

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
HELD IN LONDON ON SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER 2011



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. It has been another busy year for both the Corps and the Association; they seem to go by faster and faster. The future heralds some significant change for the Army as a whole and this will have an impact on the future of the Corps. Although the Regular part of the Corps will be slightly smaller it will continue to play a significant part in the Army's Order of Battle. Operations in Afghanistan and Libya have kept all elements of the Corps very busy throughout the year and the Corps is much appreciated by the Army as a whole. These campaigns have compounded the understanding of the importance of the REA especially in its benevolence role and the demand for this help goes back to the more senior veterans and also for those serving and recently injured. Tough times, but across the whole front of the Corp's interests, serving and retired, fit and wounded and dependants, the REA can report that we are in good shape for whatever the future may present to us.

2. There were 53 members present including: 15 REA Trustees, 22 REA Branch Delegates and 16 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: Colonel RMR Hunt, Lt Col R Murfin TD DL, Mr B Owens, Mr MJ Barry MM, and Mr G Littleford.

ITEM 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

5. The Minutes of the 42nd Meeting had been circulated to all Branches.

6. **Proposal:** That the Minutes of the 42nd AGM be accepted.

Proposed by: Lt Col (Retd) F Ford

REA Trustee

Seconded by: Lt Col (Retd) N Parmley

REA Trustee

Carried

7. The President signed the Minutes in confirmation.

ITEM 2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 42ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

8. There were no Matters Arising .

ITEM 3 TO RECEIVE THE COUNCIL'S 43RD REPORT TO THE AGM.

9. The President invited the Chairman REA Major General John Moore-Bick CBE DL to read out the Council's 43rd Annual Report. The Chairman reported the REA Council and REA Management meetings throughout the year had been well prepared by Controller and Deputy and well attended by the Members. 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. The REA's primary function is benevolence. We have dispersed over half a million pounds to those who have fallen on hard times and, sadly there is a trend showing an increase in marital breakups probably due to the level of separation incurred through the pace of operational tours. Those who have been seriously injured on operations may expect care and support from the State and where there is a need to enhance that support the Association is there to help when needed.

10. The REA gives donations to other major service charities to help them to assist Sappers and former Sappers in their differing charity roles. SSAFA Forces Help, Combat Stress, and ABF – The Soldiers Charity and others all contribute a great deal and we thank them and their caseworkers for their support.

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

12. **Proposal:** That Council's 43rd Annual Report to the AGM should be accepted.
Proposer: Mr J Briggs Peckham Branch
Seconder Maj (Retd) P Gill MBE JP Andover & Winchester Branch
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 2010.

14. The Trustees Annual & Financial Reports 2010 had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

15. Controller REA, Lt Col (Retd) J McLennan was asked to read out the Honorary Treasurers report in his absence 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 2010 be accepted.
Proposer: Mr R Prosser REA Trustee
Seconder: Brigadier I James OBE ADC REA Trustee
Carried

ITEM 5 TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF REEVES & CO LLP, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, AS REA AUDITORS FOR 2012

17. **Proposal:** To Note the Appointment of Reeves & Co LLP, REA Auditors 2012
Proposer Col M Gill MBE REA Trustee
Seconder Mr G Elliot Swindon Branch REA
Carried

ITEM 6 APPOINTMENT OF REA HONORARY TREASURER FOR 2012

18. Colonel Roger Hunt to be re-appointed as REA Honorary Treasurer 2012.

Proposal: That Colonel R Hunt is appointed as Honorary Treasurer for 2012.

Proposed Maj (Retd) B Wilks REA Trustee

Seconded: Lt Col (Retd) F Ford REA Trustee

Carried

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

ITEM 7 VOTE OF THANKS TO MR HAROLD EVANS

20. Mr Harold Evans has been involved with the Families Event Committee for many years. His contribution to the organisation of each event from conception to fulfilment has been outstanding. Each event requires detailed planning, co-ordination of many coaches and outside visits and detailed liaison with the Holiday Camp proprietors. The REA has had its last Family Events and the Trustees wish to express their gratitude to Mr Evans for his support and endeavours over the years.

Proposal: To thank Mr Evans for his outstanding contribution to the REA Families Events

Proposer: Major General J Moore-Bick CBE DL Chairman REA

Seconder: Mr G Scarborough REA Medway Branch

Carried With a hearty round of applause of gratitude

ITEM 8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21. Next year's AGM will take place at the Victory Services Club at **1600hrs Saturday 13th October 2012**. The Annual Dinner will follow that evening and the following day will be **"Sapper Sunday"** at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

ITEM 9 A PRESENTATION BY THE CORPS RSM - A Soldiers Perspective of the Corps and REA.

22. The Corps RSM, WO1 (CRSM) J Blaylock gave a short presentation, the substance of which is outlined here:

- A great privilege to speak to the REA AGM
- Corps – The Corps continues to deliver effect on operations. Our people continue to provide security in the provision of forts and roads (in that order) in the Helmand River Valley. High priorities in Population-centric Counter Insurgency Operations on Operation HERRICK. We contribute largely in a multinational effort in Afghanistan.
- In addition, Counter ID Task Force continues searching for the indiscriminate killer, that is, the Improvised Explosive Device. It is a sad fact that we have had four seriously injured personnel in the last three weeks, one officer and three sappers.
- A key for the future is 'Agility', and the Corps has proven to be extremely versatile despite the challenges of the re-structuring of the Future Force. It is important for the Corps to remain positive. This requires good Leadership, a Chain of Command function.
- Equipment – Continues to improve. Trojan delivers and is a dependable asset on Ops. Protected Mobility continues to develop and the 'on the man' equipment is excellent and

continues to improve. Although there is much talk about the cost of equipment and the need for saving, rarely do we quantify the monetary value of a Sapper or a Soldier.

- People - He noted how modest, professional and positive all of the Officers and soldiers were that he had met whilst on visits and on operational. In the face of adversity, they remained, motivated, professional and more than capable. They are nothing short of extraordinary and we should be extremely proud. We ask an awful lot of our people and they continue to deliver. Our people are our most precious resource.
- Injured personnel - Headley Court is a great leveler, and our Sappers despite their injuries remain remarkably positive, achieving their personal goals along their road to recovery. They ask about the Corps and maintain a great interest in all aspects of the Cap Badge. Fostering the Corps' links with Headley Court and Esprit-de-Corps is paramount.
- Benevolence. Attending the REA Benevolence Meeting, he was impressed with the scope and reach of the REA in their efforts regarding Benevolence and Hardship. He went to Headley Court with the Regt Col, hosting nine of our injured Sappers for dinner, it was a most successful evening and he thanked the Controller for arranging for the payment through the REA.
- Wider Community – The Corps RSM is interested in developing support to families, wives, partners and siblings of our injured. Some forward thinking is needed in regards to the needs of our service families. Understanding that the REA is very receptive to helping where there is a need.

November 2011

Lieutenant Colonel John McLennan
REA Controller & Secretary

October 2012

Chief Royal Engineer
President REA