

MINUTES OF 57<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010 IN ROOM  
034MR16, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING,  
WHITEHALL, LONDON.



Those Present:

Maj Gen JD Moore-Bick CBE DL

Brig N Baveystock

Brigadier AS Craig OBE

Brig I James OBE ADC

Col SPF Harris

Col R Hunt

Lt Col R Murfin TD DL

WOI (CRSM) M Callender

Lt Col I (Retd) F Ford

Mr TP Hartley

Mr E Lowbridge

Mr B Owens

Mr R Prosser

Mr WE Powling

Mr G Littleford

Mr B Hayes

Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE

Chairman RRI

Comdt HQ RSME

Deputy Chairman REA

EinC (Army)

Regimental Colonel

Honorary Treasurer

Reserve Army Officer

Corps RSM

Central Southern Group

Central London Group

North Midlands Group

South East Group

North East Group

South Wales Group

South Midlands Group

North West Group

Scotland & NI Group

In attendance:

Lt Col (Retd) J Townsley

Lt Col (Retd) N AJordan

Lt Col (Retd) J R McLennan

RE Corps Treasurer

REA Deputy Controller

REA Controller & Secretary

Apologies received from:

General Sir Peter Wall KCB CBE ADC Gen, Lt Col  
(Retd) N Parmley, Lt Col (Retd) M Fossey, Mr M Barry  
MM,

1. Introductory Remarks. The Chairman welcomed all those in attendance especially those who travelled a long way. He circulated copies of the Military Covenant and encouraged all to take note of it. He thanked, at this his last meeting, Mr E Lowbridge for his contribution to all REA activities. Mr E Powling also informed the meeting that this is to be his last meeting. He also welcomed Mr Barry Hayes to his first meeting.

ITEM 1. **To CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF COUNCIL**

2. Subject to minor detail changes, the Minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> 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 56<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING.**

4. **Chilwell Weekend.** The Corps RSM informed the meeting that the plans were well in hand.
5. **Automated Banking.** The Regt Colonel informed the meeting that a secure server was to be installed over the coming weekend and that it was hoped that Automated Banking should be introduced over the coming month.
6. **Legacies.** The Controller informed the meeting that notices had been inserted into the Journal and the Sapper Magazine. The Controller is due to take a course to learn more about how to capitalise on potential legacies.
7. **The Geoffrey Hart Legacy.** The Regt Colonel identified a Class 2 Draughtsman course (3 courses per year) as the best course to provide a prize in memory of Geoffrey Jackson and his legacy to the REA. It was agreed that the prize would be awarded to the top student on each course. The prize would be a book "Follow the Sapper" and a cheque for £50 per course.
8. **REA Shopping Bag.** This matter has been referred to the REA Management Committee.

ITEM 3. **To TAKE NOTE OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF 113<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE REA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

9. **REA Website.** Mr Ford informed the meeting that there is some difficulty in getting information off the RE website for example deaths & injuries and links were not working correctly. The Regt Col was asked to look into the perceived problem and report back to the Council.

**Action: Regt Colonel.**

10. **REA Standards at Funerals.** A letter has been sent to all REA Branches informing them of the procedures to be adhered to at funerals. In essence it is that only one REA Standard should enter the church or crematorium and if there are others they should remain outside until after the service.
11. **REA Centenary.** To be discussed under Item 10.

ITEM 4      **To NOTE & RECEIVE THE REA BENEVOLENCE REPORT**

12. The Chairman REA Benevolence gave his report to the Council. He informed the Council that although the case numbers are down the costs remain high but in budget. He encouraged Trustees to come to the Benevolence Meetings as observers. The committee is also looking for a Lady Member who has a Corps connection and is aware of the welfare and benevolence sector possibly with SSAFA Forces Help or Citizens Advice Bureau. The Benevolence committee meets once a month and meetings last about three hours; it is preferable that she is in easy commutable distance of London.

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

ITEM 5      **To RECEIVE A REPORT ON CORPS AFFAIRS**

14. The Regimental Colonel gave his report and highlighted three areas.

- Strategic Defence & Security Review. This is underway and there will be a report later in the year. It is expected that the Corps will be well preserved and could possibly be taking on additional capabilities. There maybe a reduction in Regiments but additional manpower. There could be changes coming up with Terms & Conditions of Service. The EinC (A) informed the meeting that cuts are inevitable and the loss of some numbers of our ranks must be expected.
- Operations. We continue to take on very challenging work in theatre and as a result we are regrettably taking additional casualties. In addition to those KIA, the Corps is the second most effected regiment with many having received life changing injuries.
- Heritage. Fund raising and preserving our heritage continues to be challenging and will become more difficult as the cuts become more apparent.

15. The Chairman thanked the Regimental Colonel for his report. The Chairman asked for examples of how individuals maybe effected through the proposed changes of the RPI to evaluating pensions against the CPI as proposed by the Government.

**Action Regimental Colonel  
Controller REA**

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

ITEM 6      **To NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE 104TH REA FINANCE MEETING AND CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE BUDGET FOR 2011.**

17. The Minutes of the 104<sup>th</sup> REA Finance meeting (including the REA Budget 2011) are attached at **Annex C**.

18. The Hon Treasurer introduced the Minutes noting the need to set the budget for the coming year. He highlighted that the spend on benevolence is slightly down and the income from the grant

from Central Charitable Trust (DPS) is up and legacies are up. The budget figures had been scrutinised by the REA Finance Committee and are being recommended to Council.

19. Brigadier Baveystock pointed out that the proposed budget is a deficit budget and asked that Council take note. Council took note and understood the consequences of setting such a budget but it was further noted that historically we have received larger legacies than expected or budgeted for and this, and the reserves, were sufficient to accept the budget as presented. The Corps Treasurer said that there are sufficient reserves for about fifteen years.
20. Council then discussed the full budget line by line and after discussion the budget was agreed.

**Proposal: To Approve the REA Budget for 2011.**

Proposer: Colonel R Hunt

Secunder: Mr G Littleford

**Carried**

21. The Hon Treasurer informed the meeting that the value of the REA (ACIF) was £7,158,922 as at 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010.
22. The Honorary Treasurer introduced the requirement for the REA to endorse the need for pledging funds for the RE Museum Transformation Project as agreed by the Chief Royals Committee. The amount required is £200K from the REA to be spread over the years 2014 & 2015 to support the Lottery bid over these years and will only be called upon if the Lottery Bid is successful. The Corps Treasurer is to include the details in a revised budget for 2014 -2015.

**Action Corps Treasurer**

23. Kitchener Memorial Fund. The Controller informed the meeting of the numbers of Sappers receiving help from the Fund with a proposal to help the fund with a grant of £5K. After some discussion the proposal was not approved.

**ITEM 7 To CONSIDER & REVIEW THE REA RISK REGISTER.**

24. The Regimental Colonel informed Council of the purpose of the register. It is to identify the risks against the REA and the possible impact of those risks upon the organisation. He highlighted the risk of losing "key staff" in the present climate of a recruiting ban on Civil Servants.
25. Council discussed the register and agreed to accept the detail.

**Proposal: To Consider & Review the REA Risk Register & Policy 2010.**

Proposer: Brig Baveystock

Secunder: MrB Owen

**Carried**

26. The Risk register is attached at **Annex D**

ITEM 8      **To RECOMMEND AND APPROVE THE 2010 AGM AGENDA & COUNCIL REPORT**

27. The Draft Agenda for 2010 AGM and Trustees Report were discussed and approved. The AGM Agenda is attached at Annex E.

**Proposal:**      **To Recommend and approve the 2010 AGM Agenda & Council report**  
**Proposed:**      Mr E Powell  
**Seconder:**      Mr E Lowbridge  
**CARRIED**

ITEM 9      **To REVIEW TRUSTEES 12 MAIN ROLES & REA 5 YEAR STRATEGIC REVIEW 2011- 2015**

28. The Trustees discussed the detail of the both papers. The Trustees took note and endorsed the contents and it was agreed that there is some work is needed on the Strategic Review & Deeds of Trust about "jobs & pensions" advice.

Action: Controller REA

ITEM 10      **THE REA CENTENARY 2012**

29. The following topics were discussed:

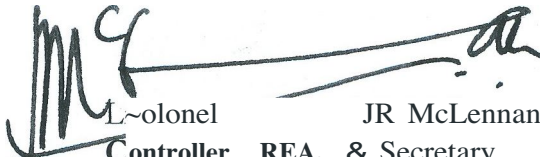
1. Group Directors to give the dates of their events to Controller
2. Drumhead Service at the NMA on 17<sup>th</sup> May
3. A Garden Party or similar for RE War Widows (16<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> May)
4. A reception in Buckingham Palace (Controller REA to produce lists)
5. Sponsorship for teams in the London Marathon 2012

30. Council discussed the coincidence of Brompton 200 and other events in the same year and Comd RSME is keen to include the REA in all local area activities. The Council took note.

**ITEM 11 -- DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

31. The date of the next meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

2. S September 2010

  
Colonel      JR McLennan  
Controller REA, & Secretary

May 2011

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

## BENEVOLENCE REpORT FOR 57<sup>TH</sup> REA COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010

1. **Trends.** The trend over the first period of 2010' is about 15.5% down at 469 compared with the same half-year period as last year at 556. We are handling mor~ cases for the younger family and many of these are because of debt and financial difficulties and marital separations.

### 2. Benevolence Cases 2003 - 2010

Annual Totals	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
	<b>Jan-Jun</b>	Tan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jap-Dec	Jan- Dec
<b>Requests</b>	<b>469</b> (-15.5%)	1071	984	1048	936	910	878	897
<b>Grants</b>	<b>463</b>	1053	975	1026	919	886	855	877

3. **Cost of Benevolence 2009** The net costs of REA benevolence grants for 2009 was about £608K for benevolence cases together with weekly allowances, Christmas grants and grants to other charities including SSAFA Forces Help, Combat Stress and the ABF. Whilst the number of cases is on the way down the item costs for mobility equipment is on the increase.

4. **REA Branch Observers.** Observers are most welcome to visit an REA Benevolence Meeting in London to see how the business of making financial grants is carried out on behalf of the Corps. Controller REA invites Branches and Units to attend with the aim of those observers reporting back to their colleagues of what they have seen and to pass the word around that we are there to help. REA Trustees are also encouraged to attend.

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

6. **Grants to Other Charities.** REA Council has approved grants to other Service charities who maybe involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £35,000, SSAFA Forces Help received £7,500 and Combat Stress received £2,500 for their excellent work. All these charities, and others, act as our eyes & ears helping the wider services family who have fallen on hard times and look after some of the many services facilities where our Sappers may frequent.

7. **Kitchener Scholarship.** The REA Council have accepted the responsibilities of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and have delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee. At present the Fund is now looking after three children of the Corps. They are: Miss Lauren McLeish, Katie & James Francis.

8. **HQ REA.** In line with other Government departments there has had to be cuts in the Civil Service Staff and as a result HQ REA has had to gap a recently recruited post for the REA Benevolence Typist -- it is not known when this vacancy may be filled again.

B

## CORPS UPDATE AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2010

### Headline Issues

- The MOD is working through the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and reports on the future shape of the Army in October.  
Headline figures suggest 5,000 reduction to Army in 2011 with further 10% to follow over period 2011-2016  
.Defeating the IJevce through enhanced training and equipment and Military Working Dogs.

### 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. LF EOD & Search Branch now fully established at HQ EInC(A).

**Search** - 36 Engr Regt to be re-roled in the Search role.

**RE TA** - 88 TA personnel are currently mobilized on FTRS contracts.

### Urgent Operational Development (Equipment)

**Route Clearance** - Project TALISMAN has been successfully delivered by 15 Fd Sp Sqn in theatre.

**IED Detect** - VALLON, GOLDIE, HORN, SPARKWELL and PANAMA are all proving effective within limits. Detecting as opposed to Defeating the Device is the main effort as many casualties are being incurred without the device having been located.

**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** - All plant types in theatre now have the protected cab.

### Training

The reintroduction of PYTHON for Ex PRARIE THUNDER in 2011 is now provisionally endorsed. The case for one additional (inert) set for ARMCEN Bovington has been submitted.

Choker (rollers) training will be delivered to TITANITROJAN crews at Defence School of Transport. Unit instructors will then cascade the training to unit level.

### Manning

**Climate** - Regular soldier recruiting is at 99.4%. A revised manning level of 7756 means that we will be fully manned by 1 May 11. Officer strength is at 105% but this masks shortages in captain and majors. The Queen's Gurkha Engineers surplus will continue until 2020.

**Recruiting** - Funding and driving down manning surpluses will make future recruiting challenging. ERLS likely to remain post-SDSR.

**Financial Incentives** - FIs now apply to pinch point trades: Geo, Fitter, C3S, Clk Wks, EOD, Log Spec. It is important to note that the Search teams do not attract a financial incentive or trade pay. (

### Casualties

LCpl Buxton

Spr Smith

- Cpl Kirkpatrick  
Spr Foster  
Spr Ishwor Gurung (OGE)  
19 other RE personnel - WIA

Sports (Remains extant from Mar 10 update)

- **Champions**
  - o Hockey - Inter-Corps, major and minor units.
  - o Rugby Union
  - o Rugby League
  - o Swimming
  - o Nordic Skiing
  - o Biathlon
- Devizes Westminster Canoe race - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 21h World TKO Games (Southampton).  
Combined Services Golf Champion.

#### **RHQ RE Business**

- Reconfiguring to meet SDSR outcomes.
- Preparing for the Corps Memorial Weekend.
- Better managing the post-trauma support to families of the fallen.
- Re-applying for Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) - business case begun.
- Front Entrance construct complete - Corps Today gallery work begun.
- RHO RE IT upgrade and,
- RHO RE moving to electronic banking by mid-Oct 10.

#### **Future**

Inst RE Launch at the Tower of London to launch the Corps' authority to issue Eng Tech, IEng and CEng to members.

Improve understanding of military engineering through sponsoring the JPM events in London as well as reinforcing links with the worshipful 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.

Configuring the Corps to meet the post-SDSR construct:

Reduction in regiments and manpower.

Additional roles (inc CBRN and MACE).

Move of RHO RE towards sustaining the Corps' Golden Thread' - more involved role for RHO RE and Regt Col.

S P F HARRIS

Col

Regt Col