



P.O. Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, HD6 1JQ, England

THE A.C.W.S. NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition



Old Tatton Park 2009

Issue No 155

Website :- www.acws.co.uk Winter 2010

WEST POINT SUTLERS

**The UK and Europe's most respected
American Civil War supplier**

RFD 1951 West Midlands

See West Point at major American Civil War & multi-period
events in 2009

Union & Confederate
uniforms made to
order or off the peg

Men's women's &
children's civilian
clothing

Second hand
clothing



Haversack fillers

Muskets & other
weaponry

Leatherwear

Brasswear &
insignia

ARK
Historic Clothing



Phil & Jayne Olden
21 Edgewood Road
Rednal
Birmingham
B45 8SB

Tel: 0121 453 7016

Mob: 07974 956401

Email: westpointsutlers@blueyonder.co.uk

www.westpointsutlers.org





Events 2010

2nd -5th April West Wales Museum of Childhood

Pen-ffynnon, Llangeler, Carmarthenshire, SA44 5EY

Open to the whole society, camping is available from Good Friday through to the following Tuesday. Facilities include : water, indoor flushing toilets, showers, tea room and the museum. You will need to bring your own firewood.

Registration 3.00 More details contact Claire Morris 69th N.Y. on clairemorris_irishbrigade@hotmail.com

10-11th April Confederate Training Weekend

17-18th April Federal Camp of Instruction

Both of these events will be held at Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN

No arrivals before 3.00p.m.on Friday, gates will close at 21.00hrs Friday and 19.00hrs Saturday. They open again at 7.00a.m. each morning, Sunday evening last exit will be 21.00hrs. Training on Saturday and Sunday

2nd -3rd May – ROCKINGHAM CASTLE

Rockingham, Nr Corby, LE16 8TH

Full Society Event, camping will be available from Friday afternoon, strictly no earlier arrivals. You can stop over until Tuesday morning; the camping and parking arrangements will be similar to last year. There will be a beer tent and catering bar available on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Battles Sunday and Monday.

30th – 31st May – Sewerby Hall

Full society event at Sewerby Hall, Bridlington, North Yorkshire, YO15 1EA.

Members camping from Friday afternoon until Tuesday.

Displays on SUNDAY and MONDAY

19th – 20th June Stanford Hall

Full society event at Stanford Hall, nr Stanford-on-Avon, Leicestershire, LE17 6DH, (M1 J19). . This is a Self-sponsored event. Private events on SATURDAY and Public Battle on SUNDAY.

3rd July Eynsham Carnival – Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Oxford Road Playing Field, Oxford Road, Eynsham, OX29 4HG

Two battles, parade, Living History Displays, Members camping from Friday until Sunday, More details to follow.

10th -11th July

Possible Event Cumbria

29th – 30th August Norfolk Heritage Park, Sheffield

August Bank Holiday event at Norfolk Heritage Park, Sheffield, S2 2RU.

Sheffield City Council event with EventPlan staging Multi-Period displays again as part of the Sheffield Fayre.

Members' camping is available from Friday after 3 p.m. until Tuesday a.m.



Events cont.
11th – 12th September

Tatton Old Hall,

Full society event at Tatton Old Hall, Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6QN. Delightful site in the middle of beautiful Cheshire countryside.

Members camping is available from Friday lunchtime until Monday.

Displays SATURDAY & SUNDAY No arrivals before noon on Friday, gates will close at 21.00hrs Friday and 19.00hrs Saturday. They open again at 7.00a.m. each morning, Sunday evening last exit will be 21.00hrs.

Soskan Invitations

Below are a list of events that A.C.W.S. have invited Soskan to and Soskan have invited A.C.W.S. to as a society.

Easter 2nd - 5th April

Wellington Country Park (WCP) Easter 2 - 5 April

2nd -3rd May –

Rockingham Castle

19th -20th June

Stanford Hall ACWS invite event.

26th -27th June

Bloxham Steam Fair -

Due to the hard work thee Maryland artillery put in getting us back this show. Maximum attendance please.

25th -26th September

Bath

Annual event at the American Museum Claverton Manor Bath More details to follow!

Non ACW events,

17th – 18th July

Kelmarsh Hall

We have been asked to provide volunteers for a Boer War impression at Kelmarsh Hall again, more details to follow.

English Heritage Multi-period Event - Festival of History, at Kelmarsh Hall, Northamptonshire, NN6 9LT Living History and displays SATURDAY and SUNDAY.

All events camping Friday to Monday unless stated otherwise.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Greetings, ACWS Members and a Happy New Year to you all. Well, here we are in 2010, looking forward to a cracking new re-enacting season, devised by Hoppy and Aunty Viv and "the team". Watch this space! They're working hard to get it all sorted!

So, with turkey, Christmas pud and a lot of snow behind us, please, all of you, re-join ACWS as soon as you can. Download forms from the web site if you've lost the ones posted to you. Those of you with guns NEED to be members (and have the Society's Public Liability Insurance cover) so you have a reason to be holding your muskets.

This is the last newsletter you get unless you renew NOW. Last year's membership ran out on 31st December. Many thanks to all of you who have put in your forms to re-join already – well done. Claire is working hard to process everything and get the new membership cards out soon.

Well, we could do with a lot more recruits, especially in the Confederate Army. Go out there and GET THEM IN! This is a brilliant hobby, with an excellent set of mates, so lets share it and spread the word.

Please read through the AGM minutes carefully and note the new arrangements for parades and briefings at events that will now take place. Many thanks to Debs and Howard Davies for arranging the AGM venue and dance at Alsager last year: this year, thanks to Phil and Jayne Olden, we will be at the Nautical Club

in Birmingham the first Saturday in December. Turn and turn about.

You will also note that Chairman Mike Bussey has decided to stand down from that job at the 2010 AGM, so the hunt is on for a new Chairman. Mike has kept a steady hand on the tiller and done a brilliant job – for which I personally thank him – but fair enough, he's decided he wants a break. Any volunteers, please? Can we have some sensible suggestions – volunteers with both considerable experience and gravitas would be appropriate. I am always happy to have a confidential chat, if needs be. Remember, Mike will still be "an officer of the Society" and be Webmaster and deal with the PO Box. He's just stepping down from the Chairman's job.

Fear not, March and April will be with us soon. Time to check over the kit and get ready for another busy ACW re-enacting year.

See you soon and keep your powder dry.

Philip Clark
Director & Secretary



FIRST AIDERS

Could all members who wish to be registered as First Aiders at events please bring their original certificate and a photocopy of it, to the first event they attend and show them to either Phil Clark or myself so we can keep our records up to date.

Ian Morris



The Projects Team Report



Hi All

Happy New Year, to you all and hope that 2010 treats you all well. It is now official; I am the Projects Director and would like to thank you all for your support. As most of you will be aware Viv is stopping on to be my assistant, so please continue to bring your queries, concerns and gossips to us both concerning events. The event list still has one or two potential dates available, if you do know of an event we could possibly attend please let myself or Viv know. Do not discuss finer detail yourselves with sponsors, that is our job, and it can be a lot more complicated than just agreeing to put up a couple of tents in a field.

I must stress that things at events won't be that much different, just because I am the new face. A.C.W.S. shows have a format that works for sponsors and members alike, and any changes that happen will be subtle.

We are amateurs doing what we do, but we are slowly becoming embroiled into a professional market place and thus our presentation needs to reflect this in order for us to survive, most sponsors want interaction with their public, entertaining, and educating them along with the hope they, the public, enjoy what we present to them. This is repaid by our reputation being lifted into more and more areas with

hopefully more prestigious shows. So do please interact with the public, they provide our bread and butter for those things we like doing away from the public glare. If you don't know the answer to a question explain that question is not in your particular area of research, pass it on if possible to a fellow member who may have that knowledge.

Could I ask of you all to be a little more conscious this year of your litter and how you leave your camp areas please? Last year we had more than one occasion when our reputation was tarnished by sloppy reinstatement of fire pits and the amount of litter left lying about after decamp. Just one person from each unit to check their units area, is spotless is all that is required, before leaving. This is important, at least one venue you all love going to, were not impressed, and could have cost us a show. The venues and sponsors talk to each other and as we know bad news travels fast. It also makes my job trying to get events extremely difficult if we have a publicly tarnished reputation, please be more thoughtful!

After all this is my hobby too and I also work and expect to be able to relax at some point during a weekend.

See you at the training weekends soon



ACWS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2010

Keep those cameras clicking again this season and join in with the competition again this year.

Details will be published in the newsletter and on the website at a later date.

**Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of
The American Civil War Society Ltd
Held at Alsager Civic Centre, Alsager, Cheshire
On Saturday 5th December 2009**

Present:

Directors: Mr Mike Bussey : Chairman : MB
Mrs Val Holt : Communications: VH
Miss Claire Morris : Membership : CM
Mr Ian Morris : Treasurer : IM
Mr Philip Clark : Secretary : PC
Mr Roger Willison-Gray : Marketing : RWG
Mrs Vivienne Corbishley : Projects : VC
Mr Timothy Davies : Federal Army C.O. : TM
Mr Tony Radcliffe : Health & Safety : TR

Society

Officers: Mr Bill Brown : Confederate Army C.O. : BB
Mr Andrew Hopwood : Projects Assistant : AH
Mrs Alison Radcliffe : H&S assistant : AR
Mr Mike Corbishley : Explosives Officer : MC

Society Solicitor: Mrs Jennifer Clark

Plus 63 members present.

The meeting started at 1.10 pm.

1. MB welcomed everybody to the 34th Annual General Meeting of the American Civil War Society and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies were received from the following:
Lee Fairlee, Phil & Helen Berry, Stuart Mountford, Rev Ron & Margaret Mosley, Christian Sprakes, Tracey Hopwood, Antoon Jansen, Ken & Lynn Morgan, Phil Golder.

3. Motion to approve the Minutes of the 2008 AGM held at Alsager Civic Centre, Alsager, Cheshire on Saturday 6th December 2008.
This was proposed by Martin Cross and seconded by Dave Parkin, and duly voted upon:

FOR	62	Proxy votes were:	FOR	57
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	0

4. Motion to receive the Reports of the Directors and Officers for the 2009 Season as published and issued to members in November 2009.

4.1 Secretary : Mr P Clark

PC offered his thanks to everyone – Board members, Society Officers and Members – for their contribution to the Society. He expressed his concern about recruitment and stated that a big effort is required from everyone. He then explained to all present that VC and AH are effectively swapping roles in Projects, but will continue to work together to cover event business during the week. He also explained that VC needs to continue to be a director of the Society in order to have the authority to take on the spot decisions regarding events.

PC then thanked the Artillery members for their hard work and cooperation. He reported that the required repairs are being carried out – wheels for Union and touch holes for Confederate batteries. He quoted the cost of new cannon (around £10,000) and compared it with the justified cost of these repairs.

PC then outlined the latest gunpowder regulations which require markings on the products and bar-code identification of the source of the explosives as anti-terrorism measures stemming from the EU. He confirmed that these need to be noted up until the consignment breaks bulk, and therefore does not pose any further work for individual members, only the Society Explosives Officer or Pyrotechnics Officer. He expressed his thanks to NAReS for their work and clarification on this matter.

PC described the new impending Child Protection systems due to come into force sometime over the next 2-3 years – a new organisation for CRB vetting and barring (ISA register). He reported that arrangements and regulations are still being sorted out but NAReS are working on finding out about the requirements and how it will affect ACWS.

He reported that at the NAReS AGM a speaker suggested that risk assessments, health & safety policy etc need to be in place as a defence against claims. PC reiterated therefore the importance of ACWS trade tests.

The NAReS speaker also mentioned a medical issue – NOT sharing drinks containers to mitigate against spread of infectious diseases. PC suggested that, as a society, perhaps a Safe Code of Practice is required to be written and adhered to. After a couple of points of clarification from the floor regarding CRBs and private purchase of gunpowder, there were no further questions or additions for the Secretary's report.

4.2 Projects : Mrs V Corbishley

There were no questions from floor and VC made no additions to her published report.

4.3 Treasurer : Mr I Morris

IM announced the Accountant's figure of £656 depreciation to be added to his published reports.

Martin Cross asked about whether the guns and trailers were included in fixed assets / plant & machinery, and if so could the repairs increase their value in the

accounts. IM explained that unfortunately the repairs will not affect the figure and will continue to be depreciated each year.

Mike Bussey asked about the debtors' figure of £3,500. IM explained that Sheffield hadn't paid the Society at the time of publishing the accounts, but has since been received therefore there is no longer a debtors' figure.

MB thanked IM for his hard work with HMRC and Companies House over the year.

4.4 Membership : Miss C Morris

CM reiterated PC's point about the need for recruitment, and there were no comments or questions from the floor. MB thanked CM for her work over the year.

4.5 Marketing : Mr R Willison-Gray

RWG thanked the medical team for their help and also praised the support from other members at the time of his accident at Hingham.

He announced that Neil Hoddle is to be his Marketing assistant.

He also emphasised the need to get more fee-paying events. He asked all members to feed any information/suggestions to Projects and Marketing to find ways of generating revenue. He warned that without a conscious effort from everyone, the Society is in danger of collapsing and stated that a big effort is required from everyone.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

MB thanked RWG for all his work, especially the advertising in Skirmish, which has significantly raised ACWS "brand awareness".

4.6 Confederate Army Representative : Mr B Brown

BB had no additions to LF's published report, and there were no questions from floor. MB thanked BB for his efforts this year.

4.7 Federal Army C.O. : Mr T Davies

TD had no additions to make to his published report, and there were no questions from the floor. MB thanked TD and all the Union officers for their efforts this year.

4.8 Communications : Mrs V Holt

VH expressed her thanks to all contributors to the newsletters, and encouraged continued support from everyone. There were no queries on VH's published report. MB thanked VH for her hard work, and a difficult journey with the newsletter this year, but stated that it had been worth it for the resulting high quality publication produced.

4.9 Health & Safety : Mr A Radcliffe

TR expressed his thanks for everyone's help and support.

There were no additions to or queries on TR's published report.

MB thanked the H&S team for their hard work, observing that it can be quite onerous these days to come into line with new and ever-changing regulations.

Martin Cross suggested that the assistant safety officers – one per regiment – need to be identified early on in the year to increase awareness among members. TR made the point that we are all responsible for safety.

Alison Radcliffe asked about the necessity for trade tests for civilians and militia. PC confirmed that such members must attach themselves to a regiment on the field and take the relevant tests.

4.10 Chairman : Mr M Bussey

MB reminded the meeting that he had decided to take a step back at the 2010 AGM and no longer stand as Chairman , so a replacement Chairman would be required at the next AGM.

MB announced that the photo competition had been disappointing this year, perhaps due to bad advertising, but confirmed that it will be on again next year. He indicated that this year's finalists were on display on the front of the stage. He suggested that perhaps the competition needed a prize as well as a shield (e.g. free membership for a year) in order to attract competitors. RWG confirmed that it is a valuable competition, especially from a Marketing point of view, as the photos can be used to represent to potential sponsors what the Society does.

MB announced that newsletters can be sent electronically this year in an attempt to cut costs. He asked members to note the new tick box on the membership forms to request this service.

Bob Smith asked why the newsletters are not given out at events any more. MB explained that there are fewer editions nowadays, and also that it is produced in Weymouth and would need to be shipped in bulk which could prove expensive. The individual newsletters are currently posted out by the printer as part of the service.

MB also reminded everyone about using the Amazon account, accessed from ACWS website so that the Society benefits from commission on your purchases. VH will also put a reminder in the newsletter.

MB explained that Society Finances had not gone as well as first predicted at the start of the season, and questioned the ability to afford to do self-funded events any more, as these need paying events to allow

this to happen. IM explained that part of the problem was the increased cost of gunpowder by £70 a box. John Filer stated that pyrotechnics had actually reduced in price, but these costs were grouped in with gunpowder costs in the accounts. He also stated that he already has a good supply in stock for the new season.

MB expressed his thanks to various members who participated as Boers at Kelmarsh. EH were very pleased with their performance and there is an invitation to return in 2010, therefore volunteers are requested.

4.11 Motion to adopt the directors' reports

This was proposed by Gary Holman and seconded by John Filer, and duly voted upon:

FOR	All present	Proxy votes were	FOR	57
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	0

Motion duly approved.

5. Motion to receive the Audited Accounts

This motion was proposed by Brian Coxon and seconded by Alison Ratcliffe and duly voted upon:

FOR	All present	Proxy votes were	FOR	57
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	0		ABSTENTIONS	0

Motion duly approved.

6. Motion to Reappoint Messrs David Carty & Co Chartered Accountants as Auditors

This motion was proposed by Helen Gibson, and seconded by Barry Allen.

FOR	62	Proxy votes were	FOR	56
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	1
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	0

Motion duly approved.

7. Membership & Registration fees for the 2010 season

MB summarised the proposals as published in agenda , noting the proposed increase in the Membership Fees for 2011 , which this item will authorise , if passed .

Wendy Blanchard requested clarification of what age is classed as an adult. CM explained that there is no distinction for registration fees, but from the age of 14 a person becomes a paying member.

Martin Cross asked whether the Board had considered adding the registration fees to the membership fee. MB confirmed that this had been looked at and calculations had revealed that it would not be economic more attractive to members.

Darren Bond suggested increasing registration fees as many members spend a lot on food drink etc at events, so this would be unlikely to have a big impact on members' expenditure.

MB explained about the Board's event budget and the setting of registration fees. He stated that there are procedures in place to examine and re-examine this throughout the year in order to maintain sight of the appropriateness of registration fees.

Bob Smith suggested charging membership for the following 12 months after each individual joins, ie a rolling 12 months. CM and IM stated that this would be too big an administrative task. CM stated that people who want to join at the back end of the season can fill in a membership form and pay late in the current season for the following year's membership.

John Filer requested that this stance is made official that late joiner's (new members only) membership will start in January. MB and Board agreed this official stance.

The Board were thanked for keeping subscriptions so low in this economic climate. Applause from members.

This motion as presented by the Board was proposed by Bill Brown, and seconded by Peter Holt.

FOR	62	Proxy votes were	FOR	52
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	2
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	3

Motion duly approved.

8. Election of Board of Directors

There being no desired debate, this motion was proposed by Guy Story and seconded by Gary Holman and duly voted upon:

FOR	60	Proxy votes were	FOR	52
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	5
ABSTENTIONS	2		ABSTENTIONS	1

Motion approved. AH then joined the Board.

MB thanked VC for her 16 years service in the Projects role and presented her with flowers and applause from all present.

VC thanked the Board for their support over the years, and to AH for stepping in when she was ill or incapacitated. She went on to reiterate the ongoing complaint about the mess left behind after events, and made a plea to all members to clear up properly before leaving.

9. Re-election of Mr T Davies as Federal Commanding Officer

This was proposed by Gary Holman and seconded by Dave Parkin and duly voted upon by Federal members only:

FOR	24	Proxy votes were	FOR	31
AGAINST	1		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	0

Motion approved.

10. Re-election of Mr B Brown as Confederate Commanding Officer

This motion was proposed by Darren Bond and seconded by Bob Smith and duly voted upon by Confederate members only:

FOR	17	Proxy votes were	FOR	21
AGAINST	0		AGAINST	0
ABSTENTIONS	1		ABSTENTIONS	3

Mr Bill Brown was therefore duly re-elected as the Confederate Commanding Officer for 2010.

The meeting broke at 2.50pm for 15 minutes.

11. Proposal regarding Colours Parade at Events

As set out in the Agenda –

“Colours in its present form is no longer required by the ACWS and interrupts the living history portrayed by members of the Society . It is unauthentic for members of the opposing armies to parade , under arms , in close proximity to each other and confuses the watching public. It is proposed that it is replaced by 2 alternative meetings :-

Every Sunday of an event weekend ACWS Board members and Unit Commanders including a Civilian rep (or their nominated representatives) should meet between 9am and 9.45am to discuss issues that need to be communicated to the wider membership and provide feedback from that membership . It is the responsibility of the attendees to relay this information to their units and to act as a conduit for the views of the membership at large.

Alternatively and BY EXCEPTION, the whole Society should meet between 9am and 9.45am to relay important information that must be given to the Society as a whole . Such exceptions would include Site specific serious health & safety issues or to communicate the passing or retirement of ACWS members , not details of future events or the location of accommodation for the Annual Dance , as the latter information is freely available on the internet or via the newsletter and/or telephone directories.

Any member of the Board of Directors and Army Commanders may call such an exceptional meeting at their discretion . The main aim is to reduce the impact of Society business on the living history impressions of the members as this is very important to many of them and is the main reason that many attend . “

PC stated that this did not represent a rule or bye-law change, just a change in operating practice.

Martin Cross represented and explained the motion, commenting that at Colours Parade we are conducting private business in a public arena. There is also the potential problem of the “authenticity” issue of the two Armies being seen to gather together. Communications for the weekend should be done through the rank structure, so there is no need for a full society meeting at events, except in special circumstances.

John Filer commented that in his opinion, it can't be completely stopped, particularly from the point of view of communicating with new members, and suggested a reduced frequency, perhaps once per year.

Martin agreed with this, stating that we just don't need it every weekend.

Tony Radcliffe commented on the timing issue – that Colours Parade or any substitute for it needs to take place early in the morning before the public arrive.

Darren Bond suggested that the separate armies each do a dress parade and communications can be made then.

PC commented that training weekends and trade tests should cover safety issues, and that we can have a safety demonstration any time, not necessarily at a colours parade.

VC gave an apology for not knowing at what time the public would be arriving at 2 events this year. Usually Colours is timed not to coincide with public arrival. She felt that Colours is a tradition in ACWS that should continue. It is also useful for the Projects team to pass on communications and for new members to see and identify

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 2009



Congratulations to Alison Brown, who won the 2009 Photographic competition for her wonderful photograph taken at Tatton Old Hall, and featured on the cover of this edition of the Newsletter.

Ian Morris took second prize for his action packed photo taken at Norfolk Park Sheffield In August 2009.

Alison Brown also took third prize for this well timed shot again taken at Tatton Old Hall last year.

Well done Alison .and Ian

We will be running the competition again this season, so get those cameras ready.



Dance 2009



Board members.

RWG commented that it is a good forum for marketing information regarding the event to be communicated to Army Commanders at the last minute, and for this to happen all in one go, rather than by written instructions. In his opinion, communications are notoriously not good through the rank structure; for example, the cavalry often don't receive new information or last minute amending instructions. No Colours will mean much more work for everyone.

IM commented that Sunday is no good for Colours as a means of communication because it is half way through an event.

TD stated his support for the proposal, commenting that it only needs to be Army Commanders, officers, and Board members who gather together at most events , as per the motion.

BB expressed his support of Colours as a good communication method.

Guy Story commented that, whilst at Colours Parade we are conducting private business in a public arena. Authenticity, to his knowledge, had never been questioned by the public. He finds Colours useful and informative.

Dave Parkin gave his opinion that the content of information is not always relevant, and agreed that if Colours were to be held, it should be on Saturday rather than Sunday. He did however like Darren Bond's idea of a Dress Parade for each army.

Bob Smith stated his feeling of pride at how many members are there when gathered together at Colours. He felt that Powder officers should be exempt from Colours as this is frequently their busiest time in a day.

Helen Gibson commented that we are a family society, and Colours is a good way for non-coms to get information.

Glenn Gibson stated that Colours ensures that the two armies are dressed, fully kitted and ready for drill. As well as being a good communication tool, it is also a good display for the public, and reduces the potential for "Chinese whispers".

Dave Parkin commented that the holding of Colours could leave camps unattended, a potential security issue at certain events.

John Filer expressed his opinion that it is the Commanding officer's job to ensure security of the camp and they should therefore appoint a person(s) to guard them.

Angela Cross stated that public parks are open all day and it is therefore difficult to avoid being on public view.

RWG stated that a small, relevant group meeting instead is good idea. However Colours provides a good "buzz", and it can be inspirational to be part of a big society. He emphasised the need to ensure that we maintain a "catch" mechanism to cover everyone. We could separate the ceremonial element from the communications element in order to continue to enable new recruits to appreciate a ceremonial display of all the facets of the Society.

Bob Smith endorsed the concept of tradition.

Magz McCarroll commented that the length of Colours can be a problem. It needs to be short and concise and immediately relevant to the current event and maybe the next one.

Gay Willison-Gray commented that it is a good experience for the horses to stand amongst everyone, and equally good for new or timid members to feel and touch the horses and get used to them.

MB summarised the proposal:-
not to scrap Colours completely, just reduce the length and frequency.
make more and better use of the media and communication mechanisms already in place.
chain of command must be made to work.
and emphasised the need to vigorously enforce these.

In MB's opinion, Colours gives one voice, one message, one communication to the vast majority of members without ambiguity. Traditions and display and Society togetherness is considered important by many members.

PC handed out voting slips for the secret ballot

While voting took place, MB announced the results of the photographic competition:
THIRD – CS Infantryman firing at Tatton - Alison Brown
SECOND Cavalry at Sheffield –Ian Morris
FIRST Flaming tents at Tatton Old Hall event – Alison Brown

The votes in the hall having been counted and cross-checked , the results were:

FOR	28	Proxy votes were	FOR	40
AGAINST	27		AGAINST	12
ABSTENSIONS	6		ABSTENTIONS	3

Therefore the motion was approved 68 for , 39 against and 9 abstentions .

Events for 2010 : Mr A Hopwood

AH announced the events for 2010 as so far arranged:

2nd – 5th April (Easter weekend) **Toy Museum, Pen-ffynon, West Wales**
CONFIRMED Full society event.

10th – 11th April **Confederate Training weekend Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire**
PROBABLE

17th – 18th April **Union** **Training weekend Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire**
PROBABLE

30th April – 4th May (May Bank Holiday) **Rockingham Castle, Nr Corby, Northamptonshire**
CONFIRMED

Full Society event, with battles on 3 days. SoSkAn have been invited but haven't confirmed attendance yet.

28th May – 1st June (Spring Bank Holiday) **Sewerby Hall, Bridlington Yorkshire**
CONFIRMED

The scenario will be the Battle for Knoxville.

18th – 21st June Stanford Hall CONFIRMED

Camping at the front of the House. No action permitted in the woods.

27th – 31st August Norfolk Park, Sheffield CONFIRMED

Same arrangements as last year.

September Tatton Old Hall, Cheshire POSSIBLE

AH reported that this may not be confirmed because of the mess left last year. Therefore it is really important to clear up well at the training events if they go ahead.

AH reported that there is currently a big gap in the middle of season. He and VC are making ongoing enquiries, but have nothing definite to report at the moment.

17th – 18th July Kelmarsh Hall Northants (English Heritage) CONFIRMED

ACWS invited to do Boers impression again as last year.

2011

RWG reported that there will be an International event on 6th – 7th August 2011 at Rockingham Castle Great Park.

The funding for this is still in discussion.

There is an Operational Team working on arrangements, comprising AH, VC, RWG, and any other volunteers would be gratefully appreciated.

There is also an "Oversight" team comprising PC and JC to watch over the Legalities and contractual arrangements.

RWG confirmed that there will be an ACWS event on that date which will be open to any ACW reenactors in the world. He described the 3 possibilities for the event

- 1 – large funding successfully applied for and received in advance
- 2 – not as much funding in place but better than our usual fee.
- 3 – no funding in place, therefore it will be a self-funded event as normal.

RWG has set up a Forum on Skirmish Living History website to advertise the event. He has joined every relevant forum on the internet to maximise marketing of the event. He urged members to contact everyone they know who would be interested in participating, now to allow maximum time for arrangements , and getting the event into diaries .

RWG described the vision for the event: a commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War. His aim is to do a European representation early in the celebrations to avoid any clashes with the big anniversaries in America as the dates for the big battles roll forward). It also enables the American reenactors to come over here without detracting from their own celebrations, and to forge links between UK and USA.

He is also looking for contacts for businesses, e.g. cotton works, shipbuilding, etc. with a view to increasing activities on display, not just the battle.

He urged any members with contacts to pass information to the Marketing team. He explained that such links will make the funding application more relevant and therefore more likely to be successful.

He also hopes to host a large public caravan rally that weekend to encourage people to attend for the whole weekend not just one day. He gave assurances that this would of course be separate from ACWS but linked to the event . It would help generate revenue , and spectators .

Darren Bond suggested approaching Chris Binns for information regarding Anglo-American links.

MB stated that it is intended that participants will not be paid for their contribution to the event, but rather be encouraged to welcome the opportunity to be a part of it.

Helen Gibson also suggested contacting Pete Smith. Brian Coxon volunteered to call in and see him on Monday (following the AGM) to discuss the event with him.

John Filer asked for detail of the 3rd possibility and suggested asking Rockingham for a gate-share.

RWG, PC and JC are pursuing the ongoing details on the funding application and contract details with Rockingham estate. Rockingham have stated that they want to see how the May Bank Holiday weekend goes in terms of numbers of people through the gate.

RWG gave assurances that the detail and discussions are going ahead and mechanisms are in place to ensure that there will be no risk to the Society.

13. Any Other Business

Martin Cross read out a letter from Christian Sprakes, requesting an explanation for the changes of plans he experienced at certain events this year, and the resulting difficulties he had with his narrator's script.

BB and MB admitted a breakdown in communication amongst the armies at Cusworth and Tatton, and stated that this was a clear example of the importance of communication at all times during an event. RWG stated the vital importance of clear decision making on Friday night. He also requested that battle organisers must ensure that the battle action doesn't go on away from the public.

Stewart Hayllar suggested that the commentator carries a radio.

MB suggested that the Projects officer, both Army Commanders, a bi-partisan representative, and the commentator must all be included in discussions about battle action , and programme of events .

John Filer requested that the plan should not be changed once in place.

Jayne Olden announced that the 2010 AGM and Dance will take place on Saturday 4th December in Birmingham at the Nautical Club. She announced the results of her survey on the forum regarding the type of dance members would like. The results were indicative but not conclusive, but she asked for a straw poll of the members present, as she needs to know now in order to book a band / DJ etc.

A show of hands indicated a preference for optional period dress, and a DJ playing an eclectic variety of music.

Guy Storey asked for clarification about the collection of litter on the battlefield. The Board confirmed that it is stated practice that all used tubes should be put in pockets during the battle.

Graham Forbes Trophy

For their hard work throughout the year, the trophy was presented by Gary Holman to the US Signals, which AH duly received.

There being no other business to conduct, the meeting closed at 4.55pm.

**Letter Received From
Marion & Joe Pateman**

02 January 2010

Dear Philip and all members of ACWS

After many years of enjoying civil war re-enacting with ACWS we have decided not to renew our membership for 2010. We would like to thank you and the society for all the good times we've spent on the field or watching as a spectator. Everyone puts so much effort into the events and made us feel very welcome on all occasions and so we hope this will continue for the future of the society. We have made good friends and had memorable weekends which we will look back on with great pleasure. We send a special thank you to the Rockbridge Artillery for putting up with us for the last couple of years. Keep those cannons rolling lads!

Our local activities are keeping us quite busy and we are very involved in fund raising for Leukaemia Research with our jam and chutney making. We are still doing plenty of walking around Derbyshire and enjoying our local history group and church choir, but we do feel that we need to slow down a bit and take life at a slower pace.

We send our very best wishes to each and everyone for 2010.

Yours sincerely

Marian & Joe Pateman (JO98 and Pill)

QUIZ

1. This man was Confederate general Benjamin H Heln's Brother in Law.
2. This future CSA general was U S Grant's Best Man at his wedding in 1848.
3. These two southern states had more slaves than free people in 1860.
4. Abraham Lincoln ran not a Republican in 1864, but as a member of this party.
5. In the first two years of operation this prison camp had one inmate death.
6. This former Union general was Custer's commander as colonel of the 7th US cavalry.
7. This future Union general was once jilted at the alter.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Abraham Lincoln |
| 2. | James Longstreet |
| 3. | Mississippi (55%) & South Carolina (57%) |
| 4. | Union Party |
| 5. | Salisbury North Carolina |
| 6. | Samuel D Sturgis |
| 7. | Ambrose E Burnside |

ANSWERS



PRE SEASON EVENT IN WEST WALES

Dates - Easter Weekend Friday 2nd - Monday 5th April 2010

Authentic and family camping available (family camp area for tents, but only 3 caravan/motorhome places available please contact me to register if you need a place).

Camping available from Good Friday through to the following Tuesday.

Facilities include:-

Water

Indoor toilets

Showers

Tea-Room

Toy Museum

Over the past couple of years we have been working on a trench system & gun emplacement, if you want to be a part of our work team on the trench system then come down to Carmarthenshire and have a go. If you have any period tools spades, shovels, pick axes, saws, hammers etc please bring them with you, as well as your normal re-enacting kit. We will be doing the work as part of our living history display for any public going to the museum, but we will also be having a private skirmish in the bottom fields. Photos of the trench on facebook on http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=23681068207#/photo_search.php?oid=28872844451&view=all

This will be a nice and enjoyable start to the season, and will be an ideal chance to blow those winter cobwebs away.

West Wales Museum of Childhood

Pen-ffynnon

Llanelwyr

Carmarthenshire

SA44 5EY

Have a look at Paul & Hilary's website about the museum -

www.toymuseumwales.co.uk

PLEASE BRING SOME WOOD WITH YOU.

Registration fee is £3 to cover ACWS insurance contribution. ALL ACWS MEMBERS WELCOME. For further details please contact Claire Morris 69th New York on clairemorris_irishbrigade@hotmail.com

ACWS 100% Attendance Report 2009

Regiment		Name	Rank
2nd S Carolina		Reeve, Kenneth	Private
2nd U.S. Art.Bty.B.	*	Cross, Martin E	1st Sergeant
	*	Haynes, Hilary	Corporal
	*	Shatford, Alan	Corporal
		Stringer, Dawn	Private
4th Texas	*	Jansen, Antoon	Captain
18th Virginia	*	Smith, Robert	Sergeant
	*	Thompson, Raymond S	Corporal
		Davies, Keith	Private
19th Indiana		Parrott, Andrew C	Ordnance Sgt.
		Jones, Alison	Private
	*	Manison, Neil	Private
	*	Preston, Gerald	Private
	*	Clark, Philip	VRC Pvt
		Burke, Paula	Non-com
32nd Virginia		Parrott, Rebekah	Non-com
	*	Gibson, Glenn	1st Sergeant
		Travis, Malcolm	Corporal
	*	Booth, Andrew	Private
43rd N Carolina		France, Brian Edward	Private
69th New York	*	Morris, Claire Michelle	1st Sergeant
	*	Holt, Peter	Sergeant
	*	Charlton, Andrew	Private
	*	Holt, Valerie J	Non-com
C.S. Staff		Mitchell, Kevin	2nd Lieutenant
Pyrotechnics	*	Filer, John	Ordnance Sgt.
	*	Corbishley, Mike	Corporal
Rockbridge Artillery	*	Longstreet, David J	1st Lieutenant
		White, Andrew	Ordnance Sgt.
		Savage, Jason A G	Private
U.S. Non-Combatants	*	Corbishley, Vivienne	Non-com
U.S. Signals	*	Hopwood, Andrew J	1st Sergeant
		Stringer, Kel	Private
		Stringer, Catherine	Non-com
U.S. Staff	*	Davies, Timothy Mark	Major
	*	Hoddle, Neil Stuart	Q.M.Sgt.

The above 36 members attended all seven major ACWS events.

** In addition, 22 members marked with asterisks also attended
Hingham



**January 19, 1863.-Letter to the
Working-Men of Manchester,
England.**

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, January 19, 1863.

To the Working-men of Manchester:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the address and resolutions which you sent me on the eve of the new year. When I came, on the 4th of March, 1861, through a free and constitutional election to preside in the Government of the United States, the country was found at the verge of civil war. Whatever might have been the cause, or whosoever the fault, one duty, paramount to all others, was before me, namely, to maintain and preserve at once the Constitution and the integrity of the Federal Republic. A conscientious purpose to perform this duty is the key to all the measures of administration which have been and to all which will hereafter be pursued. Under our frame of government and my official oath, I could not depart from this purpose if I would. It is not always in the power of governments to enlarge or restrict the scope of moral results which follow the policies that they may deem it necessary for the public safety from time to time to adopt.

I have understood well that the duty of self-preservation rests solely with the American people; but I have at the

same time been aware that favor or disfavor of foreign nations might have a material influence in enlarging or prolonging the struggle with disloyal men in which the country is engaged. A fair examination of history has served to authorize a belief that the past actions and influences of the United States were generally regarded as having been beneficial toward mankind. I have, therefore, reckoned upon the forbearance of nations. Circumstances -to some of which you kindly allude - induce me especially to expect that if justice and good faith should be practised by the United States, they would encounter no hostile influence on the part of Great Britain. It is now a pleasant duty to acknowledge the demonstration you have given of your desire that a spirit of amity and peace toward this country may prevail in the councils of your Queen, who is respected and esteemed in your own country only more than she is by the kindred nation which has its home on this side of the Atlantic.

I know and deeply deplore the sufferings which the working-men of Manchester, and in all Europe, are called to endure in this crisis. It has been often and studiously represented that the attempt to overthrow this government, which was built upon the foundation of human rights, and to substitute for it one which should rest exclusively on the basis of human slavery, was likely to obtain the favor of Europe. Through the action of our disloyal citizens, the working-men of Europe have been subjected to severe trials, for the purpose of forcing their sanction to that attempt. Under the circumstances, I cannot but regard your decisive utterances upon the question as an instance of sublime

Christian heroism which has not been surpassed in any age or in any country. It is indeed an energetic and re-inspiring assurance of the inherent power of truth, and of the ultimate and universal triumph of justice, humanity, and freedom. I do not doubt that the sentiments you have expressed will be sustained by your great nation; and, on the other hand, I have no hesitation in assuring you that they will excite admiration, esteem, and the most reciprocal feelings of friendship among the American people. I hail this interchange of sentiment, therefore, as an augury that whatever else may happen, whatever misfortune may befall your country or my own, the peace and friendship which now exist between the two nations will be, as it shall be my desire to make them, perpetual.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Submitted by Cpt. Gary Holman,
Federal Staff

Grumpy Bear's Grumblings –

Recruiting

Some years ago at a NAReS Conference, Howard Giles of Event Plan gave a very perceptive talk on where Re-enacting has come from and where it is destined. Gone are the days of abundant sponsorship and huge battles : today extra authenticity is key and customers, or "Sponsors", demand even higher standards for less and less money. Also there is a plethora of re-enacting opportunities. No longer just English or American

Civil War but now there is such a huge range of possibilities to tempt the aspirant re-enactor. Do I fancy being an Ancient Greek? Should I join a small Lace Wars Unit? Can I afford to be an American Paratrooper of WWII? I say, those Spanish Civil War re-enactors look fun – and so on and so forth.

So, how do we keep improving, keep the ACW re-enacting hobby going and re-grow the Society? I suggest to you that mainly its by being open, friendly and GOOD. Otherwise, who wants to join a group of grumpy old men who won't talk to you or people who are not really authentic enough?

Sure, good events/battles on good sites, and hold out the opportunity of a really interesting, fun time, with like-minded folk and no petty politics is also vital (The "Band-of-Brothers" concept), but it is a golden rule that the Unit that fails to recruit grows old with its existing members and dies on its feet.

Its happening in ACWS as much as with Sealed Knot, ECWS or the Napoleonics. All of a sudden a Unit that has failed to 'refresh' itself is found to be full of grey haired oldies who prefer camp duties and who no longer put out guns in a Regiment to do battle. Nothing wrong with cooks, civilians and camp guards of course, but can you call a unit that only puts out 2 or 3 muskets in the field a really effective one?

In this day and age, we suffer from Schooling putting little emphasis on History and kids spending lots of time playing games in front of a TV console. This subtends through to Universities. We ought to be able to

attract lots of fit, young students to take up arms and rally to the colours. But no, its hellishly difficult. Oh, no, don't want to do it for REAL – I'll watch it on TV, or I'll watch these nutters who re-enact do the battles, but stir my stumps and join : Oh dear me no, that takes EFFORT and COMMITMENT.

So we are all fishing for recruits in a smaller and smaller pond. Will Howard Giles prediction be right and in 10 or 20 years re-enacting will have substantially died out because the generations that DID it have all become old age pensioners?!

What are we going to do about this? As for most voluntary organisations (e.g. Scouts/Guides, the TA, St. Johns Ambulance etc. etc.) the Annual turnover of members is about 15% to 20%, sometimes worse, depending on local factors. So, if a unit with 20 members on the books in year one, does not recruit and retain at least 2 new members a year, it will shrink and eventually disappear. How often have we seen this happen over the years? All too frequently! So, the obvious message clearly is – RECRUIT or DIE.

Ideally, what you need are quality recruits who are young(ish) and energetic – no point in poaching from other similarly aging and stressed units. Renew and refresh the unit body – you can't preserve the past in aspic. Mostly friends join friends, but if your unit is already the Derby and Joan Club, you need the grandchildren to join don't you?! Don't get me wrong. Nothing against old re-enactors (after all, I am one myself!) BUT we have to put on effective battles at our events, AS WELL AS everything else, don't we?!

You can prepare new, fresh, attractive recruiting material, you can go to venues where like-minded folks might

be who would be interested in ACW re-enacting (Military War Gaming Clubs, Shooting Clubs, History Societies at Higher Education establishments, Camping Clubs etc. etc. – the list is endless – use your imagination). At events, talking to suitable members of the public and handing them a good leaflet, getting name, number and address and following-up on such a contact, also brings results, if handled correctly. All the basic questions (how often do you meet, where do you get the kit, and how much does it cost, why should I join your unit, how much time does it take etc. etc.) need to be answered, clearly and positively.

So, lets not grow old together in our zone of comfort. Lets get out there, and grow. Get in lots of new, enthusiastic recruits who can be the next generation to see our wonderful Society move forward and expand. The answer lies in YOUR hands.

If it comes to the “Hey, lads, Hey” – go out there with a huge butterfly net and scoop new recruits off the street!! NOT doing ANYTHING is NOT an OPTION.

Philip Clark



Don't Forget

You can order your books on line from Amazon through the ACWS web-site





Mama's Mutterings

Belated New Year's greeting to you all. I hope everyone had a good time over the festive season and that we are all looking forward to another excellent season.

Thank you to everyone who has sent me articles and photos for the newsletter. Please keep them coming. Apologies if I have not used yours this time, but space is precious in the first newsletter of the year, as we have to publish the Minutes of the last AGM and any notices which you need to know about before the season starts. I hope to have another newsletter out before then, so the deadline for reports and articles is the 1st March 2010.

This is the time to dust things off, oil things up, patch the holes, or maybe it is time to renew that piece of broken kit.. Whatever it might be time to do otherwise, it is time to renew you ACWS membership, if you have not already done so, because if you don't renew now, this will be your last newsletter until to you do. (just a gentle reminder).

As usual the Projects Team has been busy on your behalf securing events for you to attend. We start off early this year with a pre-season event in Wales.

'Wales!' I hear you moan, 'That's way too far'. It's only along the M4, just three hours from Birmingham and well worth the visit. Tranquil rural setting. Plenty of room to camp and play soldiers. Hot and cold running water and flushing loos 24 hours a day. On a clear night, you will see stars you

have never seen before. Many of you will know Paul and Hilary Kennerly, who would love to meet with you again and welcome you to Pen-ffynnon. Come on give it a go, you won't regret it..

I am hoping the Cumbria event in July comes off. I would like to travel to an event in under four hours for a change. It's a long time since I did that, but I'll still be travelling the seven hours to Wales, just to breath some nice fresh air and blow away the winter cobwebs.

I am missing my camp bed and tent, but most of all I am missing sitting round the campfire, singing and having a drink and cracking the jokes with my ACWS mates. So see you all at Pen-ffynnon, if not there then some other event during the season.



69th NYSV's

Newest and Youngest Recruit

The 69th New York are proud to welcome their youngest recruit. Brianna Smith, who was born to Sarah and Mal Smith last October.

Welcome to re enacting Brianna. We all hope you have a long and happy career with the 69thNYSV.

TENNESSEE STITCHERS

LADIES', MEN'S, CHILDREN'S
CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

DERAN BEATTIE
AND LESLEY BUSSEY

E-MAIL:

TENNSTITCH@HOTMAIL.COM

PHONE: DERAN ON
01480-455828



A.C.W.S.
Merchandise



<i>ACWS Pens Fine Point (Black Ink) & Ball Point (Blue Ink)</i>	£0.50 Each
<i>ACWS Refillable Mechanical Pencils</i>	£0.30 Each
<i>Black Baseball Cap with ACWS Logo</i>	£5.00 Each
<i>Stock Clearance Adult & Child ASWS Logo "T" Shirts</i>	£7 & £5 Each
<i>(See web site for list of colours and sizes available)</i>	

Send your order details including your name and address with a Cheque or Postal Order for the total value made payable to ACWS Ltd. and post to:-

ACWS Sales,
P.O. Box 52, Brighouse,
HD6 1JQ

Also available via the website:-www.acws.co.uk
Payment can be made using **Paypal**

Post & Packing rates as follows:-

Order value	P&P
£00.01— £10.00	£1.00
£10.01— £20.00	£1.50
£20.01— £30.00	£2.00
£30.01— £40.00	£2.50
£40.01— and above	£3.00

All newsletter correspondence should be sent to: - Val Holt Editor

E-mail address Editor@acws.co.uk

or send to - PO Box 52, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1JQ

Web Site: - <http://www.acws.co.uk>

Copy date for the Next Issue will be **1st Maech 2010** for the next issue

All advertisement & editorial copy should be sent by the above date

THE EDITOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EDIT ALL ARTICLES BEFORE PUBLICATION, FOR SPELLING, GRAMMAR, DECENCY OR LENGTH. ARTICLES AND VIEWS PRINTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE A.C.W.S. LTD.

The Sutlers stores

**Confederate
Notes Set**



**ACWS
Member
Offer – Extra
10% off***

**Now
Even Better
Value!!**



**Stainless
Steel & Tin
Hook Plate**

**Visit our website
for more details
www.sutlers.co.uk**



New Large Coffee Pot

£9.95



**Easily
Holds 12
Pints!**



New Cookpot

Unit 35, Wessex Trade Centre, Old Wareham Road
Parkstone, Poole Dorset BH12 3PG

Fax: 0800 0664 703 Email: sales@sutlers.co.uk
Opening times: 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday

www.sutlers.co.uk

T: 01202 711660

**MUSEUM
RE-ENACTORS
THEATRE
COLLECTORS
FILM & TV**