

Combined President and Secretary's report for the years 2019-20 and 2020-21:

The list of meetings reads as follows:

2019-2020

- 6.6.2019 – '75th Anniversary of D-Day' by Roger Bragger.
- 21.7.2019 – BMS Miniconvention and President's Cup.
- 1.8.2019 - 'Like Father almost like Son' by Roger Bragger.
- 5.9.2019 – 'An Anthropoid in Wales – Medals and a link to the assassination of Heydrich' by Martin Harrison.
- 3.10.2019 – 'Dawkita 1897 – The West African Rorke's Drift' by Jim Carver.
- 7.11.2019 – Drummond Lecture – 'One Hundred Years post Versailles' by Simon People.
- 6.2.2020 – 'Siege of Ladysmith, Nearby Battles and Associated Medals' by Chris Davies.
- 5.3.2020 – New Military Research and the Internet' by Dave Seeney.

2020-2021

All formal meetings were cancelled. The following are the list of 'ZOOM' meetings held since August, 2020. The 'Drummond Lecture' and President's Cup were cancelled.

- 29.8.2020 – Informal - Recent Acquisitions.
- 19.9.2020 – Informal – Recent Acquisitions.
- 24.10.2020 – Informal – Recent Acquisitions.
- 5.11.2020 – 'The Road to Dunkirk' by Dave Seeney.
- 3.12.2020 – 'A Saturday Night Soldier' by Martin Harrison.
- 7.1.2021 – Members' Own and Recent Acquisitions'

The next 'ZOOM' meetings are:

- 4.2.2021 – 'Research Never Ends - More Henderson Research' by Roger Bragger.
- 4.3.2021 – 'Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders – Detachments and Odd Men' by John Scott.

Miniconvention: We held a very successful 21st July, 2019. [***Full details on BMS Website***]

Holiday Inn attendance and other stats for 2019-20:

Based on 11 meetings [***with 2018-2019 stats in brackets***]:

Average attendance = 22 [21] and range attending 18-27 [15-27]

Meals taken = 10 [11]

Drinks only = 6 [8]

Overnight stay at Hotel = 1 [1]

Average meeting attendance has improved every year for the last 4 years I have access to. We're also less hungry and thirsty in 2019-20 than in 2018-19!!

Stats for 2020-2021 – no formal stats have been taken. Thank you to those who send me their apologies.

New/Returning Members:

We welcome John Somner into the BMS and Clifford Hadley back to the BMS.

No Membership fees were taken in the 2020-21 year.

BMS ran a table at Stratford upon Avon medal fair – although we had a lot of interaction at this event, I don't think this led to any new BMS members. The table display of odd/defective medals [provided by Dave Seeney for the event] provoked a lot of chat and requests for prices even though he was at pains to point out they weren't for sale!!

Sadly, I have to report the names of three deceased members since April, 2019 - John Barker in December, 2019, Reg Cook in March, 2020 and Martin Keys in May, 2020. RIP.

Society Membership and Roles:

Our numbers currently total 31 which includes two honorary and two life members.

President Roger Bragger

Past President Philip Wilson

Secretary Chris Davies

Treasurer Mark Platt

Archivist/Librarian John Scott

Website Martin Harrison

The above are also your BMS committee members along with Chris Burns, Chris Newton and Paul and Su Handford.

Venue/ZOOM funding/BMS activities 2020-21:

Thanks to Phil McDermott of Worcester Medals for ongoing funding of the Holiday Inn and our Zoom subscription.

Thanks to M. Harrison for maintaining the BMS website, D. Rees for maintaining the Facebook page and C. Davies for ongoing secretarial duties.

Our activities for 2020-21 have been and continue to be severely curtailed by the Covid pandemic but this in turn has led to a different way of continuing society or other activities. We have a lively and successful BMS 'Whatsapp' group – Thanks to Danny Rees and Mark Platt for setting this up. If any BMS member would like to join this group, please could they contact Danny or Mark on their mobile numbers [Danny Rees 07756 147408 and Mark Platt 07811 263046].

In common with many others, we have been running 'ZOOM' meetings since early August, 2020. These remain informal though since November, 2020, have been more structured with either a speaker/topic or 'Members' Own' meeting format. A meeting was even held in January, 2021 [when we don't usually meet] so there are advantages to the new technology!! Our thanks to Dave Seeney for organising our 'ZOOM' account and invitations.

For information, our BMS attendees at recent 'ZOOMs' usually number between 10 and 12 – however, many guests join in and we have possibly 3 new members as a result.

Our 'ZOOM' meetings are recorded – this helps the BMS secretary make reasonable notes for our records plus there is an archive of the event.

In summary, we have had an excellent range of topics and quality of speakers through this two year period, there really was something for everyone! We would like to thank the membership for all their presentations and for all contributions in our meetings.

Roger Bragger – President

Chris Davies – Secretary.