

MINUTES OF 56TH MEETING
ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY 2010 IN ROOM 032HR27,
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING,
WHITEHALL, LONDON.



Those Present:

Maj Gen JD Moore-Bick CBE DL	Chairman REA
Brigadier AS Craig OBE	Deputy Chairman REA
Colonel SPF Harris	Regimental Colonel
Colonel R Hunt	REA Honorary Treasurer
Lt Col R Murfin TD DL	Reserve Army Officer
Lt Col (Retd) M Fossey	Retd Officer Nominated by CRE
Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley	South West Group
Major (Retd) R Macgregor	Scotland & NI Group
Lt Col (Retd) F Ford	Central Southern Group
Mr E Powling	South Wales Group
Mr T Hardey	London Group
Mr E Lowbridge	North Midlands Group
Mr Barrie Owens	South East Group
Mr R Prosser	North East Group
Mr G Litdeford	South Midlands Group
Mr R Morgan	North West Group
Mr M Barry MM	East Anglia Group

In attendance:

Lt Col (Retd) Townsley	RE Corps Treasurer
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 N Baveystock, Brig Le Grys ADC
WOI (CRSM) M Callender

1. Introductory Remarks. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance. He also welcomed Colonel Sean Harris who was attending his first meeting as Regimental Colonel. He also welcomed Mr Barrie Owens South East Gp, Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley South West Gp, Lt Col (Retd) Ford Central Southern Gp.

2. The Chairman informed the meeting that there had been some several matters introduced recently to improve service life such as sons and daughters having equal standing for admission into schools and



wives will receive Class 1 National Insurance towards pensions when accompanying her husband on postings abroad. In addition the Big Lottery is about to give £20-30M to help those who are about to take on the transition from uniform to civilian life.

3. The Chairman asked for a period of silent time and reflection in commemoration of the two Royal Engineers recently killed in Afghanistan Sapper Daryn Roy and LCpl Barry Buxton from 21 Engr Regt.

ITEM 1. To CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 55TH MEETING OF COUNCIL

4. Subject to minor detail changes, the Minutes of the 55th Meeting of Council were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

5. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 2. To CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 55TH COUNCIL MEETING.

6. a. **Ripon Weekend.** The Controller informed the meeting that the Ripon weekend will cease to be an event in the REA calendar with effect this year. Enquiries are being made for an event in Chilwell for 2011.

Action: Corps RSM

b. **Payments to The Royal Hospital Chelsea.** The Corps Treasurer informed the meeting that the money received had been returned to The Royal Hospital and that payments for Mr Hinds are now being paid by the family direct to the Hospital.

c. **Automated Bank Transfers.** The Regimental Colonel informed the meeting that this was a formal tasking on him to introduce an accredited secure automated bank transfer system into RHQ RE by the Autumn.

Action Regt Col

d. **REA Centenary.** To be discussed later at Item 7.

ITEM 3. To TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 112TH MEETING OF THE REA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

7. The Trustees took note of the Minutes of the 112th meeting of the REA Management Committee.

ITEM 4 To NOTE & RECEIVE THE REA BENEVOLENCE REPORT

8. The Chairman REA Benevolence gave his report to the Council. Brigadier Craig reiterated the invitation for REA Trustees to visit as observers the REA Benevolence Committee in its deliberations.

9. The Benevolence Report is attached **Annex A.**



10. The Chairman commended the use of the SSAFA Forces Help Computer Casework Managed System of the Application for Funding Form A where it should be possible in the future to complete a case in less than two days and have the money in SSAFA's bank within two days.

11. The Council took note of the Benevolence Report.

ITEM 5 To RECEIVE A REPORT ON CORPS AFFAIRS

12. The Regimental Colonel gave his report. He started on "Campaign Footing" that is a tri-service cry and that some training courses are being mothballed to allow other courses focussed on Op Herrick to take place. The Strategic Defence Review will no doubt have an effect on the Corps present manning levels. The Corps is up to strength for the first time since the 90s but increased demands on our force levels are of concern. The increased number of seriously injured personnel will no doubt bring more demands on the REA benevolence funds.

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

14. The REA Council took note of the Report on Corps Affairs.

ITEM 6 To NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 103RD REA FINANCE MEETING AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2009

15. The Honorary Treasurer introduced this Item by stating that Branch Accounting is still not as good as it could be. It has been necessary to name the REA Branches who failed to submit their accounts on time or inaccurately. Where assistance in the completion of these returns is needed then a timely telephone call to HQ REA to seek advice is strongly recommended. The Honorary Treasurer requested that Trustees note the branches and refer them to the REA Group Directors so that the early notification of future problem areas can prevent delay in the future. He thanked the Corps Treasurer for his work throughout the year.

16. The Honorary Treasurer then turned to the detail of the Audit results and the Key Issues Memorandum to Trustees. There were some minor recommendations from the auditors all of which have action taken and implemented. He asked for any questions or queries and none were made. The Key Issues were noted.

17. The Honorary Treasurer then drew the attention of the Council to the Trustees letter of Representation to the Auditor -- the letter of Representation was noted and Council authorised the Regimental Colonel to sign it on behalf of the REA along with other Corps Charities.

18. The Honorary Treasurer then drew attention to the Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement 2009. The REA is in sound and good financial order and last year we worked within budget. Under the authority of the Council £350K was transferred to our investment funds.



19. The Minutes of the REA Finance committee meeting, Key Issues Memorandum, Trustees Letter of Representation to the Auditor and the REA Trustees Annual Report 2009 are all at Annex C.

20. Proposal: To adopt the Minutes of the REA Finance Meeting (including Key Issues Memorandum, Letter of Representation) be accepted.

Proposed by: Mr E Lowbridge

Seconded by: Mr R Prosser

CARRIED

21. Proposal: That the REA Annual Trustees Reports and Financial Statement 2009 be accepted.

Proposed by: Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley.

Seconded by: Mr M Barry MM

CARRIED

22. It was further agreed that the selection of REA Auditors for 2011 and beyond would concur with the choice of Auditors made by the Chief Royal Engineers Committee.

23. The Corps Treasurer drew Council's attention to the SOFA 2009 and the "Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers" showing a negative figure (£9,413). This indicated how the REA has used about £100K of reserves over the past year and this had come from the greater expectation of legacies. The Chairman asked the Controller to explore how the REA could foster the good will to increase our legacy income. This may include strap lines in The Sapper Magazine and the Corps Journal.

Action: Controller REA

24. There was some discussion about raising the profile of the Corps. The Regt Col has an action plan to take up with the Corps.

ITEM 7 REA CENTENARY 2012

25. Controller REA outlined the events planned so for 2012:

- REA Group Area Event. The Elected REA Trustees are requested to establish dates 2012 in consultation with the Group Directors for a reception for VIPs, Lord Lieutenants, Mayors and local dignitaries and press in their group areas along with the REA Branches with the aim of raising the profile of the REA. Once dates have been confirmed then HQ REA will issue cheques for £1,000 for the function so that planning may commence. Trustees are requested to provide these dates at the Sept REA Council Mtg. All are encouraged to ask for the Corps Band.

Action: REA Elected Trustees.

- REA Drumhead Service 17th May 2012. There is to be an REA Drumhead Service on the RE Corps Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum on 17th May 2012 (to be confirmed subject to the availability of the Corps Band).



Guests Will include Past Presidents and Chairmen, Trustees, Group Directors, Deputy Gp Directors, Gp Secretaries, Representatives of REA Branches, All REA Standards, Other Charities (ABF The Soldiers Charity, Veterans Aid, TRBL, Combat Stress, BLESMA, COBSEO, SSAFA Forces Help), all Commanding Officers & RSMs of the Serving Corps.

Action: Regimental Colonel
Controller REA

- 2012 Corps Memorial Weekend 15&16 September 2012. This event will take place at Chatham and coincide with the 200th celebration of Brompton Barracks that will include an Open Day and other events. Trustees are encouraged to attend the Corps Memorial Weekend each year.
- Fund Raising Event/Publicity Event - The London Marathon 2012. To encourage serving Sappers and other individuals to run in the London Marathon to raise money for the REA and raise the profile of our charity.

Action Controller REA
(for co:ordination onfy!!)

- To Request a Reception at Buckingham Palace. **It** is proposed to approach our Colonel in Chief to request a function (Garden Party or Reception) at Buckingham Palace in 2012 on a date yet to be decided.

Action Regimental Colonel

26. Item 8 Any Other Business

1. Geoffrey Hart Jackson. Mr T Hartley gave a resume of the career profile of Mr Jackson who left his estate of £1.6M divided between the REA and SSAFA Forces Help. The resume is attached to these Minutes at Annex D. **It** was suggested that there could be an annual award to one of the design trades. The Chairman thanked Mr Hartley for his research.

Action: Regimental Colonel.

2. The Corps Memorial. Mr E Lowbridge informed Council that his sister had repaired the Corps Flag that flies on the site at the NMA He informed us that Mr Carpenter is now carrying out the gardening and weeding. The pathway **will** be re-laid by the contractor when the weather improves and at no cost. The rocks will need some treatment to protect them from any frost damage. The geologist has inspected them and it appears that a resin used at Chilwell would be suitable having been tried in the last week.

3. REA Shopping Bags. Mr M Barry MM showed Council an idea for an REA eco-friendly Shopping Bag with the REA cap badge on it. He suggested that he could write to REA Branches to take bags for their own distribution and to bulk buy and to ask for a contribution. Council considered the idea and asked for a response from Branches to be given to the REA Management Committee. Council thanked Mrs Barry for her help and assistance.



4 Fund Raising. Lt Col N Parmley suggested that units be approached to ask for fund raising to be considered by the Serving Sappers. The Chairman pointed out that the REA is in receipt of money from them through the Days Pay Scheme' (Grant Giving) and that is considered most generous as our funds stand at the moment. The Regt Col informed the meeting that all courses who attend courses at Chatham are informed that charity begins at home and that any monies received from an individual is gratefully received. The Regt Col writes to all COs & OCs every two years to ask for consideration when they divide up the proceeds of gaming machines or other fund raising events. It was generally agreed that the balance today is about right.

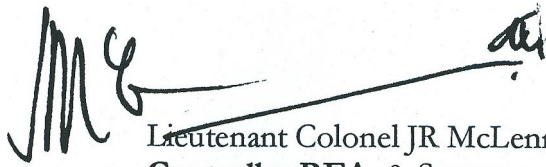
5. Band Bookings. The Regimental Colonel asked for band bookings for 2012 to be in by 28 May 2010.

ITEM 9 -- DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

27. The date of the next meeting will be, on Thursday 16th September 2010 starting at 1030hrs.

17

May 2010


Lieutenant Colonel JR McLennan
Controller REA, & Secretary

Sept 2010

General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE *Abc..c; ...:..*
Chief Royal Engineer, President REA



Benevo~ence Report

56th REA Council Meeting - 5th May 2010

1. **Trends.** Although the number of applications and grants considered and made in 2009 showed an increase on 2008 the numbers were similar to 2007 so cannot be taken as a trend. However, it should be noted that we are now receiving more applications from those who served in National Service

2. **Benevolence Cases 2002 - 2009**

Annual Totals	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jap-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec
Requests	1071	984	1048	936	910	878	897	1007
Grants	1053	975	1026	919	886	855	877	1039

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2009.** .The audited net cost of REA benevolence made up of Grants, Christmas grants and weekly allowances for 2009 was £607,972.

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are always most welcome to visit REA Benevolence meetings in London to see how the committee carries out the business of making financial grants on behalf of the Corps. The Chairman and Controller REA invite Branch observers to attend and participate with the aim reporting back to their Branches on the breadth of cases that are considered and how we are able to help.

5. **Christmas Cards.** Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over eight hundred Members or their widows and to those being treated for Combat Stress. At this time of year we receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload for the REA Staff to complete this task it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is very much appreciated.

6. **Grants to Other Charities.** REA Council has approved grants to other Service charities who are involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £30,000, SSAFA Forces Help received £5,000 and Combat Stress received £2,500 for their excellent work. Veterans Aid, a small charity who work closely with the "rough sleepers" in London and other cities, has also been helped.

7. **Kitchener Scholarship.** The REA Council has accepted the responsibility of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and has delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee. We are currently funding, David Williams, Kathryn & James Francis and Lauren McLeish.

8. **Corps Memorial Book.** In the "In Memoriam" section of the REA website there is a link to the Corps Memorial Book with names of those who died over the past few years. This initiative is being well used and populated by friends and families to commemorate the lives of those Sappers who have died whilst on or off duty.



CORPS UPDATE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2010

Headline Issues

- The reduction of ~orps liability whilst operational demand is increasing.
- Maintaining the Counter Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) momentum, particularly the training pipeline and Military Working Dogs.
- The challenge of meeting expeditionary warfare when configured for other options.

Operations and Deployment

- Campaign Footing - The Corps continues to employ 5 squadrons out-of-role in order to meet the increased C-IED demands.
- EOD Sp - the creation of 101 Engr Regt as a hybrid EOD unit has allowed an increase in EOD capability.
- Infra Sp - The Corps has created an 8th infra sub-unit allowing tour intervals to improve from 12 months to 18 months.
- Search - The Land Forces EOD Branch (RE, RLC and RAVC) has formed up at HQ EinC(A).
- RE TA - Around 140 TA personnel are currently mobilized on FTRS contracts.

Urgent Operational Development (Equipment)

- Route Clearance - Project TALISMAN has delivered 3 new systems for Op HERRICK 12.
- IED Detect - VALLON, GOLDIE, HORN, SPARKWELL and PANAMA are all detection systems brought in at short notice to counter the growing IED threat to friendly forces and the local population.
- IED Destroy - CHOKER, CANVASSAR and ANATOMISE are all equipments being trialed for use in theatre.
- Gap Crossing - A user employed short gap crossing (SGC) for quad bikes and trailers has been delivered (400 sets). Work continues to look at developing solutions for wider gap crossing.
- Protected Plant - a number of plant variants (ULWT, LWT and MWT) have been delivered to theatre with further (SLOT) in the pipeline.
- Forward Base Ablution Units - This system will significantly improve the hygiene and quality of life in the tactical basis - it recycles water and has a very low logistic footprint.

Training

- Training has adapted to meet the specific demands of operations in Afghanistan.
- C-IED training remains a priority.
- TALISMAN training (route clearance) has been completed for the forthcoming op tours (HERRICK 13 and 14).
- Training Support has enabled short notice deployments of TROJAN (new AVRE) , PYTHON (new VIPER) and ABLE (bridging).



Manning

- Climate - Regular soldier recruiting is at 98%. A revised manning level of 7756 means that we will be fully manned by 1 May 10. Officer strength is at 105% but this masks shortages in captain and majors. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers surplus will continue until 2020.
- Recruiting - RE Soldier recruiting has seen an improvement in 9 of the 18 trades. Funding and driving down manning surpluses will make future recruiting challenging.
- Financial Incentives - FIs now apply to pinch point trades: Geo, Fitter, C3S, Clk Wks, EOD, Log Spec.

Casualties

- W02 Markland - KIA
- Sgt Fox - KIA
- Spr Mellors - KIA
- 18 other RE personnel - WIA

Sports

- Champions
 - Hockey - Inter-Corps, major and minor units.
 - Rugby Union
 - Rugby League
 - Swimming
 - Nordic Skiing
 - Biathlon
- Devises Westminster Canoe race - 3rd place overall.
- 2 triathletes to World Championships
- 3 members of the Army Judo team
- 6 members of the Combined Services Tae Kwon Do team
- 3 gold medals at the 21st World TKO Games (Southampton).
- Combined Services Golf Champion.

Future

- Better use of the TA on operations.
- Introduction of TERRIER (new Combat Engineer Tractor) is a priority.
- Promoting the Army and Military Engineers through sponsoring the JPM events in London as well as reinforcing links with the worshipping companies and academic bodies.
- Making available to the soldiers of the Corps, Eng tech, IEng and CEng accreditation as part of their Continuous Personal Development.



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