

AWARD TO THE WELSH GUARDS

25th JULY, 2018

On the 25th July, the Deputy Master and Past Master Bryan Marsh travelled to the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, at Pirbright to present the Guards with their 2018 Award. Initially the award had been made as a cheque to individual troopers, but in recent years the Commanding Officer has been keen that the award should support group sporting activity. Such activity has become increasingly important as an attraction for recruits, as activity to compensate for the welcome falling off of more demanding (and dangerous) activities, and as a means of fostering cohesion and pride within the unit. Unfortunately, Army funding on such expenditure is being cut back, and the traditional source of NAAFI profits to provide help is no longer available. Thus, last year our award supported the moto-cross team and this year it supported the mountain bike team.

A presentation about the mountain bike team was given highlighting their training and the events they intend to participate in, and then the equipment was demonstrated. The members of the team buy their own bikes which cost upwards of £2,500 on top of which are the maintenance costs (worn chains require the gear hub to be replaced in step) and the personal equipment, and this underlines the need for financial help. The demonstration was followed by the presentation of a certificate and a cheque for £1,000 and tankards for the team members.

In common with most of the Company's Military Awards, this award is made possible by the generous support to the Company by the Gibson Trust.



Bryan Marsh and Graeme Morgan those members of the mountain bike team able to be present (from the left LCpl James Worthington, CSgt David Scarf, and LSgt Mark Biggs)



Sgt Mark Biggs showing the personal equipment



LSgt Mark Biggs being presented with his tankard (one of six)



£2,500 worth of bike