

The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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All Council Members
All Group Secretaries
All Branch Secretaries
Controller REA
Corps Treasurer

17 August 2011

MINUTES OF THE 115th MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN 0302 MEETING ROOM Z, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING, LONDON, ON THURSDAY 04th AUGUST 2011

PRESENT

Maj Gen J Moore-Bick CBE DL
Maj (Retd) P Bain
Mr T Mitchley
Mr J RV Mason
Mr B Prosser
Mr J Bell
Mr G Littleford TD

Chairman REA
Central Southern Group
East Anglia Group
South West Group
North East Group
Scotland & NI Group
South Midlands Group

IN ATTENDANCE

Lt Col (Retd) J R McLennan
Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan

Controller REA
D Con REA and Secretary

APOLOGIES

Col S Harris
Lt Col R Murfin TD DL
Maj I Drummond RE
Mr R Price
Mr P Markham
W01 (RSM) S Lee

Regimental Colonel
Reserve Army
Comdt RETC Wyke Regis
North Midlands Group
London Group
3 RSME Regt

W01 (RSM) C Chaplin
W01 (RSM) T Cooney
Maj (Retd) B Wilks
Mr H Evans
Mr M Crooke
Maj (Retd) B Henderson

1 RSME Regt
170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp
South East Group
Chairman, Families Reunion Committee
North West Group
South Wales Group

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present especially those who had come from afar.
2. The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from those listed above.

ITEM 1 • TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 114th MEETING

3. The Committee accepted that the Minutes of the 114th Meeting were a true record of the proceedings.
4. Proposed: Bob Prosser (North East Gp). Seconded: Graham Littleford (South Midlands Gp)
5. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 2• MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 114th MEETING

6. The following matters arising were discussed:
 - Paragraph 7 - Corps War Widows Reception. The event is planned to be held in conjunction with the REA NMA Centenary event. This was discussed at Item 11 (REA Centenary)

ITEM 3 - TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

7. The Controller presented the Benevolence Report for the 6-month period ending 30th June 2011. The report is at Annex A.
8. The Controller said that currently requests for benevolence were up 10% compared with year-on-year figures. He said there were more cases involving those unemployed and cases involving separated families. The Chairman asked if benevolence spending was also up 10%, the Controller replied that currently, spending was equal to the spend prediction. He added that they had processed more cases for less money; this was because the REA were finding more charities to help and this meant that costs were spread over a greater area.
9. Cttee members were reminded by the Chairman and the Controller that there was an open invitation for branches and units to send observers to the Benevolence Cttee meetings. A good attendance by observers ensured that the benevolence work of the REA was brought to the attention of the serving Corps.
10. The D Con asked that Cttee members advise branches and units that those wishing to attend as observers at Benevolence Cttee meetings must tell HQ REA of their intention to do so. He said that turning up at MoD without prior notice and without being declared on an access list caused problems for our sponsors.
11. In response to a question about the dates of Benevolence Cttee meetings, the D Con said he would publicise the dates on the REA web site.

Action: D Con

12. The Chairman said that the Chief Royal's Cttee had directed that Christmas cards would be sent to all families who had received the Elizabeth Cross. The Controller asked if that meant the REA was to send the cards - the Chairman said he believed that that is what they thought. The Controller said he would need to be advised of Elizabeth Cross recipients and suggested that the Corps



Secretary would be the one to do this as he was the holder of the records. There was some uncertainty as to who would/should be sending the cards and the Chairman suggested that the Controller find out and seek clarification from the Corps Secretary about the requirement as a whole.

Action: Controller

13. The Benevolence Report was accepted.

ITEM 4 - TO NOTE THE REGIMENTAL COLONELS REPORT ON THE CORPS

14. The Controller presented the Regt Col's report: The report is at Annex B.

15. The Controller told members that there were going to be redundancies within the Corps, not just slippages in manpower. These redundancies would impact upon the level of contributions through Payroll Giving (Day's Pay Scheme) and thereby the amount of money realised by the REA. This would be pointed out under Item 7.

16. The Chairman said that the list of sporting achievements was impressive. There were some sports where females in the Corps were excelling; he suggested that it would be useful if these female achievers could be identified in the Corps Update.

Action: Regt Col

17. The Controller asked if the Corps had any personnel participating in the Olympic or the Paralympic Games. The D Con said he would ask the question and ensure an answer was given.

Action: D Con

18. The RegtCol's report was accepted.

ITEM 5 - TO NOTE THE REPORT FROM THE FAMILIES EVENTS COMMITTEE

19. The D Con presented the Families Events Committee report. The report is at Annex C.

20. He reminded Cttee members that the Reunion at South Downs in May 2011 was the final event of the Families Events Cttee. The accounts were in the process of being finalised and once balanced, any remaining funds would be paid to the REA. At that point, the Families Events Cttee would stand down, their tasks completed.

21. The Chairman said he thought that the low numbers attending the events in recent years were not just as a result of an aged audience, there was also a change in people's choices and lifestyle and the use of the car. He thought it inevitable that this style of group holiday would become less attractive.

22. The Chairman said it would be most appropriate to record our thanks to Harold Evans for the superb work he had done over the years and for those thanks to be recorded also at the AGM. He recommended that a suitable letter of thanks from the Association also be provided.

23. The Families Events Committee Report was accepted.

ITEM 6 - TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE RECRUITING COMMITTEE

24. The D Con presented the report which is at Annex D.

25. The Chairman asked whether recruiting the serving Corps to the REA was progressing well. The D Con replied that those National Branches that represented extant Corps organisations (Engr Cdo, Airborne Engrs, Armoured, Plant et al) were doing rather better than geographically based branches; this was due primarily to esprit de corps and their captive nature.

26. The D Con briefed the Cttee on the work being done by many of the Corps Regimental Career and Manning Officers (RCMO). The RCMO was the in-unit focus for those terminating or discharging from the Corps; he was responsible for their final documentation which would now also include activation of REA membership, which hopefully would provide a private address.

27. The Recruiting Committee Report was accepted.

ITEM 7 - TO COMMENT ON THE 2012 BUDGET

28. The Controller took members through the most up-to-date budget sheet provided at the meeting. He compared this forecast with the one issued to members prior to the meeting and brought to their attention the following points:

- a. Serial 1. The reduced income during the years 2012 to 2015. This due to a reduction in Corps manning.
- b. Serial 15. The £30K increase in the budget for 2012. This is to cover the REA Centenary activities. ..

29. In response to a question from the Chairman, the Controller explained why the REA provides donations to external charities.

30. The Chairman commented on a new charity in Scotland that focused on taking ex-servicemen off the streets of Scotland. He said he would send details of the charity to HQ REA in order that its work could be monitored and, if appropriate, consider a donation to it.

31. The D Con advised members that the REA was now a charity registered in Scotland.

32. Mr Bob Prosser asked how often trustee training was carried out and how often trustees needed to attend such training. The Chairman did not think that trustees should undergo training each year, but he said that HQ REA did need to be aware of the status of trustees regarding training. He said that all trustees should be contacted in order to confirm what training they had completed and when; particularly over the last 5 years.

Action: Controller

ITEM 8 • BRANCH FINANCIAL SUMMARIES - DEBRIEF POINTS

33. The Chairman said that although the vast majority of branches do submit their Annual Financial Summary's on time, there is still the small number that fail to meet the deadlines set in Association Rules. Every effort must be made to ensure Annual Financial Summaries reach HQ REA in good time well before the deadline. Elected Cttee members were asked to take this message back to all their branches.

34. The Controller said it was unacceptable to have these Summaries in late. They needed to be submitted in good time so that they can be checked and any errors rectified with the branch before 31st January each year. Late submissions of Summaries generate a considerable amount of extra work in inputting and balancing not just the REA Charity account, but all of the Corps Charities. The extra work extends to the Auditors, and so far they have not charged for this extra work; the goodwill is unlikely to continue and in the future we can expect to be invoiced for 'extras'. Branches submitting late returns are in effect placing a financial burden on the charity.

35. The Controller said that during the latter part of January, HQ REA will be inviting Gp Directors to focus their attention on branches that were late in submitting their Financial Summary's.

ITEM 9 - TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE AGENDA FOR THE 2011 AGM

36. The Committee considered the AGM Agenda.

37. The Chairman observed that the Agenda was rather formal and needed something to 'liven' it up. He thought it would be a good idea if the Corps RSM could be persuaded to give those attending

the AGM a 15 minute talk of his impressions gained during his visits to units of the Corps. The D Con said that it might be difficult given the time available between the start of the AGM and the start of Dinner. The Controller was concerned that a 15 minute talk was in danger of going on for some time longer due to questions and answers. The Chairman said in that case some content of the AGM might need to be trimmed, but insisted that the Controller ask the Corps RSM to give a 15 minute talk at the AGM.

Action: Controller

38. The Chairman said that a vote of thanks to Harold Evans should also be included on the Agenda. Subject to the agreed additions, the Cttee approved the draft Agenda to Council.

ITEM 10 - APPOINT A NEW CAPTAIN OF STANDARDS

39. The Chairman advised that the current Captain of Standards, Mr Tom Milne, will have completed his tour of duty at the next CMW. He will have been Captain of Standards (CofS) since September 2007. He noted that Tom Milne had been a first class and thoroughly enthusiastic CofS who had given freely of his time and had visited many Groups to train their branches Standard Bearers. The Cttee recorded a vote of thanks for the excellent work that Tom Milne had done over the last 4 years.

40. The D Con said that the proposed new Captain of Standards is Mr Brian Simm (Cambridge Branch). He fulfils the conditions at Association Rule 20.09 in that he is twice winner (consecutive) of the National Standard Bearers competition. The Cttee approved the appointment of Mr Brian Simm to CofS for the next three years with effect from 18 September 2011.

ITEM 11 - REA CENTENARY

41. Suggestions and options have been produced by the Controller. The Chairman invited the Controller to brief the Cttee on the events planned for the Centenary:

a. Buckingham Palace REA Centenary Reception. A reply had been received from the Palace in response to the Regt Col's request to hold a reception at Buckingham Palace. The reply indicated that The Queen had said she would certainly wish to consider a small reception to mark 'this notable anniversary' when she takes decisions on her 2012 programme. The Palace would write to RHQ RE, hopefully by the end of October 2011, to let us know of the Queen's decision.

b. REA Centenary event at the NMA. The Drumhead service at the NMA Corps Memorial would be held on 17 May 2012. The approved funding allowed for a maximum number of about 1000 guests. This number would include REA officials, Group and Branch personnel, serving personnel (including the Corps Band), other dignitaries and widows of the Corps. The Controller said that at the opening of the Corps Memorial in 2007 some 550 guests attended, those attending were mainly REA group and branch representatives. Using these figures as guidance meant that in the region of 400 to 450 other categories, including widows of the Corps, could be invited to the NMA event.

c. Group Events. Some dates had been received identifying when Group Centenary events would be held. Trustees have been requested to go to their Groups to identify dates, only then will the grant approved by the trustees be paid. Grants will not be paid until the 2012 FY. The D Con had recently reminded Groups to provide the date of their Group Centenary Function.

d. London Marathon. The Controller said that the initiative was rather in the hands of the Regt Col. Not a lot of details were known except that a number of places had been bid for, but it was too early to say if those bids had been met. He said that it would be a team event on behalf of the REA.

e. Corps Memorial Weekend. The CMW at Chatham will be an enhanced weekend as the Centenary also coincides with the RE Brompton 200. The Controller emphasised that it would



be a major weekend for the REA and expected that many veterans of the Corps would attend to celebrate the Centenary. Branches would be encouraged to send their Standards for this once-in-lifetime event.

42. Mr Trevor Mitchley (East Anglia Gp) asked if the REA National Standard had been requested to appear at The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall. The Controller replied that he has asked for the REA National Standard to attend next year as part of the REA Centenary celebrations. He said he had had an acknowledgement back from the organisers and would need to follow that up.

ITEM 12. BRANCH MATTERS

43. No branch matters were raised.

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

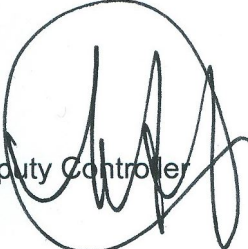
44. Mr John Mason (South West Gp) asked if any other details were available regarding the Sapper Ale initiative. The D Con briefed the Cttee on the latest information. He said that some 6000 bottles had been ordered for the serving Corps and the REA; the REA share was over 1000 bottles. The beer would be delivered to Chatham during early November and any further distribution would be managed by RHQ RE and HQ REA. All branches had received information about the Sapper Ale initiative. As at 17 August, only 10 branches had taken advantage of the launch and placed orders.

45. Mr John Bell (Scotland & NI Gp) told members that the Group had held a major social event earlier this year in Falkirk. The invitations to the event were extended to all branches nationally. He explained that due to the large distances between branches in the Gp, it was difficult in getting them together for a group function and, outside of the Gp AGM, this was the first time in twelve years he could recall that such a function had been held. The event was attended by five branches and guests included the Deputy Controller REA and members of the Scottish Parliament.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

46. The date of the next meeting is planned for 26th January 2012. The exact location within MOD Main Building will be notified when known.

17 August 2011


Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Date

Chairman

Benevolence Report for 115th Meeting of the REA Management Committee -- Thursday 4th August 2011

1. **Trends.** The number of cases handled by the REA over this half -year period Jan - Jun 2011 has increased by 10% when compared with last year's similar period. We have helped 532 so far this year and have seen many more of the "unemployed" and "separated families" categories.

2. **Benevolence Cases 2003 - 2011**

Annual Totals	2011 6 month Jan- Jun	2010 Tan-Dec	2009 Tan-Dec	2008 Jan-Dec	2007 Tan-Dec	2006 Tan-Dec	2005 Jan- Dec	2004 Tan-Dec	2003 Tan- Dec
Requests	532	953	1071	984	1048	936	910	878	897
Grants	524	943	1053	975	1026	919	886	855	877

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2011** The un-audited net costs of REA benevolence for this half-year period 2011 was about £218,570 for benevolence cases and a further £75K when weekly allowances are included.

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are most welcome to visit an REA Benevolence Meeting in London to see how the business of making financial benevolence grants is carried out on behalf of the Corps. Controller REA invites units and REA Branches to attend with the aim of those observers reporting back to their Branch of what they have seen and to pass the word around that we are there to help.

5. **Christmas Cards.** Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over fourteen hundred Members or their widows and to those being treated for Combat Stress or in hospital (including the In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital Chelsea) or living alone or recently bereaved. We receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload on the REA Staff to complete this task on behalf of the REA as a whole it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is appreciated.

6. **Grants to Other Charities.** REA Council have approved a grants to other Service charities who maybe involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £35,000, SSAFA Forces Help received £7,500 and Combat Stress received £2,500 for their excellent work.

7. **Kitchener Scholarship.** The REA Council have accepted the responsibilities of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and have delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee. We are currently helping four children of the Corps through private education.

8. **Corps Memorial Book.** Within the REA website there is the In Memoriam section and a link to the Corps Memorial Book with names of those who died in and out of service. We have at present a total number of about 2,073 entries.

CORPS UPDATE AS AT 21 JUL 11

HEADLINE ISSUES

- Manning (Army Personnel Statistics Report, as at 1 Jul11).

	Held strength	Army Liability	Difference	% of Army Liability
Officers	1,330 (DE - 980, LE - 350)	1,202	+123	111
Soldiers	8,350	8,204	+146	102
Total	9,840	9,406	+146	
Females	160			2
Foreign & Commonwealth	475			5
QGE Soldiers	400	297	+153	138

- TA Manning (RE TA) - RE TA unit manning as at Jul11 was 229 officers (72% manned) and 2408 Ors (62% manned) an increase of * + 75 since Jan 11. Officer and OR strength includes 9% females.

OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS

- The Corps remains as busy as ever with every squadron committed to the Operational Commitment Plot.

Capability	HERRICK 15 (Oct 11-Mar 12)
TFH	20 Armd Bde
Engr Regt	35 Engr Regt
TALISMAN	32 Engr Regt (77 AES)
C-IED TF	25 Engr Regt (Air Sp)
Search	36 Engr Regt (2)

Middle East Operational Infrastructure. A number of operational infrastructure reces and construction tasks are ongoing at SEES, MINHAD and AI-UDEID as part of the ongoing Op ZACH (ME routine infra sp) tasks. An Air Support recce and advisory visit continues at Gioia del Colle (GDC - Italy) in support of Op ELLAMY (Libya). Additional RE support is being planned for this region.

Engr Regt Gp. The Relief in Place (RiP) has occurred with no loss to output and 24 Cdo Engr Regt are already heavily committed to supporting the full range of tactical activity in TFH. A substantial redevelopment of the Patrol Base infrastructure is underway.

C-IED TF. The CIED TF is providing significant levels of EOD and Search support. Find/strike ratios are improving, as are strike pr hour and percentage attendance assets.

People

- Redundancy - The RE requirement for Tranche 1 was slight with LCpl (33), DE Maj (6), LE Capts (11) and Maj (4). Tranche 2 is looking at larger numbers and the recent SofS announcements of reductions to the regular component will see further losses.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL ENGINEERS (CHATHAM)

- Corps Activities. The Corps prepares to celebrate its 200th anniversary in Brompton with a series of commemorative events. It is hoped to dovetail the Corps activity with that being planned by local authorities - to include: 200th anniversary of Dickens' birth; 100th anniversary of

the Corps Museum; World Heritage status for the Great Lines; City Status for Medway; HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course, the 2012 Olympics.

- RE Museum, Library & Archive
 - The Fortifications Gallery. The Museum has begun the major refurbishment of the Fortifications Gallery. Several units have provided artisan support and work is progressing well. The Gallery will be opened as part of the Corps Memorial Weekend (17/18 Sep 11) along with the Corps Today Gallery.
 - Grounds. The high quality perimeter fence is complete adding significantly to the overall impression of a commercial and therefore non-military complex. We have also had delivery of a No 12 Scissor Bridge for the CH AVLB - it is mounted and looks splendid.

CORPS SPORT

- Paragliding. The Corps was well represented at the Joint Services Paragliding Championships by EinC(A), Maj Cackett and Capt Rudd.'
- Rugby League. RE defeated REME to win back the Lawson Cup for the 14th time in 17 years to become the 2011 Inter Corps champions.
- Football. The Corps football team won the Quadrangular tournament and only narrowly missed becoming Army champions.
- Boxing. This has been the Corps most successful season - ever! Four boxers (Jones, Leigh, McCarton and Passarelli) were awarded Army colours. Whitfield, Sadler and Passarelli achieved international level representation. 26 Engr Regt won the Army major Units trophy - Spr Marharjan was named Army Best boxer.
- Winter Sports. CO 28 Engr Regt will now begin to focus the Corps efforts for the coming season.
- Cricket. The Corps won the Plate in the Inter Corps 20/20 competition and the Inter Corps 50-over competition.
- Golf. The sapper team triumphed over the REME in the final.
- Orienteering. In the Long Distance team event the Corps swept the Board and is Army champion at both Senior and U25 level.

S P F HARRIS

Col

Regt Col



*ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
FAMILiES EVENTS ORGANISATION.*

*Report to the Royal Engineers Association Management Committee Meeting on
Thursday 4th August 2011.*

*SOUTHDOWN HOLIDAY VILLAGE.
Spring Reunion 21st to 21st May 2011.*

*162 Members and their families and friends, attended this our Nineteenth and final
Reunion.*

*There were a considerable number of problems associated with transport for our
people to the Holiday Centre, as the Coach Company were trying to use Rail
Transport in a number of cases. This was contrary to our agreement with the Holiday
Centre and I refused to accept this. Eventually all our members were transported to
and from the centre by Coach or Taxi.*

*On the first Sunday we held our Remembrance Service which was attended by nearly
everyone and enjoyed by all.*

*Coaching for our daily trips to places of interest went well, apart from initial hiccups
on the Monday and Tuesday, these were eventually sorted out to everyone's
satisfaction, but resulted in a further loss of hair by yours truly!*

*Facilities and Entertainment for the week were enjoyed by all. Food, Entertainment
and service by the Staff plus comfortable accommodation were of a high order and
no complaints were received. The weather was kind to us on the whole.*

*We were joined by our Deputy Controller, Lt Col (retd) N Jordan for the AGM and he
was our Guest of Honour at our Gala Dinner.*

*I was able to read out a response to our message of Loyal Greetings to her Majesty
The Queen, which was appreciated by all at the Dinner, prior to the Loyal Toast.*

*The entertainment on the final night was followed by a number of presentations to
Staff and Management.*

*Our Stewards were all presented with an engraved Glass Tankard by the Chairman
and their Ladies were presented with a large box of special chocolates. This in some
way was a recognition of their service to Family Events over a number of years.*

*An unexpected presentation was made to the Chairman and his Lady by the Treasurer
and was contributed to by all who attended the Reunion, a total surprise but greatly
appreciated and was in recognition of efforts on behalf of Family Events spanning a
number of years since 2001.*

*It is with utmost regret that I have had to preside over the demise of Family Events,
but it had become unsustainable. This was largely due to a lack of support from REA*

Members over the last few years, and a lack of suitable venues able and willing to host our Reunions.

Finally, the prohibitive cost of Coach Transport which has always been a feature of our events.

The Treasurer will submit all Family Events financial records to HQ and the final account of the assets will result in approximately £3200 being returned to the Association. This will all be sent to the Controller in due course.

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and National Organiser and the Stewards Committee, were all re-elected at the AGM to ensure continuity over the close down.

*HREvans,
Chairman and National Organiser.*

RECRUITING COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2011

REA AWARENESS TRAINING

1. Since the last report in July 2010, 930 Phase 2 recruits, have received REA Awareness Training and been given the 'Welcome Pack'.
2. Awareness presentations have continued to be given to all 1 RSME Command Courses. This is normally given by the Regimental Colonel as part of his wider brief to the courses.'

RECRUITING INITIATIVES

3. Recruiting Poster.
 - a. The A4 version of a poster advertising the REA was published in the Sapper magazine.
 - b. The committee are looking at ideas to have a series of posters designed to ensure that they are published in the Sapper magazine at least once a year.
4. Bookmarks. The committee approved the issue of bookmarks advertfising the REA which was produced in conjunction with the some information on 'Legacies' on the reverse side. This has been sent to Branches with a view to their members handing them out in as wide an area as possible to raise awareness of the REA.
5. Free Adverts in local newspapers. An initiative is in progress for an advertisement to be placed into newspapers at no cost. A 'begging' letter and an advert will shortly be sent to all REA branches. Branches will be encouraged to contact their local newspapers in the hope that they can be persuaded to give space 'Free of Charge' to a carry the advert that reaches out to former saIjpers.
6. REA Centenary. The committee are investigating a number of initiatives to promote the REA Centenary.
7. Budget. An increase in the Recruiting Budget has been requested to meet the expected costs of the 2012 Recruiting and Centenary initiatives.

RECRUITING STATISTICS

8. During the period of this report the number of new Life Members recruited has been 432 throughout all the REA Groups.

Peter Lund
Chairman
Recruiting Committee

28th July 2011

