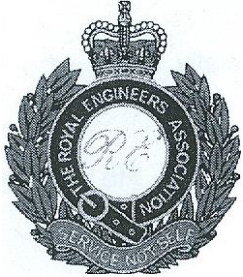


# The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992 and a charity registered in Scotland)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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All Management Committee Members  
All Group Secretaries  
All Branch Secretaries  
Controller REA  
Corps Treasurer

24 February 2011

MINUTES OF THE 114<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN 063 MEETING ROOM 13, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING, LONDON, ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011

## PRESENT

Maj Gen J D Moore-Bick CBE DL	Chairman
Col S P F Harris	Regimental Colonel
Maj (Retd) P Bain	Central Southern Group
Maj (Retd) B Henderson	South Wales Group
W01 (RSM) T Cooney	170 (Infra Sp) Engr Group
W01 (RSM) S Lee	3 RSME Regt
Mr T Mitchley	East Anglia Group
Mr J R V Mason	South West Group
Mr M Crooke	North West Group
Mr R Price	North Midlands Group
Mr G Littleford	South Midlands Group
Mr P Markham	London Group
Mr J Steer	South East Group
Mr B Prosser	North East Group
Mr J Bell	Scotland & NI Group

## IN ATTENDANCE

Lt Col (Retd) J R McLennan	Controller REA
Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan	D Con REA and Secretary



## APOLOGIES

Lt Col J Townsley  
W01 (RSM) Yates  
Mr H Evans  
Maj B Ironton RE  
Lt Col R Murfin TO OL

Corps Treasurer  
1 RSME Regt  
Chairman, Families Events Committee  
Comdt RETC Wyke Regis  
Reserve Army

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present especially those who had come from afar. He extended season's greetings to all assembled ..
2. The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from those listed above. He welcomed the following new members to the Committee for whom it was their first meeting:

- W01 (RSM) S Lee 3 RSME Regt
- W01 (RSM) T Cooney 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Group
- Mr Peter Markham London Group
- Mr Jim Steer South East Group
- Mr Roger Price North Midlands Group

### ITEM 1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> MEETING

3. The Committee accepted that the Minutes of the 113<sup>th</sup> Meeting were a true record of the proceedings.
4. Proposed: John Bell (Scotland & NI Gp).  
Seconded: fYlike Crooke (North West Gp)
5. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

### ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 113<sup>th</sup> MEETING

6. Corps Website (Paragraph 6). There was an on-going action on the O Con to monitor the changes to the Corps website. Changes have been made and continue to be made. However the pace of change is reliant upon a less than dynamic Army Website. The O Con will continue to monitor the Corps website.
7. Corps War Widows Reception (Paragraph 41). There was an action on the Controller to look into the possibilities of holding this event. There was some discussion as to what constituted a War Widow and whether or not the reception should be confined to just War Widows. The Chairman was of the opinion that if the REA did hold a reception the word 'War' should be taken out as it rather limited eligibility. There would obviously be priorities, for instance those widows linked to the recent operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The matter was on-going.

Action: Controller

8. Proposed New National Branch - Specialist Units RE IA. There was an action on HQ REA and 111 Engr Regt & STRE Comrades Association to resolve identified potential problems before the proposal is tabled at the next meeting. The matter was discussed under Item 8 Branch Matters.
9. Corps Flag at the Corps Memorial (Paragraph 53). The Controller was directed to take action over the NMA practice of removing the Corps flag in order to fly the Royal Standard whenever there is a Royal visit. The Controller had written to the NMA expressing our concerns, but had not yet had a reply.

### **ITEM 3 - TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE**

10. The Controller presented the Benevolence Report for the 12 month period ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. The report is at Annex A.
11. The Chairman told the RSM's present that the Benevolence Cttee monthly meetings would welcome observers from their messes. He said that it was a good thing that soldiers were reminded of where some of their Days Pay contributions were spent.
12. The Benevolence Report was accepted.

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

13. The Regt Col presented his report. The report is at Annex B.
14. In addition to the detail in his report, he told the Cttee that the RE Museum had just received a £100k donation from Pearson Engineering. He said that the donation was most welcome but completely unexpected. Additionally, a donation of £48k had been received from the Lottery.
15. John Bell (Scotland & NI) asked the Regt Col why press releases about the Corps on operations were generally scarce, and that which was available tended to lie with 'kilted warriors'. The Regt Col said that one of the things being developed on the Corps website was electronic links. He continued by saying that he had initiated a 'Google Alert' so that anytime the word Royal Engineer or sapper appeared in a press article, even at 'county level, he is alerted by email. If the article is relevant, he arranges for it to be linked on the Corps website.
16. The Regt Col's report was accepted.

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

17. The report was presented by the O Con and is at Annex C.
18. There was some discussion about the future of the Families Events. There was agreement that the Families Event, in its current format, may die a natural death through diminishing support. There was further agreement that the Management Cttee should monitor the situation. If no replacement was forthcoming for Mr Harold Evans, then the future of Families Events would be obvious. The Management Cttee would be interested to hear of any ideas for follow on activities from the Families Events Cttee. The Management Cttee would review the situation at its next meeting when the outcome of the Families Events AGM was known.
19. The Families Events Committee report was accepted.

### **ITEM 6 - TO AWARD THE BADGE OF MERIT FOR 2011**

20. The Committee took great pleasure in approving the Award of the Badge of Merit to the following members:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Group</b>
Bob Prosser	Airborne Engineers	North East
Mike Payne	Reading & W Berks	Central Southern
Ron Atkins	Andover & Winchester	South West
Norman Hardisty	Southampton	South West
Michael Gardner	Woolwich	London
Ivan Edmondson	North Wales	North West

Keith Evans	Chester	North West
John Burke	Birkenhead	North West
Stan Rawcliffe	Blackpool	North West
Ooug McKenzie Scott	Edinburgh	Scotland & NI

21. In addition to those listed above, the following member was awarded the Badge of Merit as a result of a recommendation by the Chairman REA, Maj Gen J O Moore-Bick CBE OL.

Frank Saunders	Forth Valley Branch	Scotland & NI Gp
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22. The Chairman noted that Lt Col (Retd) Frank Saunders had been a member of the REOCA and then the REA for a total of 75 years.

**ITEM 7 - CHILWELL WEEKEND**

23. The Chairman invited W01 (RSM) Cooney (170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp) to brief the Cttee on the Status of the Chilwell Weekend. W01 (RSM) Cooney reminded members that the first Chilwell Weekend would take place over the period 13 - 15 May 2011 at Chetwynd Barracks; he reiterated that it was "The Chilwell Weekend" and it would not be imitating the Ripon Weekend. Calling notices had been sent to all branches and returns had started to come in. The weekend included a full programme of events starting with a games night with curry buffet in the Cpls Club on the Friday night, a Regimental Dinner in the WOs' and Sgts' mess on the Saturday and ending with a Standard Bearers Competition on the Sunday. There were many other activities in between these key events. He said that numbers able to be accommodated were limited by the amount of available bed spaces in barracks (146 beds) and by the maximum number that Fire Regulations will allow in the Mess for the Regimental Dinner (200). W01 (RSM) Cooney concluded by saying that event preparations were progressing well and it promised to be most entertaining weekend.

24. The 0 Con reminded members that the Chilwell Weekend was an REA National Event, and as such, branch Standard Bearers attending with their Standards would be eligible to claim travelling expenses.

**ITEM 8 - BRANCH MATTERS**

25. Financial Summaries. The Chairman invited the 0 Con to brief the meeting on the status of Branch and Group submissions for the FY 2011. The 0 Con highlighted the fact that as at 27 January 2011 approximately 25% of branch Financial Summaries had not been received by HQ REA. He accepted that Summaries needed to be submitted by 31 January, but with only two working days of the month remaining, there was no scope for addressing the inevitable errors. A list of those branches/groups that had yet to submit returns were passed to Cttee members with a request that they chase up late submissions. The 0 Con said he was surprised by the larger than normal number of Summaries that had been signed off by 'scrutinisers' who had failed to physically check the figures or carry out the arithmetic balancing check (I-A=O); the Summaries must be meticulously scrutinised and errors rectified before sending to HQ REA. The 0 Con praised all those branches and Groups that had submitted timely and accurate Summaries.

26. The Controller reminded Cttee members that not only would branches be reprimanded for late returns but that Trustees would also be admonished; this was not a good situation and Cttee members were urged to get in touch with the branches listed to ensure returns were rapidly submitted.

27. Proposed New National Branch - Specialist Units RE TA. A meeting was held at HQ REA on 12 January 2011 with the Controller REA, 0 Con REA, Lt Col (Retd) M Kingsford TO (Chairman 111 Engr Regt & STRE Comrades Association) and Maj (Retd) Peter Bain (Central Southern Gp). The meeting clarified several points from both parties. A letter from Lt Col (Retd) M Kingsford outlined the conduct of the meeting and the position of the REA which will be considered by 111 Engr Regt &



STRE Comrades Association at their AGM in May. Whilst the letter outlines the REA position, there is nothing new at this stage that would support a re-submission of the proposal to create a new National Branch solely for serving or former TA personnel. The Controller said that unless 111 Engr Regt & STRE Comrades Association agreed to widen their membership base to include serving members of the Corps (primarily from 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp) he was of the opinion that the proposal was not a 'runner'. Maj (Retd) Peter Bain, who is also the membership secretary of the STRE Association, agreed with the Controller saying that an approach by the STRE Association to 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp might also be worthwhile. W01 (RSM) Cooney said he would speak to Col S Boyd, Comd 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp, whom he thought would be very supportive of this action.

28. Forecast of Events. The following events of interest for 2011 have been notified to HQ REA:

13-15 May	Chilwell Weekend*
20-27 May	Spring Reunion, South Oowns Holiday Village
28 May	Trooping the Colour - "Major Generals Review"
04 June	Trooping the Colour - "Colonel's Review"
08-09 June	Beating Retreat, London
09 June	Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Oay Parade
11 June	Queen's Birthday Parade
24-26 June	Minley Weekend *
15-18 September	Corps Memorial Weekend Chatham*
08 October	REA AGM and Annual Oinner *
09 October	Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea
10 November	Field of Remembrance, \Vestminster
13 November	Remembrance Sunday

\*National Events

29. The Chairman observed that numbers attending the Field of Remembrance last year seemed fewer than in previous years. The O'Con advised that this was probably due to a new security requirement of the organisers. The names and addresses of those wishing to attend must be advised in advance; tickets will then be issued. The London Branch is the REA focus for the organisation of the Corps plot, and those wishing to attend the Field of Remembrance ceremony should give their contact details to the London Branch for onward transmission to HQ REA.

**ITEM 9. TO NOTE THE ALLOCATION OF GRANTS TO ANNUAL EVENTS**

- Grant requests have been received for the following events:

Event	Requested Amount	Amount Supported by HQ REA
(a)	(b)	(c)
Chatham W/end	£6500	£6500
Minley W/end	£4000	£4000
Chilwell W/End	£6000	£6000

30. Cttee members agreed to recommend the revised allocations to Council.

**ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

31. Transfer of Malvern Branch from South Midlands Gp to South Wales Group. The Malvern Branch feels it will be better served by having a Group HQ located closer to it. To this end, a proposal has been submitted by Mr G Littleford (South Midlands Gp) that the branch be transferred from the South Midlands Gp to the South Wales Gp; HQ REA supports the move. Maj (Retd) Brian Henderson (South Wales Gp) spoke briefly on the matter, he said the Group had no objections to the transfer and

that the branch would be warmly welcomed. W01 (RSM) Cooney (170 (Infra-Sp) Engr Gp) supported the move.

Proposed by: Mr G Littleford (South Midlands' Gp)  
Seconded by: Maj (Retd) B Henderson (South Wales Gp)  
Passed.


32. REA Shopping Bags. Mr Trevor Mitchley (East Anglia Gp) was invited by the Chairman to promote the East Anglia Group's shopping bag. Trevor Mitchley provided details of the REA shopping bag including costs. Branches wishing to purchase bags should make direct contact with the East Anglia Group Management Cttee member.

33. Mike Crooke (North West Gp) asked the Regt Col if there was any news about the closure of TA Centres in light of the SOS Review. The Regt Col replied that there had been a TA review and there will be a further TA review, however, he not heard about anything about the demise or otherwise of TA estates.

#### **ITEM 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

34. The date of the next meeting is planned for 4th August 2011 in MOO Main Building.

24th February 2011



Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Oate

Chairman

## Benevolence Report for 114th Meeting of the REA Management Committee Thursday 27th January 2011

1. **Trends.** It is not easy to identify any particular trend but the number of cases dealt with last year showed a decrease of -11% on the number of cases dealt with in the previous year but the (unaudited) figures for the costs of the cases and benevolence grants are only down by 3%. We are helping an increased number of those in the "unemployed" category representing 13% of all applications throughout the year (10% in 2009). We are also helping more widows than in the past and we are up by 2% to 17% of all applications.

### 2. Benevolence Cases 2002 - 2010

Annual Totals	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	LOUIS	2002
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Oec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Oec	Jan-LJec	Jan-Oec	Jan-Oec
<b>Requests</b>	<b>953</b>	1071	984	1048	936	910	878	897	1039
<b>Grants</b>	<b>943</b>	1053	975	1026	919	886	855	877	1007

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2010.** The un-audited net costs of REA benevolence for 2010 was about £400K for benevolence cases and a further £150K when weekly allowances and Special Christmas Grants 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. Throughout 2010 we had 42 observers which is an average of 4 per meeting -- all observers appreciated the experience and said they would inform their colleagues of their knowledge.

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 or living alone or recently bereaved. At this time of year 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. This was a new initiative in 2009 and one that has proved most popular and has increased (by doubling) the notification of the death of many Sapper's and to commemorate the lives of those Sappers who have died whilst on or off duty. We have at present a total number of about 2,000 entries (*an increase of 288 on the previous year*).

9. **HQ REA -- Staff Matters.** After 23 years loyal service to the REA, Mrs Marilyn Gittins retired from her position as Benevolence Clerk in Feb '10. Her position as a civil service benevolence clerk was filled but had to be almost immediately surrendered as a cost cutting exercise and is still vacant with little hope of being able to find a replacement in the foreseeable future. This has inevitably placed additional work on the two other staff with the inevitable result of delays in the staffing of the cases. In Dec '10 Mrs Tina Plant left after nine years of loyal service handling membership applications, and, as a private REA employee, is to be replaced in Feb '11 as REAMembership Clerk.



~imental **Colonels Report on the Cor~****HEADLINE ISSUES**

- **Casualties Jul10 - Mar 11**
  - o Spr Smith KIA
  - o Spr Foster KIA
  - o Sgt Jones KIA
  - o Cpl Barnsdale KIA
  - o Spr Blanchard KIA
  - o 11 - WIA
  
- **Strategic Defence and Security Review** - Work continues apace. The Corps, again, stands at a defining moment. Army is set to reduce by 7,500 personnel over the next 3 years with, the Corps reducing by 600 more or less. The Corps is set to lose a RHQ(+)but remains well placed to meet future operational requirements. The EinC is adamant that we will retain Sappers as soldier, combat engineers and artisans.
- **Transformational Army Structures** - This will be the future structure of the Corps. The Corps will be configured to match the new operational roles apportioned to it. Despite losing some personnel over 3 to 4 tranches, we will gain in terms of Search, MWDs (Dogs) and FPE.
- **Manning** (next DM(A) update Apr 11) - The Corps is now fully manned - over liability in officers, SNCOs and Sprs but under liability across the JNCO population. Input through recruiting will undoubtedly be reduced as the Corps shrinks to the TAS structure.

	Held Strength	RAL	Difference	% ofRAL	Remarks
<b>Officers</b>	1,280	1,197	+83	107.0	Lt to Lt Col (incl LE)
<b>Soldiers</b>	8,210	8,332	-122	98.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	9,490	9,529	-39	0.4	
<b>Females</b>	155			1.6	All ranks
<b>Foreign &amp; Commonwealth</b>	445			4.7	All ranks

**OPERATIONS AND DEPLOYMENTS**

- The Corps remains as busy as ever with every squadron committed to the Operational Commitment Plot.
- With the reduction in Task Force Helmand's Area of Operations and the concentration of force in Central Helmand, sappers are in increasing demand. The Engineer Group has consolidated in Camp BASTION:

Capability	HERRICK 12 Apr10 - Oct 10	HERRICK 13 Oct 10 - Apr 11
<i>RHO</i> <i>Engr</i> <i>Regt</i>	21 Engr Regt	23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt)
<i>Infra</i>	64 Wks Gp (62 Wks Gp from Jul)	62 Wks Gp (66 Wks Gp from Dec)
C-IED TF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RHQ 33 Engr Regt (-)</li> <li>• 21 Fd Sqn (EOD)</li> <li>• Search backfill from 36 Engr Regt, 12 (Air Sp) Engr Gp with res of 23 Pnr Regt RLC</li> <li>• Elms 521 EOD Sqn RLC</li> <li>• (WIS and ECM Elms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HQ 29 Gp IA HQ</li> <li>• 61 Fd Sqn (EOD)</li> <li>• 621 EOD Sqn RLC</li> <li>• Search backfill from 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt), 6 HQ Sqn (22 Engr Regt), 12 (Air Sp) Engr Gp with 23 Pnr Regt RLC</li> <li>• WIS and ECM Elms</li> </ul>

## RE CAPABILITY

- Enhancements to operational equipment continue to be developed. The successful TALISMAN route proving and clearance system is being upgraded by the addition of a DETECT and FLAIL system on a remotely operated chassis.
- C-Vehicle Private Finance Initiative. A number of replacement fleets including Medium and Self Loading Dump Trucks as well as well drilling and LWT/MWT will be fielded in 2011.
- Boats. The ageing Rigid Raider craft Mk III is increasingly difficult to support and will/be withdrawn from service in 2011; the capability will be gapped for several years until a replacement can be delivered.
- TROJAN and TITAN (Engineer Tanks). These vehicles have proven to be a step change in mobility, protection and obstacle breaching. TROJAN has been used successfully on operations in Afghanistan and has breached IED belts and forced entry into compounds.
- TERRIER (son of CET). The replacement for CET is an urgently required one. TERRIER offers a well-protected, rapidly mobile successor and is currently undergoing demanding trials in the SE England.
- Tactical Bases. In future, all tactical infrastructure bases will be delivered as *integrated capability platforms*. This will include combat power, surveillance, generators, protective structures and living accommodation.
- Electrical Power. The safe use of electrical power on operations is Challenging but no less necessary. A mechanism for stronger governance has been established in theatre and all arms courses are being developed.
- Explosive Ordnance Disposal. The Land Forces EOD and Search Branch was established in HQ EinC(A) in 2010 with the aim of providing a single focus for all policy, direction and inspectorate responsibilities. The team of 8 was fully operational by Ju110. The original intent has been exceeded and the Corps now fields the one-star *Defeat the Device* lead for C-IED search.
- Geographic Support. Engineer geographic capability continues to provide Joint Force Engineer Group (in Afghanistan) full support. Work is on-going in the UK to rebase 42 Engineer Regiment (Geo) to RAF Wyton. The Royal School of Military Survey is likely to move to Chicksands in 2013 thus ending the long-standing military relationship with Hermitage.
- RSME Update. The RSME has change'd significantly over the past year with the HOLDFAST contract securely bedded in. Courses have been redesigned and are now quicker and more efficient. Whilst RSME has focused largely on the Afghanistan campaign, it remains committed to longer term training and being appropriately placed to meet the challenges of the next campaign wherever that might be.

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS ROYAL ENGINEERS (CHATHAM)

- Corps Activities. The Corps Memorial Weekend was a great success and consolidated Chatham as Home of the Corps - the Colonels Commandant at Home event and REA events across the weekend added the gloss to an impressive gathering.
- Honours and Awards. Senior awards to the Corps include a Knighthood to Lt Gen Sir David Bill and the award of CBE to Brig Chris Tickell.
- RE Museum, Library & Archive
  - Staff. Essential recruiting to support the funded projects and a credible return to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £2M has recommenced following successful recruitment of an MA qualified E-Band.
    - o The Fortifications Gallery. The Museum was successful in its bid for minor lottery funding (46K) and this coupled with money raised from the 'Hold the Fort' raffle will allow work to begin, in earnest, in the coming months. In addition, the Museum courtyard's glazed vault is high enough to fit the Corps' V2 if reassembled and we await advice from the Science Museum and the RAF Museum on structural, cosmetic and transport issues.
    - o Grounds. The installation of another 30m of high quality iron fencing funded by the Local Authority for the public perimeter is imminent. This leaves about 25% of the public perimeter to be addressed by MOD in future. The Museum will continue to lobby the Local Authority to improve the facilities and access directly in front of the Museum.
    - o Governance. The Historic Dockyard lease has completed and the first rent has been paid. Work on the CSA awaits final estimates of estate management costs by REMLA.

CORPS SPORT - No change to the last Corps Update

S P F HARRIS

Col

Regt Col

Mil: 94661 2034



Annex C

to 114th Management Cttee Meeting

Oated 24 February 2011

14 JAN 2011

Royal Engineers Association Families Events Organisation.

Report to the Royal Engineers Association Management Committee Meeting  
Thursday 27th January 2011.

Spring Reunion 20<sup>th</sup> to 27th May 2011.

Southdown Holiday Village,  
Bracklesham Bay  
Chichester.

Everything is nearly in place for the above reunion, with over 150 Bookings already in place with nearly four months still to go

With Christmas and New Year Holidays over, I have high hopes of exceeding 200 places.

I will have to have a further meeting with the Centre Management, to finalise all the Arrangements and also to meet with the coach management to put in place the daily trips.

I am still awaiting details from the vicar regarding the remembrance service but I am sure this Will soon be settled.

I have lost another Steward in Bill Glover from Swansea, who is now in a nursing home. This leaves me short handed, but I am sure that we will cope.

As Committee are fully aware, unless someone comes forward in the near future, this will be the last reunion after I step down. One of the stumbling blocks to future events, is the coaching from England and Wales. With so few members and families now, the coach cost have become prohibitive and the two or three centres available will not consider this aspect and would require a hefty subsidy towards coach costs which we could not afford.

It is a sad fact that it is no longer possible to put in place any reunion along the lines of all the others, dating back to the 1980's. We now have support from only approximately 50 .

R.E.A.Members and families, the rest are made up from friends etc. Like all good things in life it has come to its logical end.

For information, in view of the comments at previous meetings, I have attached a copy of my wish list, which forms the basis for all my negotiations with the centre managements. I hope that this will be helpful to members to appreciate the amount of effort required to put reunions in place.

Harold Evans,  
Chairman and National Organiser.

10<sup>th</sup> January 2011.



## STANDARD WISH LIST REA FAMILIES EVENTS ORGANISATION

1. Full or Half Board
2. Minimum number required for sole occupancy and cut offpoint.
3. Personalised Booking Forms to agreed design
4. Centre to send out mail shots to boost bookings. Address labels to be provided by REA.
5. Transport from DPUPS- England & Wales. Include use of feeder coaches to DPUPS
6. Luxury touring coaches (no hangers)
7. Copies of all proposed coaching schedules to National Organiser only for approval as soon as prepared
8. Copies of all agreed coaching schedules to National Organiser only
9. Children at halfprice - no special provision. Parents' responsibility
10. Facilities needed for disabled on booking form and in separate letter of any special requirements
11. Keys to chalets in envelopes by coaches, with chalet numbers and dining table allocation to be issued to members before they leave the coach.
12. Assistance with luggage to chalets
13. One standard of accommodation for everyone, ie standard charge per person without supplements
14. Table or Counter service
15. Organiser and partner free
16. 1 in 25 free places
17. 1 full and 1 half day excursion per person
18. Use of on centre coaches for own excursions at negotiated rates -spaces to sell tickets
19. These items to be reconciled at end of Reunion
20. Soap and towels in chalet and changed as needed
21. Personalised programme printed by centre (not loose leaf in folder)
22. Run own raffle- space to sell tickets

23. Extra chalet or room for storage of raffle prizes and administration, next to Treasure' chalet if required
24. Accommodation for Corps Enterprise Shop for two/three days for sale of Corps goods eg ties, scarfs jewellery etc
15. Absolutely No other concessions/aifts during occupancy if sole occupancy
26. Medical Cover- What are the arrangements on site. Availability of Doctor
27. Wheel chairs available. Cost of motorised scooter hire
28. Cash - banded bagged to Duty Manager in evening and kept in centre safe. At conclusion of Reunion all cash converted to one cheque to the Treasurer
29. Assisted announcements for raffle, excursions, information
30. Provision of large notice boards - one for General Notices, 1 for Were you there
31. Venue for meetings of Stewards and Delegates
32. Gala Dinner on last evening. Special menu to be agreed. Sherry reception and Wine at the table-Cost
33. VIP Accommodation Normally one chalet sufficient to meet Deeds. Cost R&D pins evening meal
34. Chairman REA
35. Deputy Chairman
36. Controller REA
37. Deputy Controller REA
38. Corps Enterprise
39. Visit by local members for evening meals and entertainment at standard rate. Cost Gala meal

## Bars

40. 1 bar minimum with adequate staff. Off duty staff to use bar with discretion, decorum and reasonable dress standard and not obstruct access to the bar by members who wish to be served
41. Biogo
42. Normal
43. Entertainments
44. Nonnal
45. Off duty staff allowed to view and enjoy entertainment with discretion, decorum, reasonable dress standard but not at members expense, ie excessive noise, loud conversation during entertainment
46. Cabaret to be discussed
47. Hairdresser for ladies
48. Shop open for papers - 0800hrs or before
49. Meal times
50. Breakfast 0800hrs one sitting
51. Lunch 1230hrs
52. Dinner 1800hrs (Gala Dinner, Thursday evening Sherry reception 1730hrs)
53. Assistance with baggage loading when leaving. All cases outside chalets with coach numbers clearly marked on case at 0800hrs on day of departure. Case to coaches by staff
54. Microphone to be available to Organiser at all meal times
55. Chalet raffle .Details of Families Events chalets required.
56. Excursions, sale of tickets
57. Sale of raffle tickets
58. First evening welcome address by Organiser at approximately 2100hrs
59. Wednesday evening Hold raffle draw