

# Maidstone Wargames Society

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### Members Present

Andy King	Brian Simons	Chris Sime	Colin Campbell
David Sime	Jeremy Claridge	John Lambert	Marcus Wheeler
Mike Proudlock	Paul Lymath	Steve Tucker	

### Apologies for Absence

Alex Martin	Bretton Smith	Tony Francis	Peter Smith
Jon Roche	Tony Gibbs	Mark Harris	

### Chairman's Report

2010 was a sad year for the Society. Trevor Pearless, our long standing Chairman, lost his battle with cancer and passed away in July. His funeral was attended by many of his friends from school, church and the society; indeed most members of the Society were able to attend.

This was the first time an active member of the society has been lost in this way in many years.

We also undertook to help Trevor's family to dispose of his collection of figures, rules and boardgames. So far just over £1700 has been raised through sales to club members and bring and buys at SELWG and WARFARE.

Two other members have left us in the past year, Craig Dreghorn and Dave Gordon, due to relocation and/or family commitments.

On a more positive note, four new members joined in 2010: Colin, Bretton, David and Chris. We welcome you to the Society.

In September a new Chairman was elected – Andy King.

2010 saw the Society stage a number of games at various wargames shows and other venues. It was a bit of a mix and match year, slotting some previous year's games into shows they had missed for one reason or another, covering several scales and periods.

- February – Cavalier – Aspern Essling
- April – Salute - Under The Twin Suns
- June – Royal Engineers Museum – Skirmish at Ngoway's Kraal
- August – Military Odyssey - Aspern Essling and Camerone
- October – SELWG - The Second Battle of Magh Tuiredh

Also worthy of mention are our members who enter various competitions throughout the year. Between them Alan, Paul, Ian, Alex and Trevor entered competitions at Milton Keynes and Derby. Paul and Alex, under the team name "Deserting Rats", came first in the Battle Group Modern Team event at the Old Glory World Championships at Derby. Congratulations to them both.

Our open day in June demonstrated the wide variety of games played at the Society, and attracted several visitors. We must thank Brigade Models who kindly sponsored a short questionnaire / prize draw which 10 visitors completed. So far, however, we have not had any new members join from among the visitors to the Open Day.

Prompted by our late chairman, our nefarious Webmaster gathered our plans for 2010 and then published them for all to see on the Website. As the year closed, the prize for the most ambitious list goes to Tony, with 17 projects, the prize for the highest success rate goes to Steve, having completed all 6 of his projects.

Although Tony is not able to be here today he would like to re-iterate his annual plea for website content - game reports, painting and modelling articles, even historical articles if anyone feels so inclined. Also if anyone wants to commit to any projects he will be creating a 2011 To Do page.

### **Secretary's Report**

2011 is the fortieth year of Maidstone Wargames Society, the actual anniversary being in November. We should make reference to this event in our show game publicity and on the website.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Reserves are still overly high and I continue to plan to reduce them slowly until they are around £600, so the subscription will be held at £60 for 2011. The reserves dropped faster than planned in 2010, but this was due to one off unbudgeted costs.

We've held membership at 22 despite losing 3 members over the last 12 months.

I've carried over ongoing outlays from last year, but if we want to spend less on the open day then this will result in a smaller drop in reserves and is not material to the subs either way.

There is therefore no need for anyone to adjust standing orders.

For those who don't pay this way £30 will be due in January. Either pay Mark at one of the Jan meetings or forward a cheque as usual.

## **Change to Committee Responsibilities**

- Replacement of Interest Co-ordinator role with Open Day or Show Co-ordinator role
- A short discussion resulted in a vote approving the change to an Open Day Co-ordinator role. All present voted in favour, apart from Steve Tucker who abstained as he intended to stand for the amended position.

## **Election of Committee** (All current holders willing to stand again)

- Chairman                    Andy King elected
- Secretary                   Brian Simons elected
- Treasurer                   Mark Harris elected
- Two Ordinary Members
  - Webmaster                    Tony Francis elected
  - Open Day Co-ordinator   Steve Tucker elected.
    - Paul Lymath previously held the position of Interest Co-ordinator. In view of Steve's enthusiasm for the new role, Paul offered to stand aside and let Steve take up the new role unopposed

## **Any Other Business**

- Amendment to rules to waive membership fee for serving armed forces personnel
  - A lively discussion occurred on the merits of this proposal, including references to the likely applicability to members of the different Armed Forces, the need for Members to make a commitment to the Society, and the need of a membership fee as a clear means of identifying current, paid up, members who are therefore eligible to vote at General Meetings.
  - The consensus from the discussion was that serving armed forces personnel should be eligible for Concessionary Membership rather than waiving the membership fee. Those present at the meeting approved this amendment to the rules.
- Attendance as visiting club at Sittingbourne Show Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011
  - After a short discussion the members present decide that we should attend this show organised by Milton Hundred Wargames Club. As a member of both clubs, Andy King undertook to put Brian and the organisers in touch.
- Open Day Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011
  - Members were reminded of the date, and asked to consider what they might be able to offer for this year's open day.

- Attendance at Military Odyssey (Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011)
  - Another lively discussion, debating the benefits we obtain from attending the show and the difficulty of mobilising sufficient members to man the stand over a Bank Holiday weekend. The suggestion of inviting Rainham and/or Milton Hundred Wargame Clubs was again mentioned.
  - The outcome of this discussion was a decision that MWS should not attend as an exhibitor.
  - A suggestion was made that those interested could attend as a Society “day out”.
  
- Attendance as visiting club at Colours Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and / or Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (Newbury)
  - An application form was given to us at SELWG by the organisers; this would need to be submitted to them by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2011 if we wished to apply for a table.
  - Members present felt that there was sufficient time to defer a decision, depending on whether there were sufficient members interested in taking the game to this show.
  
- Suggested additional content for Website.
  - Database of Member’s interests, periods etc. Steve Tucker pointed out that he had initiated something similar a year or two back, but it did not generate much interest.
  - Pictures of committee members, to aid their identification to new members.
  - Biographies of Members, such details as member are willing to put in the public domain.
  - Galleries of Members Armies.
  - Tony had advised Andy that as a result of some training he will be undertaking at work this year, he will endeavour to add a table-booking page to the Website.
  
- Fourth Board.
  - We had intended acquiring a fourth 6 x 4 board last year, but this was not completed. The Chairman believes there to be sufficient reserves available to complete this in this financial year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at approximately 13.15.