensure it continues to make sound decisions. We have been asked to consider making provisions for disposal of our assets when we are no longer a viable concern. I am sure that those aspects must be left to the committee and members at that time – little can be gained by us trying to divvy up assets now when we have no idea what the prevailing conditions will be. The AGM of the future will have the last say.

The Cenotaph Parade—Again a good turnout, a nice day was enjoyed by all. Many new faces, some from far, far away who had much to talk about with old friends. It never ceases to amaze me just how the crowds support this event and I for one get a tremendous feeling of pride tempered with a certain humiliation as we march past. How many more I will be able to attend – who knows but I will as long as I am fit enough. My thanks to Mac for providing the transport to the parade.

Bids for this year’s Parade—Despite trying, I have been unable to increase our allocation of tickets past the normal 30 so if you wish to join us please contact me soonest: email sydney1931@btinternet.com 01656 661180 or text on 07785 282266.

BOBA Open Golf Meeting—I am sure that there are many more of our members that play and we would welcome both you and your ladies. It is a good easy going event that gets you in fine spirits and hunger ready for the evening’s Dinner.

Recruiting—This is your responsibility; if we all managed to recruit, cajole, or shame just one extra person to join then we would have very few problems over the coming years. Please give it a go.

See you all in September and hope the 64 Groups have a good turnout.

May Fair winds propel you in your chosen direction.

Syd Thomas (47A C Coy)

New Robots for Old
(Figuratively Speaking)

Do you ever wish that you had held onto The Robots covering you time at Beachley? Well you can now get them in PDF (Portable Document Format) on a disc. As the result of a request last year there is now an ongoing project to scan all of the issues of The Robot from the first edition in 1924. The scanned copies covering your time will be put on a CD along with the first three years worth of issues. The cost of the CD including P&P is £5.00, an element of which will go towards repairing the books holding the original copies.

To obtain a CD with the issues covering your time at Beachley please send your cheque for £5.00 (made Payable to ‘Beachley Old Boys’ Association’ with

♦ Your name and group
♦ Address
♦ Month and year of arrival—month and year departing

to Ken Reader (contact details on page 37). Please note that there may be a delay if the editions covering your time have not yet been scanned.
Ladies Column

Once again it is time to provide a few words for the Beachley Echoes and as every year passes the words for this Column do not come any easier, I guess that’s because the Association is predominantly men and therefore what should I write that would be of interest to the wives and partners of the Association members.

Hopefully you have all weathered the winter storms without any mishaps, we were well buffeted by the wind across here in Pembrokeshire but thankfully no damage, it must have been dreadful for those who suffered with the floods.

Like Brian I thoroughly enjoyed the reunion last year and on behalf of all the ladies who attended my thanks go to Peter Burridge for organising the functions that are held in the mess at Beachley and also Chepstow Racecourse, especially the reunion dinner on the Saturday evening. I’m told the Executive Committee are already well on the way to finalising the details for the reunion this coming September.

Meanwhile if any of the lady readers would like to air their views on the annual BOBA reunion please do so. You can contact me by phone or when we next get together.

Looking ahead I would encourage you all to accompany your husband or partner to the reunion later this year. I appreciate there is a cost attached to the weekend especially if money has to be spent on accommodation within the Chepstow area, but I believe it is worthwhile as you ladies who have been the long suffering wives of soldiers have a wealth of experiences that should be shared amongst us all.

Sadly this year we will not have the Presidents partner, Gaynor with us, I always enjoyed her company and she bore her illness with immense dignity. I believe we shall all miss her at the next reunion.

Finally if you do intend to come along this year now is the time to start planning and if you would like something organising on the Saturday while the men are out and about, playing golf, attending the AGM, etc. please give me a call on 01437 781273. So until we all gather again later in the year please look after yourselves.

Margaret Henderson

Some Military Spouse Quotes

* If you don't stand behind our troops, feel free to stand in front of them!
* My husband risks his life so you can run your mouth.
* If the military wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one.
* Don't confuse your rank with my authority.
* Home is where the military sends you.
* Live each day like he deploys tomorrow.
* You never know how strong you are, until being strong is the only choice you have.
My Story—Continued

You may remember that we included the start of Ken Morris's story in the last issue of the Beachley Echoes. We left Ken in Belgium some time just after 18 May 1940. You can read it on the web site if you want to catch up.

Later we went forward as infantry and took up position in a row of cottages, manning the rear top windows. Eventually we received orders to advance. What happened then was a bit hectic. My section was held up at a small house. The Germans had a machine gun firing from high up in the gable end of a building across the field in front of us. I don't think I volunteered, but I found myself and a corporal advancing across the field, carrying the Bren gun and me the ammunition, objective the German machine gun. We got into a firing position in the field and opened fire. How long we stayed, did we succeed? I can't remember, but we came under fire from the Germans and our side, so decided to move to a hedge at the side of the field and rejoin our section. I led the way and reached the cottage which was on fire, someone called me, he was wounded in the arm, and I removed his emergency bandage and fixed him up. Light was fading and things were hectic. Not many of us there. We were ordered to move off towards the edge of the field. An officer there ordered me to join a long line of troops lying in a shallow ditch. It was getting quite dark. There were a couple of our unit lying nearby, one informed me that we were now with the Grenadier Guards who had come up to relieve us, and our unit had been ordered back!

I didn't have much time to ponder over the situation; an order came to fix bayonets, then advance. Off we went, I remember noticing the guardsmen advancing almost in a parade ground manner, rifles at the high port. The Germans were firing a lot of Very flares in the air to light the place up. In my immediate area ahead was a gate or opening, and the Germans were firing bursts of machine gun fire through. As I approached, weighing up my chances of getting through the opening. A German shot up right in front of me, from a fox hole, his hands in the air. The guardsman next to me immediately bayonetted him. I moved quickly through that opening, machine gun or not.

It was really dark by now. My next recollection was lying down under orders from a senior NCO, with about a dozen other men along the edge of a road or track, it was cold and damp. Come dawn, I thought we would retire. There were no other units in sight. I felt somewhat aggrieved at not being with my own unit.

We had orders to line up, in the wrong direction as far as I was concerned. There was a farmhouse ahead, and we were to attack it. The senior NCO gave orders to advance. I had the impression he was off to Berlin; we took the farmhouse and several prisoners. They were quite cocky until someone threatened to shoot them. We were to retire, divided into small sections taking the prisoners with us. I was to take an elderly lady with me, which I thought was wrong, but orders are to be obeyed. When we got clear of the farmhouse, the Germans were waiting and opened fire. With my arm around the lady we rushed to a field of high grass or grain for cover. A shot entered my arm and into the chest of the lady killing her. I crawled on through the high grass and found the senior NCO he had a bullet in each thigh, I encouraged, and pushed him towards the end of the field. I could hear the Germans behind us. We reached the edge of the field and found a guardsman lying with a bullet wound between the legs. I helped him into the ditch running the length of the field and returned to the NCO who was in a bad way, he suddenly sat up, I was lying beside him. The Germans saw him and opened fire. How long we stayed, did we succeed?

Carrying the Bren gun and me the ammunition, objective the German machine gun. We got into a firing position in the field in front of us. I don't think I volunteered, but I found myself and a corporal advancing across the field, carrying the Bren gun and me the ammunition, objective the German machine gun. We got into a firing position in the field and opened fire. How long we stayed, did we succeed? I can't remember, but we came under fire from the Germans and our side, so decided to move to a hedge at the side of the field and rejoin our section. I led the way and reached the cottage which was on fire, someone called me, he was wounded in the arm, and I removed his emergency bandage and fixed him up. Light was fading and things were hectic. Not many of us there. We were ordered to move off towards the edge of the field. An officer there ordered me to join a long line of troops lying in a shallow ditch. It was getting quite dark. There were a couple of our unit lying nearby, one informed me that we were now with the Grenadier Guards who had come up to relieve us, and our unit had been ordered back!

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We were driven to a convent at Kortrijk which had been taken over by the Germans. We were all taken to an empty room where we sat or laid around the walls. It was not long before we were exchanging cigarettes with each other, and trying to understand what the other was saying.

Gradually we were taken to see doctors who examined us, and either re-bandaged, or sent for an operation. After which we were separated from the Germans.

I was due for an operation, and taken to a make shift operating theatre. I don't know if I was given a local
anaesthetic, but the surgeon had a bottle of snaps, and gave me two or three good shots. He snipped around a bit, and while he was doing it I watched the chap next to me having his arm sawn off. I was taken to another room full of English wounded, some very bad. We were lying on the floor on straw paillasses. The nuns were not allowed to attend or talk to us. Later, when it was dark a few bombs were dropped. There was a chap in a Scottish unit, a sergeant major I think. He was badly wounded in the head. Suddenly he started to shout for the padre, it was upsetting some, so I crawled over to him. We had no lights, and I think he thought I was the padre he took my hand and held on; he died shortly after. The next day we were to move out. Some on stretchers, we were loaded into an ambulance. One thing I shall always remember - as I was waiting to get into the ambulance, a group of German soldiers nearby, started to kick a little dog around like a football, they were laughing and joking as they did so. I was glad to get into the ambulance. Eventually we arrived in Gent at a Belgium Military Hospital under German guard. Within the confines of the hospital, was a school taken over as addition to it. I was taken to the school. All the English were bedded up stairs. Here two beds from me I met up with the guardsman who was wounded with me. The doctors and nurses and many volunteers were all Belgian, and could not do enough for us, they were wonderful. Down stairs were some French troops, they had arrived with full kit, which some of our chaps didn't like, so much so that one picked up a full urine bottle and poured it out the window on top of them. This caused some problems. The date of our arrival in Gent was I think 24 June 40. The doctor on his rounds told me I must have a skin graft as my wound would not heal.

The doctor continuing his rounds examined "Lofty" our nick name for our guardsman and told him he had lost a testicle. He had a nasty wound. Later: I noticed Lofty was not his usual self so I asked him what was wrong. He told me that he was married just after the outbreak of the war, and was worried that he was not able to produce children. I suggested he asked the nurse, he replied that he was too embarrassed to ask. I volunteered to; he said no, I said yes. When next the nurse approached I mentioned Lofty's problem. She was an elderly lady, a motherly sort, very well educated and well liked. She smiled, and went over to Lofty and spoke to him. Suddenly I noticed a big grin spread over his face, he had heard what he wanted to hear. As I was wounded in the back, I had to lay on my front. The mattress was two or three inches thick and the bed had no springs so I always felt very uncomfortable. One day someone said there is a girl asking for you. I glanced towards the door and saw her standing there. She was pointed in my direction and walked over. A little embarrassed, she introduced herself as Suzanne Ramlot and because she could speak English had volunteered to visit wounded English POWs. I was completely taken aback and did not add much to the conversation (in fact I found out much later she didn't think much of me!) She persevered very well and as she was leaving, promised to come again. She did, and I was very pleased. I gave her my home address and asked if there was a way she could inform my parents but she must not get into trouble with the Germans. She managed it through the International Red Cross. My parents were very grateful. When my unit got back from Dunkirk, my father found out where they were and visited them. He asked my section Sgt if he had news of me. He replied that in one action, I and Cpl Austin went forward with the Bren gun and he never saw either of us after that. Later I was officially reported missing.

Lofty, I think, was eventually repatriated.

My Mother had given up hope (her diary). When, via Suzanne, the International Red Cross sent a letter informing them I was wounded and a POW. This came as a great relief, and after the war they invited her to Yatesley to thank her personally. Suzanne continued to visit me for the duration of my stay in hospital. She often brought some food, including rice paper and some of her father's socks and an old cardigan for which I was grateful; it lasted me a long time. We parted good friends and at her request I promised if I could I would to write to her. I did and she kept all the cards, I still have them. Much later, I learnt that Suzanne picked my name out of a hat. WELL!

One evening we were all in bed, when there was quite a commotion. The guards came rushing in and started to count the beds, I was included. Then those counted were ordered to get up and go down stairs, we were to be shot. The doctors were pleading with the guards, and the nurses crying. We got downstairs when something happened. We were halted, and then told to go back. I think it was the doctors that helped. We got back into bed without a word spoken, I did not sleep. Later from the grapevine it was rumored that a doctor was organising an escape route and some had got away. That had caused the trouble.

Having had my skin graft, skin taken from the lower part of my back. Having been moved twice to different wards I was being prepared to leave the hospital. A nurse very kindly took my battle dress home to wash and try to stitch up the hole in the back my jacket. I think the last time I saw Suzanne was when I was moved to a hut. The Germans were getting strict on visiting English POWs and she could not get into the hut. I went to the toilet and opened the window. I called her, she came to the outside of the window and we had our conversation there. Nobody wanted the toilet thank goodness as I was standing on the seat.
Those the Germans thought were ready for discharge were ordered to get ready. They loaded us into lorries and off we went, after a tearful farewell from the nurses. The date I think was 18 July 1940. We travelled some distance, before arriving at Liege. I remember only that we stopped at the town square for a break and I was interested in the town hall clock which was very old, it had figures moving when the clock rang. Later we moved on until eventually arrived at the German border. We were dumped in a disused brick works, not a very pleasant situation. How long we stayed there I do not know.

From then on we were herded into cattle trucks in which there was practically no room. Food, well the NAAFI wasn't available. We travelled long distances, often shunting into railway sidings for the night. Occasionally bombers came over as I think we were in an industrial area. We were locked in our cosy cattle trucks! How long this went on for I cannot recollect.

At last we arrived at Stalag VIA in Hemer; I was not impressed. There were thousands milling around, comprising Poles, French and British. Accommodation was disused or incomplete barracks, with no glass in the windows and very few amenities. We were allocated a room two flights up, it was bare and dirty. After rummaging around I found a paillaule and spent some time filling it with some unwholesome looking straw. On returning upstairs, I passed a guard half way up who gave those passing a push and shouting some unhelpful remarks. Most of the time I spent there was falling in for roll calls, which lasted for ages and then queuing up for hours to get some soup and a piece of bread. The French were always first, then us and the Poles. There were two very large portable soup kitchens, and as the queue went down, so did the soup. What did they do? Put a hose pipe in and topped up with water!

Stalag VIA was, I think, a staging camp. When and how long I was there I do not know. A letter I sent home was dated 12 Sept 1940. A lot of us were the dregs from the hospitals and were moved a lot. Guards as a whole were noisy and sometimes brutal. They could use their rifles for what they were not intended. It depended on the situation, and their superiors. You eventually found out just how far you could go! When it was time to move, we were marched to the railway station and packed into cattle trucks. Food depended on how far we were travelling. If only for one day, you usually had to wait until you arrived at your destination; otherwise we were shunted into a siding and given some form of soup and bread and probably stayed the night there. Room to sleep was a problem in cattle trucks, it was bad enough standing. I was registered and given a POW No 37597 on a dog tag worn around the neck.

Stalag 210 Strasbourg. We arrived by rail and marched under strong guard to the camp which was in an old disused French barracks, in a very bad state in all respects. Full of fleas and lice, Dysentery was always a problem in camp life but here it was very bad. I saw men lying down too weak to go on and relieve themselves and guards trying to force them to attend roll call. It was here I developed the habit with many others of stripping off and searching all the seams of my clothes for lice and cracking them between my thumb nails. This became a way of life for quite a while. In more frivolous times, we would have competitions to see who could get the most; it could get a 100 plus.

Daily, after roll call we were divided into work parties. My party was marched to the town Hall and detailed to various jobs. I was taken in a small truck, my guard was a large SS man, that scared me but he was alright with me. When we got back to the town hall he managed to get me a shower, and a bit of bread before the camp guards arrived to march us back to camp.

The job I had was robbing a Jew’s house. I saw some of the Jews; they were locked up in cells at the town hall. I was in the back of the truck which was driven by a French man, with the guard beside him. We arrived at a house, stopped and the driver got out went to the door and nailed a notice to it. People passing paused to hear. Our guards started to comment on the difference between the troops and us. Then we were ordered to sing and we refused, this irritated the guards. We were made to march back and forth over the
bridge, each time ordered to sing which we again refused. Finally they gave up, we were probably getting late for our work. The food the SS gave us was their previous days left over soup which was always very sour. Date from a letter 15 November 1940.

Our next move was to the Black Forest. I am in some doubt as to time and place. I thought the place was Freiburg but that was a city. I think we arrived there in our cattle trucks, and marched from there through forest, and climbing a bit for how long I don't know. Then the road changed into a track with deep ditches either side, probably for the melting snow. It was getting dark; I suddenly required to relieve myself and went to the side of the track, slacks nearly at the ready when I was knocked down on my back by a big Alsatian dog with its front paws on my chest. I froze, my bowels didn't! The fact that I remained still saved me; the dog handler came. I have since never been keen on Alsatians!

We arrived at a hutted military camp occupied by Alpine troops. Nearby were some more huts, they were for us and we were crowded in. The sleeping places were built two and three high so some had a good climb. It was winter, minus 30°C at times and our clothes were not up to it. The only place to wash was outside from a well-insulated tap in the middle of the square. In each hut was a stove but we were not given much fuel; all the inside bolt heads used in construction of the hut were covered in frost! We started to burn our bed boards. Facilities were practically non-existent. The only work I can remember doing, or trying to do, was digging ditches at the camp. The ground was frozen so hard we had difficulty in using our picks. If you touched any metal with your bare fingers, they stuck. I had no gloves, so used an old pair of socks. To supplement our rations we used to pinch old pieces of bread out of bins left for the dogs.

The one thing that sticks in my mind was the singing of the Alpine Troops returning from a route march. The air was so thin and clear we could hear them from miles away and gradually getting nearer. Some of the marching songs included yodelling, we were not too far away from the Alps.

Later, some of us were sent on a working party. We arrived to find a new camp all in one large single story wooden building, the amenities and food were good; the guards were SS. The work was laying large electric cables in trenches alongside the road, it was hard going.

At one time, we were to be inoculated by the SS doctor he was using an instrument with the needle at right angles which he flicked into your arm. The chap in front of me had an eagle tattooed right across his chest. The MO was amused when he saw the tattoo; he took aim, and struck at the head, laughing he shouted Hail Churchill as he struck, the chap was not amused. On completion of the job we left. Since Strasburg I was not given the opportunity to write home. So I have no evidence of dates or times.

Travelling in our usual style we arrived at Stalag VB Villingen in Germany, the only date I have is 2 February 1941. I have no recollection of this place and I do not think I stayed long. I sent my first card to Suzanne, dated 20 February 1941.

*Ken Morris* (34 Group)

Editors Note: Ken goes on to describe being repatriated and arriving in England on 26 May 1945 almost 5 years after being taken prisoner. Also in the story is the tale of how he met his late wife, Suzanne; they spent 56 years together.

The story, some 17 pages, will be available to read at the Heritage Trail at the reunion – please approach Malcolm Hay if you wish to see it. We will include more of the story next year space permitting.

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**Donation**

In May 2013, just too late to be included in the Echoes we received a letter with the sum of £150 from Mr Norman F Cawte (44 Group) who was then in his 90th year and not in the best of health (he was born in the year that the School opened!). He said that he joined BOBA in 2008 and wished that he had joined sooner. As he wasn’t sure if his subs were due he stated that £50 should go towards them with £50 for wine on the tables at the Reunion Dinner and the remaining £50 as a donation to the General Fund. He passed on his regards to the Association.

*We thank Norman for his kind and generous donation and wish him well; we will drink a toast to him at the Reunion Dinner.*
Mess Orderlies in 1942

Imagine a building built in the shape of an H because that was the shape of the old cookhouse at Beachley.

The two upright legs were the dining halls and the horizontal bar the kitchen and store area. There was also a room sticking out to the left of the horizontal bar which if my memory is correct was the dining room for permanent staff. I definitely remember that the ATS girls ate there. Incidentally does any one remember the Twins. Nicky and Vicky.

The two uprights were divided horizontally in line with the Kitchen area, making four separate dining areas, one for each Company. “A” Company were in the bottom of the left leg.

The area in the middle between the two dining areas of each leg was used as a serving area, the food being brought out of the kitchen and distributed from there.

The system in use in 1942 was archaic. In each dining area there were six foot tables arranged in rows at right angles to the walls with two tables in each row. This provided seating for twelve boys in each row, and left an aisle down the middle of each area.

The first Boys facing each other on the table and nearest to the aisle were from the most Junior Group and were the Mess Orderlies, the next two facing each other were from the “Draft” and then in descending order of Group sat the remainder of the boys with the most junior boys at the bottom of the table.

When the food was ready it was brought out to the serving area and the Cook Sgt would shout “Mess Orderlies.” This was the signal for the Mess Orderlies from each table to sprint up to the serving area and collect the food. I say sprint because the Draft Boys did not like to be kept waiting for their food, so the boys further away from the serving area did their best to get in front of boys from tables that were nearer.

The food was handed to them in large serving dishes each containing enough food for 12 boys. They brought it to the table where it was divided up into 12 portions by the Draft Boys. There was definitely a difference in the size of the portions received by the junior boys but no one dared complain.

Then the call came again for Mess Orderlies this time for the sweet; this usually came in one dish for 24 boys which we had to share with the boys on the table directly across the aisle. The dish was measured, usually with the blade of a knife, and duly cut into two portions. This involved the two Draft members from the other table coming over to our table and watching every move that was made. After it was cut the boys from the table that had not made the cut, had first choice of which portion they would take.

At some point the Orderly Officer would appear and standing at the serving area would shout out “Any Complaints”, this was the signal for those of us who were sensible to keep quiet, but occasionally there was a brave soul who said yes and doubled up to the Orderly Officer with the offending food. The Orderly Officer tasted the food and pronounced it perfectly edible. This was a dangerous procedure as you could be charged with “Making a Frivolous Complaint”.

The Mess Orderlies finished their duty by returning all the dishes to the serving area and tidying up the mess table area.

That then was the way we ate, at least until we became the Draft, but then they changed the system and a cafeteria style of food distribution was introduced.

The new system did not improve the food and the menu remained the same, but the meal we liked the best was on Fridays when we were given liver and onions and a square Lyons Fruit Pie with custard.

We were always hungry and one Friday “A” Company 42A decided to exploit the Cafeteria system by joining the end of the queue and having a second dinner. The Cook Sgt eventually realised what was happening and we all had to fall in outside the Dining Hall. It was considered to be sufficiently serious for the Adjutant to be sent for; he gave us a lecture on the seriousness of stealing food during War Time, but lost our attention when he said the food in the Officers Mess was exactly the same as ours. As no one knew who or how many boys had had a second meal nobody was punished.

John Eveleigh (42A A Coy)
Editor’s Hurrah

Since last year’s reunion life, for me, has been a roller coaster ride. In October I had a hip replaced and then at the beginning of this year I had a heart attack with pneumonia. Nothing unusual really if you consider that none of us are getting any younger! All this was greatly overshadowed by the death of my brother Ray (63C C Coy) on the 6th April. He was given a splendid send off with barely any standing room in the chapel.

I sincerely hope that you all have faired better since the reunion and that many of you will make this year’s bash. I am glad to say that the event gets better every year since being graced by the presence of the ladies.

You can now read the Beachley Echoes on our website, as a PDF copy emailed or as a hard copy. Obviously the latter is the most expensive which is why we have taken to emailing a copy to those who wish to have their own.

This year my Hurrah’s are:

- There is sufficient material to fill the newsletter—40 pages again this year!
- My hip is now pain free and I survived the heart attack.
- I will be able to parade at the Cenotaph this year.
- More of my Group have been in touch.
- The 63 intakes had a good reunion. (There is a photo of the 63C guys and the editor on page 19).

Unfortunately we don’t always get things right. In the 2007 edition of the Beachley Echoes Mr Dave Nicholson 54A was listed in the ‘In Memoriam’ section. We are pleased to announce that he is very much alive! Our apologies for the mistake.

My need for material to keep the pages full is relentless. As ever I must ask that any of you who have an anecdote or a tale to tell please put pen to paper or finger to keyboard; use snail mail or electronic pigeon to make me a happy chap!

That said may I thank all of those kind souls who have contributed to this years effort; without them there would be no Echoes.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in September; especially the 64 intakes.

Ken Reader (62C A Coy)

BOBA Website

Most of you reading this edition of the Echoes will be doing so on our website, however, we are aware that a minority are not aware that the site exists. The site be accessed through The Army Apprentice site which has a link to the BOBA site or directly (http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com).

HERITAGE

Some Recent Additions to the Archives.

1. 58B Reunion. At the 2013 Reunion I was given the folder presented to John Phillips by his Group in 2008 in recognition of his fantastic effort in tracing 116 members of 58B and getting 54 of them to attend their 50th Anniversary. The folder contains a page for each attendee with a potted history of their time at Chepstow and thereafter.

2. John Lockett No 32 Group (1933-36) Memoirs. Sent by his daughter in Canada. 5 Parts covering Chepstow, RE Trg Regt Chatham, First posting to 56 Fd Coy RE Bulford and Malta 1938-42. He had only just arrived at 56 Coy when they had a General’s inspection who when asking how long some had been at Bulford and getting replies like 17 Years or 16 years Sir! The General decided that a move was overdue and 2 days later the Coy was on embarkation leave! Malta here we come!

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of 64A, 64B and 64C can search their attics and albums for items and send them to me for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September.

Honours and Awards Book. We maintain a record of the Honours and Awards presented to ex-Beachley boys, GC, MM, OBE, MSM, MBE, BEM and MiD etc. It records the individual and his years of service at Beachley. Anyone having decorations please notify me with the details.

Missing Passing out Parade Programmes. Our earliest held programme is for 45B’s Passing Out where Field Marshall Montgomery was the Reviewing Officer. We are still looking for any programmes prior to 45B and for 47A, 48A – 49A, 51A, 52A, 59A – 62C, 63A, 64A - 67B, 68A, 69C, 70B - 81, 83 - 84 and 86-87. We are happy to copy any that you might have so that you can retain the original.

Missing Robots. We are missing the Spring 1977 issue, Summer 1979 issue, Summer 1980 issue and Spring 1981 issue. Any copies would be appreciated.

Malcolm (Hector) Hay (53A) Heritage Member. Contact: 01980 591132 or malcolm.hay148@ntlworld.com
## In Memoriam

REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2013 BEACHLEY ECHOES No. 19

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<td>Maj Peter Myatt AFM</td>
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<td>60C/61C C</td>
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<td>Chas Elford</td>
<td>43B D</td>
<td>23 Apr 12</td>
<td>R J (Ray) Reader</td>
<td>63C C</td>
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<td>1 Apr 13</td>
<td>Steve Sankey</td>
<td>56B D</td>
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<td>Capt W J (Paddy) Greer</td>
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<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Norman Strachan</td>
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<td>Maj George Waite</td>
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<td>Lt Col E G Wakeling</td>
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<td>Les Wardle</td>
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<td>Brian Wharton</td>
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<td>7 Apr 14</td>
<td>Stan Woodward</td>
<td>58B C</td>
<td>2 Feb 14</td>
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Rest in Peace

BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2013

On the 10th November 2012 those listed below assembled at Horse Guards Parade to march at Whitehall past the Cenotaph to remember and pay respect to our War dead. It is always an extremely moving event. Please consider joining us on November 9th 2014 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave everything for the future of others.

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<td>Mr Mac Obermaier</td>
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<td>Mr Derek Pomeroy</td>
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<td>Mr Richard Poole</td>
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<td>66C</td>
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<td>Mr Bob Reid</td>
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<td>Guest</td>
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<td>Mr Dave Smith</td>
<td>60C</td>
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<td>59A</td>
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<td>Mr Mike Stanford</td>
<td>REME</td>
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<td>Mr Chris Gould</td>
<td>71B</td>
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<td>Mr Dave Stone</td>
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<td>74C</td>
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<td>Mr Ken Stout</td>
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<td>Mr lan Harrower</td>
<td>RE</td>
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<td>Mr Maurice Taylor</td>
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<td>Maj Malcolm Hay</td>
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<td>Mr Tony Waite</td>
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<td>Mr Tony Ward</td>
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<td>Maj Dick Mullins</td>
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<td>Mr Chalkie White</td>
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<td>Mr Maurice Murtagh</td>
<td>43B</td>
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<td>Mr Dave Youdle</td>
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Memoirs

Maj J A Henderson

An obituary in the March 2014 Craftsman Magazine is for a Maj (Retd) JA Henderson REME who died on 23 Dec 2013 aged 96. The entry says he went to Chepstow from the Electric Light Company, it should have said the School of Electric Lighting (SEL). The SEL was a RE establishment at Fort Monckton, Gosport for training on Searchlights and on the closure of the School between Sept 1930 and Jan 1932 64 trainees were transferred to Chepstow to complete training. We have a separate Enlistment Record book for the SEL boys but they do not seem to be recorded against a Group. When they passed out 28 went to the RE and the rest to the RASC and the RAOC. Maj Henderson passed out in Sept 1934 to the RASC. On the outbreak of war he was sent to Malaya and taken prisoner in Singapore then became a Japanese POW working on the Burma Railway with Eric Lomax whose story as a Japanese POW was recently told in the film “The Railway Man”. He was liberated in 1945 and eventually transferred to the REME, was commissioned in 1957 and served mainly in the Far East finally retiring in 1972.

Malcolm Hay (53A A Coy)

Mr C. D. (Charley) Elford

I had known Charley Elford since October 1943, when we both joined up as Boy Soldier Apprentices at Beachley Camp. We were placed with ‘D’ Company, which administered Building Trades at the School. Charley was to be apprenticed in the trade of Bricklayer and Mason.

In his time at Chepstow Charley developed as a footballer and at one stage represented the School (no mean achievement in a school housing some 1000 -1500 boys, who relished sporting pastimes). Later in life he proved also to be a useful hockey player at regimental level.

Charley came onto Man Service with others of his Group at the end of 1946. Sapper Training followed, undertaken at 1 TBRE Malvern over the winter of 1946-47. That behind him, he and his group of ex boys moved on to Kitchener Barracks.

While at Chatham, volunteers were sought for Airborne Forces Service. Charley, with some 14 others from his Group, took a pace forward. During the summer of 1947, his group of ex boys proceeded to RE Pre Selection for Airborne Service, then located at Barton Stacey. That accomplished, they all moved to Aldershot for ‘P’ Coy initiation, followed afterwards to Upper Hayford for their parachuting training. Upon qualifying for his ‘Wings’ and beret, it was then a posting to 3rd Airborne Squadron, located at Buford Camp, Wiltshire which upon its move to BAOR in January 1948, eventually became 9th Independent Airborne Squadron, forming up in the town of Hameln.

Charley remained with 9 Sqn until it reached the Canal Zone in the autumn of 1951. By this point Charley had achieved selection for the Clerk of Works (Construction) course at RSME Chatham. He moved to Chatham in that year, but spent the next four years approximately, on the ‘B’ Squadron staff at the RSME in Brampton Barracks. However, in 1955 he and I started No. 113 Clerk of Works (Construction) course together, qualifying in 1956. I am unsure of his career movements after achieving clerk of Works status.

Upon retirement and in 1970’s, he suffered a serious collapse due to an aneurysm of the aorta. With the ministrations at St. Thomas’s Hospital he survived this set back. However, the extent of the operation he had undergone meant that the need for further surgery, when he was plagued with hernia problems in later years, could not be entertained. In recent years he has suffered poor health, which he had borne with great stoicism up to present days.

He greatly enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with other ex 9 Squadron friends at the Bournemouth AGM.

I last saw him when attending Col. O’Callaghan’s funeral at Leamington some years ago. Charley, on this occasion carried the British Legion Standard at the church service, a duty he executed impeccably.

Your pain is now over Charley - sleep well old friend. _______________________________ Ron Day (43B D Coy)

Mark Keary

Mark joined AAS Chepstow as a member of 60C and trained as a plant fitter. Later he served 2 sessions at Beachley, as an Instructor and Plant Foreman. He was Commissioned in the Royal Engineers and Served in UK, Germany, Aden, Kuwait and the Falklands.

He must be one of the longest serving members of HM Forces in that with Boys Service, Regular & TA Service, he completed 44 years from 1960 to 2004. He was taken seriously ill in 2006 but has fought his illness with courage and dignity, never letting it get him down. His funeral was a very moving tribute to a well respected gentleman. He will be sadly missed by 60C Group Members.

Tony Waite (60C)

(Editor’s note; the wreath shown on page 11 was laid on Mark’s coffin by members of 60C)
It is said that a 250,000 boy soldiers (i.e. under 18 years of age) lied about their age and joined the British Army and were sent to the front. Nearly half of them were killed or injured with one being shot for deserting.

**World War 1 Boy Soldiers**

**Darland Boys**

As well as the School of Electric Lighting there were another group of Sapper “refugees”, they were the Darland Boys. They were RE apprentices at Fort Darland, Chatham and were sent home, at short notice, on indefinite leave in May 1940 so that their barracks could be used by the troops returning from Dunkirk. They were even sent a letter suggesting they find suitable employment! They were recalled to report to Beachley between the end of 1940 and April 1941 to continue their training. One of the Ex Darland Boys is Paddy Mulholland who became a Glider Pilot in WW2.

**Malcolm Hay (53A A Coy)**

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**The Butler Brothers**

The last survivor of the four Butler Boys who attended the Army Apprentice College at Chepstow, Sydney Philip Butler, died on 14 August 2013. He was 92. The first Butler was my father John Joseph Butler who was in group 29B. Phil was next four years later, then two years after that, Jim and finally Pat. They all served in the Royal Engineers, Joe and Pat until they retired. Joe was an instructor at the RSME during WW2, Jim was with the first Chindits in Burma and then in Bomb Disposal, Phil was a POW having been captured with the Highland Brigade at St Valery.

At certain times they were all members of BOBA and their passing now ends an era.

**John Butler**

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**Maj Peter J Myatt AFM  19 Aug 31– 9 Mar 12**

**Darland Boys**

As well as the School of Electric Lighting there were another group of Sapper “refugees”, they were the Darland Boys. They were RE apprentices at Fort Darland, Chatham and were sent home, at short notice, on indefinite leave in May 1940 so that their barracks could be used by the troops returning from Dunkirk. They were even sent a letter suggesting they find suitable employment! They were recalled to report to Beachley between the end of 1940 and April 1941 to continue their training. One of the Ex Darland Boys is Paddy Mulholland who became a Glider Pilot in WW2.

**Malcolm Hay (53A A Coy)**

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**World War 1 Boy Soldiers**

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**Maj Peter J Myatt AFM  19 Aug 31– 9 Mar 12**
We met at last, that afternoon
Having journeyed without harm
‘Whizzy’s Boys’ reunion
Meeting at the farm
Talked a while to reminisce
Those days of long ago
With wives there, to remind them
They were boys ‘no more’
Passing little comments
You don’t look too bad
Perhaps a little stouter
Than when you were a lad
The wives must sit and listen!
To all this ‘Ex boy’ talk
‘Wondering’ should they leave us!
And all go for a walk
The Billets passed inspection
The farmhouse proved a ‘find’
That really please poor Mick and I
And eased our troubled mind
Next off to camp reception
To meet and recognise
By looking at ‘name stickers’
Not easy, on the eyes
Shaking hands with many
Whilst grasping for a name!
Wondering what his rank was
What was, his claim to fame!
The weekend passed so quickly
Church parade came last

Some wives, shed a tear!
As 42 marched past
The service was emotional
When ‘fallen’ names were read
Then the parting of the ways
A time we came to dread!
A fond embrace with feeling
Firm handshakes for the men
Vowing we will keep in touch
Until we meet again
We drove home to an empty house
To sadly reminisce
When in burst all the children
To give us both a kiss
"Questions"
What they think of Nanny!
Did she look ok?
Did they think that you looked fit!
Tell us, what they say!!
So it’s back to normal
The garden to inspect
Only when the ‘kids’ go home!
Will I find time to ‘reflect’.

Roll on next year!!

Jim Kingsbury MBE (42B B Coy)

Editors Note: This verse was penned by Jim after the 1990 reunion; sadly he passed away in 2011.

The BOBA Standard

Readers may like to know that, should the family wish it, the BOBA Standard can be present at the funeral of members who have passed on. This is of course subject to the availability of a standard bearer.

Please note that where we can assist a donation of £0.30 per mile may be requested to offset the standard bearer’s motor vehicle expenses, other than this their services are entirely free of charge.

Alternatively a BOBA flag can be sent directly to the nominated undertaker for use as a coffin drape. Please contact any committee member.

The BOBA standard can be seen on the left of this page; it was paraded at the opening of the Army Apprentice Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum by Major Derek Walker (55A).

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop me a line stating name, group and address. My contact details are on page 37.
Present:
Lt Col (Retd) S Thomas President
Maj (Retd) B Henderson Chairman
Mr T Waite Elected Vice President and Shop manager
Mr D Fox Membership Secretary
Maj (Retd) M Hay Heritage Member
Mr P Burridge Reunion Organizer
Mr C Ricketts Honorary Treasurer
Lt Col (Retd) K Reader Editor Beachley Echoes
Mr BA Obermaier Chepstow Liaison
Maj (Retd) DRO Walker Honorary Secretary

The meeting started at 1330hrs and 47 Members were Present.

Apologies: Gary White (Elected Vice President), John Bass, Col Alan Holman, Len Wilbey, Brian Jones, Gordon Hobbs, Brian Goll, Chris Blunden.

Item 1. Opening: The Chairman welcomed all members to the AGM, especially the new attendees. He then handed the meeting over to the President.

Item 2. Welcoming: The President welcomed all present and thanked those for their attendance at the 1 Rifles WO’s and Sjt’s Mess the previous evening which had been a great success. He was still concerned at the small number of members that attend the AGM, given the important and main decisions on behalf of BOBA members decided there. He was looking forward to the dinner and the ladies being in attendance, an aspect that has gone very well since its introduction.

Item 3. In Memoriam: A two minute silence was held for the members departed since the last Reunion and those serving in Afghanistan. A list of 12 names was read out of members and non-members, departed. This is appended at the rear.

Item 4. Minutes of AGM 2012: On the assumption that all had received a copy of the Beachley Echoes and all had read the 2012 AGM minutes. A vote was taken to confirm this reflected a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed: R Armstrong 55A.
Seconded: R Marie 49A.
Agreed: Unanimously.

Item 5. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from last year’s AGM Minutes.
Item 6. Executive Committee Reports:

a. Chairman (BH): Introduced the Committee Members to the attendees and outlined their responsibilities and functions within the committee. Their efforts will continue throughout the coming year. No major changes have occurred. The Membership Secretary will say further later. (After note: Two gracious donations were received from Bill Miles (deceased) 39 Gp and Norman Gawte 49 Gp now nearing his nineties who recently renewed his membership).

(Note: The President (ST) praised the Committee for their work, which was greeted with a round of applause from the floor).

b. Treasurer (CR): A successful Annual Audit by the RAO, at R Mon RE (M), was completed with no adverse comments. This year’s Beachley Echoes gave the Association account breakdown, anticipating a minimal reunion shortfall otherwise, overall, funds increased. This year a Reunion shortfall is also anticipated due to a general increase in prices and costs, however standards have been maintained, and given the expense, the ability to afford it. Our gilt Investment of £15K has been renewed for a further 4 years at an 8.5% FIR, realizing approximately £1030.88 pa. A further £6K was transferred to the Monmouthshire Building Society Account, making this account total £17K. This year we have had £261 in interest. Sadly, they are to reduce their interest by 0.5% from 1st Oct, similar to most major institutions. The Current Account contains £9K, subject to bill payment.

For reference the committee has voluntary introduced a donation scheme to return part of their entitled expenses to Association funds when and if they so wish to do so. The welfare fund remains in good order and has not been called upon this year. A possible drop in membership is anticipated due to the one-off £50, 5 year period Standing Order payments, ceasing. However membership shows a gradual increase in income and we remain in a healthy financial position, quite able to cover expenditures for another year, so subscriptions will remain the same. No questions from the floor on financial matters arose. A vote confirming the true reflection of the BOBA Fund was taken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposer</th>
<th>Seconded</th>
<th>Agreed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D Chapman 60C</td>
<td>S Noudhouse 56B</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No questions from the floor on financial matters arose. A vote confirming the true reflection of the BOBA Fund was taken.

c. Membership (DF): 15 new members (listed at the rear) have joined since the last reunion. Thank you to the Hon Treasurer for phoning a sample list of lapsed members on my behalf, his labours were not in vain. Buoyed by this I pitched in myself in the early New Year. To cut a long story short, the first two members I phoned had passed away several years ago, causing me to apologise most profusely to their widows (who were very upset) and give comfort where I could. I ceased this practice and have since utilized e-mail from the database in conjunction with the payment spreadsheet to contact lapsed members or by a carefully drafted, inoffensive letter reminding them that their subs have lapsed and the Association wished them to remain as members, but would understand if they did not. We have 300 lapsed members so you can appreciate there is some distance to go. Results are patchy but the trend seems to be to ignore my e-mails as they did my letters, however there have been sufficient re-jokers to make it worthwhile to carry on. We have at this time 426 paid up members of the Association. In respect of a database, I now share the Treasurer’s Payment database, thus avoiding duplication. The number of not paid up members prior to and including 2013 is 339, this figure will almost certainly rise during 2014. In the past where a member has returned to the Association he was asked to pay any arrears (rule 6a refers). The Chairman has now advised that this may be waived for returning members (although a number still do). The 3 year rule distorts the true membership so I think we would be better advised to maintain our database at the paid up member level. Next year is the 50th Anniversary of 64 Groups, should any assistance be required without falling foul of the data protection act, please contact me on (Tel: 01760 338483). The Reunion activities are confined to ‘BOBA Members only – so join up! (e-mail – memsec.boba@homecall.co.uk ).

d. Heritage (MH): Personal and family events have created my absence from the home phone recently. But talking with Dave Chapman he has updated me on the AANM situation, more later in the meeting. I have received a list of 58B group attendees at their anniversary and this will be displayed on the BOBA notice board after this meeting. Digitization is ceasing, being too costly to pursue. Ken Reader is scanning all the old ROBOTs which will be useful in answering any historical questions in the future and will become part of the BOBA website. The Chepstow Museum/College project, continues and is closer to completion as is the RE Museum one, which is ‘mentor’ led. Once again many thanks to my helpers for setting up this morning, Ken Stout, Mac Obermaier and Pete Gilbey.

e. Beachley Echoes (KR): Electronic availability of BEs appears to be working, although 100 hard copies are still requested. Some members are still baffled between the two due to lack of knowledge of the changeover. A further check through e-mail addresses should rectify this situation. Individual *.pdf copies can be sent to members if so requested. In respect of further printing of hard copies, I will approach ‘mimeo’ once more. CD’s of Robots for each group are available for £5 each, which cover a three year intake period, and a bonus of the first 9 issues from 1924, very good value for money. Please let me have any stories or material that you have about
your exploits at Beachley or service abroad for BE inclusion. Thank you.

**Item 7. Election of Chairman (ST):** Maj (Retd) Brian Henderson’s 3 years are up so he is due re-election. Having served for 9 years he is willing to continue as Chairman. There were no other nominees. Re-election was:

- **Proposed by:** J Smith 44A
- **Seconded by:** R Armstrong 55A.
- **Agreed:** Unanimously.

**Item 8. Election of the Committee (and Vice Presidents) (BH):** The present Committee Members and Elected Vice Presidents wished to continue in their posts. There is a vacant VP post but due to Rule Book revision pending, this will remain so until next year. There were no new nominees, it was proposed therefore to re-elect all members ‘en-block’.

- **Proposed by:** C Bridgeman 66C
- **Seconded by:** R Marie 46A
- **Agreed:** Unanimously

**Item 9. Army Apprentice National Memorial (BH):** Maj (Retd) Chapman. By now all will have seen the various articles and photographs of the AANM. Dedication in 2011 was attended by over 500 people. In May 2012 a Roll of Honour was interred attended by a similar number. All this was possible by £60K worth of donations and the sale of 570 personal tablets. Maintenance and insurance in perpetuity, is costed at a further £40K, overall £100K. The Fund now stands at £507. The trustees, who take no expenses, at an AGM last May decided to retain the Fund and ask members to donate annually towards minor running costs (e.g. website). Therefore a proposal ‘for the annual sum of £50 be donated to the fund by the BOBA membership’ was:

- **Proposed by:** J Stokes 42A
- **Seconded by:** M Murtagh 43B
- **Agreed:** Unanimously

N.B. The date of the next AANM AGM has been set for Saturday 10th May 2014, this will be followed later in the day by a social evening, including dinner. On the following day a ‘drum head’ service will be held at the memorial. All members are cordially invited to attend. Full details will appear in the next issue of Beachley Echoes, our website and the AANM website.

**Item 10. The Cenotaph Parade (ST):** Last year was excellent with a very good turnout. I must apologise for any correspondence problems you may have encountered, but all the names along with the list disappeared when I pressed ‘save’ on my PC and lost it all in the ‘ether’. There is proforma on the BOBA notice board to which you should append your name after this meeting if you wish to attend this year’s parade.

(The Chairman requested a vote of thanks for the President for his previous and current endeavors for this event. There was applause from the attendees).

**Item 11. Any Other Business:**

a. Declan Hall 54A: A vote of thanks to Maj Hay for the excellent display laid on. It was a pity that Mick Delf, Colin Weir and Jock Condie were not about to thank them too!

b. Pete Gilbey 53B: Can Pete Johnson be included in the list of the deceased. (Note: Done.) Also a vote of thanks to the Committee.

c. Ron Marie 46A: With many army establishments closing, may the committee consider how the BOBA assets/memorabilia will be disposed of. First the arboretum and monument, any monies left over can be assigned to the Trust. Most of the memorabilia is bulky but not digitalized. The War Office always required a copy of the ROBOT each year, but now ceased. Do we still wish all our records to go to A R Office Kew?

Ans: BH Yes we will take this on in committee. A ‘Chart and Policy Statement’ will be produced and updated annually as required. I will speak to national Archives, Kew and the Imperial War Museum.

d. John Phillips: May the election/status of Vice Presidents be looked at by the committee

Ans: BH. Yes.

e. Joe Azgripi P Staff: Can we ensure that the BOBA reunion does not clash with the REA weekend at Chatham?

Ans: BH. The BOBA reunion (3rd w/end of Sept) has not clashed with the Corps Memorial Weekend (2nd w/end of Sept) for some years, but we always keep it in mind. (Floor comment: RE weekends at Chatham, not many veterans turn up, just service personnel. Nothing is laid on.)

Ans: BH. We will look into it but meanwhile members will have to use the current ‘guest book’.

g. G Murphy 59A: Thank you to the committee for organizing the hotel at Magor.

h. The Chairman asked those present if they were happy attending the functions at the Race course. Answer Yes.

i. The Treasurer advised the members that hotel costs at the Two Rivers and Hampton may rise next year to £69.99/£79.99.

**Item 12. Date of Next Reunion:** The next reunion weekend will be the 19 - 21 Sep 2014, and the AGM the 20 Sep 14. The meeting closed at 1450hrs.

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**In Memoriam**

*Lest we forget*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Group/Coy</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Eddy</td>
<td>42A D</td>
<td>14/12/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>440</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Chas</td>
<td>43B D</td>
<td>N/K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1264</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>46A/B B</td>
<td>N/K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1184</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>58A B/C</td>
<td>N/K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Maj(Retd)</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>47A C</td>
<td>25/08/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>282</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Phil</td>
<td>36 Gp C</td>
<td>14/08/13***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Steve</td>
<td>72C A</td>
<td>01/04/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54A</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Les</td>
<td>54A C</td>
<td>18/07/91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53A</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Bill (Ginge)</td>
<td>53A D</td>
<td>14/06/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53A</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>47B A</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53B</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>53B A</td>
<td>N/K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>29 Gp D</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55B</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Pete</td>
<td>55B N/K</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**May they rest in peace.**

***One of the four brothers enlisted into Beachley. He is the last to depart.

**New Members.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Mr.</th>
<th>Brian</th>
<th>B D Davis</th>
<th>58B C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1332</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Fred</td>
<td>R F G Clark</td>
<td>62B A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1333</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>J A Parsonage</td>
<td>49A/B/A/C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1334</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Paul</td>
<td>P H Clinton/Daft</td>
<td>72C B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1335</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>P R Crockford</td>
<td>59C B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1336</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Doug</td>
<td>D Mullins</td>
<td>52B C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1337</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Harry</td>
<td>H O’Neill</td>
<td>57B B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1338</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Pete</td>
<td>P J White</td>
<td>63C C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1339</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>John</td>
<td>J S Cook</td>
<td>63C C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1340</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Mike</td>
<td>M J Powell</td>
<td>53A C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1341</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Colin</td>
<td>C C Riding</td>
<td>70B B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1342</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Ray</td>
<td>R J Weaver</td>
<td>63C C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1343</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Derek</td>
<td>D P Chandler</td>
<td>71C C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1344</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Bob</td>
<td>R W Herbert</td>
<td>58B/59A C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1345</td>
<td>Mr.</td>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>M W Earley</td>
<td>58B A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BOBA Reunion 2014 – General Arrangements

We have again managed to obtain accommodation at the Hampton by Hilton Hotel, near Magor. The cost per room per night is slightly higher than last year. Accommodation at the Two Rivers Hotel is limited and it is a case of ‘first come first served’. If requesting accommodation at the Two Rivers Hotel please state whether you are prepared to accept alternative accommodation at the Hampton Hotel. Again, on the Saturday we will be based at Chepstow Racecourse, this includes the Heritage Trail, the Annual General Meeting and the Reunion Dinner. As in 2013 the reunion dinner (Dress: Jacket & tie) will be mixed and the cost remains the same. The Friday evening ‘Get Together’ will be held in the WO’s and Sjt’s Mess at Beachley (Dress: Smart casual). We trust you will find all the facilities to your liking.

The Hampton Hotel is about 9 miles from Chepstow, therefore we have laid on return transport for both the Friday and Saturday evenings (including pickup and setting down at Tesco and the Two Rivers Hotel) to enable those requiring it to enjoy the festivities without jeopardising their driving licences. You will see from the reunion application form that hotel and transport packages are very attractive but please note that, in order to obtain BOBA concessions, applications must be made through our organiser in the usual manner.

That apart folks, it is almost business as usual. By this we mean that it would be of real benefit to the committee if your reunion applications were made early this year to give us an indication of how many will attend. The catering will not be an issue but extra transport might be and there is also a need to advise the hotel if we need a larger allocation of rooms. Neither element is going to be best served by last minute requests so please help us to assist you!

Points to Note:

Application  Apply early and send a stamped, self addressed envelope with the correct postage please. Attention! There will be no reception desk open on the Friday for the collection of tickets so if you intend to join us in the mess at Beachley that evening please get them posted to your contact address. (The reception desk will be open as usual on Saturday.)

Caravans  Parking is available at the racecourse for caravans and motorhomes, however services are limited in terms of electrical hook ups and you may be required to share. There is a water supply and separate toilets and showers are available in the ‘Hostel’. Access to the racecourse can be made via the Lion Gate or one of the other entrances off the St Arvan’s road. There will be signposts to guide motorists on site.

Those leaving on the Sunday are requested to do so by 2pm, this coincides with the closing time of the market. The Racecourse has offered to extend the booking period to include Sunday night, those leaving on Monday are requested to do so by midday.

Coaches  Departure times are printed clearly on the Reunion Programme and the Coach tickets. You are requested to ensure that those involved board coaches on time. This does mean leaving the Racecourse for your return trip before the bar closes (no time for last orders). However the Hampton Hotel has promised to keep their bar open for those liking a nightcap or three to welcome you back.

Taxis  If you have the misfortune to miss the coach a taxi to the Hampton Hotel will cost approximately £25.00. However we would not be surprised to see fares increase in line with fuel premiums by September.
**THE 2014 BOBA REUNION PROGRAMME**

**FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER**

**DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – PARK COURSE**
- Golf Practice
  - Time: 13.00

**BEACHLEY BARRACKS**
- Coach/Coaches leave the Hampton Hotel for Beachley Barracks calling at Tesco & The Two Rivers Hotel
  - Time: 18.30
- Entrance to Beachley Barracks is via the Main Gate (Holders of tickets to ‘Friday Get Together’ only)
  - Time: 19.00 onwards

**WO’s & Sjt’s Mess, 1st Rifles**
- BOBA ‘Get Together’
  - Time: 19.00 to 23.59
- Buffet Supper (Curry + trimmings or lasagne)
  - Time: 20.30 to 21.30
- Coach/Coaches leave Beachley Barracks for The Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco & The Two Rivers Hotel
  - Time: 23.59

**SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER**

**DEWSTOW GOLF CLUB – PARK COURSE**
- The BOB’s Golf Competition
  - Time: 08.15

**CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE**
- The President’s Reception and Golf Prize Giving
  - Time: 18.30 to 19.30

**THE PREMIER FOYER**
- Members Reception Desk (Closed during AGM)
  - Time: 09.30 to 15.30

**THE PREMIER BAR**
- Bar open for tea/coffee/alcohol and light lunches until demand ceases
  - Time: 09.30 onwards
- Annual General Meeting
  - Time: 13.30
- Coach/Coaches leave The Hampton Hotel for the Racecourse calling at Tesco & The Two Rivers Hotel
  - Time: 18.00

**THE PREMIER FOYER**
- Members Reception Desk
  - Time: 18.30 to 19.00

**THE PREMIER BAR**
- The President’s Reception and Golf Prize Giving
  - Time: 18.30 to 19.30

**THE SILKS RESTAURANT**
- BOBA Reunion Dinner
  - Time: 19.30
- After Dinner Dance
  - Time: 21.30 to 23.59
- Coach/Coaches leave the Racecourse for The Hampton Hotel calling at Tesco & The Two Rivers Hotel
  - Time: 00.15 Sunday
- Bar closes
  - Time: 01.00 Sunday

**SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER**

**BEACHLEY BARRACKS**
- Entrance to Beachley Barracks is via the Old Beachley Gate and is restricted to the holders of a Gate Pass
  - Time: 10.00 onwards

**PARADE SQUARE**
- ‘Get on Parade’
  - Time: 10.30

**ST. GEORGE’S CHAPEL**
- Founders Day Church Service
  - Time: 11.00
THE BOBA REUNION 2014
19th to 21st September

TICKET APPLICATION FORM

NAME: ………………………… GROUP: …… COY: …… MEMBERSHIP NO: ……
ADDRESS: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………… POST CODE:…………………………
TELEPHONE: ………………… EMAIL: ……………………………………… DATE: ……………………………

The names(s) of any family and/or guests should be included in this Application
A. …………… B. …………………………… C. ……………

TICKETS REQUIRED

1. FRIDAY ‘GET TOGETHER’ (Buffet & Dance) Tickets @ £14.00 No…. Cost £………
2. FRIDAY ‘GET TOGETHER’ (Dance only) Tickets @ £5.00 No…. Cost £………
3. SATURDAY REUNION DINNER (Dinner & Dance) Tickets @ £34.00 No…. Cost £………
4. SATURDAY REUNION (Dance only after 21.30hrs) Tickets @ £5.00 No…. Cost £………

5. ACCOMMODATION (B & B) AT THE HAMPTON HOTEL
(The price is the same for either double or single occupancy)
TWO NIGHTS FRIDAY & SATURDAY Tickets @ £120.00 No… Cost £………
ONE NIGHT SATURDAY Tickets @ £60.00 No… Cost £………

6. ACCOMMODATION (B & B) AT THE TWO RIVERS HOTEL
(The price is the same for either double or single occupancy)
TWO NIGHTS FRIDAY & SATURDAY Tickets @ £120.00 No… Cost £………
ONE NIGHT SATURDAY Tickets @ £60.00 No… Cost £………

7. COACH - FRIDAY
HAMPTON HOTEL TO BEACHLEY (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………
TESCO CHEPSTOW TO BEACHLEY (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………
TWO RIVERS HOTEL TO BEACHLEY (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………

8. COACH - SATURDAY
HAMPTON HOTEL TO RACECOURSE (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………
TESCO CHEPSTOW TO RACECOURSE (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………
TWO RIVERS HOTEL TO RACECOURSE (Return) Per seat @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………

9. CARAVAN PARK (CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE) Per night @ £7.50 No…. Cost £………

10. NAME BADGE HOLDER Each @ £1.50 No…. Cost £………

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (NON REFUNDABLE) TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF £………
CHEQUES SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE “BEACHLEY OLD BOYS’ ASSOCIATION”
Continued overleaf …………
11. ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (e.g. DIETRY, DISABLED)

……………………………………………………………………………………

12. SEATING ARRANGEMENTS – THE REUNION DINNER

SEATING AT THE DINNER IS MIXED, THE TABLES WILL SEAT UP TO EIGHT (8) PERSONS AND CAN BE ARRANGED BY GROUPS. SHOULD YOU (AND YOUR PARTNER/GUESTS) WISH TO BE SEATED WITH FRIENDS PLEASE INDICATE BELOW:

NAME: ………………………..  GROUP: …………..

13. ENTRY TO BEACHLEY BARRACKS IS RESTRICTED:

A. ACCESS ON FRIDAY 19TH SEPT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE HOLDERS OF ‘GET TOGETHER’ TICKETS (BUFFET & DANCE OR DANCE ONLY).

B. ACCESS ON SUNDAY 21ST SEPT WILL BE RESTRICTED TO THE HOLDERS OF A GATE PASS.

C. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU REQUIRE A GATE PASS TO ATTEND THE CHURCH PARADE ON SUNDAY 21ST SEPT.

YES / NO

PLEASE ENTER YOUR REQUIREMENTS ON THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW TOGETHER WITH YOUR PAYMENT AND ALSO INCLUDE A C5 OR C6 STAMPED AND ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR YOUR TICKETS

MR PETER BURRIDGE
4 SOUTHBROOK, 1 HERON CLOSE, PRESTON,
WEYMOUTH, DORSET DT3 6SX
Tel: 01305 835989  E-Mail: boba.2014@btinternet.com

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE RECEIPT OF TICKET APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST 2014

IMPORTANT

The attendance at any of this year’s Reunion events, and consequently the use of this Application Form, is restricted to paid-up Members of BOBA (with their families and guests) together with the widows of Past-Members (also with their families and guests).

Should you not be a Member of BOBA and wish to join, or re-join, or have any doubts about your subscription status please contact the Membership Secretary – Telephone  01760 338483
CHEPSTOW & AREA ACCOMMODATION LIST: APRIL 2013

The accommodation published has not been checked for quality ~ These entries may be changed without notice ~ All Locations are in, or within, a twelve miles radius of Chepstow ~ Please check prices before booking, some are expensive. ~ Any marked * after the telephone number have not confirmed availability ~ **Bold entries are new** ~ SC = Self Catering.

### Hotels ~ Chepstow & Area:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willowbrook Guest House</td>
<td>Pwllmeric, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 645951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Marriott Hotel (St. Pierre ~ Golf)</td>
<td>Pwllmeric, Nr Chepstow (Note: Expensive)</td>
<td>(01291) 625261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaufort Hotel</td>
<td>Beaufort Square, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 622497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castle View Hotel</td>
<td>Bridge Street, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 620349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The George Hotel</td>
<td>Moore Street, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 625363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Huntsman Hotel</td>
<td>Usk Road, Shirenewton, Nr. Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 641521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampton by Hilton</td>
<td>Newport Road, Magor</td>
<td>(01633) 749999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Inns, Pubs etc ~ Chepstow & Area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Two Rivers</td>
<td>Newport Road, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 629159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach &amp; Horses</td>
<td>Welsh Street, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 622626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coach &amp; Horses</td>
<td>Caerwent, Nr Caldicot</td>
<td>(01291) 420352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The First Hurdle</td>
<td>9/10 Upper Church St., Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 62189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knovil House</td>
<td>Mathern</td>
<td>(01291) 627191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Ferry Inn (Linda &amp; Murray)</td>
<td>Beachley, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 622474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wheatsheaf Inn</td>
<td>The Square, Magor</td>
<td>(01633) 880608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Old Barn</td>
<td>Llanmartin</td>
<td>(01633) 413382</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Guest Houses etc ~ Chepstow & Area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Court Farm, (Mrs. Anstey)</td>
<td>Rogiet, Nr Caldicot</td>
<td>(01633) 880232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkfield</td>
<td>St Arvans</td>
<td>(01291) 621860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cwrt Robert (Mrs Paxton)</td>
<td>Bryn Gwyn, Raglan</td>
<td>(01291) 690709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalpits Farm</td>
<td>Shirenewton, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 641820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private House (Mrs Park)</td>
<td>Redwick, Magor</td>
<td>(01633) 880230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private House (Mrs Brown)</td>
<td>6 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, (Prefers doubles)</td>
<td>(01291) 620283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private House (Josie or Pete Warren)</td>
<td>1 Town Gate Mews, Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 626643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private House (Jan Howells)</td>
<td>45 Bridge Street</td>
<td>(01291) 627191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Guest Houses ~ East of Chepstow (Glos):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Orchard Farm</td>
<td>Newland, Nr Coleford</td>
<td>(01594) 832212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanfield</td>
<td>Folly Road, Parkend, Nr Lydney</td>
<td>0845 347 0029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolaston Inn (run by ex Gurkhas)</td>
<td>Woolaston, Lydney (West of)</td>
<td>(01594) 562256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The White House</td>
<td>2 South Road, Broadwell, Coleford</td>
<td>(01594) 837069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berry Hill House</td>
<td>44 Park Road, Berry Hill, Coleford</td>
<td>(01594) 832325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Guest Houses ~ Caldicot, Monmouthshire:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Lychgate (Glynis &amp; Gordon Casey)</td>
<td>47 Church Road, Caldicot</td>
<td>(01291) 422378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivy Lodge Guest House</td>
<td>Chepstow Road, Caldicot</td>
<td>(01291) 421504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklands Motel</td>
<td>Pill Row, Caldicot</td>
<td>(01291) 430500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hotel Guest Houses ~ East of Chepstow (Glos):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Millingbrook Lodge</td>
<td>High Street, Aylburton, Nr Lydney</td>
<td>(01594) 845522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Willows</td>
<td>East of Lydney (on A48 1 mile past on right)</td>
<td>(01594) 843795*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakfields</td>
<td>Nr Woolaston, (between Sedbury &amp; Aylburton)</td>
<td>(01291) 689776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Hotels & Inns ~ Wye Valley & Tidenham Chase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parva Farmhouse Riverside Guesthouse</td>
<td>Tintern, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 689411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Crown</td>
<td>Whitebrook, Nr Monmouth</td>
<td>(01600) 860 254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal George</td>
<td>Tintern, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 689205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wye Valley Hotel</td>
<td>Tintern, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 689441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bush Inn B&amp;B</td>
<td>Penault, Nr Tintern, Monmouth</td>
<td>(01600) 772765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Florence Country House Hotel</td>
<td>Nr Monmouth, Lower Wye Valley</td>
<td>(01594) 530830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The George Inn</td>
<td>St. Bravels, Tidenham Chase</td>
<td>(01594) 530288*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tudor Farmhouse Hotel</td>
<td>Clearwell, Nr Coleford</td>
<td>(01594) 833046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bell Hotel</td>
<td>Lords Hill, Coleford</td>
<td>(01594) 832583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Sloop Inn</td>
<td>Llandogo, Wye Valley</td>
<td>(01594) 530291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Guest Houses ~ Wye Valley & Tidenham Chase:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cypress Rise (Mrs Alvis)</td>
<td>Llandogo, Wye Valley</td>
<td>(01594) 530651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Cottage</td>
<td>St. Braivels (GL15 6RR)</td>
<td>(01594) 530566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offa’s Mead (Mrs Lacey)</td>
<td>The Fence, St. Braivels</td>
<td>(01594) 530229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lugano, (Mrs. Townsend)</td>
<td>Llandogo, Wye Valley</td>
<td>(01594) 530496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tintern Old Rectory</td>
<td>Tintern, Nr Chepstow</td>
<td>(01291) 689920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B&B Guest Houses - South & East of the Severn (Glos):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbots Way Guesthouse</td>
<td>Gloucester Road (A38), Almondsbury</td>
<td>(01454) 613134*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Lodge (Aust Servises)</td>
<td>(Special rates occasionally – Phone 08700 850950)</td>
<td>(01454) 633199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Editor’s note:** My sincere thanks to Mac Obermaier for carrying out a comprehensive review of the accommodation list. Obviously things may change by the time you try to book—quite a number of establishments have ceased trading since the last review.

The Hampton by Hilton Hotel is off J23a of the M4 on the B4245 Magor Road. On leaving the M4 by the 1st exit, take the 1st left leading to a roundabout, go left to pass under a bridge. The hotel is soon signposted on your right. Tel. No 01633 749999. Postcode NP26 3DG. Website [http://www.hiltonhotelfinder.co.uk/magor-hilton-hotels](http://www.hiltonhotelfinder.co.uk/magor-hilton-hotels)

The Racecourse is sited on the A466. There is an icon (jockey on racing horse) below the word “Woodcroft” giving the location. The Lion Gate entrance is on the roundabout where this road crosses the B4293. Tel. No. 01291 622260. Postcode NP16 6BE. Website [http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk)
### BEACHELLY OLD BOYS’ ASSOCIATION

**BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Previous Period Figures</th>
<th>Current Period Figures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Hand</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Bank</td>
<td>£10,991.71</td>
<td>£9,811.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cash</td>
<td>£10,991.71</td>
<td>£9,811.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouthshire Building Society</td>
<td>£11,405.59</td>
<td>£17,667.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Debtors</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liquid Assets</td>
<td>£22,397.30</td>
<td>£27,478.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHOP STOCK</strong></td>
<td>£2,729.16</td>
<td>£2,263.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBA/AAS Regalia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
<td>£25,126.46</td>
<td>£29,742.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOBA Golf Fund</td>
<td>£185.11</td>
<td>£100.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benevolent Fund</td>
<td>£626.90</td>
<td>£426.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>£812.01</td>
<td>£527.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FIXED ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Property</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
<td>£0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>£15,000.00</td>
<td>£15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL PURPOSES FUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as per last Balance sheet</td>
<td>£36,227.02</td>
<td>£39,553.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add surplus of Income</td>
<td>£3,326.42</td>
<td>£4,661.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtract deficit of Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated General Purposes Fund</td>
<td>£39,553.44</td>
<td>£44,215.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Working Capital**

£24,314.45

being Current Assets minus Liabilities

£29,215.13

**Treasurer:**

Name: C Ricketts

Signed: Date:
If you have any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary, Derek Walker, know as soon as possible. Derek’s contact details are given at the head of the minutes on page 15.

NOTES:

Subscriptions:
Whilst income from Subs has fallen there are still many who pay 5 years fees at once.

Echoes:
The Echoes continues to be our most expensive item but the introduction of "on-line" availability should help.

Printing & Postage:
The cost of printing dropped significantly this year as we sent the Echoes to fewer but released it ‘on-line’.

Committee Expenses:
Once again your Committee have been mindful of costs and have been diligent in saving wherever possible.

Donations:
There was a single donation from the ABF (The Soldiers Charity).

Building Society Account:
The Building Society Account has allowed us to receive a better return for our investment this year.

Shop:
The Shop continues to show a reasonable return and now has an increased range and additional stock.

Golf Society:
The Society continues to flourish and remains fully self funding.

Investment Account:
This investment has now been renewed for a fixed term and will give a modest increase in the interest rate.

Additional Income:
Our Heritage Member and the Echoes Editor have successfully launched a new venture to encourage CD sales.

Account Audit:
Last year the accounts were audited by the RAO, R Mon RE(M), and found to be in good order.

C. C. Ricketts
Hon Treasurer BOBA
**BOBA Membership Secretary’s Report**

**Membership / New Members:**

There have been 15 new members join since the last reunion (2013).

I would like to thank the Hon. Treasurer for phoning a sample quantity of lapsed members; his labours were not completely in vain.

Buoyed by the partial success of the Hon. Treasurer I thought I would pitch in. Early in the New Year I sat down phone in hand and started dialing. To cut a long story short the first two members I phoned had passed away several years ago. I then spent most of the evening apologizing to the widows (both of whom were very upset), and giving what comfort I could. This start to the exercise really demoralized me and I stopped.

Since then I have been utilizing my Email Database in conjunction with the Hon. Treasurer’s Membership Payment Spreadsheet to contact Lapsed Members. I carefully drafted an in-offensive letter reminding members that their Subs had lapsed adding that it was the wish of the Association that they remained members but would understand if they did not. Bearing in mind that there is in excess of 300 Lapsed Members you will appreciate that I have some distance to go. So far results are patchy but the trend of members seems to be to ignore my emails as they did my letters. There have however been sufficient re-joiners to make it worth my while carrying on.

We have at the time of writing this report 426 paid members.

**Update to the above.**

As of 1st April I am well into emailing Lapsed members, the very great majority have as usual, ignored me. I see no reason to carry on, but having told the members attending the AGM I would email all lapsed members I will do as promised.

**New Members**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>MR.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1331</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>B D Brian</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>58B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1332</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>RFG Fred</td>
<td>Clark</td>
<td>62B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1333</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>J A Jim</td>
<td>Parsonage</td>
<td>49A/B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1334</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>P H Paul</td>
<td>Clinton / Daft</td>
<td>72C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1335</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>P R Peter</td>
<td>Crockford</td>
<td>59C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1336</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>D Doug</td>
<td>Mullins</td>
<td>52B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1337</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>H Harry</td>
<td>O'Neill</td>
<td>57B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1338</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>P J Pete</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>63C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1339</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>J S John</td>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>63C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1340</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>M J Mike</td>
<td>Powell</td>
<td>53A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1341</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>C C Colin</td>
<td>Riding</td>
<td>70B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1342</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>R J Ray</td>
<td>Weaver</td>
<td>63C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1343</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>D P Derek</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>71C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1344</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>RW Bob</td>
<td>Herbert</td>
<td>58B/59A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1345</td>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>M W Michael</td>
<td>Earley</td>
<td>58B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Membership Database**

I am now sharing the Treasurers Database for membership payments, thus avoiding doubling up on information. The number of members that have not paid prior to and including 2013 is 339 (this figure will almost certainly rise after April 1st 2014).

I think we would be better advised to maintain our database at the paid up member level. The 3 year rule distorts the true state of the membership. In the past where a member has returned to the Association he was asked to pay subs that were in arrears. On advice from the Chairman, returning members have not in fact been asked for back subs although some, to their credit have paid them.

**1964 Groups ~ 50th Anniversary**

This year sees the golden anniversary of the 1964 groups of Beachley Boys. If I can assist those organizing the reunion (without falling foul of the Data Protection Act) just let me know. Any non-members thinking of attending should understand that any activity within the auspices of BOBA is confined to Association members only.

**My Contact Details:** You can contact me by any of the following methods -

Membership Secretary ~ Derek Fox (58B)

Home Address: 51 Church Close, Pentney, King’s Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1JJ

Home Tel No: +44 (0) 1760 338483 Mobile Phone No: +44 (0) 7842555110

Email Address: memsecboba@sky.com (Please note that this is a new email address)

Derek Fox (58B)
Your instruction to set up anew, amend or cancel a, Standing Order

The easy way to make regular payments from your account

1 Your Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please write clearly in the white spaces with capital letters or Tick boxes</th>
<th>Your full Name or name of business</th>
<th>Branch name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Your contact telephone number</td>
<td>Sort Code</td>
<td>Account number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All sections must be completed

2 Standing Order details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does this instruction replace any existing standing order or direct debit instructions?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If &quot;YES&quot; please complete section overleaf or detail in special instructions opposite.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If &quot;NO&quot; please complete all remaining boxes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recipient’s name: Beachley Old Boys’ Association

Recipient’s bank & branch name: Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient’s sort code 30-03-09 | Recipient’s Account number 00-00-99-99-2 |

First payment amount (If different to usual amount) | First payment date (Month & Year) |
| --- | --- |

Usual amount | Usual payment amount in words |
| --- | --- |

£ 10 | TEN POUNDS STERLING |

Second payment amount (If different to usual amount) | Second payment date (Fill in year) |
| --- | --- |

To Bank

Please note that the second payment and all consequent payments are to be made on 01 April of each year.

Your payment reference (max 18 characters) (Surname, Initials & Group) (e.g. Humphreys, E, 27A)

3 Your agreement with us

Lloyds TSB Bank plc | Please note that we will not: 1. Make any reference to VAT or any other indeterminate element. 2. Advise your address to the person/organisation you are paying. 3. Tell the person/organisation you are not able to pay. 4. Ask the bank of the person/organisation you are paying to tell the person/organisation when payments are received.
| ID confirmed (for bank use only) |

Your signature

Date

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc | I authorise you to debit my/our account, in accordance with the details shown in Section 2.
| This request is addressed to the bank which holds my/our account.

For bank use only

Registered in Scotland No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes
This form is to allow an opportunity for members to complete, or submit an update.

BEACHLEY OLD BOYS’ ASSOCIATION
THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, BEACHLEY

Dear BOBA Member

Re: Next of Kin (NOK)

This is a particularly difficult subject, however one that decidedly requires to be addressed. When a BOBA member ‘passes on’, the Executive Committee are left with a quandary as to if and whom they should contact in the family. If such a contact is desired, please be so kind as to complete the details below and in doing so, assist the Executive Committee to help where they are able. The Data Protection Act will apply to all details given.

(Please use block capitals throughout)

NOK Name: ................................. NOK Relationship: ..........................

NOK Address: ........................................................................................................

............................................................. NOK Postcode: ..........................

NOK Tel. No: ................................. NOK Email: ...............................................

Your Name: ................................. Membership No: ..........................

Please return this information to the Membership Secretary using one of the following means:

Email: memsecboba@sky.com

Telephone: +44 (0) 1760 338483 Mobile: +44 (0)784 555110

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.
Sincere Regards,

Derek Fox ~ BOBA Membership Secretary
Our Rules
At the AGM last year the committee took an action to have a look at our rules with a view to bringing them up to date. Below you will see the rules and our suggested amendments. Please have a look at the proposed changes and get back to the Chairman or any of the committee with any other suggested changes. We need to approve the changes at the AGM in September, so the sooner you can get your suggestions to us the better.

BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION
OBJECTIVES AND RULES
1994
(REVISED 2003)

Objectives of the Association
To encourage ‘esprit de corps’ by uniting all old boys of Beachley Camp and to maintain friendships by means of social gatherings.

RULES
1. The Association will be known as “Beachley Old Boys' Association”.
2. The Headquarters will be at The Old School House, Beachley, Chepstow, Monmouthshire. NP16 7YG
3. Membership will be of two classes only: (AGM 2002)
   a. Full Member.
      i. All ex-boys who have served at Beachley.
      ii. Any serving or ex-serviceman/servicewoman having served on the Military Staff at Beachley Camp for at least 12 months.
      iii. Any civilian having served on the Staff at Beachley Camp for a period of 3 years.
   b. Honorary Member - Members may bestow Honorary Membership on any person, at an AGM, for services rendered to the Association. (AGM 2002)
4. Executive Committee
   a. The Executive Committee will be responsible for the general management of the Association
   b. The Executive Committee will be Officers of the Association under the Chairman and consist of the following members:
      Chairman
      Vice Chairman
      Hon. Secretary
      Hon. Membership Secretary
      Hon. Treasurer
      Elected Vice Presidents
      Up to 5 (five) Elected Co-opted Members
      Four members of this Committee will form a quorum.
   c. The Chairman will be elected at an AGM for a period of three years, with the option of being extended for further three-year periods.
d. The Vice Chairman will be elected from within the Executive Committee.

e. The Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer will be volunteers whose positions will be confirmed at the AGM.

f. Up to 5 (Five) Members may be elected by the AGM to become a Vice President.

5. Other Officials

a. The President of The Association will be elected at the AGM for a period of two years and may be extended by further two-year periods (AGM 2001).

b. Past Presidents - All Presidents on standing down will be designated a Past President.

c. Honorary Vice Presidents - All past Commandants and Chairmen will be invited to become Honorary Vice Presidents.

d. Honorary Life Members - Members may bestow Honorary Life Membership on any member at an AGM, for services rendered.


a. A fee will be paid on joining which will in part be a joining fee and part of the first year’s subscription, constitute the first years membership.

b. The rate of subscriptions will be agreed by the AGM.

c. In the event of a member not paying their subscription dues for a period of three two years, they will be automatically suspended from the Association and will only be reinstated on renewal of their subscription payments. Reminders will not be automatically sent to Lapsed Members.

7. Funds and Accounts.

a. An account and records of the Association Fund will by kept the Treasurer.

b. Adequate indemnity is to be maintained for the Executive Committee.

c. The Executive Committee will submit to an AGM any proposals to invest funds, likewise any proposal to withdraw such investments must be approved by the AGM.

8. Annual General Meeting. (AGM)

a. The AGM will be held at a time and place to be decided at the previous AGM. (Normally the Saturday of the third weekend in September)

b. An Emergency Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee or by 25% of the members.

c. Notice of the AGM or Emergency Meeting will be widely published by means of the newsletter and/or the Press and appropriate Corps and Regimental Journals.

9. Membership Cards, Badges and Ties.

a. This Rule Book will act as a membership card and be supplied to all members on joining or as and when revised.

b. Association Badges and Ties may be obtained from the BOBA SHOP Manager Treasurer on repayment.

10. Expulsion.

a. The Executive Committee will be empowered to expel from the Association any member for proven misconduct.


a. A branch may be formed on the authority of the Executive Committee, which will consider any application supported by not less than six current members of the Association.

b. Branches may be wound up by resolution of a General Meeting of the Branch concerned, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

c. Branches are to be self supporting and will not hold functions that clash with Association meetings.
12. Rule Changes.
   a. These rules may only be altered or amended with the approval of an AGM. Proposals for any such
      alterations will, in the first instance, be submitted to the Executive Committee.

Members are particularly requested to notify any change of address to the Membership Secretary at his home
address or the Association's permanent address given at Rule 2.

All general correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at his home address or the Association's
permanent address given at Rule 2.

Amendments approved by an AGM are shown in italics.

Rules for the Treasurer
1. There will be one main account, to be known as The Beachley Old Boys' Fund. The accounting year will
   run from 1st April to 31st March.
2. This fund will be subdivided into five sub accounts, to be known as:
   a. The General Purpose Fund.
   b. The Benevolent Fund.
   c. The Deposit Account.
   d. Investment Fund.
   e. Capital Property
3. At the discretion of the Treasurer other sub accounts may be created e.g. Golf, Reunion.
4. The fund will be maintained by joining fees and subscriptions, the amount of which is to be decided at the
   AGM.
5. All social events should be self-supporting.
6. Money will be credited to the Benevolent Fund as recommended by the Executive Committee and
   approved by the AGM. The fund should be maintained above Five Hundred Pounds.
7. The Treasurer is charged with the correct maintenance and accounting of the Fund. It should be prepared
   for an audit, annually, before the AGM.
8. Each cheque is to be signed before encashment by two of the three nominated signatories, who are
   normally the Treasurer, Chairman and either the Secretary or Membership Secretary.
9. The Treasurer will present a Financial Statement at each Executive Committee Meeting and at the AGM.
10. The Treasurer is empowered to hold a cash float of an amount to be determined by the Executive
    Committee, to enable him to carry out his day to day business.
11. The fund shall be audited by a member or members of the Executive Committee, nominated by the
    Chairman.

Final Dispersion of the Fund. The final AGM shall approve the dispersion of the remaining funds. The Army
Benevolent Fund (The Soldiers Charity) and SSAFA should be the main beneficiaries.

The Benevolent Fund
1. The Benevolent Fund was established for charitable purposes only and may be used for making grants
   but, under no circumstances loans.
2. Grants may be made to Members of the Association, their wives and dependants who may be in distress
   or want, providing the applicant has applied to the DSS and/or charitable organisations such as SSAFA, ABF,
   regimental associations etc.
3. All monies are to be accounted for by the Association Treasurer in the nominated sub-account of the,
   Association's Main Fund.
4. The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund will be:
   a. The Chairman of the Association.
   b. The Treasurer of the Association.
   c. The Secretary of the Association.
   d. A nominated Vice President. An Elected Member.

5. The administration of the Fund will be vested in the Executive Committee who should approve and forward applications for benevolence to the Trustees.

6. The Association Secretary will be the Secretary of the fund and will keep records of each case which will be available to all members of the Executive Committee.

7. Grants, of up to two hundred pounds may be made by the Chairman of the Executive Committee. Sums over this amount may only be made on the authority of the Trustees.

8. All grants made will be reported to the AGM.

**Committee Members**

Notes: (Please keep up to date).

**Chairman:** Maj (Retd) Brian Henderson TD
Walwyns
5 Swanswell Close
Broad Haven
Haverfordwest
Pembs
Tel: 01437 781273
Email: brianhend@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** Maj (Retd) Derek Walker
17 Somerset Drive
Westbury
Wilts
BA13 3XA
Tel: 01373 825554
Email: dchunkywalker@talktalk.net

**Membership Secretary:** Mr Derek Fox
51 Church Close
Pentney
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE32 1JJ
Tel: 01760 338483
Email: memsecboba@sky.com

**Treasurer:** Mr Chris Ricketts
35 Bigstone Grove
Tutshill
Chepstow
Mons
NP16 7EN
Tel: 01291 626730
Email: chris.ricketts@talktalk.net
90 Years Ago

The first edition of the Robot made its appearance in November 1924 i.e. 90 years ago! The extract below came from that first edition which clearly had an exalted start; even Rudyard Kipling had chosen one of his pieces of work for inclusion as his message to the boys.

It is strange to reflect that in that first edition the Editorial referred to the passing of a great school, the Royal Hibernian Military School, which closed in the July of that year after 155 years.

The then Commandant, Lt Col V T R Ford DSO, in his page stated “The subject of Boy Training was never so vital as at the present time, when unemployment is predominant and a youngster on leaving school is unable to find any suitable profession far less select a calling for which he may express a liking”. Is it déjà vu or just that some things don’t change!

THE BOYS’ TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOURNAL

Classroom Notes.

How vividly is recalled the 25th of September, 1923, the birthday of the School. The day on which the staff and the initial group of students met for the first time as complete strangers to each other in bare barrack rooms in Stanhope Lines at Aldershot. And how pleasant to be able to record the resolution made on that day by all ranks, to strive, by hearty co-operation and unremitting effort, to make the new venture a success.

In Aldershot, in spite of what appeared to be insuperable difficulties, the School began to take shape, and before the second group of students joined in January, 1924, something approaching systematic organisation had emerged from the seeming chaos, but through what strenuous efforts and unceasing toil and thought only the pioneers in the formation of the School can fully appreciate.

On the educational side of the School the difficulties through lack of books, materials and equipment and proper facilities for study, though at first serious, were, thanks to the Educational Staff at Headquarters, Aldershot Command, quickly surmounted, and although the students worked under anything but enviable conditions, they did work and worked well, so that real educational progress had been made before the time had come to say “Good-bye” to Buller Barracks at the end of February, 1924.

Then came Beachley. And what a change!

At Beachley the School found a permanent home amidst ideal surroundings, a settled organisation, model class rooms and laboratories with all the other amenities in process of construction. All these made for contentment so that it is not surprising that everyone quickly settled down and progress began to accelerate. And now, although the School has but recently celebrated the first anniversary of its nativity, there has been laid the foundation of the spirit of esprit de corps, mutual comradeship and mutual regard for the honour of the School which will, no doubt, in future years, make the Boys’ Technical School famous for the men it has produced.
Church Parade Collection—2013

The letter below is a thank you for the contribution made as the result of the collection during the Reunion church service. Please be as generous at this year’s Reunion.

From Lieutenant Colonel A S Tuggey DL
Chairman Gwent Appeal
(Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen)
Craig-y-Dorth House
Craig-y-Dorth
Monmouth NP25 4JT

T: 020 7219 5373
E: andrew.tuggey@parliament.uk

Chris Ricketts Esq
Hon. Treasurer
Beachley Old Boys Association
35 Bigstone Grove
Tutshill
Chepstow NP16 7EN

14 October 2013

Dear Chris,

DONATION TO ABF THE SOLDIERS’ CHARITY

It is extremely good of the Beachley Old Boys to remember The Soldiers’ Charity at their annual weekend reunion and to send the very generous cheque for £375.00 to the Charity from your church service.

As I know all your members will be aware from their service and current connections with the Army, there remains a need to support former and serving soldiers and their families who may have fallen on hard times and for whom the State does not provide. In an ideal world there would be no need for the Service charities, but we all know that there is only so much on which the State can spend public money. Therefore the work of The Soldiers’ Charity and its RN & RM and RAF equivalents will continue and will rely on the generosity of those such as the Beachley Old Boys’ Association for funding.

I should be grateful if you would pass on the Charity’s and my thanks to the President, Chairman and members of the Association for their donation.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
The BOBA Shop

The following items are available from our shop.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fleece Jackets</td>
<td>Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The Beachley Boys&quot; Book</td>
<td>A story written by Brian Elks</td>
<td>£12.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Beachley Apprentices Story</td>
<td>Anecdotes by Apprentices compiled by Brian Elks</td>
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<td>The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp 1924-1994</td>
<td>Official College History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mugs</td>
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<tr>
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<td>BOBA Bow Ties</td>
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All items can be viewed on the BOBA website and are available from the BOBA Shop Manager. Payment must be made with the order and can be:
- Cash
- Cheque
- PayPal transfer
Extra fees apply for packing & postage and PayPal use.

Contact:
Anthony Waite
Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymor Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8JU
anthonywaite22ss@hotmail.com

Additional items illustrated on page
Details of Robot CDs on page 3
Notice ~ Please note that the views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policy and views, official or otherwise of either the Editor or of The Beachley Old Boys Association and therefore no responsibility for these will be accepted.

While all contributions and articles for inclusion in the Echoes are very welcome and gratefully received. When submitting items it would be of assistance (though not essential), if Microsoft Word is used (Rich Text Format). JPEG or TIFF is preferable for photographs with images at or over 200 dpi where possible.

Editor
The Writing of Tipperary

King Edward the Seventh, who some called the peace maker, died back in nineteen and ten,
He were buried at Windsor and in the procession rode the highest and noblest of men,
There were nine crowned kings and thirty proud princes, leaders of many’s the land,
And old “Kaiser Bill” rode next to King George, with his Field Marshall’s baton in his hand,
Crippen, the killer, was caught the very same year as Haleys Comet flashed by,
And the first of the Labour Exchanges was opened, the year that the old king died.

The Sidney Street siege brought nineteen eleven, when anarchy died in the flames,
In London, in June, King George and his queen played the coronation game,
“Place in the sun”, said the Kaiser in Hamburg, launching his new battleships,
King George made India, Ireland and Wales, places for right royal trips,
Titanic was launched on the day of the Derby, and London’s, last horse bus was shelved,
The suffragettes marched demanding their rights, then in came nineteen twelve.

Jack Judge went down to West Bromwich town, to welcome a brand new year,
He went to a pub, to have a little sup, ’cause he liked his pint of beer,
When he’d had a drink he started to sing and raised his voice on high,
My name’s Jack Judge, I’ll write you a song, from Oldbury town come I,

Now a Birmingham man was standing near and he heard what Jack did say,
“A pound to a penny” he says to Jack, “you can’t write a song in a day”
Jack just laughed and sang song after song, then said, “I’ll take you on,”
This afternoon I’ll write you a song and sing it fore the day is done.

Jack laughed again, and sang another song, then drank another pint of beer,
Then he caught a train to Stalybridge where that night he was due to appear,
On the very first day of nineteen twelve old Jack Judge had won his bet,
And the song he wrote and sang that day we never will forget,

In March nineteen twelve brave Scott and his comrades died while a snow storm roared,
And later that year the good General Booth, did finally lay down his sword,
There were riots in Ireland concerning home rule, and Mrs Pankhurst was in prison again,
Then Wilbur Wright died, he was the first of the fliers, as the Royal Flying Corps was named,
Titanic went down in the spring of that year, taking one thousand five hundred lives,
And the Balkan states blazed from border to border, as death began sharpening his knives.

Of the nineteen ten monarchs who mourned for King Edward, by nineteen thirteen few had survived,
Though some of them lived to a peaceful old age, assassins took many’s the life,
Death came calmly to China and Sweden, but elsewhere the murderer’s hand,
Struck the Pasha of Turkey, the King of the Greeks, while Spain pursued death’s plan,
The armies of Europe paraded and postured, the stock pile of weapons increased,
At The Hague, as if in grim desperation, they opened the Palace of Peace.

In nineteen fourteen, with more suffragettes marching, the Arch Duke of Austria was slain,
In less than two months all Europe was marching, death was in business again,
Many’s the young man, from many’s the family, willingly gave of his all,
They died in their millions for dubious victory, answering Kitchener’s call,
But as they marched off to the trains and the troop ships, they sang as they hurried along,
And the words echo back from the graveyards of Flanders, singing old Jack Judge’s song.

It’s a long way to Tipperary, it’s a long way to go,
It’s a long way to Tipperary, to the sweetest girl I know,
Good bye Piccadilly, farewell Leicester Square,
It’s a long, long, way to Tipperary, but my heart lies there.

Supplied by Colin Weir (55A A Coy)
The 2013 BOBA Open Golf Championship

Helped by the weather the 2013 weekend of golf was a most pleasurable experience for all those who took part. Unfortunately I was unable to play due to being in hospital for six weeks; I am now playing again and looking forward to organising and taking part in this year’s tournament.

The numbers for 2013 were down to twelve, the lowest turnout we have ever had. If members know of past players who they could get in touch with and perhaps persuade them to give it another go we could swell the numbers.

The 2013 tournament was fearlessly fought out by three members who all had 34 points; the winner had to be decided on countback. As it happened all three won prizes, they were Syd Thomas, Joe Hallam and Kevin Staples.

Winners of the 2013 BOBA Golf Championship:

- Drawn Pairs—Joe Hallam (65C) & Kevin Staples (66C) 68 points
- Longest Drive—Alan Duncan (67A)
- Nearest the Pin—Geoff Martin (54B)
- Best Par Three—Syd Thomas (47A) 12 points
- Handicap Cup—Joe Hallam (65C) 34 points

The Ken Standen Trophy - Kevin Staples (66C) with 34 points

Thanks to all those who helped to make the tournament a success and to Dewstow Golf Club for their hospitality. I look forward to seeing you all and, maybe a few more new and old faces, for the 2014 tournament.

Tony Battle (57B) (Telephone No. 01291 422403)
The 2014 BOBA Open Golf Championships

The BOBA Open is in the form of an 18 hole Stableford competition open to all members of the BOBA Golfing Society who must be members and/or their spouses/partners.

It will be held at The Park Course, Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent on Saturday 20th September 2014. All golfers are required to meet outside the café there at 0815 on Saturday morning.

Those entering should complete the form below and return it, as indicated, with a cheque for £30.00 made payable to Beachley Old Boys’ Association (not BOBA), to reach me BEFORE SATURDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2014 please.

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 13th September 2014 and all golfers informed by email, or letter, so please ensure your entry is received on time.

In the event of too many entries being received, a “first come” system will be applied.

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Tony Battle, The Martins, Lawrence Crescent, Caerwent, Monmouthshire, NP26 5NS

Please complete FULLY and in BLOCK CAPITALS

RANK/TITLE: ......... SURNAME: .................................. FORENAME: .............

ADDRESS.................................................................................................................................

................................................................................................................................................

................................................................................................................................................

................................................................................................................................................ POSTCODE: .............

TEL: .................................................. EMAIL: ...............................................................

CHEPSTOW GROUP/INTAKE: .................. COMPANY: ............

GOLF MEMBER AT: ...................................(GOLF CLUB) HANDICAP: ............

I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WITH:.........................................................................................

I WISH TO PLAY FRIDAY AFTERNOON * YES/NO (*DELETE AS APPLICABLE)

I enclose a cheque made payable to the Beachley Old Boys’ Association to the value of £30.00

SIGNED:............................................. DATE:.....................................