

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association  
Annual Report of the Directors for 2018-2019

Introduction

This report, my fourth, gives a record of the Association's activities in the last twelve months and also other matters of interest to members. It also includes a brief mention of the key aspects of the Association branches in UK, Canada and Australia. It is presented on behalf of all the directors who, you, the membership, appointed at last year's Annual General Meeting.

1. Membership

As at 1 August 2019 the membership of the Association stood at xxx

2. Losses – Passing Away

During the year we have been saddened by the death of a number of our members:-

Local: Major Wong Wai Bon

SSgt. Yeung Lak Hing Ricky

Sgt. Lee Hung Cheung

Cpl. John Cooper

Overseas: Major Clive Oxley OBE JP

Major Francis "Buster" Crabb OBE ED who was also ex HKVDC.

3. Club House

After Krindi Wong's resignation in January 2019 from the post of Clubhouse Manager, the Board assessed that the workload of a Club Manager can be absorbed by part time staff to save cost. Tony Chan was re-employed on a part time basis with a six month contract and he retired at the end of June. Ms. Bronie Mok was employed on 16 July 2019 working three days a week, i.e Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, daily from 1500 to 1900 hours. Staff Ng agreed to look after the PRI sales outside the Club Manageress's work hours; he was paid an allowance to reward this additional duty.

To comply with the mandatory requirement for renewal of the main Hong Kong Jockey Club Bar Licence, all subsidiary bar facilities under this main licence must have a grease trap for hygiene purpose. Our Association consented to this installation and HKJC promised that this grease trap will not affect the Barman's daily operation and the size is kept to a minimum.

4. Entertainment

The schedule of Squadron gatherings remained unchanged. A "chit chat" evening was temporarily organized on a three month trial. This idea was created by Lt. Frank Miu (Ex-A Squadron) in order to lure more members to use the Club facilities and as a meeting place for those members who do not

regularly visit the Association.

Home Guard members played mahjong at the Club house weekly. Two competitive events were organized during my tour of office. (1) The Mahjong competition was held on 20 July 2019 (2) The Darts Competition held on xxxx. Sponsorships were sought including six HK\$500. complimentary restaurant coupons and HK\$2,000 worth supermarket coupons. The former will be awarded to the Champion, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runners up and the latter in sums of HK\$400.- HK\$300.-, HK\$200.- and HK\$100.- to the finalists.

5. Christmas Party

Considering that not many children come to this function, the Board decided to call it a "Christmas Party" in order to attract more adult members. The party was held in December 2018 with a good attendance. We all appreciated our Hon. President, Major Taylor's sponsorship of a roast turkey. The highlight of the gathering was the lucky draw and many thanks to members for making the event so cheerful.

6. Foundation Day Dinner

The dinner to celebrate the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Regiment was held in the Club on Friday 31 May 2019 with an attendance of 113 members and their guests, 7 less than the previous year.

The dinner was served on 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the Happy Valley Stand and Post dinner drinks in our Club House. Our principal guest was Lt. Col. Peter Messervy, Chairman, the Royal British Legion; other guests were Commodore Cowen Chiu(HKSS), Mr. Norman Yeung (HKAC), Michael Chan (GFS) and Sean Hotung (HKESA).

Mr. Asprey, an ex-Commanding Officer of the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force having been absent from this dinner for 22 years, joined us and brought the RHKAAF ensign to be displayed prominently together with our own on the backdrop. The top table was piped in by an HKAC cadet and the HKAC Brass Band provided music during the dinner. The climax was the playing of the taped Regimental Marches of those attending the dinner with the Leather Bottel played by the HKAC Brass Band, giving a fitting finale the evening.

7. The Volunteers Cup

It was the first time that an Associate Member (Mr. Choi Tin Wing) had the honour to present the Cup and a miniature to the owner of the winning horse. Afterwards, Mr. Choi made a donation of HK\$50,000 to the Association, which was used to subsidize the deficits of various annual functions thus reducing members' expenditures. The event was held on 17 March 2019 with a total of 97 members and their guests attending. One more than the previous year.

## 8. Community Events

### Oxfam Trailwalker:-

This was the twenty third year that the Association has provided resources and manpower to Trailwalker. Last year, the Association provided manpower and vehicles (including vehicles provided by Hong Kong Adventure Corps) to assist the event.

Three teams under the name of RHKR (V) Association all completed the hike. Members of Hong Kong Adventure Corps assisted with the additional VIP Walk round the Sheung Yiu Country Park Track and manned the Check Point One at Say Wan Village.

### Hike for Hospice

For the past twenty two years, the Association has assisted the manning of check points for the Society for the Promotion of Hospice Care's annual Hike for Hospice. This one day hike, over a different route this year in Tai Lam Country Park, New Territories, was held on 3 March 2019 with the setting up of check points on the previous afternoon.

## 9. Ceremonies

Association members took part in the following services of Acts of Remembrance to those who lost their lives in the Defence of Hong Kong or subsequently during the Japanese occupation.

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 3 September 2018 | Nanjing Massacre National Memorial Day organized by Home Affairs Bureau.   |
| 17 October 2018  | Chung Yeung Ceremony organized by Hong Kong Home Affairs Bureau.   |
| 11 November 2018 | Remembrance Day organized by Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen's Association on behalf of the Royal British Legion with the participation of Uniformed Cadet Groups who provided sentries and escorts at the Cenotaph. |
| 11 November 2018 | Remembrance Day organized by St. John Ambulance Brigade at Wong Nei Chung Gap.   |
| 02 December 2018 | Canadian Remembrance Day organized by the Canada Consulate.  |
| 11 August 2019   | Victory Day Ceremony at the City Hall Garden of Remembrance organized by the Association on behalf of the Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association.  |

## 10. Sports

### Shooting Club

At the end of 2018, there were 136 members comprising:-

Full Members	53
Associate Members	74
Honorary Members	9

From January to June 2019, the Club Members won the following prizes:-

Service rifle with 0.22 conversion inter Club Match with Hong Kong Gun Club:-

1. Yan Suk Yin (RHKR)
2. Chan Chi Kwong (RHKR)
3. Franco Yeung (RHKR)

62<sup>nd</sup> Festival of Sport Shooting Competition : Event- Free Pistol (50M)

1. Chung Li Bing (RHKR)
2. Li Wai Kit (RHKR)
3. Man Chung Kit (HKSA)

Event –Prone Rifle Man

1. Chan Yiu Keung (RHKR)
2. Luk Kam Shing (RHKR)
3. Tsang Wai Keung (RHKR)

Golf Society

The 2019 Disciplined Services Invitation was held at the Old Course, Hong Kong Golf Club on 31 January 2019.

The Winner was the Immigration Department.

The Family Walk

The family walk was held on 17 March 2019 to entertain those could not participate in the walk in 2018. The route adopted the first two religious institutions at the earlier walk but the end point for the vegetarian lunch was changed to Wun Chuen Sin Koon in Sha Tau Kok, New Territories. All had an enjoyable meal and are looking forward to another family walk in the near future,

Hillside Badge

The hillside badge is still in good shape and no minor repairs were necessary. SWO of HKAC proposed to organize a cadet group for the weeding work in a cooler season, most probably in mid November this year.

11. Overseas Branches

United Kingdom

Three ex PSIs visited Hong Kong for reunions with the Volunteers:

- a. WO2 Billy Budd, PSI D Sqn visited Hong Kong between 29 September and 1 October 2018.
- b. WO2 Billy Walker, PSI D visited Hong Kong with his family members to

celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 1 March 2018.

c. RSM Stone with his wife and son visited the Clubhouse on 6 May 2019.

Those

Volunteers knew who him well took the family to the old Bamboo restaurant for dinner.

#### Australia

No delegation was formed to join the Reserve Forces Day in Sydney on 1 July 2019.

#### Canada

Under Chairman William Ho's organization, a group comprising 14 VA members and 3 spouse together with 1 HKAC instructor, using six vehicles starting the driving expedition from Vancouver to Alaska between 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, covering a distance of 10,050 km visiting 26 scenic locations, namely: Whistler, Lillooet, Prince George, Smither, Iskuit, Watson Lake, Whitehouse, Dawson City, Tok, Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Coche, Homer, Seward, Anchorage, Valdze, Tok, Whitehouse, Watson Lake, Liard Hot Spring, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Dawson Creek, Hinton, Kamloop. All returned to Vancouver "safe and sound".

#### 13 The Tyndareus Stone

The Proposal for the Return of the Tyndareus Stone is now being handled by between the The UK's National Army Museum and The Secretary for Development HKSAR. Our Honourary President Major Taylor found out the cause of moving the Stone to UK from his army friend. Before HK handover, the Senior member of British Forces experienced that Military memorials had been defaced and damaged in Libya after independence and was concerned that the same would happen in Hong Kong after 1997. As Honourary President he will monitor the progress and keep the Association informed. What we can do is to wait.

#### 14. Newsletter and Website

The publishing date of two newsletters in January and July barely met the deadline. The colourful July publication had a full description on the Tyndareus Stone and various interesting topics. Thank to our Honourary President and Wilbur's hard work.

#### 15. Historic Photographs

There has not been any progress on the collection of historic photographs after Chung Kin Keung stepped down as a director and there have not been any receipt of photograph to enhance the collection.

#### 16. Invitation from Other Association

Invitations were received to join the World War II Veterans Association and the Hong Kong Ex-Servicemen Association's Lunar New Year drinks. A function by the Hoi Luen Society was held on a separate date.

St. John Brigade also invited the Chairman of the Association to lay a wreath on the same day as the Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Central This was to pay respects to the 56 St. John's members killed during the Japanese invasion at Wong Nei Chung Gap.

17. PRI

We continue to sell items of interest to members through the PRI shop. As the Club Manager works on part time base, Staff Ng will look after the PRI sale during her absence.

18. Finances

I will leave to our Treasurer to present the Account for the last complete accounting period, namely to end of December 2018 and the work of the Investment panel if income had been generated for the Association.

19. The Volunteer Trust

No news has been received from the Trustees of the Volunteers Trust during the year.

20. The Volunteer Charitable Foundation

There have not been any requests for assistance during the year from the funds which came from the Volunteer Charitable Foundation.

21. Hong Kong Adventure Corps

Application for the Hostel License has again been delayed due to the submission of technical drawings for the fire system installation which is still under preparation.

An exchange programme with the United Kingdom Cadet Corps was held in March. A total 2 officers and 19 cadets participated in the programme,

22. Thanks.

As usual, my priority of thanks at the end of this report, is to our bar-man SSgt. Ng, who consistently looks after our Club House making it a clean and friendly place. He is always to be found on duty during the opening hours and undertakes additional duties without any complaint

23. Conclusion

I have enjoyed my time and I thank you for the trust that you have given me during the year. You may be assured of my continuing support.

Joseph Pau BBS MBE ED  
Chairman

23 August 2019