

MINUTES OF 58TH MEETING
ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MAY 2011 IN ROOM 034MR16,
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
Brig N Baveystock	Commandant RSME
Colonel SPF Harris	Regimental Colonel
Lt Col R Murfin TD DL	Reserve Army Officer
Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley	South West Group
Major (Retd) R Macgregor MBE	Scotland & NI Group
Lt Col (Retd) F Ford	Central Southern Group
Mr G Walsh	South Wales Group
Mr T Hartley	London Group
Mr R Price	North Midlands Group
Mr B Owens	South East Group
Mr EC Prosser	North East Group
Mr G Littleford	South Midlands Group
Mr B Hayes	North West Group
Mr M Barry MJ'v1	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, Brig I James OBE
ADC, W01 (CRSM) J Blaylock. Colonel R Hunt.

1. Introductory Remarks. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance.
2. The Chairman informed the meeting of the sad passing of Lt Col Mike Fossey who had been an REA Trustee for the past six years and in recognition of his loyal service there was a minutes silence to remember him.



ITEM 1. To CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 57TH MEETING OF COUNCIL

3. Subject to minor detail changes, the Minutes of the 57th Meeting of Council were confirmed as being a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
4. Mr Barry informed the meeting that the Cambridge Branch had ordered 1000 shopping bags and sold about 400 and orders for them from other REA Branches are being taken.
5. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 2. To CONSIDER MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 57TH COUNCIL MEETING.

6. a. REA Website. The Controller informed the meeting the Deputy Controller is now taking a web designer course and will improve the REA website in due course.

ITEM 3. To TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 114TH MEETING OF THE REA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

7. The Trustees took note of the Minutes of the 114th 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 gave his report and said that although there are slightly less benevolence cases over the past year there are more younger applicants and an increase in those seeking retraining who receive help from the Robert Gabriel Bequest. He 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 Council took note of the Benevolence Report.

ITEMS To RECEIVE A REPORT ON CORPS AFFAIRS

11. The Regimental Colonel Col Sean Harris gave his report on Corps matters. He expanded on Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) it could mean the Corps losing about 786 uniformed RE regular personnel in line with present manning levels but some units will cease to exist. In terms the Capability Directorate concept the RE will be grouped with the RA under the command of a 1* in the Combat Capability and the EinC will cease to head-up the Corps from Minley but will be transferred to another 1* post. There will be little impact on RHQ RE at Chatham but they will take on the responsibility of Recruiting, TA, Corps RSM and the People role from Minley so there will be a slight

increase of Staff at Chatham. The impact on HQ REA is negligible although there maybe an effect as the direct result of the Civil Service redundancy/retirement scheme currendy being reviewed.

12. Lt Col (Retd) Parmley asked where the IED capability **will** rest and the Regt Col informed the meeting it would remain with HQ EinC.

13. The Regt Col also infonned Council that the Sappers are now the Army Boxing Champions and have out-shot the Infantry by becoming Operational Shooting Champions.

14. The report is attached at Annex B.

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

ITEM 6 TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 105TH REA FINANCE MEETING AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE ANNuAL REpORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR 2010

MINUTES OF FINANCE MEETING

16. Late Branch Financial Returns. It was noted in the Minutes that the Auditors may raise additional charges if the REA Branch Returns are not received in time. **It** was agreed that those branches who have not submitted in time, by end of January, would be referred to their respective Gp Directors and that Gp Directors and Deputy Gp Directors should become involved much earlier than is reflected to date. The Chairman **Will** write to Gp Directors.

Action:
Chainnan
Controller REA

17. The Corps Treasurer gave a brief on the ACIF who said that the combined fund was performing very well.

18. The Regt Col referred to the Hon Treasurers report Note 5 (Accounts - Items 7 & 9) where there is a surplus of funds in the current account.

Proposal: That, at the discretion of the Hon Treasurer and Corps Treasurer, at an appropriate time, the sum of up to £200K of units is invested with the ACIF.

Proposed: Col SPF Harris

Seconder: Mr G Litdeford

CARRIED

19. **It** was agreed'the Regimental Colonel should be the Budgetary Director of all Corps Charities.

20. In response to a question from Lt Col (Retd) Nat Parmley, the Corps Treasurer informed the meeting that about 97% of the Corps are signed up to the Payroll Giving Scheme.

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENT

21. The Council noted the Key Issues Memorandum.

22. Proposal: That the REA Annual Trustees Reports and Financial Statement 2010 be accepted.

Proposed by: Lt Col (Retd) N P~rmley.

Seconded by: Major (Retd) R Macgregor MBE

CARRIED

23. The REA Annual Trustees Reports and Financial Statement 2010 were signed by the Chairman. They are attached at Annex C.

Item 7 To consider the Employment of an additional Member of REA HQ Staff for the Placement of Sappers in Industry or other Employment Areas

24. The Regt Col informed Council that there is a feeling in the serving Corps that the REA could be more proactive in assisting our Sappers to find jobs as they are about to leave uniform. The Channan asked if it is a question of finding our people jobs or a matter of marketing the Corps and our Sappers.

25. The Deputy Chairman said that "networking" with Sappers in industry is important but that expectations should not be raised to an unreasonable level.

26. The Channan said he was in favour of an appointment but not necessarily in Chatham. Commandant RSME said that it should not be done in isolation of the Corps and that he was cautious of a purely REA approach and it should be done in conjunction with other parts of the Corps but the measurements of effectiveness would be difficult to deftne. Mr Bob Prosser said that some parts of industry (McAlpines) are very supportive of the Corps and would recruit many fonner Sappers at all levels of ability.

27. Although it was not thought the right time to allocate ,funds to the project, it was generally agreed that the REA would consider funding the position in the future.

28. It is necessary to draft a Job Description/Person Speciftcation (including the marketing of the Corps) of the position. The Regimental Colonel was asked to draw up a draft document that conforms to the REA Deeds of Trust. (to be circulated out of committee). Major (Retd) Macgregor offered assistance and advice on the drafting of the document.

Action: Regimental Colonel RE

29. The Deputy Controller suggested that there should be more space on the REA website to attract the larger employers to advertise any potential job opportunities for Sappers leaving the Corps. This was agreed.

ITEM 8. To CONSIDER AND AGREE THE GRANTING OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO THE TA WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PAYROLL GIVING SCHEME.

30. The Regimental Colonel outlined the background to TA contributions to the Corps to help with benevolence through the REA. The TA Advisor recommended that TA contributions should be awarded Life membership when the individual contribute to the Central Charitable Trust (where half of this amount goes to the REA).

Proposal: That a TA Member who pays through the Payroll Giving Scheme is awarded life Membership of the REA.

Proposer: Brigadier Baveystock

Seconder: Mr G Walsh

CARRIED

Item 9. REA Centenary 2012

31. The Controller outlined the events for the Centenary 2012. The Drumhead Service could involve 1000 persons and that the cost could be in the region of £20K. All those invited should be accompanied.

Proposal: That the REA authorises the Controller to fund events for 2012 up to the cost of £20K

Proposed: Brigadier Baveystock

Seconder: Col SPF Harris

CARRIED

32. Other events will include the London Marathon, a Reception at Buckingham Palace and inclusion in the events surrounding the 200th anniversary of Brompton Barracks.

Item 10 Any Other Business

33. The following were discussed:

- Independent Financial Advisers. The Controller informed Council that four IFAs are in place and one of our seriously injured Sappers has taken advice from him and has signed up for future advice about his financial affairs.
- Legacy Matters. The Controller has taken advice on the topic and notices have been taken out in the Sapper Magazine and the Corps Journal. An REA bookmark has also been designed, distributed and circulated to REA Groups and Branches.



- **REA Christmas Cards.** The Controller asked for continued approval from Council for the sending out of REA Christmas Cards and grants that is now costing £31K annually-- Council endorsed the continuing distribution of the cards and grants as approved on an annual basis by the REA Benevolence Committee. Council agreed continuation of the present system.
- **Car Stickers.** Mr R Price asked for the re-introduction of the "car sticker". The Deputy Controller advised that Corps Enterprises had investigated the costs and they are deemed to be too expensive. The Directors of Corps Enterprises said they would look into the cost and provision of the 'car stickers'.

Item 11 Date of Next Meeting

34. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 14th September 2011 in MoD London.

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May 2011



Colonel
 Controller REA, & Secretary



JR McLennan

Sept 2011

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

