



The **BULLETIN**

Newsletter of British Model Soldier Society **Extra**

No. 1

2013

URGENT!

We need your help

When members read the Hon Curator's report overleaf, they will see that, with effect from this year's Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23rd February, he will be standing down from that position. John Ruddle not only set up the BMSS National Collection some forty years ago but, since then, has been continuously involved in its evolution, care and maintenance. In recent years, John has experienced a number of health problems and, in just the last few months, suffered a great personal loss. So, after such an incredible record of devoted service to the Society, not only as Curator but also as Auctioneer, one time Hon. Secretary, and Life Vice President, he has come to the conclusion that now is the time when he *must* go.

The BMSS is therefore in urgent need of a new Curator to fill this important position and so we ask all members to consider very carefully if they are able and willing to take on John's mantle. As you are aware, the National Collection is accommodated at two locations – Blenheim Palace and the Stratford Armouries and John does suggest that it might be possible for two keen members to share the responsibilities, each taking on one of the venues. John has indicated that he is happy to assist any future Curator and provide help and advice for anyone taking over, for the first few months.

So, please do consider that matter very seriously and, if you feel you possibly can help, contact either John Ruddle on 020 8979 7137 or Mike Creese on 01728 602746.



BEST OF SHOW

*This exquisite set of flats depicting "Flower Fairies" not only won a Gold Medal for modeller Nicholas Ball at the Bristol Branch's "Bugle Call 2012", but was also chosen as "Best of Show". A full report on the show will appear in the next copy of **The Bulletin** while an invaluable guide on how to put on such an event and avoid the pitfalls, written by Bristol's Bob Orr, can be found on the centre pages of this issue*

Wanted for the BMSS Archives

A copy of the booklet which brought together the wargaming rules devised by Captain Sachs, as serialised in early issues of *The Bulletin*. Please contact Stephen Dance, 1 Flora Grove, St Albans, Herts AL1 5EW
(email stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com)

Magazine Review

Ralph Weaver writes: Every now and again, our revered editor passes on to me a bundle of odd magazines, those which we receive from other clubs and societies in exchange for them receiving a copy of our splendid *Bulletin*. One of the best of these is *Chakoten*, the journal of the Danish Military History Society. This quarterly magazine is printed in full colour throughout and the content varies between 28 pages (March 2012) and 64 pages (September 2012). The content of this magazine is quite varied, modelling and wargaming feature, but so do re-enactment groups (the Danes are very keen on 'living history' which entails wearing nineteenth century uniforms and holding exhibitions around the country), reports on military museums, book reviews and articles on uniforms and history, particularly, of course, of the Scandinavian countries.

Starting with the March issue, it includes a report on the *Chakoten's* previous Christmas gathering and model show; an account of the Arnhem battle; the Nassau contingent in the 1815 campaign and book reviews. There was also a preview of an exhibition held in Germany of the Schleswig-Holstein war of 1848-1851 (which I did get to see last May). All the articles are illustrated in colour.

The June issue contains a fascinating insight into the military collection of Henry (Auguste Henri) Déonna. He was the Danish vice-consul in Cannes in southern France (what a job!) from 1883. He used this location to amass a large collection of uniform plates, naturally with the emphasis on France, but also including Denmark, Sweden, Germany and German states, Italy and smaller samples from Austria, Spain, Russia, Netherlands and England. Artists represented include Charlet, Adolph Menzel and the Danish F. C. Lund. There is a review of a Swedish book on flags and uniforms for the periods of the Russian war 1571 – 1595, the Polish war 1599 – 1629 and the Thirty Years

War by Lars-Eric Höglund. Also articles on pre-First World War Danish military music; the restoration of a piece of fortress artillery and a report on a wargame of the German assault on Crete in 1941.

The September issue is a 'special' of 64 pages, concentrating on the period of the Great Northern War. The first article concerns Poul Vendelboe de Løvenørn, the son of a farmer, who entered service with the Russian army and became an adjutant to Tsar Peter (the Great) and later Danish minister of war. The second article is on the battle of Gadebusch 1712. This was one of the last battles of the war and pitted a smaller Swedish army against a Danish force supported by Saxon cavalry. The Swedes, however, had more than double the number of artillery pieces than their adversaries and used them to devastating effect. The Swedes made a massive frontal attack, covered by their artillery, which eventually won the day. The fighting was very hard, especially where the Danish Foot Guards put up a stout resistance. The article includes orders of battle for the Danes, Saxons and Swedes and illustrations of the uniforms of all the regiments who took part in the battle. There are also some excellent action paintings by Christain Würdler Hansen. The next battle described is that fought between the Swedes and the allied forces of Denmark, Saxony and Prussia at Strasow on the island of Rügen in 1715. Again, it includes orders of battles and illustrations of the uniforms of the Danish troops. The third article describes the Danish army organisation and uniforms in 1762, while the final article covers the Danish hussars from their inception to 1816, including the squadron of 'Bosniaks', lancers dressed in turbans and caftans.

The Danish Military History Group, although small in numbers, always manages to produce a very high quality journal, with subjects that are generally little known on this side of the North Sea.

Officers' Reports

Hon Secretary

What a great year 2012 has been for us. As a family, we started the year with a wedding, then Paul and I took on running our first Annual Show together. And then there were the Olympics. Great Britain was buzzing!

Personally, I feel that the BMSS has a good feeling about it and Paul and I are, very often, encouraged by members as we travel up and down the country to various shows.

The AGM was held at Napier Hall this year and, with it came a reminder, from our President, that this would be his last year in post, so the hunt was on (and still is) for his replacement. Any willing volunteers?

At this point I would like to say a BIG "THANK YOU" to Michael Creese. Michael has worked hard behind the scenes and it has been a pleasure to work alongside him for the past number of years, and he will be missed as President.

Inter-Branch was, yet again, a good day, everyone enjoying themselves, and kind thanks to George Hanger who took Paul and me out for lunch, as it was our Wedding Anniversary. This year the date is 7th September - same venue as last year in Knowle.

I would encourage you to try to come and join in. It is a great time to sit and relax and chat amongst fellow modellers. As per the last few years, it also included the Area Reps' meeting, and then the Hon. Treasurer gave a presentation on the new BMSS website.

Thanks also go to all the Area Reps for all their hard work and the extra time they put into the Society over the year.

Upwards and forwards for the Society for 2013!
Julie Newman

Treasurer

Membership for 2012 was 369 (2011: 354) – an increase on last year (up 4%)!

Finance. Following last year's poor

figures, this year has shown an improvement, although still running at a loss. The figures show a loss of £3,500 (in 2011 a loss of £9,000). This is due, mainly, to subscriptions, which did not cover the cost of *The Bulletin* and *Extras*. The Annual Show, which was a great day, did not pay for itself, and the end-of-year figures will show a loss against it, increased by the deposit paid for this year's show. Commission from the auctions was £1,000 (2011 was £1,800).

Support Services have made a loss of £770, due to a few purchases of items (including the acquisition of original artwork for Christmas cards and a pop-up poster used at the Annual show) and fewer sales of the desk calendar than predicted. Watch the BMSSONLINE website next year for plans to regain the initiative!

The Society holds long-term funds in an Investment Trust. This year has seen a nice increase in the value of the shares held - to £32.6k from £25.6k.

As I have reported for several years now, we do have sufficient cash flow at the end of the year to enable the financial continuation of our Society throughout 2013, and I have not had to increase the subscriptions for 2013.

The biggest achievement of the year for the Treasurer? Being able to provide the option for paying membership subscriptions by **PayPal**! This will especially help those overseas members who find great difficulty and added expense in paying by cheque or bank transfer, and those potential members who want to pay by credit/debit card. I have added a charge of £1 to cover the **PayPal** fee. Hopefully, this will see an increase in the membership numbers, both in the UK and abroad. Next year, with the reduced cost of postage and printing for the *Extra* being distributed digitally, and potential new members, at the moment I do not see the need to increase subscriptions in 2014.

Paul Newman

Curator/Auctioneer

After much thought and considerable soul searching, I have decided not to stand for re-election as Hon. Curator.

I was delighted to finally get the

National Collection settled and installed in its new home at the Stratford Armouries and, although there have been a few teething problems, I am confident that these will be resolved and, therefore, feel that now is a good and appropriate time to bow out. The downside of this decision is that, if no one comes forward to take on overall charge of the National Collection, it will, inevitably, have to drift into obscurity. But there **must** be another member living nearer than I who would like to look after its welfare and its future.

After some forty years setting up and running the Collection, together with my own change of circumstances in recent months, I just can do no more. However, I am prepared to assist any future Curator, but it must be understood that I will not take any decisions regarding the Collection's future.

So I shall, therefore, be retiring at the Annual General Meeting in February 2013. In spite of this, I feel it would be wrong to go instantly and so I will be happy to provide assistance and advice for anyone taking over, for a few months. It may be that, if no one is willing to assume responsibility for the whole Collection, the job could be split in two, with one individual looking after Blenheim and another Stratford. Unfortunately, Derek West, my deputy, feels unable to take over from me, so I am looking for someone with a new approach to continue involvement in the wellbeing of the Collection.

With regard to the Society's Auctions, I have come to the conclusion that the realistic course of action is only to hold an auction if we have over 100 lots. In the past, I have chased around persuading people to put stuff in to make up the number, but I am no longer prepared to do this. I therefore suggest that the March and October meetings be designated as 'Open' meetings to give some flexibility in case there is anything to sell. At this stage, I just want to sink back down into obscurity and have a quiet life.

John Ruddle

Archivist

Stephen Dance reports that during 2012 he has been assembling more

recent Society cuttings and photographs into a loose-leaf display folder. In addition, he has been pursuing original research into early members, such as E. K. Milliken, Fred Allen and Captain Sachs. He was successful in locating the son of H. P. Bayston as reported in an earlier *Extra*. He continues to work on the Society's records and would be pleased to add more cuttings and photographs of Branch meetings, local exhibitions etc. Stephen says that it is particularly frustrating that the Society has so little on L. W. Richards, despite his being the father of systematic collecting of Britains and other early figures. He is anxious to find a photograph of Mr Richards. Someone, somewhere must have one!. Do you? Contact stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com (01727 837786). *Stephen Dance*

Support Services

We have had a steady stream of enquiries to the Information Service during the year, most of which we have been able to deal with relatively quickly. This service depends on the good will of members volunteering their time and expertise to answer questions on all aspects of the hobby, which they have done with considerable generosity.

The BMSS Christmas card began its life last February with an offer from Paul Vickers to paint a design based on a Victorian period card of children opening a box of soldiers under a Christmas tree. In August the design was completed and an electronic file sent to me which I passed on to my local print shop. The cards were ready for Inter-Branch in September. Unfortunately, sales did not match previous years, so we will have to consider whether to continue next year.

At a suggestion from Paul Newman I looked into the possibility of having a BMSS desk calendar. Modern technology means that the whole process can be done at home through one of the many commercial companies who advertise on the internet. Fortunately, I have a large number of photographs of figures taken at recent shows, so making a

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So you want to put on a show!

By **Bob Orr** (Hon Treasurer, Bristol Area BMSS,
and one of the key figures behind the Bristol Branch's popular "Bugle Call" annual shows)

I have been involved, as an organiser of the BMSS Bristol Area Branch annual show, "**Bugle Call**", for more years than I care to think about! I thought it may be helpful to put my experiences to good use to help (or put off!) anyone contemplating putting on their own show. Below are my thoughts and just some of the things you have to think about.

The Date

Surprisingly, this is one of the most difficult things to get right! Try not to clash with any existing events both nationally or more local, as you will have to compete for both clubs and traders. Try to avoid major holiday periods as this will reduce potential attendance. Once you have the date and, hopefully, have had a successful event, then try and keep the same date each year for your show. Keep in mind our wonderful weather! We almost fell foul of this at "**Bugle Call**" this year, with extensive flooding in the area.

The Venue

This is your next big headache! Finding somewhere affordable is getting more and more difficult. You have the option of cheaper venues like sports halls and schools, which usually have the benefit of free parking but are, generally, out in the sticks in residential areas. Central locations are generally restricted to council properties or hotels. Both these are getting prohibitively expensive but have the benefit of attracting more people as "the other half" can go shopping! Other points to keep in mind are:

Are tables provided and, if so, how many and is there any additional charge? Hiring in tables costs about £10 each plus the time and personnel required to take delivery and set them up and take them down. Do not underestimate the time involved. Some years back, when our show was in Bristol Watershed, this meant a

5.30am start and, by the time the hall was emptied, all the tables taken down three flights of stairs and loaded on to the hirer's vehicle, it was 8pm! Try and find a venue with its own tables and, hopefully, they will also set them out to your plan.

Is catering provided by the venue or can you use your own? Some venues have outsourced catering to a single provider so you will not be allowed to do your own catering. This saves on the number of people required to run the show but cuts down on your potential income!

Car parking; is parking available on site and at what cost? If not, where is the nearest public parking and how much is it and where do traders/clubs unload? Ensure that traders and clubs are advised on their invites or you will spend the next couple of months on the phone answering queries about car parking!

Most venues insist on you having public liability insurance to the value of £5 million. If you are a BMSS club, then this can be provided under our national policy. Contact the Society's Hon. Treasurer for details.

The majority of venues now insist that all electrical equipment is safety or PAT tested or you will not be allowed to use it. PAT testing is only valid for 12 months at a time so ensure that all clubs and traders are advised of this requirement on the invite letters.

Book early! Do not leave it too late to book your date or you will find it is gone. They will usually require a deposit and if you intend to make it an annual event then book for next year about a month or so **before** this year's event, so that you can try to get the same weekend. Traders, in particular, like events to be on a regular date as it helps them to plan which shows they are going to attend.

Remember that you are entering into

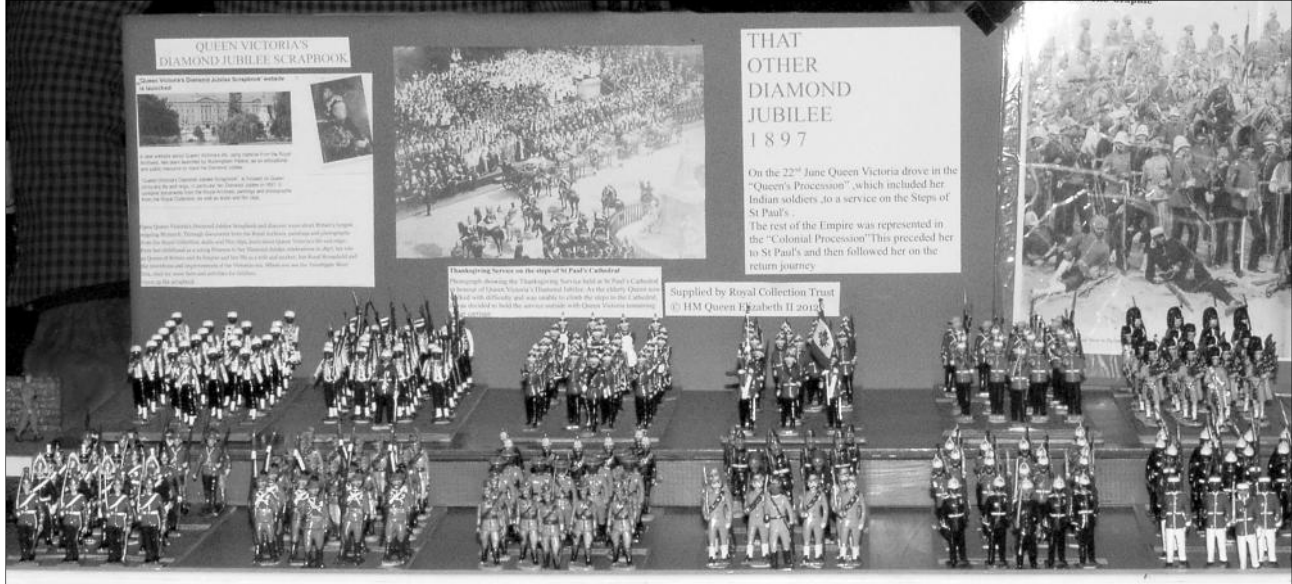
a formal contract when you book a hall. If, for whatever reason, you have to cancel the event, you will, in all likelihood, lose your deposit.

Funding

How do you get a show off the ground financially in the first place? This is the biggest challenge when starting out as all the costs have to be laid out upfront with no guarantee that you will get anything back. Initially, depending on club funds, then this may require some financial support from the club members. Once you have had a successful show then try and put funds aside to cover next year's show. Try and cover the bulk of your costs from the trader stand sales (though be careful not to price yourself out of the market). What about sponsorship, I hear you say? Well, from bitter experience, all I can say is tread carefully! This may seem an ideal way to reduce your financial risks. But get an agreement in writing and ensure you get any sponsorship funding up front before plastering this on adverts and fliers. Order any cash change you require for floats etc., from your bank in plenty of time. Ours required 2 weeks' notice of our change order!

Advertising

This has to be started early, particularly with anything in print which can have lead times as long as 3 months. As soon as you have a date for your show, then get it into the modelling press "**What's On**" diary. Advertising in the modelling press is expensive (except for our own mag, of course!) and beyond the reach of most regional shows. The local press are worth trying but it is very hit or miss as to whether they will print anything. When a local press guy turned up at one of our shows, he wanted to know where all the buglers were! Print off some 'fliers' as soon as possible and get your members to take them to any shows where you



A superb display at this year's Bristol Show greeted the public as they entered the hall, and commemorated that other Royal Diamond Jubilee - Queen Victoria's in 1897

are exhibiting. Print off some posters for local model shops, libraries, places of work of members, tourist info offices etc. Do not distribute these much more than a month before the event as most places will not put them up for any longer than that. Some of the traders who are attending may be prepared to include a 'flier' to their mail order customers - just ask.

Staffing

With most clubs experiencing falling memberships, this is another issue you have to consider: do you have enough people to actually run the show? Areas that need to be covered include, door staff to take entrance money, manning your own stand, competitions, judging, raffle or tombola, catering (if allowed!), photography for show reports etc. Politely remind members that they are there to do a job and not swan around looking at trade and club stands until after their allocated tasks are completed. This may sound harsh but it is all too easy to get swept up in all the good stuff to look at and forget about the job in hand!

Raffle or Tombola?

This can be a good way to raise funds and most people attending will buy some tickets. You will need staff to run it (and, if it is a tombola, then that means someone manning a table all day!) and you will need prizes. Some traders may offer and it is expected that your own club members will also contribute. We usually use some club funds to buy a bottle of whisky for the main prize!

Competitions

Do you want to run competitions at your show or not? It is not essential to a good show, just look at **FigureWorld** to see that. Some people do relish a competition, though. You will need two people all day to run it plus organise judges from your own and visiting clubs. Ask for judges on the club invites. Other factors to take into account are: do you use the 'first', 'second' and 'third' system or the 'open' system that we use at **"Bugle Call"**? But that is not a discussion to enter into here! Have someone designated as Chief Judge who will have the final say on any disputes! (Oh, yes, you'll get them!) You also need to organise medals or equivalent (I recommend **"Name It"**) and certificates. Some traders may be happy to sponsor and provide prizes for **"Best of Show"** and **"Juniors"**.

Invites

"Bugle Call" is towards the end of November each year, and we generally start thinking about the show in April/May and send out the club and trader invites towards the end of June. This is the minimum time required, in our experience. Do separate invites for clubs and traders as they both have different requirements. Both will need to contain the date, timings and address (including postcode for 'sat navs'!) of your event and also include a tear-off or separate return slip for them to complete and return. We also enclose a pre-addressed envelope for the replies. Also include any parking details etc. and trade invites should

include details of costs etc. Most venues have limited power outlets so be sure to request if power is required and we allocate these on a 'first come, first served' basis. Also, ask if they have any special requirements so there are no surprises on the day!

On the Day

Get there nice and early. Have members available to put up any signage that you have and to direct clubs and traders to their allocated spaces. Remember to take a cash float to provide change for door entry, raffle, competitions etc. Have someone in charge of staffing to ensure that your own club stand and the door are covered. Most importantly of all.... enjoy it!

It is very easy to make this enterprise just another job and to get all stressed out... I have been guilty of this myself and was not an easy person to be around as a result! Try to remember that this is a hobby and we are supposed to be doing this to enjoy ourselves.

If you decide you want to put on your own show, then I wish you all the very best of luck; it can be a very rewarding experience when it all comes together.

Once you've decided to put on a show and have a few successful events under your belt then, like us, you will be sitting, three weeks before your next show, with a heap of "issues" to deal with and saying *"why is it we do this to ourselves every year?"*

selection of 12 suitable pictures was not too difficult.

The BMSS Members' Collection has now been wound down and we are trying to gather together the original moulds. Hopefully, we can sell them and raise some cash.

Ralph Weaver

Advertising Officer

We had 3 paid advertisements last year, which was one more than 2011, but none are likely to be repeated in the near future. Other advertisements, which have appeared, have been free of charge, for reasons of reciprocity, as "freebies" to stall holders or as part of members' personal entitlement. We were pleased to see that the number of members' entries has shown a healthy increase and, subject to any objections from the Committee, I propose to continue to offer stallholders a free advertisement.

So, for another year, our base income continues to shrink, with virtually no new ideas on how to reverse the trend. The season opened promisingly with our three advertisements in the first two *Bulletins*, but dropped away sharply thereafter. Of the advertisements obtained, one was secured by the Editor and another (from Germany!) by the Treasurer, which resulted in more work for him, and the Secretary in negotiating payment. These are all busy people...need I say more to those members who are not, perhaps, quite so busy?

Once again, we have received no direct enquiries from trade members for their "freebies". As always, every approach has been enthusiastically followed up, but not all have resulted in advertisements. Any suggestions, queries or comments from the membership would be gratefully received.

Philip Hamilton

Editor

I find it hard to believe that, with *Bulletin No. 2/2013*, I shall be starting my thirteenth year on the Editor's throne! However, looking back, there have been two constants over all that

time – the fantastic support and assistance I have always received from our printer, Mike Swift, without whose efforts I certainly would not have lasted the course, and the marvellous way that members have always rallied round and provided me (and the Society) with such a wonderfully varied and fascinating selection of material. My sincere and very grateful thanks to you all.

Of course, the other aspect of such a long sojourn in the post is that it is all too easy to get stuck in a rut. I do hope this is not the case and that members still have a sense of pleasure and anticipation when the new issue arrives. I can assure you that we have at least one pleasant surprise in store for you in the near future!

With the start of the new year, members are having to adjust to a new way of receiving the *Bulletin Extra*. Going digital was really forced on us by the ever increasing bill for postage which meant that it cost more to send the newsletter out to the membership than it does to print it! So, with all the other financial pressures that the Society is facing, it just did not make economic sense. But, a considerable bonus comes with this decision and that is that we are now able to include colour in the production – at least for those members who receive it on-line so, if you aren't already 'digital', why not take the plunge?

John Regan

President

I have been a member of the BMSS for over fifty years and it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your President for the last five. My good friend George Hanger once described me as 'one of the boys'; neither of us could decide whether this was a compliment or not! I am not, by nature, a 'glad-hander' but it has been a very great pleasure, during my time as President, to have the opportunity to get to know many more members – with a special mention to the 'Tony's Bar Branch'! The wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience among our membership is simply staggering.

I wish to place on record my personal

debt of gratitude to the Committee and Officers of the Society – Julie and Paul Newman – Secretary and Treasurer respectively, John Regan, our Editor, and John Ruddle, Auctioneer and Curator of the National Collection, for all their hard work on behalf of the Society and their unfailing support. Ralph Weaver works hard for Support Services (the calendar is an interesting innovation this year) and Stephen Dance continues to gather data for the Archives on the founding members of the Society. The other members of the National Committee have all also given unstintingly of their time and effort. The Area Reps are busy around the country in order to keep the Society alive at local level. On behalf of myself and all members of the Society, I extend my thanks to you all.

It is pleasing to be able to report a slight increase in membership this year; hopefully, we can maintain this trend! The Society has so much to offer with the Annual Show and the Inter-Branch (a triumph this year!) as well as more local events organised by the Branches. *The Bulletin*, with its colour pages, is an excellent and informative publication and it will be interesting to see *The Bulletin Extra* when it goes on-line. *Chota Sepoy*, the magazine of the Indian Army SIG, has been published on line for the past year and is doing well. The National Collection has found a new home (hopefully, for many years to come) where it is very well and attractively displayed. The Society is represented at many events organised by other groups around the country and our work always attracts favourable attention. All of these activities are a credit to the Society and its membership. Well done to you all!

I took over the Presidency in difficult circumstances. I did so because I believed, and I still believe, that a change was in the best interests of the Society. I have always tried to consider those interests in whatever role I have played in the Society over the years. I must leave it to members to judge to what extent I have been successful. I wish the incoming President and the Society every success in the future. **Michael Creese**

The B.M.S.S. October Auction

By Alex Riches. Photographs by Ralph Weaver

It was nice to have a full house and wouldn't it be lovely to see this many people at some of our other meetings; a pity, but I, somehow, know it's not going to happen.

We had a good start to the sale with modern toy soldier products from **Asset**, **Fusilier**, **Ducal** and **Tarbony** selling well, with an 11-figure set of the Royal Regiment of Wales with Colours by **Music in Miniature** doing marginally better than most at £55. I don't know how prices equate to the original retail price though, at between £3 and £5 each, but I would guess that these types of figure probably do better at our sales than at one of the big auction houses.

There was a bit of a pause in the action when half a dozen lots of single 90mm connoisseur models failed to attract a bid. There are always going to be unsold items in a sale consisting of two hundred lots, and things soon picked up again. Three **Britains** boxed knights of Agincourt were a good buy at just over £60 each. **Britains** repainted Guards and other figures were averaging between £2 and £3 per figure, while similar guardsmen and highlanders, in original paint, did no better. A **Britains** set 2037 R.A.F marching made just £70 and, among the repaints, was a **Britains** Army Staff Car - this also made £70. Other **Britains** lots included an incomplete Band of the Coldstream Guards which made £65 and a set of five 16th Lancers that went for the same price. Four 21st Lancers on pony horses made £85 - somebody did well there - but £30 for a window box set of 16th Lancers just reflects the current market for post-war **Britains**. There were a few lots of civilians in the sale and 13 Coco Cubs reached the £100 mark and an 8-figure seated Jazz



Members view the serried rows of lots prior to the auction



Band by George Doswell was well worth the £80 paid. An English translation of "The Armies of Europe" by Count Gleichen, illustrated by Richard Knotel, at £190, was the most expensive item in the auction. For me this sale was not as good as it should have been. I won't bore you with the details but there are days when my brain doesn't work properly and this was one of them. I just hope you fared better and had more fun than I did.

As always, John Ruddle had done a fantastic job in getting 200 lots together for this auction. The work involved would wear out a man half his age and I am not sure if everyone appreciates what is involved in running an auction single-handed. Cataloguing stuff, put in by people like me, must be an absolute nightmare - either not enough information or the wrong information! Then, there are the phone calls, the car trips, and let's not forget safely storing, packing and transporting the lots. And on top of all this, having to wield the gavel and,

finally, waiting for recriminations from the unsatisfied and disappointed.

These BMSS auctions, apart from providing a service to the membership, are one of the few ways we have of raising funds for the Society. The money they make doesn't just pay for the hire of the hall but, over the last few years, has helped fund the Annual Shows and kept our subscriptions down. As important as the auctions are to the Society, I think that John has done more than enough and we cannot reasonably expect him to continue forever. Whether there is someone with the knowledge, energy and commitment, willing to take the job on, I don't know, but a car, secure storage and a broad knowledge of the toy soldier market would be the minimum qualifications for anyone brave enough to try - 'cometh the hour' and all that. I have written something along these lines before so, please, accept my apologies for raising the matter again but I do feel very strongly about it.

Calling all Area Reps!

The Editor wishes to remind all Area Reps that their Annual Reports on the activities of Areas and Branches throughout the past year are due for inclusion in *Bulletin No. 1*. The first of these has already reached the Editor, but for those who are

still mulling over and honing their prose, they are reminded that the copy date for this is **4th February**. If you should have any photographs of any of the events, then we would be delighted to receive high resolution versions of these. Many thanks.

BMSS Diary 2013

- February 23rd **BMSS Annual General Meeting. Napier Hall, Hide Place, Vincent Square, London SW1. 1-5pm - AGM commences at 2pm.** Bring and Buy Table and light refreshments. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064
- March 2nd **"Military in Miniature 2013"**. The BMSS Aldershot Branch Annual Show at Christ's College, Larch Avenue, Bellfields, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1JY. From 10.00 to 16.00 hours.
- 15th Open Evening. Napier Hall, Hide Place, Vincent Square, London SW1. 05.00pm to 07.00pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064
- April 6th Welling Model Show and Open Day. Falconwood Community Centre, The Green, Welling, Kent. Club displays, trade stands, open competitions, demonstrations, 10.00am to 04.30pm. For more information, contact Dave Maddox on 07795 490901
- 13th **"Sword & Lance 2013"**, the Darlington Military Modelling Society Annual Show. Darlington College, Haughton Road, Darlington, DL1 1DR. Trade stands, open model competitions, displays. 10.00am to 04.30pm. For further details contact Colin Holmes on 01325 489801, Text 07958 702319 or email Colin on c20hms@gmail.com.
- 27th **BMSS Annual Show. The Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London WC1N 1HT.** Open competitions, demonstrations, trade stands. 10.30am (BMSS members 10.00am) to 04.00pm. Admission £4 (BMSS members £3). For more information telephone: 01895 832757 or email: bmss.annualshow@gmail.com
- May 17th BMSS Military Pageant Trophy. Napier Hall, Hide Place, Vincent Square, London SW1. 05.00pm to 07.00pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064
- June 1st Summer 2013 Model Show. The Shepway Military Modelling Society's Annual Show to be held at the Hawkinge Community Centre, Heron Forstal Avenue, Hawkinge, Folkestone, Kent CT18 7FP. From 10am - 4pm. Admission: Adults £1, Under 16s 50p. Contact: shepway_mods@hotmail.co.uk
- 21st BMSS Artillery/Transport Night. Napier Hall, Hide Place, Vincent Square, London SW1. 05.00pm to 07.00pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064
- July 19th BMSS Militaria Night. Napier Hall, Hide Place, Vincent Square, London SW1. 05.00pm to 07.00pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064
- 20th FigureWorld 2013. Oundle School Great Hall, New Street, Oundle (near Peterborough), PE8 4GH. Opening times 09:30 until 16:00. For more information contact: adrianhopwood@hotmail.co.uk or elanlane13@btinternet.com
- September 7th **BMSS Inter-Branch Competitions. The Masonic Lodge, Knowle, Solihull, Warwickshire.**
- 21st Euro Militaire 2013 (*the 28th year of one of the largest military modelling shows in the world*). Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone CT20 2DZ.
- 22nd

"Bulletin" Schedule - 2013

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin no. 1	4th February	End March
Bulletin no. 2	7th May	End June
Bulletin no. 3	22nd July	Early September
Bulletin no. 4	7th October	End November
<u><i>BMSS Bulletin Extra schedule - 2013 (distributed electronically)</i></u>		
Extra no. 2	2nd April	End April
Extra no. 3	24th June	End July
Extra no. 4	9th September	Early October