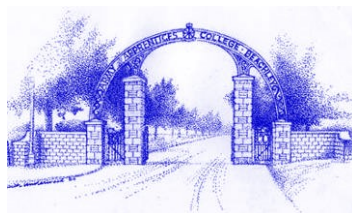




The Beachley Old Boys' Association Newsletter



Beachley



Echoes

Edition No. 25 ~ April 2019

Silver Anniversary

1994



2019

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The President's thoughts for 2019 - 20

I greet you well and hope that you will read what follows !!!!!

VERY MANY CHANGES

In last year's Echoes I wrote of the changes that had been made, were proposed for this year and for the future of BOBA. Most of these have now been made – it would take pages to list/explain them so I ask you to read the individual committee members reports, you will then get a far better picture of what has happened or is in progress.

Undoubtably the most significant has been that of Chris Ricketts taking over from me as CHAIRMAN. He has been inspirational in all aspects of the running of the ex-committee, has assembled a very loyal and hard working committee, progressed current ventures and proposed new ones – all for the future of BOBA. AGAIN – PLEASE READ HIS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS and give them YOUR FULL SUPPORT.

The President !!!!!

Old age has set in far earlier and with greater effect than I expected, or wished for. I Now find that I am unable to walk very far before the legs scream for a rest, I find it takes me ages to summon up the need to actually do things, I fall asleep in my chair very easily and my night sleep has become a max of 3 or 4 hours a night. I still hold a faint hope of joining the BOBA contingent on the London Cenotaph Parade. Perhaps it is also time for you to consider electing a new President !!!!!

The London Cenotaph Parade

As you will see elsewhere that I have handed over the organisation of the BOBA presence on the parade to Tony Waite – he is now your point of contact. You will need to contact him to get your place on this very special event. Thanks for all the wonderful support you have given me over the past 20 odd years. I hope you give Tony the same support. He has to submit a list to the British Legion earlier this year so please help by contacting him a.s.a.p but in any case by the date given on Pasge 50.

The Annual Reunion

A very special year – 25 years since the Collage closed and we became 'New BOBA' A special event is being planned to mark the occasion. Get your application in soonest to aid planning and secure a place. This will be Joe Rooney's last year as our Chaplain !

Bits and Pieces

Membership. We need new blood to keep going, it is very necessary for the 'younger groups' to come forward and join as members. Otherwise it is very much your responsibility to encourage others to join – if we all could recruit just one new member, we would be fine for the next 10 years.

BOBA Golf. There must be lots more that play (including the ladies) – why not have an enjoyable and relaxed round with us – look for the entry form.

Committee members. We still need volunteers – can you spare a little time to ensure the future of BOBA. There is always a need for a backup committee member.

THANK YOU.

WE ALL OWE THE COMMITTEE A GREAT DEAL FOR THE TIME AND EFFORT THEY PUT IN ON OUR BEHALF – GIVE THEM YOUR SUPPORT.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Reunion.

God Bless.



Some of the major changes made during the past year –

We now have a dedicated team organising/running the Reunion.

The Friday Night 'Get Together' function was held in Chepstow at the Beaufort Hotel rather than at Beachley (Camp) Barracks.

Full Committee meetings were reduced to just two a year, much work was done by phone/internet but individual branches still met up where/when necessary. This measure eased the time any committee member was away from home. I am pleased to say it seems to be working well.

Vacancies on the Committee –

President – I will carry on for another year.

Secretary – Chalkie White has now taken over from Derek Walker but NEEDS a standby to be able to divide the work load.

Shop – Tony Waite has been replaced by another volunteer asked to stand down so we NEED a replacement and a stand by.

(our aim is to have all posts covered by a second member who could take over in case of illness).

If we are to maintain the very high standard we have set for administration

WE NEED YOUNGER MEMBERS TO VOLUNTEER for the Committee.

Please look to see if you could help – names to me before the AGM

The Cenotaph Parade – This is a special year – 100 years since the end of the first Great War! The British Legion has already indicated that there is a heavy demand for tickets and the Government/Police have placed a limit of 10,000 on parade! I hope that more attend this year or we will find our allocation of tickets reduced – I have asked for 36 but expect this to be reduced to 30. It is likely to be the last time I will be able to attend – the legs are beginning to show my age.

Tony Waite has agreed to act as my deputy in all admin matters for the parade – many thanks.

I hope we can get more members to come and join the parade, contact Tony, details on Page 50.

BOBA Open Golf – Like the Cenotaph Parade, last year's attendance was the lowest recorded – COME ON WE NEED PLAYERS, Ladies are very welcome, if the golf is to continue. I know that there are lots more that could turn out – it's not all that serious (or I would not be playing !!) Please note that the 'BOBA OPEN' will be on the Friday afternoon this year.

Membership – I make no bones – This is very much your responsibility, if every member managed to recruit one Ex-BRAT to join we would have very few problems over the next 10 years or so. We look forward to seeing a big turnout from the 68 groups.

The Committee has debated, long and hard, the vexed question of Non-Members attending the reunion paying the same as members. All were very clear that this could not be the case as it would be grossly unfair to ask present members to, in fact, subsidise non-members. I shall be asking at the AGM for this to be part of our rules.

YOUR COMMITTEE. They have put in many hours of work on your behalf and deserve everyone's vote of thanks. Without their understanding, help and good will I would have to have stood down for long periods of the past year, Chris, as Vice Chairman has undertaken so many aspects of the Chairmanship to relieve me – I am most grateful to him. I have recovered enough to carry on for the coming year – if that is what the membership wishes

AGM. This is where we make the rules and take decisions regarding the future of our Association – it is VITAL that you make every effort to attend.

Fair

winds, see you in September.

Syd Thomas



Chairmans jottings

This is it, my first jottings as your Chairman; a role that I hope will match that of my illustrious predecessors and I thank you for electing me.

The Reunion in 2018 was well attended and it was good to see the anniversary groups celebrating their various milestones. Circumstances beyond our control enforced changes but despite the weather and the temperature in the evening most seemed to enjoy the event.

Sadly costs and availability have forced another change but the new venue is a similar distance from town and provides excellent value for money in very pleasant surroundings so I look forward to seeing as many of you as can make it for what is the 25th Anniversary of the formation of New BOBA following the closure of Beachley as a Training Establishment.

Not only has the venue changed but also some of the events as well. The golfers now play on the Friday and have their presentation at the club house immediately after the Match. Also changing is the time and place of the AGM, again we have nowhere to go so it will be held at 18.00 hrs in the Florence Court at the Beaufort Hotel just prior to the Get Together and it is hoped that more Members will attend as it is your chance to hear and say what you would like to happen to YOUR Association. The ladies will be welcome at the Beaufort and not left alone whilst the AGM takes place. The get together will follow on from this and we should all have a good evening.

Following a request from the RSM 1Rifles to minimise odd parties trying to access the Barracks I have arranged a block visit and guided tour of the Barracks for the Saturday morning at 10.30 hrs for those that would like to have a look around, the application is in the Reunion Booklet.

This past year has been a very busy one for your committee in that so much has gone on which has allowed BOBA to develop substantially.

We now have a permanent, (however long that may be knowing the MoD), home just around the corner from the Old School House and as was hoped many years ago we now have our own Museum which I hope as many as are able will visit, especially over the Reunion Weekend. Various meetings have taken place and we are now part of the National Army Museum and its West of England Team and able to develop our collection, attend training courses, seek funding, the list goes on but it is there for us to use and grow the Museum. We also received the ownership of the Beachley Gates which represents our early days. Prices for the refurbishment have been sought and the gates will remain in situ until the last minute when we may have to consider to where they may be relocated.

We are also leading a very complex project that if successful will see the Camp as we knew it becoming a leading example of ongoing support for veterans of all our armed forces and will work to ensure that the terms of the Armed Forces Covenant are upheld. This is no mean task but thus far we have reached the desk of the Secretary of State for Defence who will ultimately decide the way forward. We also have the full support of the Local Authority and other MP's who were amazed at what former Army Apprentices are capable of considering that so many knew nothing about us or the School. A more detailed explanation of this appears in the Echoes

Our Membership continues to be fairly static but once again I would ask you all to spread the word.

None of these things could have materialised without the efforts of the committee and I give my personal thanks to each and every one of them for their support in making BOBA the organisation that we are proud of and long may it continue.



The 25th Anniversary Annual Reunion 2019 of the formation of New BOBA following the closure of Beachley Camp

Welcome to this year's event which represents an amazing period in the life of BOBA as we all knew it. 25 years ago, the College closed its gates to Army Apprentices and a decision was made to continue to celebrate the bond that holds us all together, young and old alike. That is as Former Army Apprentices, irrespective of Cap Badges, age and opinions.

Throughout the 25 years you have all responded to the requests for funding, support and attendance where possible from around the globe. Thank you!

Through the years many changes have taken place, sometimes of our choosing but often by circumstances beyond our control but we have always remained an organisation of fine men just as we were taught.

The Barracks has continued to be occupied by several Regiments and is now home to the 1st Battalion Rifles who are currently deployed to Afghanistan once again. The Rifles have been and continue to be very supportive of BOBA in many ways and the Association has wished the C.O. well for a safe tour and a speedy return. We have worked hard to create an excellent relationship with the Battalion and the outcome of this is shown below.

This ongoing support has resulted in us being able to create our own Museum and to display our memorabilia and artefacts permanently, so I would ask that you all come and visit the Museum over the Reunion weekend. You will find it adjacent to the Beachley Gate. Speaking of the gates, the Battalion has gifted them to BOBA and DIO has permitted us to have them refurbished and this is now in hand. It is anticipated that volunteers from your committee, (volunteers are welcome) will open the Museum on a regular basis for visitors from everyone and everywhere to learn about who, why, when and where we came from and just what we did for those 2/3 years we spent here. We have also relocated the AAC Memorial from inside the wire to a permanent site within the confines of the Military Cemetery where it can be visited and attended at any time. Again, this was with the total support of 1st Battalion Rifles.

There will also be a guided tour of the Barracks on Saturday 21st September enabling us to see what a modern soldier has and does so please support us by making the day worthwhile, not only for us but for those soldiers who will be on duty. Most of these young soldiers were born after the closure and don't know anything at all about us. From experience thus far they are very interested in the history and struggle to understand that at 15 we signed up for a career in the army.



The AAC and BOBA Memorial



The BOBA Memorial Garden is located at the rear of the Old School House within the MoD Cemetery and is always open for Members, Guests and members of the public who may wish to pay their respects. Our flag proudly flies there permanently. There is no need to book visits here because it is "outside the wire" and is open everyday to everyone. The site is maintained on our behalf by the CWGC under contract to MoD. There are a few restrictions as the site is within an MoD Cemetery and these are;

Only Cremated Remains are permitted to be interred.

Caskets and Vases or any other containers are NOT permitted.

Only single Stem Flowers are permitted.

Official RBL Poppy Crosses are permitted.

I would respectfully ask that these simple restrictions are upheld.

Should any of you have a desire to rest there please contact me and I will do my best to arrange for our Chaplain to conduct an appropriate service and the name of the deceased will be added to the Roll.

Please pay a visit, it's yours.

The New BOBA Museum

Located adjacent to the Beachley Gates is now a reality enabling all former Apprentices and their families to view the history of the AAC and BOBA and will be open for the Heritage Trail that we have had for many years. It will also be available for visits at any time subject to our volunteers being notified of intended visits. It is also anticipated that the local community will be interested and that schools will arrange trips for the young people to learn about where perhaps their Grandad or other relative started their working life. Please come along and see just what we have, you may find information about your time here and the friends you made. As you probably understand much of the content of any museum is gifted or loaned so any items or photographs you may wish to be displayed will be gratefully received and can even be copied so you won't lose the original. Anything displayed will be attributed to the donor which will demonstrate our thanks to them.



'The Project'

Beachley - what is its future? How is BOBA going to continue to be connected to Beachley if 'Beachley' as we know it no longer exists? These were some of the questions posed at the 2017 BOBA Annual General Meeting. BOBA's President, Lt Col Syd Thomas (47A) put these seemingly rhetorical questions to the gathered membership.

BOBA suffered a dislocation in 1994 when Beachley, the last of the Apprentice establishments, closed. It broke a direct link between BOBA and Apprentices at Beachley, but BOBA members still felt it had a purpose and Syd took control to lead it on a new path that has, until more recent years served it well and maintained an active membership. It has been true to the founding principles of BOBA. BOBA has continued to foster a good relationship with the various units that have since occupied the Beachley Camp. So a link has been maintained, although as the years have passed that has become more tenuous. In 2016/2017 it was announced 1 Rifles would be the last unit to occupy Beachley. As part of the review of the MOD estate alternative accommodation was to be found. This public statement meant Beachley would be disposed of and its future use was unknown but it would finally break the physical link between BOBA and Beachley.

BOBA holds out in the Old School House next to the St Johns Church and through its website, Facebook (social media) and the Beachley Echos keeps members in contact around the world. The annual reunion on the weekend closest to founders day on 23rd September is an opportunity for members to get together. Many members are also engaged with other associations of their corps and with voluntary groups in their local communities who provide help and support to ex service personnel and their families. Everything BOBA does is voluntary. It receives no public funding. Its members keep it financially sound. What it does represent is a considerable body of knowledge, experience and real skills. Members are surprisingly energetic and continue to play active roles in a variety of ways. Being part of a purposeful 'team' has become ingrained.

Although the closure announcement was met with dismay, some members also saw it as an opportunity. They saw it as an opportunity to harness the skills and ethos of the Apprentices, to meet a need that is growing within the ex service personnel world and beyond. For although the Army has abandoned the unique system of apprenticeship there are many challenges facing all past and present members of the Armed Forces. BOBA should and could address those. It should address them in a way that perhaps only an organisation like BOBA could. It is not burdened with territorial constraints, sectional loyalties, or any particular paymaster. Its membership is Ubique (Everywhere). Its membership has provided essential support to others in peacetime and on operations. Its membership has gone on, in many instances, to lead very successful lives and can make those skills and experiences available. That deep vein of BOBA membership has not yet been worked out.

So what might be BOBA's future? And what is the "Project"? The two are linked.

The proposal of the project is 'to use the whole of the existing Beachley estate to create a facility that is available to provide services, training, rehabilitation and respite to any serving and ex service personnel and their families. The setting and accommodation at Beachley will allow families to accompany the individual attendee if necessary and for individuals to be amongst service colleagues whilst undergoing their particular activities. All will obtain mutual support and encouragement during and after their stay because of the Beachley setting.'

The project has key essential elements;

It makes best use of an established facility at Beachley that has been provided at substantial public expense.

It can be brought into use quickly.

It has a range of accommodation to cater for individuals and families.

The range of activities will be determined by the client needs and their provider of services.

The operation of the facility will be separate to the services provided to clients by 'delivery partners'.



There is scope and space to enhance the physical facilities with additional development.

The operational forecast demonstrates (on reasonable commercial assumptions) that the Beachley facility will not require public funding.

The location of Beachley in the country is accessible and provides a discreet location for such a facility.

The central public policy benefit is in upholding THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT. For some BOBA members overseas this piece of UK legislation may have been missed, but it represents a significant step forward in recognising the service to the country given by our armed forces and their families. It is a covenant enshrined by Act of Parliament through the Armed Services Act 2006 as amended in 2011. Amongst other measures it requires the Secretary of State for Defence to report to Parliament on any matter under the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant.

The covenant is expressed as *"An enduring covenant between the People of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's Government and all those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces of the Crown and their families"*.

The covenant is quite clear *"This obligation involves the whole of society"* recognising this obligation *"has no greater expression than in upholding this Covenant"*

Discretion in tentatively putting forward a proposal was thought essential. An informal working group was formed and it reported to the BOBA Executive Committee with an interim report in February 2018. This was a high level proposition but with sufficient research and development detail to clearly see the skeleton of the project. The BOBA Executive Committee agreed to allow it to be taken and tested against external scrutiny by engaging with appropriate Members of Parliament (Public Policy), Local Councils (Town and Country Planning and Economic Development) and the MOD (as owners of Beachley being part of the MOD Estate).

The BOBA sponsored project has met the test of public policy. In meeting with the Constituency MP the Rt Hon Mark Harper MP his comments supported that conclusion. We are grateful for his time and consideration of the BOBA proposal.

The working group then engaged with the Ward Councillor and senior officer from the Forest of Dean District Council. They felt the continued use of Beachley as described would have no Town and Country Planning implications. New development on the camp would require planning consent but from an economic development viewpoint the preservation of jobs and the influx of new jobs would be very welcome. Any closure of the camp would have had a negative impact on both.

We are now at the stage of consultation with the MOD and we know the matter has reached the desk of the Secretary of State for Defence.

The next steps involve registration of the Community Social Enterprise, fund raising to provide initial working capital and the commitment of armed forces charities and others to buy time and space at Beachley to present a wide ranging offer of services to clients. They are some of the 'delivery partners' referred to.

BOBA would be delighted to hear from Members on fund raising or contacts and any suggestions of the kind of service areas to be targeted. If you are a member of any armed forces charity then please contact us about being a 'delivery partner'. In terms of training we think the areas of hospitality, building (all trades including landscape), technology (digital and alternative energy), media and public relations would offer opportunities for ex service personnel but there are lots of other areas that could be explored. Life skills to avoid drugs, alcohol and crime, all perhaps could be described as programmes to develop skills for a better life. And emotional wellbeing and mental health support have already been identified as a much needed provision.

This is a project of scale and complexity but it can and should be done. It is anticipated to have a capacity for 600 persons but this could grow in future.



As BOBA's membership declines in the coming years because the last Apprentice passed out in 1994 the legacy of all those past Apprentices is the 'project' and BOBA's future in ensuring it is not a footnote in history to be forgotten.

Stephen Barker (66C)

Members of the Project working group :

Geoff Watkins (53A) Anthony Waite (60C) Chris Ricketts (65A) Brian Henderson (65A) Stephen Barker (66C) Alf Chrascina (67B) Geoff Warren (67C)

A copy of the February 2018 BOBA review document can be found on our website. (depending on space or we could create a drop box link)

Here is a Google Street View of our well known and extremely important gate at the entrance to our centre of knowledge.

The arrow points to the building that is now home to our Heritage Museum.











55A Group's Table



2018 AGM



Photographs of The Big Bosses 2018 Table









Chepstow Remembrance Sunday Parade 2018



Derek William Edgar Pomeroy.

Sadly passed away on 6th August 2018 aged 73.

He joined the army in Pontypridd on the 15th December 1961 aged 16. His career began as a boy soldier at the Army Apprentice College, Beachley, Chepstow, intake 62A.

After Combat Engineering training he was posted to the Survey Depot, Barton Stacey. He then went on to service in the Royal Engineers on a variety of Litho Presses as a Survey Print Technician, Class 1. This took him to a number of army units, one of his postings being to Singapore where he served two years printing maps in a secure compound. Ranked Sergeant, he then returned to Beachley College, as an instructor in the survey department, until he left the Army in July 1972.

Following his departure he joined Charles Openshaw & Sons, suppliers to the printing industry, where his hard work saw him achieve the position of Area Manager, until 1981. He left the Company to start his own business with his wife Heather. Pomeroy Pressroom Products Ltd was hugely successful within the industry, employing up to 45 employees until their retirement in 2014.

Derek became the President of Lydney Rugby Football Club in 2005, a role he very much enjoyed until his passing.

He leaves a wife Heather, son Andrew and daughter Gemma and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

HERITAGE

Welcome to all Echo readers.

My name is Denis Woodward of 58A, I am one of the four Heritage members of the Beachley Old Boys Association known as BOBA,

Since the last issue of the echo I have been searching for items for the heritage collection.

Most of my searches end at a brick wall.

With the assistance of QC Militaria, a shop in Cheltenham, I was shown a set of medals for WO2 G A Moore Royal Engineers. The attached paperwork informed us that he was at the Army Apprentice School Chepstow in 1923, his service number would have been from 1923, this gave us great hope that the medals came from number one group.

Further online research from an American Lt Col, who, has done great research into the Royal Engineers indicates that this WO2 was trained at Chatham in 1923.

His research also has Sapper Moore transferred to Army Apprentice School Chepstow in 1931, eight years after he joined, We do not have information on permanent Staff.

This research came to an end.

QC Militaria produced for me an article from an auction Catalogue from 2014,

This shows the medals awarded to 24688824 Sapper F.C. Griffiths, Royal Engineers, from 84C AAC Chepstow,

The Catalogue page is printed below.

I put out on the AAC Chepstow page of facebook, a request for information.

I was contacted by Frank Griffiths himself, who is in good order.

We added him to the roll of Honours and Awards.

Next comes my plea for items for the heritage collection, do you have any medals you can donate to this collection? Many families, have medals in the back of a draw.

Any items from your time in Beachley would be most welcome.

Our Honours and Awards Roll is not up to date, if you have an Honour or Award, we would be pleased to add you to the Roll.

I am now researching the number one of number one group 1923 who went into the Royal Artillery.

At a later date I will research the last serving member, in the Army, who served his apprenticeship at the AAC Chepstow. He should be a member of the Royal Engineers.

Corporal F. C. Griffiths, Royal Engineers Ex Beachley Boy.

Date of Auction: 25th March 2014

Estimate: £6,000 - £8,000

Sold for £11,000

A rare Northern Ireland operations Q.G.M. group of four awarded to Corporal F. C. Griffiths, Royal Engineers, the "final approach man" in an R.E. Search Team during numerous missions in the Province, not least in a clearance operation in the Falls Road in April 1989 – when he was confronted by a Semtex booby trap.



Queen's Gallantry Medal (24688824 Spr. Frank C. Griffiths, R. E.)

General Service 1962, 1 clasp, Northern Ireland (24688824 Spr. Frank C. Griffiths, R. E.)

U. N. Medal, UNPROFOR riband

N. A. T. O. Medal, clasp, Former Yugoslavia.

Q. G. M. *London Gazette* 15th May 1990.

Frank Charles Griffiths entered the Royal Engineers direct from the Army Apprentices College, Chepstow, in August 1986. Joining the strength 4 Field Regiment, R.E., in November 1986, he was similarly employed when ordered to Northern Ireland as a Search Sapper in March 1989, where he joined a six-man unit N32A – call sign "November Three Two Alpha". And it was in this capacity that he was involved in a number of clearance operations, not least the occasion he was called to some derelict buildings in the Falls Road, Belfast, on 3rd April 1989. Griffiths' own – modest – account of the incident states:

"We left Antrim at about 1830 on 2nd April 1989 and spent the night at the North Howard Street Mill in West Belfast. We were on standby at 0500 on the 3rd and actually arrived on site about 0700. We did a clearance and isolation of the intended ICP once we arrived. After that we did a large and small isolation of the derelicts. This took most of the morning and on completion we were relieved by N32B. We returned to North Howard Street Mill. That afternoon ATO set used a concussion charge in the derelict and actually set off a terrorist device. The morning of the 4th we arrived at the same ICP at approximately 0700 hours to continue where N32B left off. At 1100 we were clearing the hallway on the ground floor. We pulled up a bag of plaster and, on examining it, noticed a white twin flex wire coming from the bottom of the bag into the wall. At this point ATO took over and revealed it to be an active VAD (booby trap) containing a pressure pad, a timing power unit (TPU) and approximately 2Kg. of Semtex explosive. The night of the 4th the Falls Road was re-opened and the cordon collapsed, so surveillance equipment was left in the derelict to find out if entry was gained overnight. No one entered the house that night so the morning of the 5th we arrived on site but used a different ICP. So, we did a new isolation of the derelict houses. ATO then went through the upstairs rooms using only concussion charges, so we were not used until about 1500 hours when we cleared the back gardens. We were back to North Howard Street Mill for about 1800 hours and got back to Antrim at approximately 1915 hours. Awarded Q>G>M> for this incident."



Other search operations Griffiths undertook in this period included a trip to the Creggan Estate in Londonderry on 31st March, when an AK47 and FNC2000 were discovered behind false walls – the occupants of the house were arrested and further research ascertained that the FNC2000 had been used to murder Lance-Corporal Downs in the previous month. Indeed, an accompanying file contains many further accounts of him and N32A in action, together with related photographs and maps.

Griffiths received his Q.G.M. at a Buckingham Palace investiture held on 25th July 1990.

Having then been advanced to Lance-Corporal, he joined 11 Field Squadron, R>E>, in September 1992, in which capacity he served in Operation “Grapple” in Bosnia as a Section 2nd in Command in October 1993 – April 1994, while in March – September 1997, he returned to the region as a Section Commander in 29 Field Regiment, R>E> And he also completed another “Search Tour” in Northern Ireland in 1998 – 99. One of his final appointments was in 6 H.Q. Squadron, 22 Engineer Regiment, at Tidworth.

Also sold with a further quantity of original career documentation, including Buckingham Palace investiture letter and numerous congratulatory letters on the award of his Q.G.M, among them the following from General Sir Peter Inge, K.C.B.:

!! understand that as a member of an R.E. Search team you were responsible for clearing a building in which a secondary device was found. Your commitment and extremely high standard of professionalism, even though your life was undoubtedly at great risk, was a fine example to all your comrades.”

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 can be accessed through The Army Apprentice site which has a link to the BOBA site or directly (<http://armyapprenticecollege.homestead.com>).

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address.

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Tel: 01942 491140
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Please note that all arrangements for this year's BOBA Reunion will be organised by

Chris Ricketts

35 Bigstone Grove

Tutshill

Chepstow

Monmouthshire

NP16 7EN



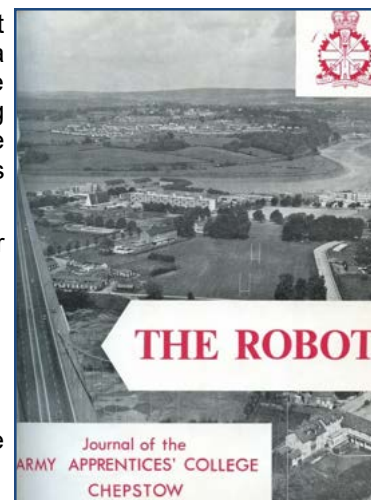
New Robots for Old

Do you ever wish that you had held onto The Robots covering your time at Beachley? Well you can now get them in PDF (Portable Document Format) on a disc. As the result of a request 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

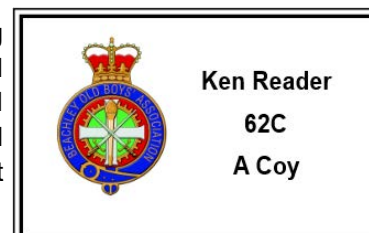
- ◆ Your name and group
- ◆ Address
- ◆ Month and year of arrival—month and year of departure

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



2019 Reunion ID Badge and Holder

Once again we will be producing a reunion name holder for members attending the reunion this year. They are of a simple design on laminated card, which will be inserted into the clear plastic sleeve envelope with a press frog clip and secure safety pin mounting. At £1.50 each they are good quality with a coloured badge and border. Order yours on the reunion application form please and pick it up when you arrive for registration at the Racecourse.



Lt Col (Retd) Ken Reader OBE BEM Minst RE

Carrick House, 8 Cross Lane, Little Downham, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 2TJ

Telephone 01353 699096

email ~ kenreader@msn.com

Photos and Memorabilia. It is hoped that the members of **70 Groups** can search their attics and albums for items and send them to Alan Chatt for display at their 50th anniversary reunion in September 2020.

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 a Committee member 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, 64B, 64C, 65B, 65C, 66A, 66B, 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.

Alan Chatt

8 The Chase, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9DX

Telephone 01914 175960

email ~ a.w.chatt.121@btinternet.com



Reunion 2019 Booking Etc.

Our observant readers will have spotted that the usual booking forms and information on the Reunion weekend are missing from this year's edition of the Beachley Echoes. However, all is not lost as you will be able to view the Reunion booklet which is on the website; those receiving a printed copy of the Echoes will have received the booklet also in printed format.

Make sure to book your place at the event of the year!

BOBA Reunion—20th to 22nd September 2019



BEACHLEY OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REUNIONS

For many years, BOBA members, many with their Ladies, have met annually, usually on the third weekend in September, in the Chepstow area.

The reunion Friday evening get-together for 2018 was held at The Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow and was deemed to be a success. This year will see a continuation of this. The other main actions apart from Sunday's Founders' Day Church parade will take place at Chepstow Race Course Hospitality Suite.

In order that you can attend any of the BOBA activities held during the reunion weekend i.e. Golf, Reunion Dinner, etc., you must be a Member of The Association. The forms for Membership are in the Beachley Echoes Newsletter and should be returned to the Membership Secretary, Derek Fox, his details are on the Committee page.

Reunion Friday

Friday is a social evening, including supper, where Members can enjoy each others company, chat or swing the lamp over a drink or two.

The BOBA AGM will be held at the start of the gathering, where BOBA business from the previous and coming year, is discussed and voted upon

Reunion Saturday

Friday and Saturday allows members who have previously registered, to take part in 'The BOBA Golf Open'.

An 18 hole Stableford tournament held at the Golf Club at nearby Coleford.

Saturday the BOBA Heritage Display takes place in the main venue.

In the evening the **BOBA ANNUAL DINNER** takes place when approximately 200 (pre-booked) members, including Ladies, Guests and Families sit down for a pleasant three course meal, followed by an evenings entertainment with a live group or a disco in the function room. Many dance into the early hours, whilst others have a great time just chatting, reminiscing and enjoying a social drink.

Reunion Sunday

Sunday rounds off the weekend with a mini 'Parade and March Past' on the parade ground in Beachley Barracks (weather permitting).

The parade is followed by our Founders Day church service in St George's Church.

For further information on the Reunion weekend, please contact Chris Ricketts (details on the Committee Contact details Page 18)

National Army Museum Fact Finding Mission 30 Jan 2019

On the 30th of Jan 2019 four of the committee attended a meeting at the National Army Museum.



These were

Chris Ricketts, BOBA Chairman,
Alan Chatt, Heritage,
Geoff Watkins, Heritage,
Tony Taylor, Heritage.

There were two senior NAM staff present

Kelsey Loveless
Julian.

Introductions were made, and we informed them of our intention to open our own museum. Interestingly, they had never heard of the Army Apprentices School!!

Chris then gave a potted history of the school (college) and emphasised the importance of the school in supplying approx. 27000 potential NCOs, SNR NCOs and Officers to the Technical branches of the Army. They were suitably impressed, and stated that it was important that this should not be forgotten. At the end of the meeting Chris presented them with two books of the history of Beachley, which were enthusiastically received for their archives.

Anecdotes and tales from the school were given by all four of us.

Kelsey and Julian then gave a precis of their role in NAM.

This was to provide pastoral support. Provide links to similar organisations, such as Army Museums Ogalby Trust (AMOT), who provide grants. Links to networks such as the Wales and West Network (Army).

Letters of support, training, conferences, conservation ie Leopard Skins, Gates etc.

They also look at grants and advocacy.



The MOD was mentioned by them in a derogatory manner and they advised us to have the least possible contact with them. Any dealings with them should be watertight!

Also outlined was our relationship or lack of it with the Chepstow Museum and the lady in charge. They were flabbergasted to say the least. They have offered to contact the lady in question to find out what she has from Beachley, where it is, how it is stored, what she is going to do with it, and most importantly does she have provenance that it is legally theirs!

We then went on to give details of what we have in terms of artefacts and memorabilia. Details of the Old School House (OSH) and the new building we hope to move into were also discussed.

Kelsey promised to

- Send me links to similar organisations. She has since done this.

- List training courses that may be of help to us. Also done.

- Keep in contact with us.

- Send an invite to their free open day/ conf on best practice for museums.

- Contact Chepstow Museum re our stuff!

Since this meeting four of us have accepted the invitation to their conf in April.

We have also applied for a grant from the Ogilby Trust to help us buy equipment for the museum.

Altogether, it was a most productive meeting, especially as we did not know what they could do for us. If you don't ask, you don't get.

Alan Chatt 59A

Heritage(1 of 4)

The Rary

Jim was posted to the Far East and while there saw, and felt attached to, a baby Rary.

As the name implies these are fairly rare and Jim thought the rather cuddly animal would be ideal for his Wife. On being posted home he smuggled the Rary in his Kit Bag and on arriving home presented the Rary to his Wife who thought it was lovely.

Unfortunately Jim had not asked the Locals about Adult Rary's and found that they grew remarkably quickly and to rather large proportions. So large in fact that Rary was soon too large for the house and had to stay in the Garden but eventually it had reached gargantuan size and in desperation his wife said that much as she had liked the Rary at first, she was sorry but it was now a case of the Rary or her.

Jim wishing to keep his wife had to find a way to get rid of the Rary. He solved the problem by hiring a tipper lorry and a crane and had the Rary hoisted on to the lorry.

He then drove to Beachey Head and backed up to the edge of the Cliff .As he got out of the vehicle and went to the Tipper Controls the Rary looked at him with tears in his eyes and said "THAT'S A LONG WAY TO TIP A RARY"

John Eveleigh 42A



THE SOLDIERS TEN COMMANDMENTS

My Father served in the first Word War and I found this Document among some of his papers.

The Commandments certainly still applied when I Enlisted. I wonder if they still do.

THE SOLDIERS TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Thou shall not scrounge or try to swing the lead ,least thy resting place be that of the trough from which the Gharry ponies quench their thirst.
2. Thou shall not take the name of the Sergeant Major in vain, or thou shall have thy name enrolled on a 252 and find thyself on a course of Jankers.
3. Honour thy Pay Book and thy Quarter bloke all the days of thy service that thy credit may be even as the sands of Egypt
4. Thou shall not take unto yourself your comrade's kit, neither shall thou borrow thereof when the owner is not present, or thou shall have thy sins thrust upon thee by the quickness of the hands that punish thee.
5. Thou shall not fill thyself with beer to overflowing, lest by Royal Warrant thou shall loose much pay and the Provost Sergeant shall number thee among his followers. For it is written that" He who drinketh to excess shall spend his days in purgatory."
- 6.Thou shall not fritter away thy worldly goods by playing Banker, Nap or Pontoon less the Provost Sergeant see this and say, Render unto me thy names and let the money remain where it is.
7. Six days shall thou labour and do all that thou has to do, and on the seventh day thou shall do twice as much.
8. If it should come to pass by sweat and Zeal and Blue Eyes, thy name be mentioned in Regimental Orders as being raised to the exalted Rank of Acting Unpaid Lance Corporal thou shall present thyself at the dwelling place of the exalted known as the Junior N.C.O's Club, and crave they will accept liquid reception from thee.
9. Thou shall not kill the cook if he grieveth thee, thou shall not strike his hip and thigh, but go up unto the "Big Noise" and crave audience with him. He will open his mouth and words of wisdom will come forth and the next time the food will be twice as bad.
10. When it comes to pass that thee hath completed those days for which thou received twelve pence, thou shall be placed upon a large raft and sent to the place of thy birth. There thou shall take unto thyself strange garments and become one of the populace, and lo, for many moons thou shall rest from thy labours and receive succour from the good Samaritans who shall buy from thee a box of matches.

Here ended the Commandments but for the uninitiated the twelve pence is the Queen or Kings shilling, and I can remember seeing first World War 1 Veterans selling matches in the streets.

JOHN EVELEIGH 42A A Company



Time to sit down and attempt to make sense of a personally very traumatic twelve months and put it in writing, hoping that it all makes sense.

Please forgive me for using my Editorial power to make this year's a lot more personal than usual.

Most of you are aware that my wife Gwen passed away towards the end of last June. Needless to say that this has left an extremely large hole in my life. It hurts.

As I ponder my situation and feel sorry for myself, I have to realise that no matter how bad the situation has become there is always someone else in a worse place. I do wonder how parents manage the grief of losing a child.

Gwen was not involved with the military at all and in fact when I first met her, she was only eleven years old and a bridesmaid at my young sister's wedding. I was twenty-seven and on my last leave before leaving the services. At the time I thought that she was a "snotty nosed brat" whilst she had me marked as a "dirty old man". Mainly because I was a person that had managed to leave the council estate where we were both born and become worldlier wise than any of my schoolboy peers. There was another reason due to my having managed to apparently become involved with the chief bridesmaid. Hey; I was healthy sunburnt and had a big car. All the mothers, including Gwen's decided that I was not a good choice for any of their daughters and informed the young ladies of this.

Step forward ten years to one rainy morning whilst driving to work after breakfast at my mother's. A bus was stationary at the next bus stop. As I looked to see if the road was clear for me to overtake, I could see a reflection of the driver as he smiled at a rather nice-looking young lady running to catch his bus whilst he drove off leaving her behind. Obviously, he'd attended the corporation bus driving course.

Being a thirty-seven-year-old gentleman, I stopped and offered my services to assist her in her onward journey. Expecting at least a rude gesture I was astounded as she just ran around my car and climbed into the front passenger seat. During the thirty minutes journey towards Manchester City Centre I was able to gain her name, works telephone number and promised that I would ring her and arrange a lunch date in a few days but never gave her one iota of information about myself.

At a red traffic light in Piccadilly she just jumped out of the car saying "Thanks and don't forget to ring me, Ray". Shock,

horror is she a witch? How did she know my name? I stalled the car and amidst the resulting cacophony of car horns I managed to restart the car and drive away with a red face. On arrival at work my secretary was full of concern for me because of my by now very white face and produced a brandy laced cuppa for me. I was questioned and being in some shock I related the tale.

Over the next few weeks my secretary kept asking me if I had telephoned this Mystical Gwen and of course I had not. Honestly, I was much too nervous to make contact, after all she could be a witch.

Eventually I picked up courage, phoned Gwen and arranged to collect her from work at five o'clock that evening. Shortly before the set time I managed to find a parking space outside her office amongst other cars that were occupied by drivers presumably on a similar mission to mine, sat back and fell asleep. At six fifteen I woke with a start and saw Gwen striding across the road towards me and noted that I was the only car waiting. She finally admitted that she had managed to double date but stayed in work until one of us departed. So, falling asleep paid off for once, it gave me over forty years of a beautiful friendship.

Let's clear the air now and try to explain. How much do people change in a ten-year period? 27 to 37 men not a lot. Ladies from 11 to 21 one heck of a lot. On top of that is that Gwen was still visiting my mother at least once a week. She knew who I was the moment I offered her a lift. Nothing magical just a determined young lady wanting to have what she wanted.

Remember that earlier I stated that Gwen was not connected to the forces in any way. She supported me in all my efforts to be part of BOBA and even managed to attend quite a few Re-unions. I had not realised how well she was known and liked amongst other members and how integral she'd become in welcoming any new ladies to the festivities. Dare I say she became a strong typical military wife.

Thank You Gwen for being Gwen.





IN MEMORIAM

REPORTED DECEASED SINCE THE 2018 BEACHLEY ECHOES (No. 24)

Terence Summers 58B	C	2008	Barry Southwell 47A	B	
John Finnamore 50B	B	17/05/2018	Graham Williams 42A		25/10/2018
Alec Beach 53B	D	24/05/2018	Wally Davidson 43 Group		27/11/2018
Michael Fone 52B	B	Mar 2018	Bryan Tidy 64B	A	
Chris Dowrick 69C/70A	A/C		E. Hancock 58B	B	
Peter Eastwood Staff	RAPC	08/07/2018	Michael Fisher 57A		
Derek Sturge 35 Group	B	26/06/2018	Leo Aitken 43B	B	
Tom West Staff	RAOC	12/07/2018	Terry Shingles 55A	D	09/01/2019
Vic Langebeer 58A	C		Brian O'dell 51B		
Derek Pomeroy 62A	A	06/08/2018	Pat Jordinson (Perry) Staff		
Foyle Hodges 57B		11/10/2018			

Rest in Peace

BOBA CENOTAPH DETACHMENT 2018

On Remembrance Sunday 2018 those listed below assembled at Horse Guards Parade to march along 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 10th 2019 and use the opportunity to say your thank you to those who gave their everything for the future of others.

Mr Barry Allen
Mr Ray Armstrong
Mr Chatty Chatt
Miss Laura Chatt
Mr Pete Coe
Mr Alan Coome
Mr Robert Donaldson
Mr Andrew Drean
Mr Ray Field
Mr John Goodall

Mrs Stephanie Goodall
Mr Chris Gould
Mr Michael Harley
Mr John Hatchett
Mr Brian Henderson
Mr Paul Higham
Mr Alan Scaife
Lt Col Dave Smith
Mr Ken Stout
Lt Col Syd Thomas

Mr Anthony Ward
Mr Malcolm Ward
Mr Geoff Watkins
Mrs Pamela Watkins
Mr Wayne Willitts
Lt Col Nick Winder MBE
Mr Robert Wise



THE TRANSITION OF 42A GROUP

1945 The Allies were winning the war at least that was what we were told, and it was obvious that there would be a short-age of Army Tradesmen when peace was declared due to Demobilisation. So what better time for 42A Group to be let loose into Man's Service, but what an experience that was.

On the 10 January 1945 I was posted to the ranks as a Private and on the 16 February 1945 I was posted with the rest of our group to 51(RTW) No 1 ITC.

We had submitted our preferences for the Corp in which we wished to serve and in most cases this was what we were given, my own preference being for the RASC. Before we left the School our new shoulder flashes were sown onto our Battle Dress so it was a very mixed group of Corps at Chepstow Station that boarded the train that eventually took us to the wilds of ESSEX, Brentwood to be exact. Warley Barracks was the home of the Essex Regiment and the Royal Fusiliers but as these regiments were in action the Barracks were being used as a Training Centre on the arts of Warfare and known as an " Infantry Training Centre."

On arrival we were paraded on the Barrack Square and allocated to Huts, which being wooden were very reminiscent of Beachley. The NCO in charge of our Hut, and also we found out, much of our training, was a Lance Corporal of the Essex regiment with several Good Conduct stripes on his sleeve. He was normally in charge of conscripts directly from Civilian life and thought he could treat us the same.

Life in the Hut was not unlike that at the School but the level of "Bull" was not as high so we were able to cope quite easily. Our daily grin included digging foxholes, Grenade throwing, Gas Training, Drill both foot and rifle. We were issued with our own rifles, brand new, from Canada which were ours to carry from Unit to Unit. I found recently that I still have the Label from my Lee Enfield which shows its Number.

We had a running Battle with the Permanent Staff, in general our level of turn out and drill was way above their own but they did not want to admit this. We tried to show them this, but only really succeeded when they started to have their own rehearsals for any Victory Parade that might take place after the War was over. They carried these out in the evenings, it was a very large Barrack Square so one evening during their rehearsal we marched on to the Square with rifles at the slope under the direction of our ex A/T CSM. He remained in the ranks and gave the orders from that position so that we appeared to be without control.

We executed several drill manoeuvres and some rifle drill and marched off again. Nobody stopped us or said anything about this but I am sure it made them realise why we were so Bolshie with them. Of course it made no difference to our treatment, they still found ways of beating us. Not many people could Burnish an 18 inch Bayonet, or Fix and Unfix it to the rifle better than us, but at the ITC they gave us a short piece of pointed round metal to fit to our rifles and then made us run around sticking it into a sack while shouting like madmen. We did quite a lot of Bayonet practice and the rule was that from the moment you fixed bayonets all movement had to be at the Double. Our L/Cpl made us Fix Bayonets outside the hut which meant we had to double to the Training Area and back before Unfixing outside the Hut. We would speed up the pace and leave our L/Cpl behind but all he did was make us Mark Time until he caught up with us.

Our next excitement was when the Army decided that they had enough Vehicle Mechanics but not enough Signallers. We were to be given an aptitude test to see who was suitable for regrading as a signaller. We were told that the test consisted of listening to two streams of Morse code while wearing Headphones, and then tick on a paper if they sounded the same, or if they were different. We were unanimous that we would do our utmost not to get the answers correct. We must have succeeded as none of us were regraded. They also gave us tests on assembling an adjustable spanner and building up a bicycle hub. It gave the impression that nobody realised that we were fully qualified Tradesman.

One of our diversions was watching the V 1's (Doodle Bugs) passing overhead every morning while we queued up for breakfast, they always flew over us on their way to central London. The Observer Corp watched them and sent up Very Flares to indicate their position, we would watch the Flares getting nearer until we heard and saw the V1 pass over us.

Things changed with the coming of the V2s'. Essex was heavily bombarded and of course we never knew when they were



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Things changed with the coming of the V2s'. Essex was heavily bombarded and of course we never knew when they were



coming, their speed being faster than the speed of sound. They caused a lot major damage and casualties in the towns.

I found in my early days that being 6 foot tall meant I always got picked out as one of the volunteers required for any task. Not just me but any tall person seemed to get selected. This happened at Brentwood when men were required to make houses habitable that had been on the periphery of the V2 blast, and had either lost or had badly damaged roofs, our task was to go on the roof remove any loose tiles and cover the roof with tarpaulins. We did a good job and the house occupants were very grateful, apart from one house where one of our group put his foot through an otherwise undamaged ceiling.

I read somewhere of the number of V2's that landed on England, I can't remember the figure but I do remember hearing the explosions fairly regularly during the day and night. Then it was our turn. Early one morning we were woken by an explosion and the noise of doors flying open and glass shattering, our L/Cpl came into the room, probably for the company, and asked about casualties, we were lucky not one of us was hurt. The V2 had come down on a gymnasium in the Camp.

We completed all the tests including a 10 Mile timed walk and finally on the 29 March came the first split of 42A as we were split up by Corps and then on the move again. This time for those of us in the RASC it was a short journey as our next stop was in Southend to the 14th Training Battalion RASC. Southend of course had many Hotel's and B&B establishments, most of these had been taken over by the Army and used for accommodation etc. Our cookhouse and dining room had previously been a Car showroom, and we were accommodated in a Hotel, Palmera Towers, situated in Westcliffe end of Southend. Trade training was conducted in a former Bus Depot called Carfax.

At last however we were now treated as Tradesmen and employed on various tasks. I was given a turning job which involved turning up two rollers for a machine that was to be used to make Piston Rings. Spares were in short supply and improvisation was rife. One other task I remember was stripping down some engines that had been recovered from a ship sunk in the approaches to Liverpool. We still did a certain amount of Drill and much to our surprise found that Beachley had actually overlooked instruction on a drill movement, Ceremonial Sentry Drill. This was now going to be remedied.

Southend was slowly returning to normal, not in residential aspects but for Day Trippers. As we always carried out our Drill on the Promenade we usually had an enthralled audience who quite often clapped us as we marched off. Life was quite pleasant but finally on the 29 April we had to go to our first Regular Army Units. So came the last farewell for us ex boys who had been together for 3 years. This was the time when we would find out if the School had really given us the correct type of Training, emphasis had always been to make us bind together as a group and act as a Group not as individuals. We had existed as a close group of boys who had been dependant on each other for three years. We were now going to be on our own and have to cope with this new life. Of course we found that actually we were never really on our own, as there was always someone who would advise or help us.

So this was our transition from Boys to Mans service. John Eveleigh 42 A "A" Company

Toilets I Have Known

As a small boy living in Hampshire I remember the story of the soil cart. This was a large metal barrel mounted transversely between two wheels and drawn by a horse, and was used in Odiham to take away the contents of the privy toilet buckets. The driver of the cart would enter the house take out the bucket and empty it into the barrel. One day a friend of the driver saw him prodding the contents of the barrel with a stick and asked what he was doing, the driver replied he had dropped his coat into the barrel." Well it won't be any good to you now" said the friend," I know" said the driver "but me sandwiches are in the pocket"

At this time I was staying with my parents at my Grandmother's house in the country. Situated under a tree at the rear of the house was a toilet with the branches of the tree touching it's roof. The building was of wood with a door at the front, and was quite wide, which allowed room for the magazines which were piled alongside the toilet seat. On the walls were several calendars from local shops all containing 12 coloured scenes which could be changed whenever there was a feeling that the Decor should be changed. It was very pleasant in the summer to sit there reading a magazine with the breeze causing the tree to brush across the roof. However it was not so pleasant in the winter.



We then moved to a cottage in the same village, where we had a small wooden toilet hut that allowed you to stand up but you could only turn round with difficulty, and was situated over a large hole in the ground. The toilet was approximately 100yards from the cottage and the path up to it was of earth .A journey at night ,in the winter, was a daunting experience. Well wrapped up against the rain and with no lights except a candle kept in the toilet which you lit on arrival, and with wind coming through the cracks of the walls it was a good incentive for bowel training.

We then moved to another village where we had a water closet in a brick extension at the rear of the house. This involved going out of the back door and exposed to the elements, but only for about fifteen feet. However in the winter this involved wearing plenty of protective clothing as apart from the elements outside there was no heating inside, but we did have a light.

I joined the Army in 1942 and was stationed at Beachley Camp Monmouthshire. Here we had toilets that were in brick built buildings situated in the middle of four huts. Access was sheltered from above but not from the sides. The toilet doors only covered part of the opening to each toilet. The top and bottom being open to view

When first posted abroad we were given much prior advice by the Old Soldiers who had, so they said, much experience. One tip they gave us was to be very careful when using a bucket toilet as the locals had a habit of creeping up behind, opening the door to the bucket, and using a knife on the occupant of the seat. The first camp we went to in Egypt had this type of toilet, and I achieved Olympic status for the standing jump from the sitting position when the door to my bucket was opened, Needless to say it was only the Arab coming to empty the bucket.

In Egypt we also saw our first "floor level" toilets, consisting of a hole in the floor with two foot rests ,one either side of the hole. The first of these we saw was on a Train which was all very nice when the train was not rocking but over a bad piece of rail tended to make life difficult, as could be seen from the area around the hole.

Many of us suffered from Gippy Tummy, a fierce form of diarrhoea and this meant many trips to the toilet during the night. As they were situated approximately a hundred yards from the nearest tent this involved a lot of running and we found it better to take a blanket and sleep on the toilet.

It was in Egypt where we met our first "Desert Rose". This consisted of a length of piping inserted into the sand with a funnel like opening at the top .Put a strip of Hessian round it at waist height and you had a urinal.

On a Troop Ship we met our first deck mounted toilet .This was a wooden shack like building on the outer edge of the deck, near the bows. A trough ran through its length below the seating provided for about eight users. Water ran continuously through the trough which sloped down from entry to exit. It was considered great fun by some to light a piece of paper and let it float down under the seated users. It paid to be fleet of foot as the people experiencing the hot seat were usually devoid of humour.

In Palestine we had social toilets, these were above a large hole in the ground and consisted of a circle of seats all facing outwards .Seating was for eight and many learned discussions took place in these pleasant surroundings. We had to carry our Pay Books, AB64 Pt 1, at all times and any loss had to be reported immediately. Unfortunately the overalls we wore had only an open pocket on the left breast and if you were in a hurry it was possible when pulling the overalls off your shoulders for your pay book to fall in the toilet. This presented a problem as the seats in the toilet were not removable and were too small for us to get through, so a Local employee of small stature was lowered into the hole to retrieve the Pay Book.

Then there was the lack of a Toilet. We used to fly from Nairobi to Mogadishu in an Avro Anson owned by a firm called Clairways .Before taking off we were given Orange Juice and Sandwiches for the flight ,but as there was no toilet we seldom drank the orange juice. We did land half way through the journey at a dirt strip for refuelling but were not allowed to leave the plane

When in the RASC we ran many Convoys and quite often finished up at night in the desert. In this situation it was the policy to disappear into the desert with a spade, to a lonely toilet under the Stars.

I remember In Mombasa we had a flying toilet when the orderly room Corporal poured petrol into the toilet and then threw in a lighted rag. The toilet lifted off in virtually one piece.



In France we experienced the Pissoir, that French invention that with its chest high surround allowed the males to use the Urinal while looking at, and talking to, his female friend. Also in France at one of the theatres we entered the toilet only to find it was mixed sex with the men at urinals on one side and women in cubicles on the other. At the exit sat a woman collecting tips from the customers.

Greece presented us with a problem. We were in Salonika and after visiting one or two bars went to the Pictures, the result of our bar visits eventually made us look for the toilet but although we saw what was obviously the entrance to the toilets either side of the screen the name above the entrance was in Greek so we suffered in silence until a woman went through one of the doors, there was then a mad rush by us for the other door.

One last thought. When with a Tank Regiment and rehearsing actions to be taken in the event of a Nuclear War we had to remain inside the Tank for a long period of time. Our needs however still existed and I leave it to you to consider how we managed

John Eveleigh 42A A Company



Enjoyment of



Heritage 2018



This page has been reserved for one of our good ladies to have her say.

After all where would we be without them?

Please, pretty please, one of you beautiful young ladies contact me with something that I can publish.

I really would like to re-instate "The Ladies Page".

I'll keep this page vacant for next year's input.

BOBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE as at 14TH FEBRUARY 2019



NAME	GP	ROLE	E-MAIL	ADDRESS	TEL NO
Chrascina Alf	67B	Golf Organiser Reunion	alf.chrascina@gmail.com	April Cottage, Silver Street, Curry Mallet Somerset, TA3 6SR	07484842355
Fox, Derek	58B	Membership	memsecboba@sky.com	51 Church Close, Pentney, Kings Lynn Norfolk PE32 1JJ	01760 788159 07842555110
Armstrong, Ray	55A	Beachley Echoes Editor	r.armstrong@virgin.net	125 Baker Street, Wigan Greater Manchester WN3 5HG	01942 491140 07941 432306
Henderson, Brian	65A	Hon Treasurer	brianhend@hotmail.com	21 Hartland View Road, Morteheoe, Woolacombe North Devon EX34 7HB	01271 871716 07970 951259
Warren, Geoff	67C	Co-opted Local Facilitator	sapper0519@hotmail.co.uk	1 Priory Close, Chepstow Monmouthshire NP16 5ND	01291 620374 07392494761
Reader, Ken	62C	Co-opted Ad Hoc assistance	kenreader@msn.com	Carrick House, 8 Cross Lanelittle Downham Ely, Cambridgeshire CB6 2TJ	01353 699096 07752 209941
Ricketts, Chris	65A	Chairman Reunion	chris.ricketts@talktalk.net	35 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow Monmouthshire NP16 7EN	01291 626730 07779 719422
Thomas, Syd	47A	President	sydtthomas4hd@gmail.com	4 Hawthorn Drive, Coychurch, Bridgend Glamorgan CF35 5ER	01656 661180 07785 282266
Tony Taylor	68C	Heritage	tontertay@gmail.com	61, Severn Avenue, Tutshill, Chepstow Monmouthshire, NP16 7EE	07989 503893
Barker Stephen	66C	Merchandising	sebarker@peterloo-uk.com	Suite 7, Booths Park 1, Booths Park Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8GS	01565 757845 07712 108078
White, Chalky	73A	Hon Secretary	garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk	9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry West Midlands CV5 7PQ	02476404999 07576844990
Woodward, Denis	58A	Heritage	denis.woody@gmail.com	8 Farmington Road, Benhall, Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 6AQ	01242 526284
Chatt, Alan	59A	Heritage	a.w.chatt.t21@btinternet.com	8 The Chase, Washington Tyne & Wear NE38 9DX	0191 4175960 07462538613
Watkins, Geoff	53A	Heritage Reunion	geoff@cedarsedge.co.uk	Cedars Edge, Bristol Road, Thornbury Bristol BS35 3JA	01454 412508 07780 916227

**BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**

C/O, Mr. Chris Ricketts, 35 Bigstone Grove, Tutshill, Chepstow, Mon., NP16 7ENT.

President
Lt Col (Retd) S. Thomas
4 Hawthorn Drive
Coychurch
Bridgend
Glamorgan
CF35 5ER

Email sydney1931@btinternet.com
Tel. 01656 661180



Secretary
Mr. Gary White
9 Appledore Drive
Allesley Park
Coventry
West Midlands
CV5 7PQ

Email: garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 02476 404999

September 2018

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOBA**HELD AT THE CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE****ON SATURDAY, 22nd SEPTEMBER 2018.****Present:**

Lt Col S. Thomas	President/Interim Chairman
Mr C. Ricketts	Vice Chairman
Mr B. Henderson	Treasurer
Mr D. Fox	Membership Secretary
Mr A. Chatt	Heritage Member
Mr R. Armstrong	BE Editor
Mr T. Waite	Shop/Memorabilia
Mr D. Woodward	Heritage Member
Mr G. White	Hon Secretary

Item 1 Opening:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked them for making the effort to attend. The President welcomed everyone present, he said that the AGM was a vital part of any association as it was the chance for information to be communicated from the committee to the membership and vice versa, it was also the place to have a vote. A one hour meeting was suggested to be more encouraging for others to attend. The President gave a big thanks to the committee for all their hard work throughout the year, especially to Chris Ricketts who had done a great deal of work, we owe him a big thanks. The President said one member had raised the question of why the reunion was held at Chepstow every year, but as that person was not present we would not discuss it. The president said that younger members were needed to join the committee, especially the shop, Tony is not well and has done it for 20yrs, maybe we should ask any of the ladies if they would like to help on the committee.



Item 2. Apologies:

Apologies for absence: Alan Ball, Alan Whitelock, Brian Jones, Don Fell, Bill Killen, Derek Cantellow, Chris Burton, Peter Dolphin, Ray Field.

Item 3. In Memoriam:

The President asked all present to stand for a moments silence to remember those that had passed away since the last meeting.

Item 4/5. Minutes of the previous AGM and Matters arising:

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the previous minutes, none were expressed, the Chairman asked that those minutes be accepted, unanimously agreed.

Item 6. President's Statement (ST)

The President again commented that the committee had done sterling work and our thanks should go to them.

Item 7. Chairman's Report (ST)

Nothing to report

Item 8. Treasurer's Report (BH)

The treasurer stated that all details of our accounts were on the website and in the BE and asked that they be accepted as seen.

A vote was taken that they were a true reflection of BOBA fund:

Proposer: K. Reader

Seconder: D. Walker

Agreed: Unanimously

The treasurer stated that last year's accounts were with the REO in Chepstow and that Julia had found nothing out of order on the audit, there were no questions from the floor on this. The treasurer stated that the association had made a loss last year as we had cashed in our government bonds due to the cost of reinvesting them. BH said that he gets subscriptions in and that members should note that the £50 paid 5yrs ago has now run out so subscriptions should now be paid annually. There is £18,700 in the account and with £35,00 in the Monmouthshire Building Society where we only get 0.45% we may move it to another building society which pays more interest. There is a total of £55,00 in all accounts.

ST commented we were going to use some of the money to buy the OSH but that did not go ahead, we also looked at buying the church next to the OSH but that did not go ahead either. As an association we may help Adrian to buy the OSH as we would then be able to rent from him.

Item9. Membership Secretary's Report (DF)

We have 20 new members. Chris Angel pays subs every year but has not joined as a member. Current paid up members stands at 368. There were no questions from the floor regarding membership.

Item 10. Heritage Report (AC/DW)

Ac said that there are three of us on heritage and that most of the work was done by Woody and his wife. There have been a number of calls from families whose relatives were at the school and asked if they would be able to look at the memorabilia and might have items they could donate. The heritage team have had dialogue with The National Army Museum, it has been renovated and they wanted to discuss with BOBA possible mutually beneficial opportunities at the museum, AC will contact the museum with a view to meeting them.

**Item 11. Beachley Echoes (RA)**

RA apologised for the lateness of printing. Costs were £107.56 for printing and £116.32 for postage, including 3 to Australia. One Australian echoes was returned from LAJ Aitken 43b as no longer there, RA asked if anyone knew him, no one did, as we do not have any method of knowing when members move or pass away these costs and returns at this point are unavoidable. RA said he needed as much input into the echoes as possible, photos, articles, quotes etc so please send some to him. There were no questions regarding the echoes. The President expressed his condolences to RA on behalf of the association for the loss of his wife earlier this year.

Item 12. The Shop (TW)

TW expressed his thanks to all for the support with the shop. He stated his wish to stand down due to poor health and having done the role for 20yrs. He said it was not an arduous task and hoped someone would step forward. The President thanked TW for his sterling work for so many years and for continuing even during poor health.

Item 13. Election of Officers (ST/CR)

The President stated that as his position was not up for re-election until next year we would have to put up with him. He then said it gave him great pleasure in ratifying Chris Ricketts as Chairman, he asked all in favour to raise their hands, this was unanimous. He also announced that Gary White had recently taken over as Hon Secretary, this post was also ratified by the membership. The President asked if anyone else wanted to join the committee, there were no volunteers so it was reiterated that it may be time to ask the ladies if they wish to join the committee. The incoming Chairman Chris Ricketts thanked the members present for supporting his nomination.

Item 14. Ongoing Matters. OSH loss of Premises (CR)

BOBA has had formal notification of termination of our OSH lease. CR has met with QM 1Rifles who has guaranteed us a place on camp, even though they do have to close as many unused buildings as possible. One of the buildings we may be offered is the old families NAAFI which is outside the wire near the Beachley Gates, this would suit our needs nicely as we could open our own museum, possibly even to the public once a week. The QM said that was a good idea and we might even get funding for it as a community project. There is a drawback as in that we will have to pay rent and utilities for the property, however, they will not rip us off. The DIO says that the OSH has to go on the market but I don't feel it's in the best interest of the association to buy it as it is listed and is dilapidated. The other ongoing subject is The Beachley Gates, the QM asked if we want them to which the reply was yes, if we get the old NAAFI building the gates can stay where they are, alternatively if we have a different building the other option for the gates is to have them erected where the wooden gate is leading to the Memorial Garden, we await more information from the QM. Now the reunion, I trust everyone enjoyed last night. When applying for tickets for any part of the reunion weekend please send an SAE to save our costs, also an application if you are bringing a guest stating their name, please also give more details about which other members you wish to sit with. Next year is the 25th Anniversary of BOBA, what would you like to do to celebrate this? Please email me suggestions, but bearing in mind it will definitely be at Chepstow. Thank you again for your support in my nomination, I will try to do as well as my predecessors.

The President commented that along with the topics The Chairman has touched on there are a number of big things going on with the association, but at the moment they are in their early stages and it would be wrong to comment further on them at this stage, but the membership will be fully informed at the appropriate time.

ST also said he was concerned about groups applying directly to 1Rifles instead of going through BOBA, last year 2 groups held separate reunions in Chepstow. CR said that 3 members of 70's groups (other than those who already attend) were here this weekend with a view to getting more of their groups to attend, this shows there is interest in BOBA among the younger groups. With regard to the AGM itself, The President commented that he alone knew of at least 12 people who were at the Heritage display this morning but have not come to the meeting and asked the question why? What is it that puts members off attending when this is the main forum for having their say and voting.

**Item 15. The Cenotaph Parade (ST)**

With regard to the London Cenotaph parade, we are down on numbers, we used to have to ask for extra tickets, this year we applied for 36 but had only 29 takers. If you wish for your wife to attend as a carer that's absolutely fine, it will be a wonderful experience for them marching in front of so many people applauding. This will be The President's last year organising this event, Tony Waite has agreed to take over. It is getting harder to obtain tickets due to increased security measures, requests have to be with The Royal British Legion by the 25th August 2018. The President said he hoped to be able to continue to attend but will have to take each year as it comes.

The President asked that the 68 groups provide 2 Standard Bearers and 4 collectors for Sunday's church service and he looked forward to seeing all there.

Item 16. AOB (ST/CR)**Steve Parker-What will happen to our proposed new home the old families NAAFI if the camp becomes a housing estate**

CR-The barracks has to close by 2027, we have been in contact with The Home Office on this, but as The President stated earlier we cannot divulge any information on this as yet, suffice to say nothing has been decided yet and all details must be kept within the steering group, except to say 6000 houses cannot happen, there is one road in and one road out with no facilities such as doctors dentists, schools etc.

Dennis Woodward-Restoration of Beachley Gates

The following article was penned by Dennis and read out to the membership by Chalky White.

Preservation of the Beachley Gates. Part 1

Good afternoon, Denis Woodward 58a-S, the association has two iconic places both open to the public.

The first is The Beachley Memorial in the War Graves Cemetery behind the OSH which most of you know. The memorial was moved there by Chris Ricketts, he maintains the memorial and has done a fantastic job alongside all his other commitments to the association. A wreath is laid there each year.

The second is The Beachley Gates. The gates are now in very poor condition and require major restoration. I have inspected them as I worked for an engineering company which carried out a lot of work on the large salt hoppers you see around the country. In my opinion the gates need shot blasting with shot that leaves a coating to prevent rust before paint can be applied, we then use zinc primer paint, the top coat needs to be salt resistant epoxy paint. A plaque should then be erected on the mounting post to say when the gates were refurbished and by BOBA. This work should be carried out by a commercial company. I would ask the membership to sanction this work and use whatever funds are necessary to preserve our gates well into the future.

Beachley Gates into the future. Part 2

It is hoped that the gates will stay where they are and become listed if possible. In the event the gates have to be moved I ask permission to move them to St Georges Church Cemetery, or to the War Graves Cemetery, this can be decided later. This would preserve the gates and honour our own buried there, assuming of course we can get the necessary permission. Again I ask for whatever funds are necessary to carry out this move.

BOBA Heritage-22nd September 2018

Stuart Walker-we need to appraised of costs

Denis Woodward-we cannot get quotes and wait until next year's AGM to vote on it, you have to trust the committee to do



the job and not over spend. All agreed.

AOB (cntd)

Geoff Warren- I propose that the we should try holding the AGM on a Friday prior to the get-together to see if that will boost attendance, if it doesn't we can go back to Saturday.

Ray Armstrong-I travel a long way and would not be able to get here for a Friday meeting and I think a lot of other people would be the same.

Chris Ricketts-Can I take a quick straw poll of who comes for the whole weekend, the majority of people raised their hands.

Ron Marie-let's vote on it

Syd Thomas-We will vote on it now, who wishes to trial the meeting on a Friday, 4 for, the rest against, the motion was not carried the meeting will remain on a Saturday.

No other AOB was raised

The President again thanked everyone for their attendance and said he looked forward to seeing them on parade tomorrow at 1030hrs, gates will open at 100hrs, please make sure you have your gate passes with you, the meeting is now closed.

The dates for the reunion next year are the 20th-22nd September 2019.

BOBA SHOP HAS A NEW MANAGER

From February 2019, the BOBA SHOP has a new Manager. After 20 years of running the Shop with 11 of those years as Treasurer, I have now handed over to a colleague. A number of recent and ongoing health issues have necessitated my having to reduce my overall commitments, not just with BOBA, but with other aspects of life.

My good friend, Stephen Barker has taken over responsibility for the administration and supply of BOBA Merchandise. Together, with a few changes to our Reunion, there may be a few changes on how the Shop is operated over the Reunion Weekend. However, the On-line link to the Shop on the AAC website will not change, apart from the contact details.

I am confident that Stephen will continue to provide at least the same, if not better level of Service to BOBA Members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all BOBA Members who have supported the shop during my tenure, and hope you will continue to support Stephen in the same way.

Hopefully by the time you read this in the 2019 Echoes, the website will have been updated with Stephen's contact details.

Anthony Waite 60C Group

**BEACHLEY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION****BALANCE SHEET at 31st December 2018**

Previous Period Figures			Item	Current Period Figures		
Totals	Sub-Totals	Detail		Detail	Sub-Totals	Totals

ASSETS

	£0.00	Cash in Hand	£0.00
	£23,595.69	Cash in Bank	£15,147.99
£23,595.69		Total Cash	£15,147.99
£26,907.30		Monmouthshire Building Society Account	£36,969.86
£0.00		Sundry Debtors	£0.00
£50,502.99		Total Liquid Assets	£52,117.85

SHOP STOCK

£1,465.14	BOBA/AAS Regalia	£1,190.99
£51,968.13	Total Current Assets	£53,308.84

LIABILITIES

£341.93	Reunion	£15.13
£272.81	BOBA Golf Fund	£384.86
£289.40	Benevolent Fund	£289.40
£904.14	Total Liabilities	£689.39

£51,063.99	Net Working Capital	£52,619.45
	being Current Assets minus Liabilities	

FIXED ASSETS

£0.00	£0.00	Capital Property	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	Investments	£0.00	£0.00

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

	£53,359.96	Balance as per last Balance sheet	£51,063.99
	£0.00	Add surplus of Income	£1,555.46
£51,063.99	£2,295.97	Subtract deficit of Expenditure	£52,619.45
£51,063.99		Accumulated General Purposes Fund	£52,619.45
		being Net Working Capital and Total Fixed Assets	

Audited By:

Name	
Signed	
Date	

Treasurer:

Name	B Henderson
Signed	Signed on Original
Date	15 January 2019

**GENERAL PURPOSE FUND SUMMARY**

EXPENDITURE	2017	2018	INCOME	2017	2018
Expenses	£1,435.30	£1,379.99	Subscriptions	£3,547.50	£3,702.50
Refunds	£ -	£ -	Refunds	£ -	£ 5.00
Fees	£ -	£ 20.00	Shop Postage	£ 105.14	£ 54.52
Stationery	£ 117.05	£ 46.85	Bldg Soc Interest	£ 506.08	£ 57.56
Postage	£ 163.53	£ 101.34	Church Collection	£ 315.00	£ 262.00
Website	£ 210.11	£ 207.39	Shop Profit	£ 168.59	£ 157.05
Insurance	£ -	£ -	Investment Dividends	£ 867.04	£ -
Donations	£ 469.00	£ 848.91	Donations	£ 215.65	£1,011.91
Wreaths	£ 40.00	£ 40.00			
Misc Expenditure	£ 281.03	£ 123.60	Misc Income	£ -	£ -
Reunion	£ -	£ 600.00	Reunion	£ -	£ -
Transfers	£ -	£ -	Transfers	£ -	£ -
Write Offs	£5,138.95	£ 171.50			
CD/DVD's	£ 28.00	£ -	CD/DVD Sales	£ 51.00	£ 10.00
Name Badges	£ 12.00	£ -	Name Badges	£ 18.00	£ 9.50
Echoes	£ 200.00	£ 250.00	Echoes	£ 5.00	£ 75.00
Total Expenditure	£8,094.97	£3,789.58	Total Income	£5,799.00	£5,345.04
Surplus		£1,555.46			
Deficit	£2,295.97				
Grand Totals	£5,799.00	£5,345.04		£5,799.00	£5,345.04

Comments (FY 2017 v 2018):

1. Income from subscriptions slightly up but members are reminded to pay their dues annually.
2. Building Society interest very low, income minimal.
3. Production and postage costs of The Echoes is on the rise due to sending out more copies to members/widows who cannot view the document online.
4. Shop sales/profit remain steady.
5. Cost of reunion tickets not changed for 2018 hence subsidy from GPF.
6. Account shows an income in excess of expenditure of £1,555.46 for FY 2018.

AGM Agenda

Any point you want raised at the AGM in September please let the BOBA Secretary know as soon as possible.

Gary (Chalky) White

9 Appledore Drive, Allesley Park, Coventry

West Midlands CV5 7PQ

garywhite404@hotmail.co.uk

**BOBA Membership Secretary's Report ~ by Derek Fox 58B Group****11/03/2019** (All information is correct at this date)**Membership / New Members:**

There have been 22 new members join since the last rEchoes (2018). .

New Members.

Mr	C J	Christopher James	Welch	69B	C
Mr	J R T	James Renwick / Jim	Moffatt	62B	C
Mr	R H	Robert Henry/Bob	Civil	P/Staff	
Mr	R T	Robert/Thomas/Dick	Gay	58B	B
Mr	B J	Bruce / John	Stanley	68C	C
Mr	R	Ron	Mundy	65B	C
Mr	R J	Ronald/John/Ron	Allen-Baines	62B	C
Mr	M D	Michael Dennis/Mick	Conroy	69B/C	J
Mr	R T	Roger Trevor/Roger/Dan	Dando	58B	B
Mr	P M	Peter Mark	Cook	58B	A
Mr	W E	William Edgar/Bill	Langley	58B	B
Mr	C	Charles / Chas	Mallice	78A	A
Mr	B R	Brian Roy	Page	62B	C
Mr	G D	Gerald Desmond	Mallen	72C/73A	A
Mr	P	Peter John	Stedman	62B	B
Mr	P A	Patrick/Mac	McIlveen	69C/70A	C
Mr	D	Darren	Hilton	87 Sqn	4Trp
Mr	J J	John James	Cannings	60C	A
Mr	M R	Mark Ronald	Kerr	70C	A
Mr	H	Harold / Caddy / Harry	Cadwallender	70A	B
Mr	A J	Antony/Tony	Winn	70C	B
Mr	RC	Richard/Charlie	Young	70C	B

Chris Angell is paying subs but has not registered with the association. I have tried contacting him on Facebook but he appears to be ignoring me. I seek him here, I seek him there.

Membership Database

Membership currently stands at 844, of which 498 are paid up. (Sept 2018)

New Member Booklets

I am still not in receipt of the BOBA Objectives and Rules Book. New members are still receiving the old copies with the four amended pages stuck in.

Sympathy / Get Well Soon cards

As previously advised, I am now holding Sympathy and Get Well Soon cards. All I need now is your input as to who has passed away and who is sick. Members will slip through the net but it would be good to show to others that we are here and that we do care.

**In Memoriam**

I have been advised of the following deaths since the last copy of the Echoes.

333	Mr.	AJ	Alec	Beach	53B	D
			Christopher/			
1416	Mr	C S	Chris	Dowrick	69C/70A	A/C
					Perm	
N-M	Capt	P	Peter	Eastwood	Staff	RAPC
720	Mr.	J	John	Finnamore	50B	B
N-M	Mr	M J	Michael John	Fone	52B	B/A
58	Mr.	Derek	Derek	Sturge	35	B
N-M	Mr	T	Terence	Summers	58B	C
		WO			Perm	
N-M	2	T	Tom	West	Staff	RAOC
1194	Mr	V	Vic	Langabeer	58A	C
197	Mr.	DWE	Derek	Pomeroy	62A	A
N-M	Mr	B	Bryan	Tidy	64B	A
1028	Mr.	WH	Wally	Davidson	43	D
N-M	Mr	E ?	Ted	Shingles	55A	
628	Mrs.	PM	Pat	Jordinson (Perry)	Staff	
N-M	Mr	MJ	Michael	Fisher	57A	
667	Mr.	LAJ	Leo	Aitken	43B	D

May they rest in peace.

Subscriptions

Cheques sent to me in regard to annual subscriptions may take some time to be debited from members accounts. This is on account of my having to travel to towns other than that which is nearest in order to access Lloyds Bank. I would ask for your forbearance in this matter.

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 788159

Mobile Phone No: ~ +44 (0) 7842555110



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

Please write clearly in the white spaces with capital letters or Tick boxes

All sections must be completed

Your full Name or name of business

Branch name

Your contact telephone number

Sort Code

Account number

2 Standing Order details

Does this instruction replace any existing standing order or direct debit instructions?

Yes

No

X

How often do you want payments made?

Weekly

4 Weekly

Monthly

If 'YES' please complete section overleaf or detail in special instructions opposite.

Quarterly

Half yearly

Yearly

X

If 'NO' please complete all remaining boxes.

Special instructions

Recipient's name:

Beachley Old Boys' Association

Recipient's bank & branch name:

Lloyds TSB, CHEPSTOW, 7 Manor Way

Recipient's sort code

Recipient's Account number

3 0 9 1 8 9

0 0 0 9 8 8 5 2

First payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

First payment date
(Month & Year)

0 1 2 0

Usual amount

£ 1 0

Usual payment amount in words

TEN POUNDS STERLING

Second payment amount
(if different to usual amount)

Second payment date
(Fill in year)

0 1 0 4 2 0

Until further notice (X)

1. Ensure you fill in all dates where asked.

2. Make sure you sign and date this form.

3. When complete, send to your bank not BOBA.

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. Humperdink,E,27A)

Please allow up to three working days for the funds to reach the recipient's account

3 Your agreement with us

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
Registered office
25 Gresham St
London EC2V 7HN
Registered in England & Wales No 2065

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc
Registered office
Henry Duncan House
120 George St
Edinburgh EH2 4LH

Registered in Scotland
No 95237

Signatories to the Banking Codes

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 this person/organisation when payments are received.

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

From branch name

Sort Code

Contact name

ID confirmed
(for bank use only)

☐

Your signature

Date



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)

BOBA ~ Membership Secretary

Derek Fox

51 Church Close, Pentney,
King's Lynn, Norfolk.
PE32 1JJ

Tel. 01760788159

Mobile: 07842 555110

email: memsecboba@sky.com

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) 1760788159

Mobile: +44 (0)7842 555110

By Royal Mail: Send to the address above.

Thank you in anticipation.

Sincere Regards,

Derek Fox ~ BOBA Membership Secretary



A Visit To The Falkands



We found the plaque with Jim's name on, and I attached a card saying:

In Memory of Staff Sergeant Jim Prescott CGM RE.

From all his comrades in 60C Group

Army Apprentice College, Chepstow



By coincidence, whilst at the memorial, we met Brian Goater and his wife. Brian was 63B Group at Chepstow and, despite the cold, was resplendent in his blazer, BOBA tie and lapel badge.

After the Liberation Memorial we went to Christ Church, which is the world's southernmost

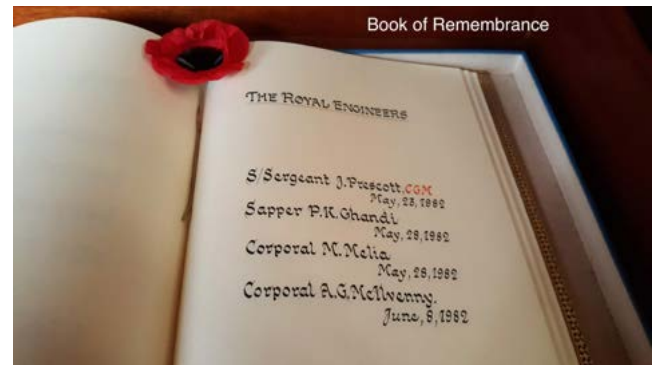
Anglican Church, in the church there is a memorial to those who lost their lives in the conflict. Under the flags of the British Services there is a plaque that is inscribed with the words:

"In Memory of the Officers and Men of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and Merchant Service who gave their lives for the freedom of these Islands"





There is also a book of remembrance. When the Verger found out why we were there he unlocked the glass case that held the memorial book and found the page with Jim's name on.



On some of the houses in Stanley there are signs leaving one in no doubt what the views of the islanders are regarding their future governance. In 2013 a referendum was held giving the islanders the opportunity to say whether they wanted to remain as an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom, or to transfer to Argentine rule. 92% of the population voted and 99.8% voted to remain a British territory. The story is that of the 3 people who voted to change, one was confused about the vote and realised too late that she had voted the wrong way.

On leaving the Falklands I suppose our main feelings were of sadness. That Jim and 254 others British troops had lost their lives, and hundreds of others had received life changing injuries. The Argentine forces, many who were conscripts, lost 649 men, and 3 Falkland Islanders lost their lives.

There were many opportunities for all the governments involved to come to an agreement regarding the future of the Islands, without resorting to armed conflict. It is a pity that these opportunities were missed.

Tony Armitage 60C A/T Sgt, Corps of Drums

Who is Jim?

More information on the next page.

Editor's Contact Details ~

Ray Armstrong
125 Baker Street, Wigan, Greater Manchester , WN3 5HG
Tel: 01942 491140
email ~ r.armstrong@virgin.net



STAFF SERGEANT JAMES PRESCOTT CGM RE

Jim died on 23 May 1982 whilst attempting to defuse an unexploded bomb on HMS Antelope in the Falkland Islands. More details on the incident, and the other tasks Jim had been undertaking in the South Atlantic, can be found on the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 site www.sama82.org.uk/prescottj.

Jim was part of Group 60C AAC Chepstow, and has been remembered at all the Group reunions that have been held.

When my wife and I decided to go on a cruise round South America I was pleased to see that one option was to visit the Falkland Islands. I had a word with a couple of 60C group, and they agreed that it was appropriate for me to leave something from 60C on the main memorial in memory of Jim.

The cruise started in Chile, and then went round Cape Horn towards the Falklands. The Captain had warned passengers that as there is no deep water harbour in the Falklands any landings had to be done via tender boats, and these could only operate when the sea is relatively calm. The weather the previous week had been too bad for landing to take place. For us the sea round Cape Horn was calm, but a storm caught up with us later in the day. Fortunately the rough sea settled overnight and we were able to land.

After landing at Stanley our first visit was to Bluff Cove to see a penguin colony. Transport was by mini bus and then 4X4, the drivers were very knowledgeable about the conflict and pointed out the various sites where fighting had taken place. Our drivers knew all the details about the explosion that killed Jim and injured his Warrant Officer, John Philips, also an Ex Apprentice, 58B Group, John having returned to visit the Falklands on a number of occasions. On our trip we were shown large areas of land that had been searched for mines that the Argentines had left. Luckily the penguins are not heavy enough to set the mines off, and so just humans and vehicles are at risk. It is hoped that all the mines will be cleared in the next year.

Ajax Bay, where Jim died, was too far away for us to visit so we next went to the 1982 Liberation Memorial. The memorial lists all the Army, RAF, Navy and Royal Marine units that took part in the conflict, together with plaques listing the names of the 255 British military personnel who died during the war. There is also a relief depicting famous moments during the war.

Anthony Waite 60C

As reported in the newspaper...

Mrs. Irene Graham of Thorpe Avenue , Boscombe, delighted the audience with her reminiscence of the German prisoner of war who was sent each week to do her garden. He was repatriated at the end of 1945, she recalled. "He'd always seemed a nice friendly chap, but when the crocuses came up in the middle of our lawn in February 1946, they spelt out 'Heil Hitler.'"

(Bournemouth Evening Echo)

Priorities

A fourball watched, intrigued, as a lone player played up short of the green they were on. As they teed off on the next they noticed him quickly chip on and putt out, before running up to their tee.

Sensing their bewilderment, he said, "Sorry, [do you mind if I play through](#) – I've just heard that my wife has had a terrible accident and may not make it!"

Lightbulb

How many golfers does it take to change a lightbulb? Fore.

And finally, a classic...

Why do golfers always carry a spare pair of trousers with them? In case they [get a hole in one](#)



A few actual announcements that London Tube drivers have made to their passengers...

"Let the passengers off the train FIRST!" (Pause.) "Oh go on then, stuff yourselves in like sardines, see if I care -- I'm going home...."

"We can't move off because some idiot has their hand stuck in the door."

"Please move all baggage away from the doors." (Pause..) "Please move ALL belongings away from the doors." (Pause...)

"This is a personal message to the man in the brown suit wearing glasses at the rear of the train: Put the pie down, Four-eyes, and move your bloody golf clubs away from the door before I come down there and shove them up your bum sideways!"

Greens OK?

A guy on vacation finishes his round, goes into the clubhouse. The head pro says, "Did you have a good time out there?"

The man replied "Fabulous, thank you."

"You're welcome," said the pro. "How did you find the greens?"

Said the man: "Easy. I just walked to the end of the fairways and there they were!"

Slow play

The problem with slow groups is that they are always in front of you, and the fast groups are always behind you.

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. 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 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 Ex WO2 (AQMS), Lou Walker, REME, 55A Group.

Paper Copy of the Beachley Echoes

If you require a paper copy of the newsletter please drop the Editor a line stating name, group and address. His contact details are above.



BOBA CONTINGENT FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE 2019

Arrangements for booking a place on the 2019 Parade will change slightly for this year, as our distinguished President, Syd Thomas, has handed over the reins to me after 20 years of sterling service.

If you wish to attend the National Remembrance Parade in Whitehall as part of the BOBA Contingent on Sunday November 10th 2019, please email me / contact me by telephone, or text details to my mobile / postal entry to my address below to arrive no later than 31st July 2019 with the following details: -

Title

Name (in Full)

Postal Address including Postcode

Group

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Contact Telephone Nos – Landline and Mobile

Email Address

Military Service No

Passport or Driving Licence No

(You will need to bring the relevant item as Photographic Identification Evidence on the day)

Reserved Parking Requirements in Pall Mall – Yes / No

Carer's Ticket Required – Yes / No

(Note:- Carer's Details will be required as above in addition to your own)



You will be issued with a Numbered Ticket which you will need to bring with you for admission to Horse Guards Parade, (No Ticket and /or No ID = No Entry)

Security has been tightened considerably over the last few years and will no doubt continue to be tightened further in the future. 2019 will be no exception. Our submission for tickets will need to be submitted during August 2019, hence the defined date for inclusion.

An Attendance Sheet (with facility for late entries, although places not guaranteed) will be displayed at the BOBA Exhibition Venue and at the Friday Evening AGM & Get-together at the BOBA Reunion in September 2019. If you pre-book and then find you are unable to attend, please let me know at the earliest opportunity, so that I can allocate your reservation to someone else.

My email address is anthonywaite22ss@hotmail.com

Telephone Nos 01823 669336 / 07788 581775

Address Sutton Lodge, 22 Seymour Street, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8JU

Anthony Waite 60C: –

REMEMBRANCE PARADE CO-ORDINATOR (BOBA)



The BOBA Shop

The following items are available from our shop.

Item	Notes	Price
Fleece Jackets	Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL	£40.00
"The Beachley Boys" Book	A story written by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Beachley Apprentices Story	Anecdotes by Apprentices compiled by Brian Elks	£12.00
The Story of the Army Apprentices at Beachley Camp 1924-1994	Official College History	£12.00
Tidenham Parish Churches Book *	Edited by Carol Clammer & Keith Underwood (£3.00 P&P)	£15.00
Mugs	Single Badge AAS / BOBA , Dual Badge	£6.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges		£10.00
Embroidered BOBA Blazer Badges	(Patch Pocket)	£10.00
BOBA Lapel Badges		£5.00
Cap Badge GSC		£5.00
Cap Badge KC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC		£5.00
Cap Badge QC. Anodised		£10.00
Wall Plaques	AAS or AAC	£20.00
Wall Plaques	BOBA	£20.00
BOBA Car Sticker		£2.00
BOBA Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAS Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
AAC Wire Wound Blazer Badge		£10.00
BOBA Ties		£5.00
BOBA Bow Ties		£5.00

* Covers all Beachley Churches.

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 (payable to "Beachley Old boys' Association")
- PayPal transfer

Extra fees apply for packing & postage and PayPal use.

Contact:

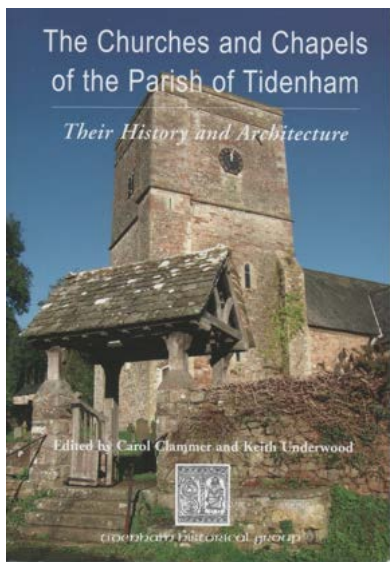
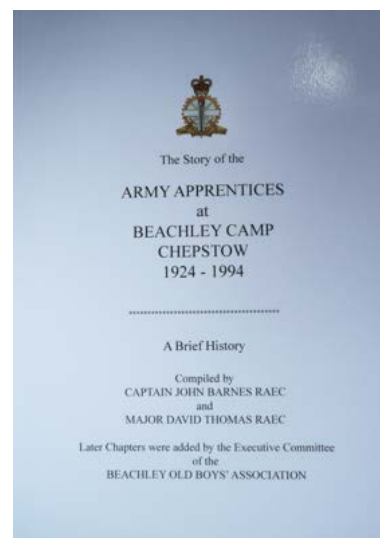
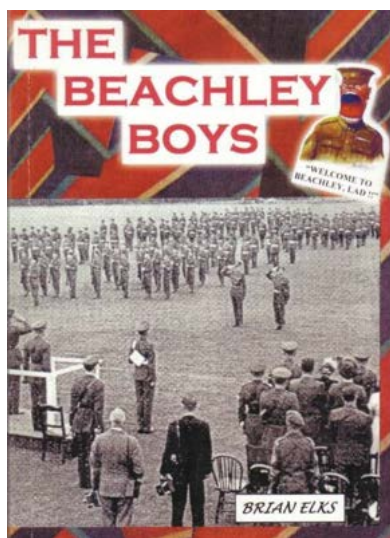
Stephen Barker
Suite 7, Booths Park 1, Booths Park
Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8GS

sebarker@peterloo-uk.com

Additional items
illustrated on page 45

Details of Robot CDs on
page 18





Latest additions to the Shop List are as follows, all to order + £3.00 p&p (Small quantity of some items in stock)

- BOBA T Shirts @ £10.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- BOBA Polo Shirts @ £12.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- BOBA Sweat Shirts @ £15.00 each in Navy & other Colours, S,M,L, XL, XXL
- The New Car Stickers @ £2.00 + £1.00 p&p (8.7cm/2.5inch dia—see photo on right)





from the Fairway : BOBA Golfing Society

2018 BOBA Annual Reunion Golf Competition

We were amazingly lucky with the weather, a tad windy with occasional gusts up to around 20mph but accompanied with warm sun all afternoon. The course at Bells Club Coleford was again in great condition, one of the benefits of all the wet stuff we endured in South Wales in our youth. Looking at the score cards, most of us struggled on the front 9 when the wind was at its strongest, fortunately it abated through the back 9 and some of us were able to rescue our round.

Those mentioned in despatches were as follows, Jimmy Hough for the longest the drive, John Green, nearest the pin on the 15th, Alf Chrascina, nearest the pin on the 17th and most points scored on the par 3's went to Kev Staples.

It was a close affair for those in the frame to win the Ken Standen Trophy, with 3 holes to go, the pressure got Tony Taylor who had 31 points but blobbed the last 3!

Tony Pitt was the runner up with 33 points and I was convinced he had won the day, especially as discussing the round (pre 19th hole) with the eventual winner, he told me he was freezing cold and had a poor round, so bad that neither he or his marker had even bothered counting up their scores!

So our congratulations go to the player most surprised to win this years event.

In difficult conditions with an impressive 34 points was Syd Thomas, well done Syd and we all look forward to you defending it in 2019.

Thanks to all for attending and hopefully see you all again next year.

Alf Chrascina, Golf Organiser. alf.chrascina@gmail.com

World's worst

A golfer was having a terrible round – 20-over par for the front nine with scores of balls lost in water or rough. When his caddie then coughed as he steadied himself over a 12-inch putt on the 10th, he lost it.

"You've got to be the worst caddie in the world!" he yelled.

"I doubt it," replied the caddie, dead-pan. "That would be too much of a coincidence."

Drowning your sorrows

After a particularly poor round, a golfer spotted a lake as he walked despondently up the 18th.

He looked at his caddie and said, "I've played so badly all day, I think I'm going to drown myself in that lake."

The caddie, quick as a flash, replied, "I'm not sure you could keep your head down that long."

The right club?

A hacker was playing so badly that his caddie was getting increasingly exasperated.

On the 11th, his ball lay about 160 yards from the green and as he eyed up the shot, he asked his caddie, "Do you think I can get there with a 4-iron?"

"Eventually," replied the caddie, wearily.

Coach

One day a player asked his coach: "What is going wrong with my game?"

"You're standing too close to the ball after you've hit it."

Scratch handicap

"Do you play off scratch?" said one player.

The other replied: "I sure am. Every time I hit the ball I scratch my head and wonder where it went."



Golfing Society Members



Syd Thomas and Alf Chrascina



Syd Thomas and John Green



Syd Thomas and Stu Burton



Presentation of the Ken Standen Trophy
Syd Thomas to Alf Chrascina



The social side of golfing





The 2019 BOBA Open Golf Championships

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

It will be held at **THE BELLS CLUB, COLEFORD, GLOS** on Friday 20th September 2019.

All golfers are required to meet in the main restaurant at midday for an early afternoon Tee time.

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 SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2019.**

Start times will be allocated on Saturday 7th September 2019 and all golfers informed by email, or text, **so please ensure your entry is received on time and that the address details are written clearly.**

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

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Alf Chrascina, April Cottage, Silver Street, Curry Mallet, Somerset, TA3 6SR(Tel: 07484842355)

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 ON FRIDAY (late morning/early 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:.....