

**MINUTES OF 54TH MEETING
ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
HELD IN ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2009 IN
ROOM 034MR16, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN
BUILDING, WHITEHALL, LONDON AT 1100HRS.**



Those Present:

Brig AS Craig OBE	Deputy Chairman REA, Chairman
Brig BJ Le Grys MBE	Engineer in Chief (Army)
Brig NG Baverstock	Commandant RSME
Col DA Caulfield	Regimental Colonel
Col R Hunt	REA Honorary Treasurer
Lt Col (Retd) WJH Clark	Central Southern Group
Lt Col R Murfin TD DL	Reserve Army Officer
Lt Col (Retd) MG Fossey	Retd Offr Nom by CRE
Maj (Retd) B Wilks	South East Group
Mr T P Hartley	Central London Group
Mr B Prosser	North East Group
Mr E Powling	South Wales Group
Mr E Lowbridge	North Midlands Group
Capt G Littleford TD	South Midlands Group
Mr M Barry MM	East Anglia Group
Vacant	Scotland & NI Group

In attendance:

Lt Col (Retd) J R McLennan	REA Controller & Secretary
Lt Col (Retd) Townsley	RE Corps Treasurer
Lt Col N Jordan	

Apologies received from: General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB CBE,
Maj Gen JD Moore-Bick CBE DL, WO1 (RSM) D Woolford, Mr R Morgan, Lt Col N Parnley

1. **Introductory Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance. He paused for a moment to remember Mr Mike Robertson, REA Trustee and Deputy Group Director Scotland & N Ireland who had recently passed away. He also welcomed the EinC(A) Brig Le Grys and Comdt RSME Brig Baverstock to their first meeting.

ITEM 1. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 53RD MEETING OF COUNCIL

2. Subject to minor detail changes, the Minutes of the 53rd 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 53RD COUNCIL MEETING.

4. **The Corps Memorial Book.** The Controller informed the meeting that the book is now live and has been populated with those names we have going back for about three years. The Chairman said it was an impressive addition to the REA website and encouraged all to view it. The Regt Col informed the meeting that all RSME courses are informed of this facility.

5. **The Fossey Study.** This was discussed under Item 9.

6. **TA Contribution to REA Benevolence.** The Regt Col informed Council that this topic is on the agenda for the next Regimental affairs committee. The Chairman said that the Corps Benevolence is receiving more applications for benevolence from TA.

ITEM 3. TO CONSIDER AND REVIEW THE REA STRATEGIC REVIEW AND 12 MAIN ROLES OF THE REA TRUSTEES.

7. The **REA Strategic Review and 12 Main Roles of the REA Trustees** are attached at **Annex A** (with alterations).

8. **Strategic Review – Objective 3.** Remove “in a comprehensive way”.

9. **Strategic Review - Objective 5.** Council agreed that Combat Stress and Veterans Aid should be added to the veteran organisations who the REA should financial assist and that these should be added to the Objectives.

10. **Strategic Review - Objective 6.** Council agreed that the Serving Corps should be included in the awareness briefings.

11. **Main Roles – Develop Strategy.** The Controller is the chief executive officer.

12. **Main Roles – Establish & Monitor Policies** (not politics!!).

13. **Main Roles – Ensure Accountability.** Change HM Customs & Excise to HRMC

Proposal: That the REA Trustees accept the REA Strategic Review and the 12 Main Roles of the REA Trustees (with the above changes).

Proposed: Lt Col WJH Clark

Seconder: Capt G Littleford

CARRIED

ITEM 4. TO NOTE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 110TH REA MANAGEMENT MTG.

14. Council took note of the Minutes and made the following points:

1. A vote of thanks to Lt Col Jordan, Deputy Controller for his sterling work and endeavours to achieve the very good results in obtaining the Branch Financial Summaries for 2008.
2. Council took note of the formation of the Middle East Branch REA.

ITEM 5. TO NOTE & RECEIVE THE REPORT ON REA BENEVOLENCE.

15. The 6 monthly REA Benevolence Report is attached at **Annex B**. The committee took note.
16. The Controller went through the report and it was noted that there is a slight overspend on the spend-line but in control.
17. The Regt Col requested that the names of those who are being helped through the Kitchener Scholarship should be named in the report.

ITEM 6. TO RECEIVE THE REPORT ON CORPS AFFAIRS.

18. The Report on Corps Affairs is attached at **Annex C**
19. The Regt Colonel went through the report and the Committee took note.

ITEM 7. To Note the Minutes of the 101st REA Finance Committee Meeting Held on 7th April 2009.

20. The Minutes of the meeting, including copies of the **Annual Reports & Financial Statements for 2008** are attached at **Annex D**.
21. The Committee noted and approved:
 1. The Auditors noted the **Key Issues Memorandum to Trustees**
 2. The Trustees **letter of Representation to the Auditor**.
 3. Auditors for 2110 and beyond will be in accordance with the Auditors as chosen by the Chief Royal's Committee.
 4. That the transfer of the Kitchener Scholarship was with effect from 1st April 2009 (and not as 1 Jan 09 as previously reported).
22. The Council thanked the Corps Treasurer for his diligence in the production of the papers.
23. The Honorary Treasurer updated the Council on one of the observations of the Auditors on the Ripon & District accounts informing the Council of a repayment of £5K to the central funds. The matter of the organisation of the Ripon weekend is on the next Regt Affairs committee and it is thought that a possible solution could be that 21 Engr Regt will lead with the Branch in support. There will be a problem in 2110 when the Regt is on operational deployment.

24. Council approved the Trustees Letter of Representation to be signed off by the Regt Col for all Corps Charities in due course.

25. The Hon Treasurer updated council on the value of the REA Funds in the Armed forces Common Investment Fund (AFCIF) as at Monday 4th May 2009 was £5.7M.

26. The Corps Treasurer informed the Council of one outstanding invoice from 2008 bought to his attention after the audit and asked for council approval to raise this with the auditors -- approved.

Proposal: To accept Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2008

Proposer: Mr R Prosser

Seconder: Mr E Lowbridge

CARRIED

27. The Honorary Treasurer requested that Council give authority to the Chairman REA Benevolence committee to invest in shares in AFCIF using up to £350 of the cash of the Jackson legacy when the market is right.

Proposal: That council give delegated authority to Chairman REA Benevolence Committee to transfer up to £350K on one occasion into AFCIF when the market is right.

Proposer: Col R Hunt

Seconder: Capt G Littleford TD

CARRIED

ITEM 8. REA RULES 2009

28. The proposed changes to the **REA Rules 2009** are attached at **Annex E** and to be annotated as Amendment No1.

29. The Chairman pointed out that these proposed changes had been scrutinised by the REA Management Committee and the changes now required Council ratification.

PROPOSAL: TO APPROVE THE CHANGES TO REA RULES KNOWN AS AMDT NO1.

PROPOSER: Mr E Powling

SECONDER: Major B Wilks

CARRIED

30. Mr Hartley asked if the Kitchener Scholarship fund is open to the TA in the event of an application coming from the family of a TA Member. The Regt Colonel pointed out that if a TA soldier dies on active service he would be considered to have been serving on the same terms and conditions as a Regular soldier.

ITEM 9. TO RECEIVE & DISCUSS THE FOSSEY REVIEW OF REA GROUP BOUNDARIES.

31. The report is attached at **Annex F**. Lt Col briefed the Council on the outline of his report. The Council thanked Lt Col Mike Fossey for his report
32. Mr Prosser said that it was the feeling the REA Airborne Branch that it would be better placed to be in the East Anglia Group and this was generally agreed.
33. Mr Lowbridge informed the meeting that the affiliation of the REA Branches to the TA units in his area was very strong and important with close interaction between unit and branch with many social functions.
34. Mr Powling said that South Wales Group would be able to accept the Malvern & Gloucester Branch it would be up to them to be prepared to travel.
35. Capt Littleford said that distance is the main reason, along with the longevity of the members, for not being able to attend meetings.
36. It was agreed to ask Group Directors for their thoughts and considerations.
37. The Regimental Colonel asked if there was mileage in asking the CO 38 Engr Regt if he would consider being the NI Group Director. Lt Col Jordan made the point about group grants that there would be one-on-one Gp Director and one REA Branch. He also mentioned that the regularising of 101 Engr Regt would change the balance and that other groups have branches in the North of their areas like central southern.
38. Further comment are to be obtained from the Group Directors and the Fossey paper is to be re-circulated with the above comments and a response requested.

**Action: Lt Col Fossey
Controller**

ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

39. **Veterans Aid.** The Controller outlined the work of Veterans Aid and asked council to consider making them a grant.

Proposal; **To grant Veterans Aid a one off grant of £2.5K**

PROPOSER: Mr Lowbridge

SECONDER: Brig N Baverstock

CARRIED


40. **65th Anniversary of D-Day -- Arromanche.** The Regt Col informed council of the events taking place in Arromanche over the coming few weeks included in the events of the 65th anniversary of D-Day. There is to be:

- A commemoration at Pegasus Bridge on 6th June
- The unveiling of a Mulberry Harbour Anchor in Arromanche
- The re-dedication and unveiling of the new Corps Memorial on pm 5th June -- more details to follow.

ITEM 11. DATE & TIME FOR NEXT MEETING

41. The date of the next meeting is **Thursday 17th September 2009** in MoD at 1100 hrs.

29 May 2009


Lieutenant Colonel JR McLennan
Controller REA, & Secretary

Sept 2009

Chief Royal Engineer, **President REA**