

**MINUTES OF THE 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION  
HELD IN LONDON ON SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009**



**OPENING REMARKS**

1. The Annual General Meeting was opened at 1600hrs by the President of the Association, General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE, who welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending, especially those who had travelled long distances. He thanked the HQ REA team for setting up the meeting and for all their work over the past year. The increased number of beneficiaries shows that it has been a very busy year and with the uncertainty in the wider financial market we should not be complacent -- we are however better placed than some other charities.
2. There were 33 members present including 13 members of REA Council and 21 REA Branch Delegates.
3. The President said that the papers had been circulated prior to the meeting and after the meeting he encouraged all delegates to disseminate the information throughout their branches.
4. **Apologies.** We received apologies of absence from the following REA Trustees: Brigadier Le Grys ADC EinC(A), Col D Caulfield, Lt Col M Fossey, Lt Col R Murfin, TD, Mr WE Powling, Mr R Morgan, Mr M Barry MM, Mr G Littleford TD.

**ITEM 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

5. The Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> Meeting had been circulated to all Branches.
6. **Proposal:** That the Minutes of the 40<sup>th</sup> AGM held at the Victory Services Club on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct 08 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings.

Proposed by: Lt Col N Parmley REA Trustee  
Seconded by: Mr R Prosser REA Trustee  
**Carried**

7. The President signed the Minutes in confirmation.

**ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

8. There were no matters arising.

**ITEM 3 TO RECEIVE THE COUNCIL'S 41<sup>ST</sup> REPORT TO THE AGM.**

9. The President invited the Chairman REA Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL to read out the Council's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Report. The report was produced to supplement the Annual Report and Financial Statement required by the Charity Commissioners and to meet the Association's own internal requirements.

10. The full text of the report is at **Annex A** to these Minutes.

11. **Proposal:** That Council's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Report to the AGM should be accepted.  
Proposer: Major V Clarke REA Trustee  
Seconder Lt Col D Quinn MBE BEM Commando Branch REA  
**Carried**

**ITEM 4 To receive the Reports and Financial Statements for the REA for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.**

12. The Trustees Annual & Financial Reports 2008 had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

13. The REA Honorary Treasurer, Col Roger Hunt, gave his report and explained the implications of the present financial situation to the REA. His full report is attached at **Annex B**.

14. Lt Col N Parmley asked about the jump of costs in 2010 Corps Activities from £30K to £230 -- this was explained as that money committed to the RE Museum Transformation project.

15. Major V Clarke asked about figures on page 11 on the Financial Statement referring to "Subscriptions & Tax £400,989" -- he thought this was incorrect as this was a drawdown from the Central Charitable Trust and not a subscription received from a Life Member -- he further pointed out that in the Rules 2009 para 41.01 Subscriptions "There is no joining fee payable to HQ REA". The Honorary Treasurer will discuss the matter with the Corps Treasurer.

- Proposal: That the REA Annual Report for 2008 be accepted.**  
Proposer: Major V Clarke REA Scotland & N Ireland  
Seconder: Major B Wilks REA Trustee  
**Carried**

**ITEM 5 TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF REEVES & NEYLAN, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AS REA AUDITORS FOR 2010**

16. **Proposal: To Note the Appointment of Reeves & Neylan, REA Auditors 2010**  
Proposer Mr R Prosser REA Trustee  
Seconder Mr H Evans REA Birmingham & District  
**Carried**

**ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF REA HONORARY TREASURER FOR 2010**

17. Colonel Roger Hunt to be re-appointed as REA Honorary Treasurer 2010.

- Proposal: That Colonel R Hunt is appointed as Honorary Treasurer for 2010.**  
Proposed Brig N Baveystock REA Trustee  
Seconded: Mr H Evans REA Birmingham & District  
**Carried**

18. The President thanked Colonel R Hunt for all that he done as REA Honorary Treasurer over year.

**ITEM 7 TO CONSIDER AND AGREE AMENDMENTS TO ASSOCIATION RULES 2009**

19. These Rule changes have been scrutinised and agreed by both the REA Trustees & REA Management Committees and require endorsement by the AGM. The changes are attached at **Annex C**. The Controller informed the AGM that the main inclusion into the Rules is that of the administration of the Kitchener Scholarship that has now been incorporated into the remit of the Trustees REA and day-to-day operation delegated to the REA Benevolence Committee. The Corps is presently helping four children of the Corps through the fund.

20. **Membership of the REA Council.** Major V Clarke, NI Branch REA, invoked Rule 12.04 to discuss the Rules. The President confirmed with Mr Clarke that he was attending and representing with his Branch's approval. Major Clarke confirmed he was content with the changes to Rules 4.06b, 4.06c, 4.09b(6) -- but wished to have discussion on Rules 6.07 & 13.02.

21. With regard to Rule 6.07 it was discussed and agreed that the elected Members of Council are put forward by their Groups for a three year tenure and may then be extended for a further three years after which they must stand down for at least one year. It was further agreed that the method of choosing an elected member of each group should rest with an election process through branch nominations and voting approval at Group level. The President asked that the Chairman informs Council of this feeling and to adjust the REA Rules accordingly through the REA Management Committee procedure.

22. With regard to Rule 13.02, Major Clarke, again invoking Rule 12.04, made the point that, in his opinion, the Badge of Merit (BoM) should never be awarded to someone who has not been a Sapper and that it was wrong for a non-Sapper, such as an Associate Member, awarded a BoM, to be awarded Life Membership of the REA. The President noted that it was, in the past, intended to be as such as many of the branches could not run without the endeavours of Associated Members who contribute much energy into the system and this is a way to recognise their actions. The Controller was asked to point out that this is not a new rule and that it goes back to 1994 when it was inserted in the Rules of the REA. In addition it is further recommended that no more than 10% of any REA Branch Membership should be "Associated" so as not to upset the balance of power.


<b>Proposal:</b>	<b>That the Rules 2009 be accepted</b>	
Proposed:	Lt Col N Parnley	REA Trustee
Seconded:	Brig N Baveystock	REA Trustee
<b>Votes For: 28</b>	<b>Votes Against: 2</b>	
<b>Carried</b>		

**ITEM 8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

23. Next years AGM will take place at the Victory Services Club at **1600hrs Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010**. The Annual Dinner will follow that evening and the following day will be "Sapper Sunday" at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

**PRESIDENTS CLOSING REMARKS**

24. The President re-iterated his thanks and gratitude to the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, who has signed up for a further year, the Controller, Deputy Controller and all the HQ REA staff for their work in the past year. He also thanked the Members in all Branches and at Group level for the work and effort in promoting the REA throughout the year in maintaining the high profile of the Association particularly where it helps those with benevolence needs. In the present operational climate we can expect more casualties from bereavement and battlefield injury including psychological cases developing in the future. We need to be positioning the REA for the future by being forward thinking and pro-active and be as proud of our organisation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as we have been in the past.

 October 2009



Lieutenant Colonel John McLennan  
REA Controller & Secretary

October 2010

Chief Royal Engineer  
President REA

**REA COUNCIL REPORT**  
**TO THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 2009**

1. The REA is governed by the Deeds of Trust 1968 supplemented by the REA Rules 2009. Trustees of the REA are recommended to the Council after a thorough search for suitable candidates in the eleven REA Group areas and by ex-officio appointments for REA representation by the Chief Royal Engineer. On appointment each Trustee is given a standard Trustee briefing pack, undergoes an induction briefing and has the opportunity to attend Trustee briefing days where they are given updates on various matters on the running of their Association.
2. Trustees make and approve Association policy and delegate the day to day running to the Controller REA and his Staff through different committees for management, benevolence, recruiting and finance. At each Council meeting the Minutes of each of the delegated committees are reviewed recommending adjustments as necessary including detailed examination of the Risk Register. Council is content that all measures are in hand to minimise risk.
3. The delivery of benevolence is at the heart of what the REA does and the Association is structured in a way to ensure that this is done in a caring and efficient manner. Government initiatives over the past few years have increased the awareness of the general public and departments of state as to the availability of benevolence assistance for those who have served in the Corps and their dependents. This has resulted in less of a decline in applications than expected five or six years ago. Indeed, case numbers have slightly increased over the past five years but 64 less on the previous year. Full details are contained in the REA Annual Report and Financial Statements issued to all branches earlier this year and available on the Charity Commission website.
4. The total cost of our benevolence charitable activities in 2008 was £595,555, down on 2007 and our Esprit de Corps activities were £35,599 which was about the same as 2007. There is no obvious trend at this stage but we can reasonably expect an increase in requests for those families who have separated as a direct result of the pace of operational deployments and the greater involvement of the TA.
5. Effective “benevolence” requires many organisations in “partnership” to bring the help needed to the applicant. The REA relies on the volunteer caseworkers of SSAFA Forces Help and The Royal British Legion to act as our “eyes and ears”. They inform us of the requirements of the applicant and help him or her complete the application form comprehensively and succinctly so the right type of financial assistance is accurately and speedily delivered. Our link with the Army Benevolent Fund is also important as it contributes to the homes and other military charities that our family of Sappers is connected to including such organisations as BLESMA and St Dunstan’s and Combat Stress. The ABF also continues to control the “ring fenced funds” set up following the comparatively recent operations in the South Atlantic, Northern Ireland, the Gulf and Afghanistan. The REA Council continue to support the ABF and SSAFA Forces Help with grants to help them in their work. We are also now making a grant on an annual basis of £2,500 pa to Combat Stress.

6. We would now like to give three examples of how we have helped those who have fallen on hard times and are in need:

**Case A:** Spr 'B', a soldier serving with Bomb Disposal, was injured whilst serving on Op Herrick when the vehicle he was travelling was destroyed by an explosion. He was returned to the UK via Selly Oak Hospital where he had a major operation to stabilise his back. This led to him being in some pain and it was recommended by his rehabilitation team that he obtained an orthopaedic mattress to alleviate the problem whilst trying to sleep and rest.

Spr 'B' is 26 and lives in a married quarter with his wife and they would have found it difficult to find the money to purchase the mattress costing approximately £350. We were approached by Spr 'B' unit for assistance towards the cost of the mattress and The Controller authorised a grant to cover the cost of the mattress

**Case B:** Mrs "B" is 83 years old and has been a widow for the past 16 years. The late Mr B served during the war in Gibraltar and India. Mrs B suffers from Osteo and Rheumatoid arthritis as well as a heart blockage which means that only half of her heart is working. Mrs B moved into sheltered housing in May 2009 and she has been unable to have a shower since then as her arthritis has worsened and she cannot stand for long.

The Local Council have arranged for a low level shower to be installed but Mrs Butler would have had to pay a contribution of £1,900 towards a Disabled Facilities Grant. SSAFA Forces Help requested assistance towards the contribution and were also approaching TRBL for further assistance. The Controller authorised a grant of £500 towards £1,900 required for Mrs B's contribution towards the cost of the low level shower. We have since received a thank you letter from Mrs Butler saying how much her quality of life has improved.

**Case C:** Sgt and Mrs 'S' were married on 29 December 1999 and separated in October 2008. Their son has Asperger Syndrome and their daughter needs regular medical attention and has to attend a hospital appointment in Leeds every 6 weeks.

Mrs 'S' and her children are living in the Services Cotswold Centre in Wiltshire and she has been in contact with the Housing Association in Leeds. Her parents live in Leeds and due to the situation she is hoping to be relocated in rented property fairly soon. Sgt 'S' is at present paying maintenance for the family and although she is coping admirably under the circumstances, she would like to be settled fairly swiftly into her new home for the welfare of her children and herself and be able to start a new life together around family.

SSAFA Forces Help are requested assistance towards white goods, furniture, carpets and curtains totalling £2,977.71 and are also approaching RLC and TRBL for further assistance. After careful consideration the REA Benevolence Committee authorised a grant of £700 towards essential household equipment.

7. The REA Council wish to record their gratitude and appreciation to all these organisations and to the volunteers who act as caseworkers and fund raisers in a combined "partnership" for the benefit of all those in need in our Corps family. Caseworkers for all these charities are always required and volunteers warmly welcomed.

8. **Branch Changes.**

a. **New Branches:** Approval was given to the formation of the REA Middle East (Gulf) Branch and the re-formation of the REA Paisley Branch.

9. **Badges of Merit.** We are pleased to announce the award of Badges of Merit to the following:

Name	Branch	Group
Mr MJ Barry MM	Cambridge	East Anglia
Lt Col (Retd) D Holloway MBE	Medway Branch	South East
Mr T Linley	Leeds	North East
Mr LE Simpson	Hull & District	North East
Mr R Cushion	Andover & Winchester	South West
Major PH Webster	Bournemouth & District	South West

10. **Recruiting** The Committee continues to review ways of exposing the work of the REA to serving Members and marketing the activities of the REA with the aim of attracting more members to each of the branches. New Membership applications average about thirty per month but this is offset by the overall number of those who die leaving a modest increase. A poster campaign highlighting esprit de corps was started in late 2007 and has received very favourable comment. The campaigns are continuing.

**Reunions & Family Events**

11. **Re-unions.** The Association reunions have again been a great success and I wish to give you brief details on them:

a. **Ripon.** The Ripon weekends are always a most popular weekend and we are most grateful for all the hard work entailed by both the Regiment and the REA Ripon Branch. But it is a sign of the times that we have recently heard that Deveril Barracks is to close as an in-year saving thus throwing some doubt onto the future of this important REA weekend. We are trying to find an alternative but bracing ourselves for the sad news that we may have had the last of these popular and enjoyed veteran gatherings. .

b. **Minley.** There was a very good turnout at Minley that reflected the hard work of the staff of 3 RSME Regt who sponsored the events and demonstrations. There was an excellent Pass Off demonstration at Chimaera Bridge carried out with great skill, pride and professionalism. A number of stands and displays were also laid out at Five Ways.

c. **Chatham -- Corps Memorial Weekend.** This weekend was well attended with over 300 veterans well looked after by our hosts in 1 RSME Regiment. The families of Sappers Azimkar and Rossi were in attendance and The Chief Royal Engineer awarded an Elizabeth Cross to Mrs Babington-Browne, mother of Captain Babington-Browne on the parade on Sunday.

d. **Family Events.** Mr Ken Coward and his team organised an excellent week at the Mill Rythe Holiday Village near the Portsmouth coast. It was a great success. These events are very popular and well organised with outings and entertainment as part of the package. The REA are most grateful to the Families Events Organisation for all their hard work.

e. **Benches.** The REA Trustees have approved a grant of £4.2K towards the costs of installing 10 x garden benches, with Corps and REA cap badge and "*A Gift from the Royal Engineers*" engraved on the back, at Headley Court and Selley Oak hospitals and to the three homes of Combat Stress.

f. **Disabled Access to the Corps Memorial Plot.** The REA Trustees approved a grant of £10K towards a pathway for wheelchair access onto our plot at the NMA. The Corps plot is a great asset to the Corps and all are encouraged to visit our Memorial (and others) as the whole area develops and matures -- it is commended to all.

g. **A Memorial Website** The REA Trustees have approved a grant of £5K towards a memorial book to be developed as an adjunct to, and as part of, the REA website. This is in conjunction with "Friends & Relations" and will allow friends and families to add comments and reflections to those who have passed away. There is also an opportunity to donate to the REA "in memoriam" as they remember the past.



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**HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE**  
**2009 AGM OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION AT THE**  
**VICTORY SERVICES CLUB ON SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER 2009**

1. The 2008 budget was authorised with an expenditure of £739K and closed on 31 December 2008 with an expenditure of £739K. However, because of increased income against budget, the year ended with a surplus of £117K. This was due to a combination of larger than expected cash, legacy and investment income, principally as a spin-off from the previous year's exceptionally large legacy receipts.
2. This year's budget, which started on 1 January 2009, had an authorised expenditure and planned deficit of £784K and (£59K) respectively. The latest monthly FOO indicates an increase against expenditure of £17.5k. This is largely due to new staff costs. Legacy income continues to flow into the REA (£104k so far this year) and this has driven the authorised deficit and increased expenditure against the planned budget down to (£27K).
3. Next year's budget, 2010, has been approved by Council with an expenditure of £1029K, the increase over previous years reflecting the approved grant of £200K by the REA to the RE Museum Transformation Project.
4. REA capital is invested in the Armed Forces Common Investment Fund, which is managed by BlackRock, and as at 01 Oct this year the capital value was £6.30M, compared to £6.11M in 2008 and £7.44M in 2007. This slight increase in value hopefully reflects the beginnings of an improvement in the markets. Fortunately, there is no need to release capital at the moment, and the REA can wait to weather the storm to recovery. Barring another international financial crises BlackRock have announced their intent to maintain the current dividend of 5.05p per unit in 2010.
5. Benevolence is, of course, the most important objective of the REA and is its biggest expenditure. In 2008 £596K was spent on benevolence. This year £612K has been budgeted for and we are on track to come within budget at the end of the year. This is money very well spent, helping a large number of Sappers and their dependants who find themselves in distress through no fault of their own.
6. After a number of years of poor performance, I am pleased to report this year that the Branch and Group annual financial returns submitted for FY 2008 were the best since they were introduced. This reflects a great deal of hard work by the Groups & Branches and also by Lt Col Neil Jordan. There are still some 'wayward' branches and I urge them to work to reach the high standards now being shown by the majority. If any Branches are unsure or want help then just pick up the phone to HQ REA, they will be only too willing to help.
7. In summary, I can report to you that the REA finances are in good order and I would once again commend to you the excellent work of our Corps Treasurer Lt Col Jake Townsley.

Colonel Roger Hunt  
REA Honorary Treasurer

Amendments to REA Rules 2009 – 110<sup>th</sup> REA Management Meeting

Observations and changes to Association Rules 2009 have been received. These were considered by HQ REA and the changes considered appropriate and proposed are as follows:

Page 4 – Paragraph 4.06 b – final paragraph – first line. After ‘who must be’, insert ‘*Life or*’. Capitalise the F in ‘full’.

Page 4 – Paragraph 4.06 c – second sentence. After ‘representatives’, insert ‘, *who must be Life or Full members of the Association,*’.

Page 5 – Paragraph 4.09 b (6) - second sentence. After ‘representatives’, insert ‘, *who must be Life or Full members of the Association,*’.

Page 8 – Paragraph 6.07. Delete in its entirety and renumber the section. Rule 6.07 should have been removed in the late 90’s when a variation to the Deed of Declaration of Trust was approved. This variation to Clause 8 of the Deed of Declaration of Trust is that which is currently written as Rule 4.06a to c in Association Rules 2009 and, in effect, nullifies Clause 12. The Rule which currently applies to the rotation of members of Council is Rule 4.06c. A copy of the draft variation to the Deed of Declaration of Trust will be provided at the meeting.

Page 17 - Rule 13.02 - first line. After ‘available’, delete the word ‘*only*’. We agree that the use of the word ‘only’ may be at odds with the last sentence of that Rule.

Page 17 - Rule 13.02 - penultimate line. After the word ‘are’, insert the word ‘*also*’.

**The RE Kitchener Scholarships Fund.** At their meeting in May 2008 the REA Council agreed to take on the administration of the RE Kitchener Scholarships Fund. This decision requires an amendment to Association Rules within the Trust Funds section. The following additions to the section are proposed:

Insert as 8.02 d.

*The RE Kitchener Scholarships Fund, whether capital or income, shall be paid or applied in such a manner as the Benevolence Committee, in their absolute discretion, think proper and expedient in offering educational facilities, on an annual basis, so far as funds permit and need exists, to the children of all officers and other ranks of the Royal Engineers in the regular Army who have either died or been permanently disabled while actually serving, or who have died while in the performance of military duty or in circumstances directly arising there from. In special cases, scholarships may be allotted to the children of regular officers and other ranks of the Royal Engineers who were married while serving and who died after retirement, or on completion of colour service. Applications for Scholarships should be submitted to HQ REA on a prescribed form obtainable from the REA Controller.*

Renumber old 8.02 d to ‘8.02 e.’

Add new sub-paragraph ‘8.04 f.’ within the Trust Funds section

At new Paragraph 8.04 f. insert ‘*The RE Kitchener Scholarships Fund is a Restricted Fund.*’