

MINUTES OF 59<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
 ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 IN THE ARMY  
 & NAVY CLUB, PALL MALL, LONDON.



Those Present:

Maj Gen J D Moore-Bick CBE DL	Chairman of Association
Brig S Hodder	Commandant RSME
Brig A S Craig OBE	Chairman REA Benevolence
Col (Retd) R M R Hunt	Hon Treasurer
Col S P F Harris	Regimental Colonel
Col (Retd) D M Gill MBE	Retired Officer
Lt Col R W Murfin TD DL	Reserve Army Officer
WO1 (CRSM) J Blaylock	Corps RSM
Mr T P Hartley	London Group
Mr B Owens	South East Group
Lt Col (Retd) F Ford	Central Southern Group
Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley	South West Group
Mr G Walsh	South Wales Group
Mr M Barry MN1	East Anglian Group
Mr R Price	North Midlands Group
Mr E C Prosser	North East Group
Mr B Hayes	North West Group
Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD	Scotland Group

In attendance:

Lt Col (Retd) N A Jordan	REA~Deputy Controller
Lt Col (Retd) J R McLennan	REA Controller & Secretary

Apologies received from:

General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC Gen  
 Brig I S James OBE ADC, Engineer-in-Chief (Canny)  
 Mr J G Littleford South Midlands Group

1. Introductory Remarks. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance. He also welcomed Brigadier S Hodder and Col (Retd) M Gill to their first REA Council Meeting.

ITEM 1. To CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF COUNCIL

2. Subject to minor detail changes, the Minutes of the 58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Council were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



3. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 2. To CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 58TH COUNCIL MEETING.

4. Investments. As agreed in the previous meeting £200K has been transferred from cash into investments.

5. Placement of Sappers. The Regt Colonel informed the meeting that the RE Foundation is now launching a "RE Partnership with Industry" is being launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept to help in the placement of our Sappers (SNCO to Lt Col) in industry. Although it is to be self-funding, it is hoped that donations will be made to RECCT and from there money could be transferred to the REA. There is no need at present for the REA to consider employing a new member of staff. The Regt Col said he would provide a brief on the main points of the launch after the event.

6. REA Centenary. This is a subsequent Agenda Item.

ITEM 3. To TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 115<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE REA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

7. A. Attendance at Benevolence Meetings. Observers are welcome and Trustees are encouraged to attend.

B. Families Events. Council took note with regret that the Families Events will no longer take place.

C. Contact with RCMOs. Deputy Controller informed the meeting that the majority of RCMOs are signed up to assisting the REA in enabling Sappers to join the REA. **If** there are problem areas the Regt Col said he would help with contacting the units concerned.

D. Financial summaries. The Deputy Controller will prevail in getting them into HQ REA in time for the Auditors. The Controller added that Group Directors will be asked to become involved at an early stage to assist in timely delivery. The Honorary Treasurer also said that there could be a charge made by the Auditors in the event of late returns.

ITEM 4 To NOTE & RECEIVE THE REA BENEVOLENCE REPORT

8. The Chairman REA Benevolence gave his report to the Council. There is no discernable trend in numbers other than the expected increase in applications up by about 10% year on year. The expected spend on REA Benevolence is in line with the projections.

9. The Benevolence Report is attached Annex A. Brigadier Craig also wished to record the gratitude to Mrs Angie Colyer who has been HQ REA Benevolence Secretary for seven years and leaves HQ REA on retirement. Her departure will be suitably recognised.

10. Mr Mike Barry raised the topic of the Winter Fuel Allowance. Chairman REA Benevolence informed the meeting that the benevolence is available for applicants including the elderly and the REA "winter warmer" is sent out to all the REA Annuity recipients and REA should be informed where there are any difficult circumstances.

11. Council took note of the report.

**ITEMS To RECEIVE A REPORT ON CORPS AFFAIRS**

12. The Regimental Colonel gave his report. The transformation to Capability Directorates is unlikely that there will be any adverse effect on the REA.

13. The Corps RSM gave a verbal report on the parade that took place the previous day when Search Qualification Badges were issued by the Adjutant General Major General Mark Manns. 300 hundred were on parade and it was well covered by BBC.

14. The report is attached at **Annex B.**

**ITEM 6 To NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 106TH REA FINANCE MEETING AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR 2011 AND FOR 2013-2016**

15. The Minutes of the REA Finance meeting (including the REA Budget) are attached at **Annex C.**

16. Col Hunt, Honorary Treasurer, informed the meeting that we are track for expected spend on benevolence. He raised the matter of "deficit budgets" and said that they have been scrutinised and some figures have been adjusted accordingly. But there is little scope to change and indeed there is little need to do so given the strong financial position we are in. He said that we are able to meet all the calls for our priority needs, that of benevolence and that we have many years of reserves if so required.

17. Council then discussed the full budget line by line and after discussion the budget was agreed.

**Proposal: To Approve the REA Budget for 2011 and for 2013-2016.**

Proposer: Mr Barry Owens

Secunder: W01 (Corps RSM) J Blaylock

**Carried**

18. The Hon Treasurer gave the Investment value as at 12thSept as £7,053,729 but the market is volatile and subject to much change.

**ITEM 7 To CONSIDER AND REVIEW THE RISK REGISTER & POLICY STATEMENT**

19. The Regimental Colonel outlined that this Risk Register had been re-formatted and discussed at length by his committee at Regimental HQ. The Risk Register is attached at **Annex D.**



20. Proposal: To Accept the REA Risk Register and Policy Statement.  
Proposer: MrB Hayes  
Seconder: Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD  
CARRIED

ITEM 8 To RECOMMEND AND APPROVE THE AGM AGENDA 2011 AND COUNCIL  
REpORT

21. The Draft agenda and report were discussed and approved. They are attached at Annex E & F.

Proposal: To Recommend and approve the 2011 AGM Agenda & Council report  
Proposed: Col SPF Harris  
Seconder: Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD  
CARRIED

22. SAPPER SUNDAY. The controller REA outlined the events and the changes to 2010 for Sapper Sunday. The Royal Hospital Chelsea has changed the venue for any events on a Sunday and we will be allocated The Prince of Wales Hall. There is to be a hire charge and a cost for the food.

Proposal: That £750 be allocated towards the costs of Sapper Sunday 2011  
Proposed by: Mr B Hayes  
Seconded by: Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley  
CARRIED

ITEM 9 REVIEW TRUSTEES 12 MAIN ROLES & 5 YEAR STRATEGIC REvIEW 2012-2016

23. Col M Gill asked about the formal standing and appointment of the Trustees. The Controller referred him to the Deeds of Trust.

Proposal: To Accept Trustees 12 Main Roles & REA 5 Year Strategic Review  
2012-2016.  
Proposer: Mr R Prosser  
Seconder: Lt Col R W MurfIn TD DL  
CARRIED

24. REA Objectives. The Controller re-assured Council that the Objectives of the REA are being adhered to and does not include the giving of any financial advice. Any Sapper requiring such advice is referred to an Independent Financial Advisor from a list held at HQ REA or to an appropriate organisation, such as CAB, who may be able to help.

ITEM 10 REA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 2012

25. The Controller outlined the following

1. Drumhead Service. The Lottery Grant application for £10K has been turned down. There is the possibility of re-applying and this will be done in October 2011.
2. Buckingham Palace. It was agreed that wives and partners should be invited to the Buckingham Palace Reception.
3. Drumhead Service. Widows should be invited to the Drumhead Service.
4. Sapper Ale. 8,600 units have been ordered.
5. London Marathon. REA to purchase tickets
6. Commemorative Plate. The Regt Col said a commemorative plate for REA 2012 is being produced by Corps Enterprises
7. Football. The Corps Team will be playing Gillingham

ITEM 11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

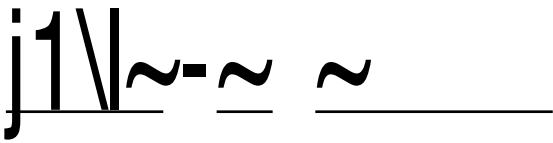
26. There was No Other Business.

ITEM 12 -- DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The date of the next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd May 2012.

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September 2011



Lieutenant Colonel JR McLennan  
Controller REA, & Secretary

May 2012

General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE  
Chief Royal Engineer, President REA



## BENEVOLENCE REPORT FOR 59<sup>TH</sup> REA COUNCIL MEETING WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011

1. Trends. The trend over the first half of 2011 of cases handled by the REA has increased by 10% when compared with the same period. We are seeing a worrying trend of more family separations where the separated wife is seeking financial assistance to set up a new home with young children having left shelter accommodation such as Stepping Stones.

2. Benevolence Cases 2003 - 2011

Annual Totals	2011 6 month Jan-Jun	2010 Jan-Dec	2009 Jan-Dec	2008 Jan-Dec	2007 Jan-Dec	2006 Jan-Dec	2005 Jan-Dec	2004 Jan-Dec	2003 Jan-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 net costs of REA benevolence grants has not risen in the same proportions. It is much easier to find £10 from ten charities than £100 from one. It is necessary to widen the almonising parish to find as many charities that can contribute to cases as possible. We do this in conjunction with caseworkers where possible but never at the inconvenience of the applicant who must receive the amount requested as soon as possible. In the current year we are on the expected spend line and do not expect on the present figures to have to request additional funds from Council.

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

5. Christmas Cards. Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over eight hundred Members or their widows, those in hospital or care homes and to those being treated for Combat Stress. We receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload on the HQ REA Staff to complete the task it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is appreciated.

6. Grants to Other Charities. REA Council has approved 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. All these charities, and others, act as our eyes & ears helping the wider services family who have fallen on hard times and look after some of the many services facilities where our Sappers may frequent.

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. The Fund will have one daughter of the Corps to help over the coming academic year: Miss Lauren McLeish.

8. HQ REA. Mrs Angie Colyer will be retiring as part of the Civil Service VERS scheme on 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 11. Mrs Colyer has been a loyal Benevolence Secretary for seven years and will be replaced by Mrs Liz Tarrant in the middle of October. HQ REA will continue to have gapped post.



## CORPS UPDATE AS AT 22 AUG 11

## HEADLINE ISSUES

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

	Held strength	Army Liability	Difference	Held Strength as %of Army Liability
Officers	1,330 (OE - 980, LE - 350)	1,202	+128	111
Soldiers	8,350	8,204	+146	102
Total	9,680	9,406	+274	103
Of which: Females	160			
Foreign & Commonwealth	475			
QGE Soldiers	400	297	+103	135

- TA Manning (RE TA) - RE TA unit manning as at Jul 11 was 229 officers (72% manned) and 2408 ORs (62% manned) an increase of \* + 75 since Jan 11. Under planned Army reorganisations, the wider-TA will increase in strength to 32,000 of which the Corps' six TA regiments will be reinforced from the regular cadre.

## 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
Enor Reot	35 Enor Reot
TALISMAN	32 Enor Reot (77 AES)
C-IED TF	25 Engr Regt (Air Sp)
Search	36 Enor Reot (2)

Middle East Operational Infrastructure. A number of operational infrastructure reces and construction tasks are ongoing at SEEB, MINHAO and AI-UOEIO as part of the ongoing Op ZACH (ME routine infra sp) tasks. An Air Support recce and advisory visit continues at Gioia del Colle (GOC - Italy) in support of the successful Op ELLAMY (Libya) campaign.

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 - 35 Engineer Regiment prepare to roule in the coming weeks. A substantial redevelopment of the Patrol Base infrastructure is underway.

C-IED TF. The CIEO TF is providing significant levels of EOO 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. 2012 also marks the Centenary of the REA and separate events are planned to mark this occasion. 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
  - o 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.
  - o 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 N012 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

