



THE FRIENDS OF CUMBRIA'S MUSEUM OF MILITARY LIFE

AGM

25th June 2019

Membership Report

After taking on the position of Membership Secretary in June 2018 I have spent the last 12 months going through our records with what can only be described as a fine tooth comb.

The reason I did this was because:-

1:- After looking at the supposed number of members on our books and then taking away the number of life and honorary members the income we then received from subscriptions did not seem to be correct which aroused my suspicions, this doubt coupled with the answers and the responses we received from our data verification exercise carried out in 2018 led me to investigate further.

2:- I had inherited a number of membership lists, but unfortunately no two were done to the same format or gave you the exactly the same information, fortunately Stuart had kept a list fairly well up dated for the museums mailing purposes which I used as a base to dig into the membership information.

3:- When I started this exercise our membership list showed 178 members, after careful examination of the information we held on every member, I confirmed a number of things:-

A :- one of the reasons our membership to income ratio was not in balance was due to the fact that in 2004 when the friends were formed a number of standing order mandates were incorrect and did not show an account number to pay in to, only a bank sort code, this had a number of consequences, if the member concerned banked with HSBC who at that time were the Regiments bankers in the main they internally sorted it and we were paid the subs, if members banked other than HSBC nothing was paid out to our account.

B:- We had and still have a number of members who pay annually by cash or cheque; we had no mechanism in place to remind of due payment dates and collect subs.

C:- Over the years we have had members pass away or decided to cancel their membership, moved and not informed us or left a forwarding address, again we had nothing in place to account for this eventuality.

4:- To correct this situation our Treasurer Carl Stitt provided me with all our financial information going back to 2004 to enable me to track every member's payment this enabled me to build up a pattern of payments, the end result of this exercise was that I identified 57 members who needed to be contacted regarding their membership status, and in the main to set up new standing orders, at the same time I deleted from the list all those identified as deceased, moved etc.

5:- The end result of the action I have taken has now confirmed every member's status and method of payment, so the members on our books are actual paying members be it life or the various other categories of membership, and for the first time since the friends were formed our membership list and the museums list match exactly.

6:-As of today's date we have 121 members, broken down as:-

Honorary:-	6
Life:-	44
Members:-	21
Senior:-	41
Family:-	9
Total:-	121

7:-At this point I would like to thank Stuart and the museum staff, in particular Matt for the help and assistance they have give me to get to this point, where I am satisfied that we now have accurate membership information, also a big thank you to Carl for being very patient with my numerous requests for financial information.

8:-Subscriptions, At our last committee meeting we had a discussion regarding subscriptions, whilst we are not intending any general increase it was decided to seek the approval at the AGM to increase the cost of life membership to £300, the reasoning behind this:-

A:- Having done a survey of like for like organisations we are a little behind with our costing

B:-Approximately 42% of the membership are life or honorary members we need to get more annually paying members to generate an income stream hence the increase.

M K Rosling

Membership Secretary