



BSAP REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION UK AGM 2025

CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

As usual I will start by expressing grateful thanks to my colleagues on the committee who give their time, effort, and energy to benefit the Association membership. The work of the committee member never gets less, and it's worth reminding the membership that committee members give freely and voluntarily of their time and bear a lot of the cost themselves as we actively try and participate in more regional events.

Over the last couple of years at the AGM, I talked about our support for Ted Sheriff, who was our oldest member. Sadly, we lost Ted in May of last year. The most Senior UK Association member now by Force Number is 4428 Bruce Gates, but he is a youngster really as he is only our 3rd oldest member! Our oldest UK Association member now at 94 years old is 4896 Francis Sadlier who lives in Ireland, closely followed by 4700 Brian Hughes who lives in Scotland and is also 94.

Membership numbers otherwise are sadly, not as stable as they have been in recent years.

New Membership UK since the last AGM: 12.

Deceased Members who have been reported to us since the last AGM, and whose details are recorded in the Outpost and the UK Website 'In Memoriam Index' are:

UK Association Members: 25.

Other Associations and Non Assoc Members: 44.

I thought as an addition to my report this year, I would again add some short commentary to the three objectives of the Association, Benevolence, Comradeship and Remembrance.

Benevolence

The new subscription level has generated £1,765 from the 353 members who paid the higher level, and that sum was paid to the Trust to support the Membership. In line with the agreement, we will also be able to transfer 50% of our 2024 surplus to the Trust, this amounting to an additional £1,306, making our direct contribution to the Trust for 2024 a total of £3,071. There is of course additional detail provided by the Treasurer in her report.

More will be reported in the area of benevolence with the Trust Report, but I would again applaud the Trustees on the success of the 1890 Club, which not only generates income for the Trust, but gives the opportunity to subscribers to win a cash prize in the draw. Particular gratitude to Tony Granger who does a great job of filming and publishing the results of the regular draws.

Comradeship

It remains my personal view that this is most important objective of the Association, because without comradeship, there would be no Association to speak of. Committee members have continued in the last year to try and get around as many regional events as possible and have met with more members and

helped the members and regional reps to understand the roles and responsibilities of the committee more clearly. We have again dedicated some cash directly to the regions, to help carry some of the cost of regional gatherings.

Remembrance

Our historian, Paul Brewster, continues his efforts to preserve for the long term, the history of the BSAP. The Association is also investing in items that we see as having historical value to the Association, which we can hopefully one day find a permanent home for where they can be seen and enjoyed for the long term.

I would also like to inform the membership that I have had an approach from the Chairman of the BSAP RA in Australia, Alan Hadfield, who has asked us to consider merging the full Australian Association membership into the UK, effectively making Australia and New Zealand an extended Region of the UK. There are many things to be taken into consideration in this regard, and the Committee are considering the options. A decision on this will likely take some time, and the Committee will keep the membership informed of progress.

At least one South African Association has also expressed a similar preference.

Finally, I am grateful to those of you who have managed to attend today. We are very conscious of the ever-declining numbers of attendees at these National functions, all noted against the backdrop of a massive increase in the cost to the Association of hosting these events at the Victory Services Club. The Committee are fairly committed to holding the 2026 AGM in collaboration with one of the other UK Regions, perhaps presenting an opportunity for other members who cannot travel to London to attend an AGM.

More will come out from the Committee on this subject in due course.

I will again close with the ongoing commitment that I, and my colleagues on the Committee will continue to do our very best in service of the UK Association in respect and honour of our fine Force and all those who served and supported it.

10577 Jim Harris
UK Branch Chairman.