



# The **BULLETIN**

Newsletter of British Model Soldier Society **Extra**

**No. 3**

**2014**



### **Any ideas?**

*We thought that the artillerymen amongst our members would appreciate this historic photograph of a one-pounder Maxim 'pom-pom' on its mountain gun carriage, being handled with great efficiency by a three-man gun team. But can you identify the unit the gunners are in? Turn to page 2 to see what we think*

## **URGENT! The National Collection NEEDS YOU!**

**W**e are sorry to report that Derek West has decided to stand down as Joint Curator for the BMSS National Collection, which operates sites at both Stratford Armouries and Blenheim Palace. As many of you will know, Derek has worked hard to establish the National Collection, firstly as assistant to John Ruddle, the Collection's creator and moving spirit, and more recently working with Robin Marlin to ensure that both sites offer

members and other visitors a superb selection of figures and dioramas to view. We are very grateful to Derek for his sterling work but need to move quickly to appoint a successor who will pick up the torch.

The BMSS urgently needs a volunteer to come forward to take on Derek's former duties, which basically revolve around the Stratford upon Avon site; Robin looks after Blenheim. The post would suit someone who could spare

the time, and is suitably located in terms of geography, to travel to the Collection at intervals, working with the owner of the Armouries to ensure that the displays are in good order and effecting such changes as may be necessary. It is also important that the Society's curators look out for publicity opportunities, e.g. events happening in the vicinity of the Collection.

Our National Collection is a wonderful endeavour which has been many years in the making but it needs regular attention and oversight. So do please consider whether you are able to fill the important post of Joint Curator. If you feel you can help, please contact Robin Marlin on 01234 391119 or Derek West on 01480 374523.

## The October Auction

We are delighted to report that our ex-auctioneer John Ruddle has managed to assemble sufficient lots to warrant a sale, so he has nobly agreed to take up his gavel once more for a **BMSS Auction on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014**. It will take place at the Hall adjoining the Pimlico Room at St Saviour's, St George's Square, London SW1, where the Society now holds its monthly National Meetings, and doors will be open from 5.30 to 8.00 pm. A particular attraction of BMSS Auctions is that, unlike auction houses, we don't charge buyers commission. This is, of course, a big consideration and leads to quite considerable savings, as commercial auction houses are charging anything from 15 to 25% on top of the hammer price!

### Inter-Branch 2014: Do it for George!

This year's **Inter-Branch competition** takes place at the usual venue, Knowle Masonic Centre near Solihull, on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. This is a major event in the Society's calendar, so whether you are a competitor or onlooker, please make every effort to attend. It is really good to see as many Branches as possible, though I appreciate not everybody can make the journey. I would like to think, however, that everyone who can, will do their best to attend, not least as a tribute to long time competitor George Hanger. Do it for George!

**Stephen Dance**

### And while updating your diary...

...you will want to add the date of the **Society's next Annual Show**. This takes place at the Holiday Inn, Coram Street, London WC1, on **Saturday 25 April 2015**. As well as a superb collection of competition entries, and trade and display tables, we will have a major attraction in the form of the Diehards re-enactment group. Don't miss it.

### Indian Army SIG

Members are reminded of the above Special Interest Group which is organised and co-ordinated by Mike Thomas. The reason this is drawn to your attention at this particular time

is because Mike has just produced the first issue of Volume 13 of the Groups' excellent Newsletter, "*The Chota Sepoy*". As always, it is composed of a fascinating variety of articles and details relating to the Indian Army and includes what was, for me, a highlight of the issue, a reproduction of one of Bryan Fosten's delightful paintings from Mike's own collection. The subject is a British Officer of the Honourable East India Company and accompanies an article on the Company. If you are not already on Mike's electronic mailing list and would like him to send you a 'PDF' file of the issue, please contact him direct at: [MDTCymru@aol.com](mailto:MDTCymru@aol.com). **John Regan**

### Times adjusted

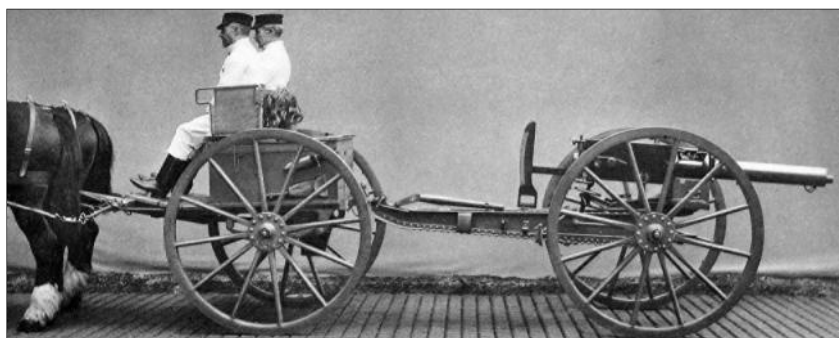
Please note that, following Ralph Bowring's proposal at the AGM (see *report opposite*) and to assist members' journeys to and from the meetings, the National Meetings held in the Pimlico Room, St. Saviours, in November (21st), December (19th) and January (16th) will be from **4:30 to 6:30 pm** rather than from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

### BMSS Membership

Following points raised at the 2014 AGM, the National Committee has been looking at membership arrangements, and would like to know if there is any support for a "Family" rate as part of the Society's offer. If you would welcome this, it would be helpful to hear from you, including your thoughts as to what you would be looking for, i.e. how it would work. Contact Stephen Dance at 1 Flora Grove, St Albans, Herts AL1 5EW or you can email him at [stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com](mailto:stephendanceslcn@btinternet.com)

### Abject apology!

The Editor would like to apologise, particularly to the members of the Northern Branch, for the fact that, through an oversight on his part, the obituary for longstanding BMSS member Bill Hargreaves failed to appear in *Bulletin No. 2* as he had originally planned. A tribute will now appear in *Bulletin No. 3*.



### Trick question?

*Member Ralph Weaver was delighted to discover the photograph of the 'pom-pom' team (shown on page 1) in a book bearing the date 1902 which describes the products of the Vickers Sons and Maxim, Limited company. There were also included other pictures of the gun in various guises including this photo of it on a field artillery carriage with limber, crew and horses. Although the crew here are in hot weather uniforms, we assume that they are employees of Vickers Sons and Maxim posing for a sales brochure!*



*BMSS President Stephen Dance addresses the meeting. The slightly unusual surroundings for the AGM can clearly be seen with the gallery rails very much in evidence and the blackboards encouraging members to slake their thirst! The availability of liquid refreshment at least was an innovation that was generally appreciated*

# The Annual General Meeting

*held on Saturday 22nd February 2014  
at The Gallery, Lupus Street, Pimlico London SW1*

**T**he venue where this year's AGM was scheduled to be held was the Pimlico Room at St Saviour's, our new London venue for the monthly national meetings. However, things did not work out quite as we had all planned. Arriving at the new venue, we just could not get in – all was locked and barred and not a soul on hand to provide access! With people standing outside and looking a little bewildered, we decided to take things in hand and off we all marched to the local pub, "The Gallery", a couple of doors up from the church hall. The landlord was extremely accommodating and immediately offered us the use of his 'open room' above the main fully functioning pub. The pub's title became clear as soon as we mounted the stairs, as the space revealed was very much like an open gallery along three walls from which you could look down on the bar below! Yes, this probably was not the greatest of



*Our last-minute venue*

places for us to hold our meeting...still, "needs must", and we certainly had a good go. It was indeed a challenge and, as we sat

around the gallery, we soon learnt the art of relaying messages across the tables and the void between to try to ensure everyone could hear. At times it did prove difficult to hear members and their proposals.

This AGM was eventually on its way at 14.30 hours, half an hour later than scheduled. The President, Stephen Dance, opened the event and welcomed the 23 members who had attended. Apologies had been received from Malcolm Mayes, Graham Sutch, Carole Bevis-Smith and Jack Piper.

The President had planned on holding a couple of minutes' silence, at the commencement of this AGM, to remember a somewhat long list of people who had sadly departed from us over the last year. Under the circumstances and because of the surroundings this just wasn't appropriate. So Stephen read out the following list of names, and gave a brief note about each of the deceased:

H. C. "Nod" Faulkner, Don Featherstone, Roy Hadfield, Doug Hagger, Bill Hargreaves, John Hunter, Lyn Kenwood, John Runnicles, Alex Sim, Harry Strongman and Tony Young.



*Members of the Society (above), on one side of the gallery, and Arthur Smith of the National Committee and Life Vice President John Ruddle (left) make the best of the situation and listen, with intense concentration, to the proceedings*

And, from the model soldier industry: Charles Biggs, Ron Cameron, George Musgrave (2012 actually, but we only found out in 2013) and Norman Tooth.

#### **Minutes of the AGM, February 2013 (Bulletin 1/2013):**

The previous minutes were taken as a true and accurate record.

#### **Matters arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Members' proposals:**

There had been a number of proposals received from members, prior to the meeting, to be discussed. They were as follows:-

Winter timings proposition from Ralph Bowring was agreed and it was left that the Hon Treasurer and Ralph Bowring would confer and, assuming that the church could

comply, the proposition was to change the meeting times of the November, December and January meetings to 4.30pm to 6.30pm. Seconded by Michael Morrissey, this would be reviewed in a year's time.

Eric Sanger raised thoughts on changing from the existing Honoraria system (for officers of the Society) to that of claiming expenses. This was discussed at some length. However, the proposal on the changing of the Honoraria did not receive endorsement from the meeting and, on the back of that, the President proposed Honoraria for the four specified posts (one of which is shared) at the existing rate of £250 per post. This was seconded by Michael Morrissey and agreed by the rest of the members. It was agreed that, in future, the Honoraria would be an agenda item

rather than a proposal from the floor.

The second proposal from Eric Sanger, on forms of membership, was deferred to the next meeting of the National Committee on 21<sup>st</sup> March. Eric was asked to enlarge on his proposition to help facilitate the National Committee discussion.

The Hon Treasurer raised the prospect that the subscriptions would need to increase to £22 from 2015. He pointed out that this would be the first increase since 2008 - seven years - and that the previous time the subscription was raised had been back in 2002. This was discussed and agreed by the members.

#### **Amendments to the Society's Constitution (as updated in 2009)**

The President proposed two changes to the Constitution, these being: reducing the number of committee meetings held each year (as matters were often discussed by email these days), and also that the number of attendees at these meetings be reduced from 6 to 5 to be quorate. Both changes were agreed. The President confirmed that he would draw up a new 2014 version of the Constitution as soon as possible. The other benefit of this reduction of meetings would be that the Society would not have to hire the hall out as many times. This was seconded by Arthur Smith.

#### **Officers' reports:**

##### **(i) Hon Secretary**

*The report of the Hon Secretary, as with the other officers, was printed in Bulletin Extra 1. In her brief statement to the meeting, the Hon Secretary did provide the additional information that Bob Orr would be taking over the role of Area Representative in the Bristol area from Peter Sturgeon.*

##### **(ii) Hon Treasurer**

*In addition to the report printed in Extra 1, the Hon Treasurer wanted to remind members that 2015 would be the Society's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year and so he would like to plan something special for the Annual Show.*

*The value of the Society's shares had increased by £13,000 over the last year.*

The Hon Treasurer raised concerns that the subscriptions would need to increase to £22 from 2015. This was discussed and, although mixed feelings were shared by a couple of members, the proposal was finally agreed.

**(iii) Hon Editor**

The Hon Editor reminded members that the transition to sending the Extra electronically by email was, generally, proving to be a success, particularly with regard to the inclusion of colour pictures throughout. There was still some concern over the distribution of copies to those without computers, but it is hoped that this can be resolved without too much difficulty.

The Editor then went on to announce the winner and runners-up for the annual Editor's Prize.

**2014: Runners-up** – Andrew Dunstan for his book and figure reviews as well as his reports on the Annual Show and Inter-Branch and John Dixon for the picture and story of "Farewell to the Argylls".

**The winner** - Brian Parker for his paintings and copy for "The Regiments of the British Army".

**(iv) Hon Curator**

Robin Marlin updated the members present on the current situation with the National Collection.

**(v) Publicity/Recruiting**

Nothing further to report.

**(vi) Advertising**

Nothing further to report.

**(vii) Support Services**

Thanks were expressed to Paul Vickers for the Christmas card design for 2013, and it was noted that the Society managed to break even on sales. The Hon Treasurer also showed members new ideas for ties for the Society, as our current stock was virtually exhausted.

Concern was again raised over the ownership of the Society 'moulds' that were used in the production of the figures for the Members' Collection. It was pointed out that although we might have purchased the moulds, that did not necessarily mean that the Society held the copyright on them. It was agreed

that this matter needed further investigation and Ralph Weaver would discuss the situation with Paul Vickers.

**(viii) SIGs**

There were still a small number of active SIGs running. Alex Riches, who runs the Toy Soldier SIG, reported that he has about 30 members. If members wish to receive the SIG newsletter, they should either let Alex know their email address or provide him with a stamped addressed envelope. The meeting was also reminded that the Indian Army SIG is still very much alive and under the guidance of Dr Mike Thomas who is still producing "Chota Sepoy", the highly regarded newsletter of the group.

**(ix) Archivist**

Nothing further to add to the report printed in the Extra.

**Sub-Committees' reports:  
Competitions:**

**Chief Judge** Ian Duthie thanked everyone who had judged at the last Annual Show and was looking forward to the same response for this year's competitions.

**Fellowships and Accolades:**

No Fellowship or Accolades had been proposed on this occasion.

**National Meetings:**

The new venue was cheaper to hire than Napier Hall and, so far, it seemed favorable to all those attending.

**Election of Officers and Committee for 2014**

The following officers and committee members were re-elected *en masse* at the AGM:

Julie Newman, Paul Newman, Arthur Smith, Alex Riches, John Regan, John Ruddle, Ralph Weaver, Robin Marlin & Stephen Dance.

**Any other business:**

No other matters were raised and so the meeting finally closed at 16.10 hrs.

**National Committee meeting dates for 2014:**

21st March,  
20th June,  
21st November.

# SALUTE 2014

By Ralph Weaver



The troops of Garibaldi issuing from the St. Pancras Gate of Rome, watched over by 'Red Shirts' (from left to right) Ralph Weaver, Ian Dury and Eric Sanger

**T**he annual 'Salute' show is the public face of the South London Warlords club. This is a wargames club which was formed in Bermondsey in 1971, with its first Open Day the following year. It has held the show at various venues in London, with the last few years at the London Docklands Excel Exhibition Centre. The show is a mecca for gamers and modellers alike with, probably, the largest gathering of traders under one (very big) roof. The Warlords invite wargaming clubs and individuals to take part in the show by presenting either a display or participation game. BMSS members have attended the show as visitors and gamers.

In its early life, the Victorian Military Society spawned a number of Special Interest Groups, one of which, the Continental Wars Study Group, went off on its own to become the Continental Wars Society. The CWS took part in the Victorian Military Fair for a number of years, usually presenting a wargame depicting a late Victorian continental theme, until it was invited by the 'Salute' organisers to attend their show. For 2014, the Society decided on a game illustrating an incident in the life of Garibaldi.

*Continued overleaf*

Garibaldi was a revolutionary hero in South America (where he had to flee after an abortive attempt against the government of the Kingdom of Sardinia-Piedmont) when, in 1848, he learned of the outbreak of war between that kingdom and the Austrian Empire, which at that time occupied most of the north Italian peninsula. He rushed back to Italy and offered his sword to the King who, in view of past history, was not too keen to accept it! The war went badly for the Piedmontese and Garibaldi and some of his volunteers ended up stranded in northern Italy. However, in the autumn of 1848, the citizens of Rome ejected the Pope from his temporal throne and declared a republic. They needed all the help they could get and Garibaldi rushed to their assistance.

He was given command of one of the divisions of the Roman army whose duty was to defend the walls of Rome. This proved to be just in time, as a French expeditionary force landed on the coast near Rome with the intention of re-instating the papal government. They marched straight up to one of the gates of Rome and were immediately confronted by a small force that Garibaldi led against them. To everyone's surprise, Garibaldi's volunteers first halted the French advance and then swept it back towards the coast. The French returned several weeks later with more men and a train of siege guns. They dug trenches and built batteries

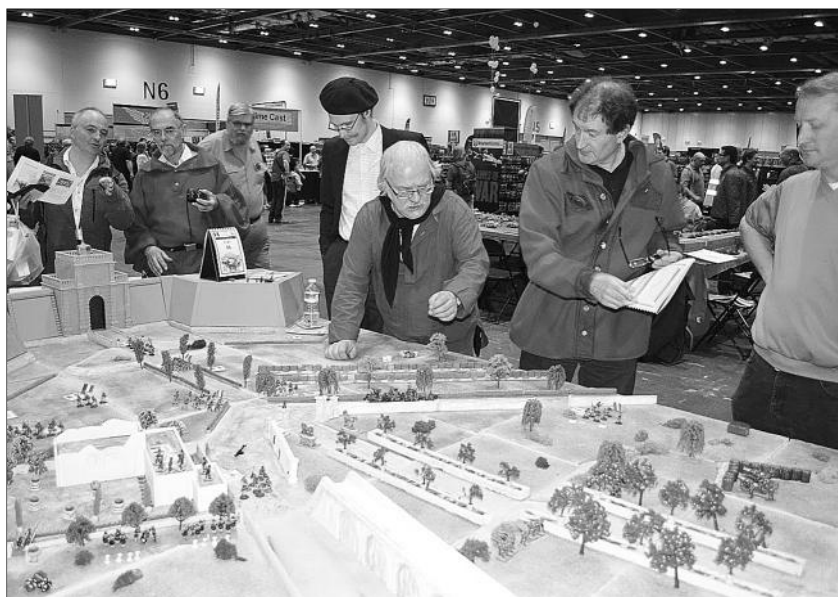


*A view from the St. Pancras Gate, up the hill to the Corsini Villa*

and occupied several large palaces on the hills overlooking the Roman walls.

One of these palaces, the *Villa Corsini*, stood on a hill a short distance from a gate in the walls named the *Porte San Pancrazio*. Garibaldi determined to

retake the villa and launched a series of attacks with volunteers, regular infantry and his own mounted company of lancers. This was the scenario adopted by the CWS for its game at 'Salute'.



*The game in progress with Ian Dury umpiring and explaining the rules to Eric Sanger*

The table was set up with a model of the *Villa Corsini*, specially made from heavy-duty card, at one end of the table and, ten feet away, a model of the *San Pancrazio* gate and a section of Roman wall. Between the two were gardens, vineyards and small fields, an old Roman aqueduct and some ruined buildings, all constructed by members of the CWS. The French troops placed around the villa were 28mm metal figures from *Wargames Foundry*, from their Crimean War range (the uniforms were very similar between 1849 and 1854), the Roman troops were converted from the 28mm range of American Civil War plastic figures by *Perry*. The figures were painted with acrylics and mounted individually on one penny coins to give them some stability.

# BMSS Diary 2014

- August 15th Artillery/Transport Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
- September 6th **BMSS Inter-Branch Competitions. The Knowle Masonic Centre, 1621 Warwick Road, Knowle, Solihull, Birmingham B93 9LF.**
- 19th Indian Army Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5 pm to 7 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
- 20th Euro Militaire 2014 (*the 29th year of one of the largest military modelling shows in the world*). Leas Cliff Hall, The Leas, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2DZ. The show is open from 10.00am until 6.00pm on the Saturday and from 10.00am until 4.00pm on the Sunday. Tickets will be available on the door on both days.
- 21st
- October 17th **BMSS Auction,. Please Note:** The Auction will take place in the Hall adjoining the Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London SW1V 3QW. 5.30 pm to 8 pm. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
- 26th "*Showcase 2014 - Art and History in Miniature*", the Annual Show of the Letchworth Scale Model Club. At the Broadway Hotel, Letchworth, SG6 3NZ from 10 am until 4 pm. Admission: Adults £2, Under-15s and Seniors £1.
- November 21st Conversions Night. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, London SW1V 3QW. **4.30 pm to 6.30 pm**. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064.
- 23rd "**Bugle Call 2014**", the BMSS Bristol Branch & South West Figure Modellers' Annual Show, The Pavilion, North Parade Road, Bath BA2 4EU.
- December 19th Old Toy Soldier Competition. Pimlico Room, St Saviour's, St George's Square, Lupus Street, London SW1V 3QW. **4.30 pm to 6.30 pm**. Contact Arthur Smith 020 8856 0064

## "Bulletin" Schedule - 2014

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin no. 3	21st July	Early September
Bulletin no. 4	6th October	End of November

## *BMSS Bulletin Extra schedule - 2014 (produced electronically)*

Extra no. 4	8th September	Early October
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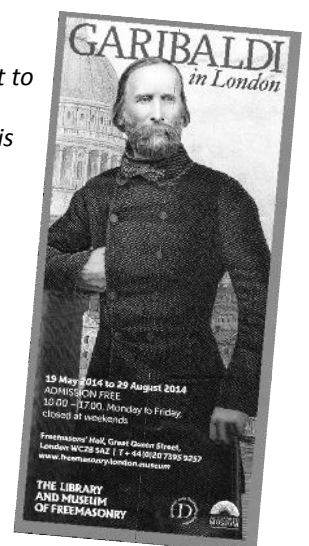
The game was played by CWS members and those from the public who expressed an interest, following a set of rules devised by an experienced CWS gamer. Each player took command of a Roman unit (usually 12 figures) with the object of advancing from the gate to the steps of the villa. After a long days' dice throwing and frequent halts for refreshment (Garibaldi biscuits, it's in the rules!) the winner emerged as Eric Sanger led his lancers, overrunning a French battery, and up to the balcony of the Corsini Villa.

The CWS always puts on a display related to the theme of the game and

this year a number of Garibaldi 'Red Shirts' were on parade around the wargame table. The 'Salute' team seemed to appreciate the overall effect of game and display, and awarded the CWS the prize for "*The Best Display*" and a special prize for the "*Best Historical Game*", the competition was very stiff, with some superb games and wonderful scenery.

*For interested members, Eric Sanger reports that there is still just time to see a free exhibition, "Garibaldi in London", at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ. It marks*

*the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Garibaldi's visit to Britain in 1864 and explores his extraordinary impact on mid Victorian society. The exhibition runs until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and is open from Monday to Friday from 10:00-17:00, closed at weekends.*



Toys for the Collector  
 2 & 3 October  
 19 & 20 November



Examples from the Peter Flatau Toy Figure Collection

Special Auction Services offers a regular bonanza of toy and model figures. We were privileged to sell the celebrated Peter Flatau Toy Figure Collection during 2013, which realised in excess of £125,000, proving our ability to reach all parts of the market. Our next sale already includes good period Britains figures and an exceptional King and Country collection. We are now taking in consignments for our October and November sales.

We travel regularly all around the UK and are happy to visit without obligation. To consign now, for further information on our regular sales or to get a valuation, please contact: Hugo Marsh or Bob Leggett + 44 (0)1635 580595 or hugo@specialauctionservices.com