

**Birmingham Medal Society Mini Convention, Knowle Royal British Legion Club**  
**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016.**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016 the Birmingham Medal Society held its bi-annual Mini Convention at the Knowle Royal British Legion Club. The event was well supported with 36 members and guests attending what was a day full of interesting talks and displays. In addition dealers Ian Laidler and Chris Burns from Sunset Militaria were displaying wares for sale. There were five entries on display for the Presidents Cup and an extra exhibit titled the history of the French War Cross.

The morning session was opened by the President who welcomed everyone and then handed over to the organiser and BMS Secretary Martin Harrison to facilitate the day.

Martin introduced the morning speaker, member Paul Handford MBE who spoke on THE CURIOUS CASE OF HERBERT MOWLE KENDAL.

*The presentation concerned the purchase of a group of medals and accompanying documentation in March 2012 from an auction relating to a Mr Herbert Mowle Kendal.*

*The documentation identified Mr Kendal as being a partner in the famous retail store in Deansgate, Manchester, 'Kendal Mile & Co.' and who was apparently killed in action on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1918 whilst driving his ambulance as member of the British Ambulance Committee (British Committee of the French Red Cross) attached to the French 39<sup>th</sup> Division, in the area of Soissons, France.*

*However, his death was not recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

*The presentation described the research project undertaken to prove that Mr Kendal was killed in action in May 1918 and the evidence eventually submitted to the CWGC for Mr Kendal's death to be accepted and recognised by the Commission; and Mr Kendal's name to be added to a CWGC Memorial in France*

*Examining documents located in the UK, French war diaries contained in the French Ministry of Defence archives, the Prisoner Of War Records retained in the International Red Cross archives in Geneva and other research material, in 2014 I was able to submit a large dossier of evidence to the CWGC.*

*The submission was considered by the CWGC for 18 months and after adjudication by a committee at the National Army Museum, Mr Kendal's death was accepted as a causality of WW1 and his name recorded on the Commission's site and to be added to a CWGC memorial in France (to be decided)*

*Mr Kendal's death will be the first civilian casualty to be included on a WW1 memorial on the Western Front, whose body has never been found, but accepted as 'Killed in Action' during WW1.*

*The conclusion of the talk was that following a purchase of a standard WW1 medal group with an intriguing element to the accompanying documentation, by thorough research, with access to previously unknown records, an important and unique conclusion was achieved.*

Following a buffet lunch the winner of the President's Cup for the best exhibit, judged by a panel of three, Wing Commander Steve Mills, Dr Chris Davies and Chris Burns was announced.

The five exhibits were:

1. I only wanted the medallion - **Roger Bragger**
2. Cadet Forces Medal – Air Force Recipients – **John Scott**
3. Operation Nimrod SAS Hero – **Dave Seeney** **THIRD PLACE**
4. HMS Pegasus Guns v SMS Konigsburg Guns – **Christopher Hill** **SECOND PLACE**
5. The Three Cos – **Martin Harrison** **WINNER**

In addition the Research Trophy was awarded to Roger Bragger.

Following the presentations members and guests gave a series of short talks on a range of medal related topics.

Philip Wilson – A Medallion Interlude

Roger Bragger – Prime Minister to Prime Minister

Paul Murray – John William Heavyside

Steve Mills – Wareford VC

Martin Harrison – a Driving Leadership

Paul Handford – History of the French War Cross

Ken Weston – Selection of recent Acquisitions

Barry Sutton – Great Uncles medals for the Battle of Jutland

Reg Cook – General medals & Red Cross award

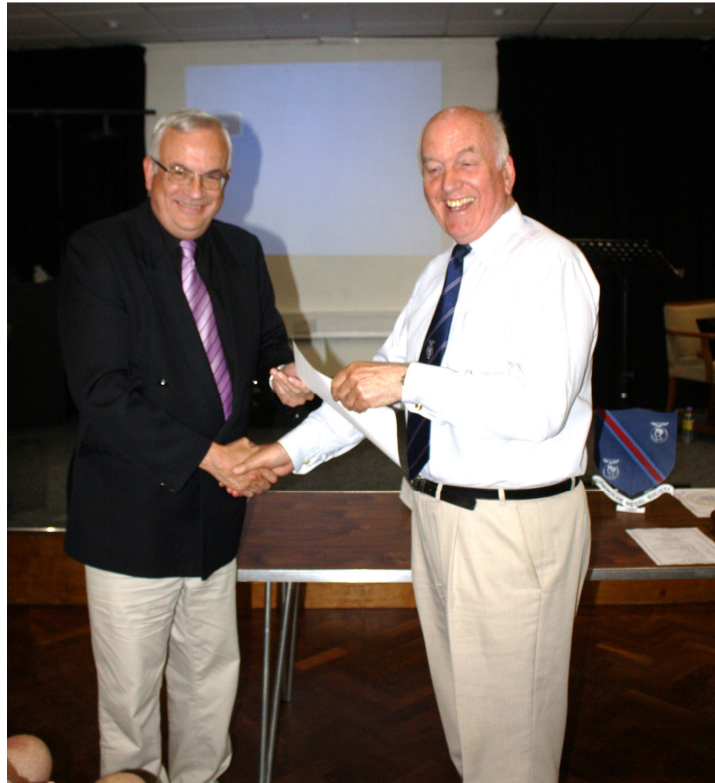
Christopher Hill – African Theme

The day concluded at 1700h and it was generally agreed that it had been another highly enjoyable and informative day.

See below for some photographs from the day.



**The President's Cup Winner 2016**  
**The Three CO's**



**President's Cup 3<sup>rd</sup> place  
Dave Seeney  
Operation Nimrod SAS Hero**



**President's Cup 2<sup>nd</sup> place  
Christopher Hill  
HMS Pegasus Guns v SMS Konigsburg Guns**





**President's Cup Winner 2016**  
**Martin Harrison**  
**The Three CO's**



**Research Trophy Winner 2016**  
**Roger Bragger**