

MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
HELD IN LONDON ON SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 2010



OPENING REMARKS

1. The Annual General Meeting was opened at 1600hrs by the President of the Association, General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC Gen, who welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending, especially those who had travelled long distances. He wanted to take stock of where the Corps *is* since the last meeting. For the operational Corps *it* has been a very busy year primarily on operations in Afghanistan but there are other flash points where the Corps has been very much in demand. The cost to the Corps in terms of fatalities and life changing injuries is at the highest for several decades. This is principally due to the Corps being in the forefront of trying to counter the IED threat in Afghanistan. It has been also very busy in the benevolence business assisting more beneficiaries as awareness of what is available becomes wider known. The *turmoil* in the financial world has raised questions about how the Association's investments will fare but we have done better this year than in previous years. We cannot be complacent about the future but we are in a reasonably good financial position.
2. There were 44 members present including: 16 REA Trustees, 17 REA Branch Delegates and 11 walk-ins.
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 A Craig OBE, Lt Col M Fossey, Lt Col R Murfin TD DL, Mr BOWens.

ITEM 1 **To CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

5. The Minutes of the 41st Meeting had been circulated to all Branches.
6. The Minutes of the 41st AGM were changed as follows;
Paragraph 15
Delete: 41.01 Subscriptions "There is no joining fee payable to HQ REA"
Insert: 14.03 "No annual subscriptions shall be paid by Life or Associate Members"
7. Proposal: That the Minutes of the 41st AGM be accepted.

Proposed by: Mr E Lowbridge REA Trustee
Seconded by: Brigadier N Baveystock REA Trustee
Carried
8. The President signed the Minutes in confirmation.

ITEM 2 **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

9. Major (Retd) V Clark, N Ireland referred to paragraph 15 about subscriptions " *the Honorary Treasurer would speak to the Corps Treasurer*" and what was the outcome. The Regimental Colonel informed the meeting that he would clear this matter with the Corps Treasurer. Major

(Retd) Clarke pointed out that Life Membership is given to those who join up through the Days Pay Scheme and that the money received from the Central Charitable Trust is a "grant" and the tax is claimed by the Corps Treasurer. The Controller informed the meeting that the only subscriptions received are for Annual Membership of the REA.

ITEM 3 To RECEIVE THE COUNCIL'S 42ND REPORT TO THE AGM.

10. The President invited the Chairman REA Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL to read out the Council's 42nd 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.

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

12. Proposal: That Council's 42nd Annual Report to the AGM should be accepted.
Proposer: Lt Col (Retd) F Ford REA Trustee
Secunder Major (Retd) P Gill REA Andover & Winchester
Carried

13. The Chairman REA thanked the Chairman REA Benevolence for his and his Committees work throughout the year.

ITEM 4 To receive the Trustees Annual Reports and Financial Statements for the REA for the period 1st January - 31st December 2009.

14. The Trustees Annual & Financial Reports 2009 had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

15. 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.

16. Proposal: That the REA Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2009 be accepted.
Proposer: Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley REA Trustee
Secunder: Mr G Littleford REA Trustee
Carried

ITEMS To NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF REEVES & NEYLAN, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AS REA AUDITORS FOR 2011

17. Proposal: To Note the Appointment of Reeves & Neylan, REA Auditors 2011
Proposer Brigadier N Baveystock REA Trustee
Secunder Mr M Harness REA Dundee
Carried

ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF REA HONORARY TREASURER FOR 2011

18. Colonel Roger Hunt to be re-appointed as REA Honorary Treasurer 2011.

Proposal: That Colonel R Hunt is appointed as Honorary Treasurer for 2011.
Proposed Brig I James REA Trustee
Secunder: Mr G Littleford -REA Trustee
Carried

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

Item 7 Date of Next Meeting

20. Next year's AGM will take place at the Victory Services Club at **1600hrs Saturday 8th October 2011**. The Annual Dinner will follow that evening and the following day will be "**Sapper Sunday**" at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

2fJ October 2010

Y! 
Lieutenant Colonel John McLennan
REA Controller & Secretary

October 2011

Chief Royal Engineer
President REA

REA COUNCIL REPORT

TO THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SATURDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2010

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 2009 was £595,555, down on 2008 and our Esprit de Corps activities were £35,599 which was about the same as 2008. 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 how the REA helped them:

Case A: Spr 'S', is 26 and has been married for 2 years. He suffered a serious injury whilst training which caused the arches of his feet to collapse and other muscular damage was incurred. Since being discharged his condition has deteriorated and he is now immobile from the waist down and confined to a wheelchair.

The couple are purchasing a ground floor maisonette and are at present staying with Mrs 'S's parents whilst their maisonette is made suitable for wheelchair use. Although the property was previously owned by a disabled person, there is still some work that needs to be done. Social Services are assisting with a ramp to the front of the property together with hand rails and grips internally, however there is still a need for internal door frames to be widened and some electrical work. The ramp at the rear of the property is dangerous and also needs replacing to enable Mr Salmon access to the rear garden.

SSAFA Forces Help obtained an estimate for the work and requested assistance towards the costs 0(£3,287. After careful consideration the REA Benevolence Committee authorised a grant of £1,000 towards the essential household adaptations.

Case B: W011 and Mrs 'J' separated in February 2009 after 15 years of marriage. Mrs 'J' was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and is currently in remission. She is currently living in the family home with her three young daughters. The house is owned jointly by the couple and as part of the separation mutual agreement W011 'J' pays the mortgage and Mrs 'J' pays for the rest of the household bills. The house is in the process of being sold and Mrs 'J' intends to use her share of the sale to resolve her outstanding debt problems. She wants to make a new start and move back to Plymouth to be nearer her parents and family who can give her and her children support and care during ongoing further medical treatment. She has found a suitable property to rent and is applying for jobs in the area.

TRBL requested assistance towards a deposit, 1months rent and removal costs amounting to £2,360. After careful consideration the REA Benevolence Committee authorised a grant of £1,000 towards urgent accommodation costs.

Case C: Spr and Mrs 'H' have lived in their home for the past 30 years. He is 78 and his wife 69 years old. Mr 'H' had a triple heart by-pass operation in 2003, a right knee replacement and two left knee replacements and suffers from Rheumatoid Arthritis. Mrs 'H' had 2 discs removed from her spine 43 years ago and suffers from osteoarthritis of the spine and hips and has also suffered from ME for about 6 years.

Mr 'H' is his wife's carer and they both have restricted mobility. Mr 'H' uses a stick when walking outside and Mrs 'H' uses an elbow crutch to get about indoors. She also has a manual wheelchair for outdoors which her husband

pushes for her. A level access shower has been installed and they have riser/ recliner chairs but unfortunately they are both now having problems using the stairs.

TRBL requested assistance and obtained an OT's report recommending the provision of a stair lift and an estimate of £4,848.90 for a suitable model. After careful consideration the REA Benevolence Committee authorised a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the provision of the stair lift.

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 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 R E Maginnes	Northern Ireland	Scotland & NI Gp
MrJ Chitty	Brighton	South East Gp
Mr R Bardsley	Cyprus	HQ & Overseas Gp
Mr T Higginson	Chesterfield & Distr	North Midlands Gp
J Hindle	Blackpool	South West Gp
MrJ Everitt	Colchester	East Anglia Gp
MrJ W Hasnip	Lichfield & Tamworth	South Midlands Gp
Mr R Cooling	South Humberside & Lincolnshire	North East Gp
MrP Ladlow	Scarborough	North East Gp

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. The poster campaign highlighting esprit de corps has continued.

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/Chilwell. The Ripon Weekend was a most popular weekend, but due the closure of Deveril Barracks and the loss of accommodation it provided, 2009 saw the last Ripon Weekend event. Chilwell has been chosen as an



alternative venue and the first veterans weekend will be held over the weekend 13-15 May 2011. Plans are well in hand and we are most grateful for the assistance being given by Comd 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp and his staff in the preparation for this event.

b. Minley. The REA Minley weekend is always very popular and this year was no exception. 3 RSME Regt were excellent hosts and we are most grateful for the support and hospitality the REA received. 212 veterans attended representing 35 REA Branches Apart from the esprit de corps and camaraderie of meeting former friends and colleagues, visits to RMAS Sandhurst proved very popular as did the demonstrations of Combat Engineering by the Sapper trainees. The Drumhead Service and the Carvery Lunch on Sunday rounded off a very pleasant and fun weekend.

c. Chatham -- Corps Memorial Weekend. (to be confirmed after the event) This weekend was well attended with over 300 veterans and families well looked after by our hosts in 1 RSME Regiment. The Chief Royal Engineer awarded Elizabeth Crosses to fourteen families on Sunday in the Officers Mess. This was followed by an impressive and emotional Memorial Service in Rochester Cathedral and the exercising of the Freedom of Rochester.

d. Family Events. Mr Harold Evans and his team organised an excellent spring reunion week at Mundesley Holiday Village on the Norfolk coast. 150 members, families and friends attended and it was regarded as being a great success. These events are well organised with outings and entertainment as part of the package. Attendance at the reunions is falling whilst costs increase, and if this trend continues, then the events are likely to fold. The REA are most grateful to the Families Events Organisation for all their hard work.

12. Corps Memorial Book Website This is in conjunction with "Friends & Relations" and allows friends and families to add comments and reflections to those who have passed away. Since its conception it has proven to be a most popular development and some 280 families have chosen the Corps Memorial Book as a place to remember their loved ones in the last year. The Corps Memorial Book has also been responsible for re-uniting an estranged son living in New Zealand with his family living in the UK. There is also an opportunity to donate to the REA "in memoriam" as they remember the past.



**HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE
2010 AGM OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION AT THE
VICTORY SERVICES CLUB ON SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 2010**

1. The 2009 budget was authorised with an income of £725K and an overall deficit of £60K. The year closed on 31st December 2009 with a surplus of £43K. This positive performance against budget was due to a combination of larger than expected legacy income plus reduced spending on benevolence grants and Esprit de Corps activities.
2. This year's budget, which started on 1st January, had an authorised income of £715K and an overall deficit of £114K. This deficit is less than reported last year when the proposed budget included a grant of £200K to the RE Museum Transformation Project which has been postponed. This year we are on target to close, on 31st December, within budget.
3. Next year's budget for 2011 has been approved by Council with an income of £747K and an overall deficit of £92K.
4. REA capital is invested in the Armed Forces Common Investment Fund and as at 15th September this year the capital value was £7.16M, compared to £6.20M in 2009 and £6.11M in 2008. This increase in value reflects improvement in the markets as well as the transfer of £350K of surplus funds into the AFCIF.
5. Benevolence is, of course, the most important objective of the REA and is its biggest expenditure. In 2009 £577K was spent on benevolence. This year £632K 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. We are extremely fortunate that funding is not a constraint when considering requests for help.
6. 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

