

The Royal Engineers Association

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Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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See Distribution

29 July 2016

MINUTES OF THE 125th MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN 034 MEETING ROOM 16, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, MAIN BUILDING, LONDON, ON TUESDAY 19th JULY 2016

PRESENT

Maj Gen A S Dickinson CBE	Chairman
Maj R Oakes RE	Serving Officer
Maj (Retd) R Macgregor MBE TD VR	Scotland & NI Group
WO1 (RSM) J Rankine	1 RSME Regt
WO1 (RSM) M Eastley	3 RSME Regt
WO1 (RSM) S Webster	170 (Infra Sp) Engr Group
Mr K Street	South Midlands Group
Mr M Payne BEM	Central Southern Group
Mr B Simm	East Anglia Group
Mr K Gover	South West Group
Mr A Bulmer	North West Group
Mr R Price	North Midlands Group
Mr T Webb	South Wales Group

IN ATTENDANCE

Lt Col (Retd) N Jordan	Acting Controller and Secretary
Maj (Retd) I Sidebottom	Corps Treasurer

APOLOGIES

Col DLD Bigger ADC	Corps Colonel
Lt Col (Retd) R Murfin TD DL	Reserve Forces
Mr G Doughty	South East Group
Mr W P Halloran	North East Group
Mr P Markham	South East Group

1. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present especially those who had come from afar.
2. The Chairman noted that apologies had been received from those listed above. He welcomed the following new members to the Committee for whom it was their first meeting:

- Maj Rob Oakes RE – Serving Officer - OC 69 Gurkha Fd Sqn
- WO1 (RSM) M Eastley – 3 RSME Regt
- WO1 (RSM) S Webster – 170 (Infra Sp) Engr Gp
- Mr Alan Bulmer - North West Group

ITEM 1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 124th MEETING

3. The Committee accepted that the Minutes of the 124th Meeting were a true record of the proceedings. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 124th MEETING

4. Paragraph 23. It was agreed that a study should be carried out to determine whether the current Badge of Merit reporting and marking system was suitable to determine who was worthy of the award. Mike Payne (Central Southern) volunteered to take the study forward with assistance from Kevin Street (South Midlands). The Corps Colonel said he would identify an RSM to work alongside Mike Payne (and others). The Chairman said the aim was to come up with three different options for the Committee to consider at the next Management Committee meeting. The Chairman asked Mike Payne to brief the Committee on progress to date. Mike Payne said that the nominated RSM to work on this study was the RSM of 42 Engr Regt (Geo); he took post about 4 weeks ago and had since then been fully occupied on military matters. During a recent telephone conversation with the RSM, Mike Payne arranged a meeting with him in late August. He said he hoped to have some useful options to report to the Committee in September. Mike Payne asked Committee members if there was any specific aspect they looked for when assessing the written recommendations, if there was, he asked that they let him know.

ITEM 3 – TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

5. The Controller presented the Benevolence Report for the 6 month period ending June 2016. The report is at Annex A.

6. There were no comments and the Benevolence Report was accepted.

ITEM 4 - TO NOTE THE CORPS COLONEL'S REPORT ON THE CORPS

7. The Chairman suggested that as the Corps Colonel was not available, if there were any questions arising from the report, those serving members attending might provide answers. Otherwise, HQ REA will take the questions and communicate the answers at a later date. The Corps Colonel's report was accepted and is at Annex B.

ITEM 5 – TO NOTE THE REPORT OF THE RECRUITING COMMITTEE

8. The A/Controller introduced the report. The report is at Annex C.

9. He said the most important aspect of the report was the drop in membership numbers for the period 01 July 2015 to 31 June 2016 compared with the period 01 July 2014 to 31 June 2015. The reason for this drop is not known but further analysis will be carried out and reported back to this committee.

10. He continued by saying that the 'Welcome Pack' initiative had not produced the high volume of membership applications expected. Even though some 700 officers and soldiers had left the Corps in 2015 not one Engineer unit had requested any 'Welcome Packs' during that year. The Chairman thought that a more direct approach to the serving Corps through the chain of command was needed and said he would discuss the matter with Comd 8 Brigade.

Action: Chairman

11. The Recruiting Committee report was accepted.

After note. HQ REA reports that the numbers declared in Paragraph 1 of the report were incorrect. The number of new Life Members recruited throughout the Groups was 468, a decrease of 138 members (not 190) compared to the previous twelve month period. Further analysis of the figures shows that there was a higher than usual number of membership applications 'pending' for the year July 2015 to June 2016; there were 179 membership applications pending for the want of an ID photograph or for payment of membership fees. There were 36 pending applications for the July 2014 to June 2015 period. If these facts are taken into consideration, the number of members recruited throughout the Groups for the year July 2015 to June 2016 compares favourably with those for July 2014 to June 2015 period.

ITEM 6 – TO COMMENT ON THE 2017 BUDGET

12. The Chairman introduced the most up-to-date budget sheet. He advised members that this was their chance to influence changes to the budget through Council. The Corps Treasurer, Maj Ian Sidebottom, took the opportunity to run through the budget and explain each line serial.

13. There were no other comments on the 2017 budget.

ITEM 7 – BRANCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY – DEBRIEF POINTS

14. The Chairman said that all Branch accounts for FY2015 were available on time for the external annual audit and that HQ REA was very pleased with the success of the Branch submissions. He asked that Group representatives take this message back to Branches and congratulate them for their efforts. Branches should again be aiming for a 100% success rate for the next round of Branch Financial Summaries.

15. The Chairman said that there was an issue with one Branch and asked the A/Controller to comment on it. The A/Controller said the auditors had identified an accounting issue with a Branch selected for a desk top audit. The amounts declared on the Financial Summary submitted by the Branch were different to those shown in the Branch accounts presented for audit. When the Branch was questioned about the anomaly HQ REA was informed that the Treasurer had been advised to understate the amount of money held by the Branch as, if they had too much, HQ REA would take it from them. It was not stated from where this belief came, but the A/Controller wanted to make it quite clear that that HQ REA had no designs on Branch funds and that knowingly mis-reporting accounts is fraud. Only if a Branch closed with funds remaining in their account would the funds be returned to HQ REA (Association Rule 17.06). As a result, the Branch in question will be selected as one of auditor's desk top audits for FY2016.

16. The Controller asked that Group representatives take the message back to Branches that HQ REA does not want declared Branch funds, no matter how much; the submission of Branch Annual Financial Summaries is simply a Charity Commission accounting requirement to determine the worth of the charity as a whole. He reiterated that the desktop audit remains a valuable process that Branches should embrace and learn from.

ITEM 8. TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE AGENDA FOR THE 2016 AGM

17. The Committee considered the draft 2016 AGM Agenda and recommended the Agenda to Council.

ITEM 9. CAPTAIN OF STANDARDS

18. The Chairman said that in accordance with Association Rule 20.09, the current National Standard Bearer is eligible to be appointed 'Captain of Standards' by the Management Committee for a period of up to 3 years. The proposed new Captain of Standards is Mr John Ettles from the Highlands & Islands Branch, he will replace the current Captain of Standards, Mr Brian Simm. He asked the Committee to approve the appointment of Mr John Ettles as Captain of Standards for a period of three years; this was duly done.

19. The Chairman and the Committee extended a vote of thanks to both Mr John Ettles and Mr Brian Simm in recognition of their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work during the time they held their various appointments.

ITEM 10. HQ REA STAFFING

20. The Chairman asked the A/Controller to lead on this Item. The A/Controller said that to date the civil service had been unable to provide a suitably qualified person to take on the vacant Controller appointment and, due to this under-manning, HQ REA was unable to meet all of its strategic obligations. He said that at the last meeting of Council the Ch Royal asked that a review of the roles of both the Controller and the Deputy Controller be carried out, and the manner in which both posts are funded be reviewed. This was to be the first piece of work in the transition of the Controller post from a civil service responsibility to one funded by the charity. The A/Controller echoed the Ch Royal's comments and said that we are not short of money and if we do need to pay for additional civilian staff, we can, and this is the direction we intend taking. The roles and responsibilities of both appointments have been reviewed and realigned; these will form part of the review that will be presented to Council in September. Once Council has agreed to the proposals the current Deputy Controller will take on the role of Controller and a new Deputy Controller will be recruited. There will need to be amendments to Association Rules and the Management Committee will be consulted during that phase.

ITEM 11. BRANCH MATTERS

21. Branch Closure – Barnsley Branch. The A/Controller advised members that in late January 2016, HQ REA was advised that the Barnsley Branch had taken the difficult decision to close. A declining, ageing membership was cited as the reason. The Branch has not yet complied fully with Association Rules with regard to its accounts and the North East Group representative, Mr Bill Halloran, is requested to take follow up action.

Action: Mr Bill Halloran

22. Branch Formation – Warrington Branch. Mr Alan Bulmer, North West Group, submitted a proposal for the formation of a new Branch called the Warrington Branch. In accordance with Association Rule 17.03 a list of twenty REA Life or Full Members has been submitted to HQ REA by the proposed Branch. The Chairman said HQ REA is content to accept the new Branch and allocate it to the North West Group. The Committee welcomed the proposal

Proposed: Alan Bulmer – North West Group

Seconded: Maj R C A Macgregor – Scotland & NI Group

Carried

23. Solent & District Branch and Gosport Branch. Mr Mike Payne, Central Southern Group, asked for the opportunity to brief the Committee on the status of the Solent & District Branch and Gosport Branch. He said that the Gosport Branch had decided to merge with the Solent & District Branch and the merger had been completed. The A/Controller said that he was pleased the process has gone smoothly but that there were some outstanding issues to be resolved. Whilst he understood that the Branch Standard had been donated to a local museum, he had still not received a letter from the Group writing-off the Standard; in this respect the Branch was still responsible for a valuable asset. He continued by saying that the final Branch accounts on closure had not yet been received. Mike Payne said he would follow up these outstanding issues.

Action: Mr Mike Payne

24. Mike Payne raised some other issues from the Minley Branch but the A/Controller said he had already provided a response to the Branch and that he was waiting for a response from them.

ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

25. Mr Keith Gover, South West Group, said Bath Abbey had been seeking funds in order to restore a Crimea War monument; the monument held the names of fallen Royal Engineers. He said he had been involved with seeking out funds for the last 14 months and there was still a shortfall. The Chairman commended Keith on the work he had done so far but advised that the objects of the REA do not allow its funds to be spent in this way. He suggested that an approach to the Corps Regimental Affairs Committee might prove beneficial and asked the A/Controller to put Keith Gover in touch with a POC on this Committee.

Action: A/Controller

26. Mr Roger Price, North Midlands Group, asked if there was any progress on the maintenance of the Corps Memorial. The Chairman said that the matter was in the hands of the Corps Regimental Affairs Committee and they would report as necessary in the future.

27. Mr Kevin Street, South Midlands Group, said that the REA proposal to provide grants from a £1M welfare fund had been mentioned a couple of times during meeting and asked if there was any news on how the process of awarding that money would be run. The A/Controller said that a draft procedural document had been sent to REA Finance Committee members for comment. Once the Committee had approved the document (late August), the Corps and the REA would be advised of the REA Welfare Fund and be provided with the procedural document and application Form. The funds will be available during the 2017 FY.

28. The Chairman said it was the last meeting for Mr Roger Price. Roger had served on the Committee for three years and the Chairman said he was very grateful for the work he had done and had contributed towards. He wished him well for the future.

ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

29. No date for the next meeting was agreed. The January meeting date will be confirmed at a later date. Members should pencil in the 24th, 25th and 26th January 2017 as possible dates. The meeting will be held at MOD Main Building, London.

29 July 2016

Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Dated

Chairman

Distribution:

Management Committee Members
Council Members
Group Directors
Deputy Group Directors
Group Secretaries
Branch Secretaries
Controller REA
Corps Treasurer

Benevolence Report to 125th Meeting of the Management Committee 19 July 2016

1. **Trends 2016.** For the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2016 the number of benevolence cases submitted to the Association by SSAFA, The Royal British Legion and other organisations was 270, this is 25 cases fewer than the same period in 2015 (295 cases). Of these 270 cases, 198 were submitted by SSAFA and 60 by TRBL; these figures are almost identical to the same period in 2015.

2. **Benevolence Cases Considered 2016 – 2012**

Category	First 6 months 2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Disabled & Illness	78	175	202	185	192
Aged	24	71	63	52	118
Widows	26	86	78	110	138
Unemployed	57	118	137	152	210
Miscellaneous	63	149	171	187	285
Grants not made	22	51	68	51	23
Totals	270	650	719	737	966

3. **Cost of Benevolence Jan to Jun 2016.** The amount spent on benevolence for the period 1 Jan – 30 June 2016 was £128,500. This is 10% more than was spent in the same period in 2015 when £117,216 was expended and indicates a downtrend in the number of cases the Association dealt with but an increase in the amount of money dispersed to clients.

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 REA 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. We would hope that all REA Trustees would attend at least one meeting.

5. **Special Christmas Grants (SCG).** At the last meeting of Council, the trustees agreed to an increase of the SCG by 25% so the highest level grant increases from £60 to £75¹. This increase to be applied in time for the distribution of 2016 Christmas grants.

¹ There are 5 categories of SCG of £60, £36, £30, £24 and £18. A 25% increase (rounded up) will result in grants of £75, £45, £38, £30 and £23. Total additional cost to the budget will be £2,904 per annum.

CORPS UPDATE JULY 2016

8 Engineer Brigade

12 (Force Support) Engineer Group

1. HQ 12 (FS) Engr Gp continue to force generate for upcoming operational deployments as well as provide manpower to overseas exercises.
2. 21 Engr Regt are in the process of recovering from Project ANEMOI (construction task in the Falkland Islands), planning and delivery of the Armed Forces Day North East and preparing the Regt as it takes up its role in the new European Battle Group. The Regt is also providing manpower to exercises in Kenya and the UK.
3. 32 Engr Regt's efforts have been on deploying troops (31 Fd Sqn) on Project ANEMOI and supporting UK operations. 26 Fd Sqn deployed on exercise in Poland and are currently deployed on exercise on Salisbury Plain. Finally, the Regt is preparing for its Sapper 300 event at the end of July.
4. 36 Engr Regt still have large elements of the Regt deployed on operations in Cyprus and Nepal as well as providing manpower for UK operations. Planning is taking place for a sub-unit to deploy to Kenya in support of a Battle Group exercise.
5. 39 Engr Regt continue to be busy supporting the RAF on exercises and operations in the UK and overseas as well as providing manpower for Project ANEMOI and UK operations. 34 Fd Sqn has completed Pre Deployment Training (PDT) for an upcoming operation and 53 Fd Sqn are still deployed on a construction tour in Kenya. Additionally, the Regt ran a 50/50 challenge that saw sections carry 50lbs in weight over a 50Km distance over two days.
6. 71 Engr Regt's main effort has been preparing to mobilise 30 soldiers for an upcoming operational tour. 16 soldiers are currently supporting 36 Engr Regt on operations in Cyprus. 102 Fd Sqn has exercised its Freedom of Paisley.
7. 75 Engr Regt continue at pace conducting numerous Sqn and Regt'l weekends along with the continued training of Amphibious Engineers across in Minden, Germany for both Regular and Reserve soldiers. The Regt still has soldiers supporting 36 Engr Regt on operations in Cyprus and 42 soldiers deployed to Poland which saw the collaboration of German and UK M3 Rigs construct the largest amphibious bridge of the 21st Century. The Regt retained the Reserve Cup at the Sapper Games 2016.
8. R Mon RE (M) deployed on its annual camp to Weymouth and Gibraltar Barracks as well as providing manpower to the Armed Forces Day. This included a marching contingent in Oldbury and a recruiting stand in Birmingham City Centre. Jersey Fd Sqn provided an Honour Guard in St. Helier for The Queen's Birthday Celebrations.

25 (Close Support) Engineer Group

9. HQ 25 (CS) Engr Gp has overseen the organisation of the Sapper Games 2016. Planning continues for various exercises around the globe.
10. 22 Engr Regt have hosted the Swinton Barracks Sapper 300 Open Day as well as delivered the Sapper Games 2016. 3 AES are committed to the Lead Armoured Task Force and focussing on low level skills as they return to the armoured role. 5 AES remain deployed on operations with 52 AES and 6 HQ & Sp Sqn completing PDT for upcoming operational deployments.
11. 26 Engr Regt continue to be busy supplying manpower for the BATUS (Canada) season and various UK high readiness operations. 8 AES are planning for a construction tour overseas and 38 HQ & Sp Sqn is currently completing the construction of a road cycle way in the local area.

12. 35 Engr Regt's RHQ are currently deployed in Canada as part of the BATUS season. 29 AES completed Exercise PRAIRIE STORM 1 with 37 AES deployed on EX PRAIRIE STORM 2. 77 AES are conducting various troop and squadron exercises as they prepare to deploy to Canada in the coming weeks.

29 (EOD & Search) Group

13. HQ 29 EOD and Search Gp currently have vast numbers deployed supporting the various operations and exercises being conducted in the UK and around the world.

14. 1 MWD Regt have handlers and dogs deployed on operations in the Middle East as well as providing Short Term Training Teams (STTT) to a variety of overseas locations. The Regt continues to support the two Very High Readiness (VHR) Brigades (Airborne and Cdo) and also supplied handlers for an exercise in America.

15. 11 EOD Regt RLC continues to maintain its support to UK operations and other task-lines, and providing Ammunition Technical support in the UK and overseas. EOD teams are in preparation for deployment to Nigeria, BATUS and the Falkland Islands as well as various potential short-notice tasks around the world.

16. 33 Engr Regt (EOD) troops remain deployed in the Middle East as well as operators in Kenya conducting a large range clearance task. 821 Sqn continue to train for VHR contingency operations.

17. 101 Engr Regt (EOD) is supporting the Middle East and continue to have soldiers held at readiness. The Regt organised the Sapper 300 RE versus RA 'Battle of Stamford Bridge' boxing evening. So far, the Regt's highlight has been the highly successful and hugely enjoyable Section Competition on Longmoor Training Area.

170 (Infrastructure Support) Engineer Group

18. 20 Wks Gp has had team deployed in Africa, Estonia and Cyprus.

19. 62 Wks Gp has delivered infra support across the broader Middle East area of operations as well as preparing for an upcoming operational deployment.

20. 63 Wks Gp is delivering project management for Project ANEMOI, which is the rebuilding of the three radar head site on the Falkland Islands. Teams have deployed to Kenya to conduct reassurance visits in the construction task 8 Brigade soldiers are currently conducting.

21. 64 Wks Gp has recovered from their exercise in Belize and are now focussing in compiling the reports from that deployment. The team have conducted a spell of Adventure Training and are preparing to undertake the lead role in the VHR Brigades. 65 Wks Gp successfully completed an exercise in Cyprus for over 120 Reserve soldiers.

22. 66 Wks Gp have elements of the team deployed in the Middle East and have been providing assistance in the planning of an upcoming operational deployment. The team has elements on standby for UK and overseas operations as well as significant upcoming deployments to Kenya, Cyprus and Belize.

Royal School of Military Engineering

23. 1 RSME Regt have had a busy few months. The Regt retained the Sapper Games trophy for a second year, deployed 60 soldiers and officers on a Battlefield Study to Monte Cassino, conducted a station beating retreat and executed a very wet Armed Forces Day. The Corps Memorial and Veterans Weekend is dominating planning as is a potential VVIP visit in October.

24. Last Training Year 3 RSME Regt received 918 B3 Sappers for their initial Combat Engineer Training with 824 successfully passing out and moving onto Ph2b. Furthermore 1454 students completed Ph3 training and Command and Leadership courses. Of note, during spring 2016 the Regt has consolidated the Corps PNCO CLM delivery which now ensures all potential JNCOs in the

Corps are trained at Minley providing parity and opportunity for all. From Jul 16, 3 RSME have been piloting an initiative of training transformation called Project COMBAT SAPPER which has witnessed the complete redesign of the Ph2 B3 Course. The new course reflects the enhancements in technology and takes into account what modern students expect from a learning experience. In addition, there has been a vast improvement to the Trg Estate to include new mobility lanes linking the Top Training and Bottom Training Grounds (Hawley).

Specialist Units

25. 24 Cdo Engr Regt continues to support 3 Cdo Bde RM by holding a large number of officers and soldiers at readiness. The Regiment has been operationally committed almost continually since Jun 15. A 6 month task in the Caribbean saw sappers deploy ashore to Dominica and Bahamas after separate hurricanes struck both islands. The soldiers also supported the US Coast Guard in Counter Narcotics operations and conducted defence engagement tasks. Finally, 59 Cdo Sqn are in the later stages of preparations prior to deploying to America to conduct a large scale live fire exercise.

26. 23 Para Engr Regt continue to be extremely busy. 9 Para Sqn has returned from an operational tour in the Sinai Peninsula and are taking some well-earned leave. The remainder of the Regt continues to train as part of the VHR Brigades on various UK based exercises. Planning for the Sapper 300 Open Day in Woodbridge is going well.

27. 42 Engr Regt (Geo) has deployed in excess of 150 soldiers and officers on UK and overseas exercises (29 in total since April 16) and operations. The countries visited include: Estonia, Cyprus, Kenya, Canada and Korea. The Regt finished a respectable 11th at the Sapper Games 2016 and has deployed over 30 soldiers on a Regimental Mountaineering expedition to the Dolomites.

Future Activities & Events

28. The following notable activities are planned for the future:

- a. 18 Sep 16 – Corps Memorial Service, Rochester Castle.
- b. Oct 16 – VVIP visit, Chatham, TBC.

29. **Sapper 300 Unit Open Days.** A number of Royal Engineer units will host a number of Sapper 300 open days. These dates are as follows:

- a. 23 – 25 Jul 16 – 101/ 33 EOD Regt open day, Wimbish.
- b. 23 Jul 16 – 32 Engr Regt open day, Catterick.
- c. 30 Jul 16 – 35 Engr Regt open day, Paderborn, Germany.
- d. 30 – 31 Jul 16 – 23 Para Engr Regt open day, Woodbridge.
- e. 30 – 31 Jul 16 – 3 RSME Regt open day, Minley.
- f. 25 Aug 16 – 42 Engr Regt open day, Wyton.
- g. 15 Sep 16 – 12 Engr Gp open day, Wittering.

General Points

30. **Royal Engineers Website.** To find out more about what the Corps is up to and view electronic copies of things like Sapper Magazine visit the RE pages inside the Army website using the link at the bottom of the page.

Sports & AT

31. **Corps Sporting Fixtures.** A short list of Corps sporting fixtures, should personnel wish to drop into events to provide support, is below:

a. **Cricket:**

- (1) 20 Jul 16 – RE v RMAS, Sandhurst.
- (2) 5 Sep 16 – T20 (Round Robin), 1 RSME Regt.
- (3) 6-8 Sep 16 – Inter Corps T20, Aldershot.
- (4) 14 Sep 16 – Sapper Cup Final, 1 RSME Regt.

b. **Rugby League:**

- (1) 13 Jul 16 – RE v Infantry, 21 Engr Regt, Ripon. RE won 44 – 22.
- (2) 19 Jul 16 – RE v AAC, Middle Wallop.
- (3) 28 Jul 16 – RE v RLC, League Cup Semi-Final, 21 Engr Regt, Ripon.
- (4) 2 Sep 16 – Final of the Rugby League Cup, Bradford.

32. **Corps Sports Results:** A short list of Corps sporting results are as follows:

a. **Rugby League.** The Corps Rugby League side have so far beaten the AGC and Artillery this season as well as winning 3 out of 4 civilian fixtures.

b. **Boxing.** The Corps was crowned as the Inter Corps Boxing Champions 2016. The Corps had 4 boxers make the finals night along with the Royal Artillery. After a hotly contested evening, the Corps won 3 of its bouts with the Royal Artillery winning two meaning the Corps was crowned the Inter Corps Champions 2016 by one point.

(1) **Battle of Stamford Bridge.** The Sapper 300 boxing event against the Royal Artillery was held at Chelsea Football Club. The Sappers lost a superb evening of boxing against the Royal Artillery 4-3. At the end of the night the score was 4-4 but due to the Royal Artillery fielding a REME fighter, that bout was not counted.

c. **Football.** 71 Engr Regt have retained the Army Reserve Challenge Cup for a third consecutive year beating 152 RLC 4 – 1 in the final. 71 Engr Regt will now play 7 Regt RLC in the Super Cup Final sometime in Sep/ Oct 16.

d. **Cricket.** The RECC has made great strides this year and after beating the Royal Artillery in the 50 over game played at the Kia Oval, they beat the Gunners in the three day game played at 1 RSME Regt. In a game that was hampered by bad weather, the Sappers eventually won a low scoring match by 89 runs.

33. **Useful Links:**

- a. Army Website (Royal Engineers): <http://www.army.mod.uk/royalengineers/26293.aspx#>
- b. REA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Royal-Engineers-Association>
- c. RE Museum: <http://www.re-museum.co.uk/>
- d. Institution of Royal Engineers: <http://www.instre.org/>
- e. Sapper Shop: www.sappershop.com

**RECRUITING COMMITTEE REPORT
FOR THE MEETING OF
THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
JULY 2016**

1. During the period of this report the number of new Life Members recruited throughout all of the REA Groups was 451, a decrease of 190 members compared to the previous twelve month period.
2. All Phase 2 recruits have continued to receive REA Awareness Training and receive the 'REA Welcome Pack'.
3. Awareness presentations continue to be given to all RSME Command Courses. This is normally delivered by the Corps Colonel as part of his wider brief to the courses. In addition to this, the REA Controller delivers REA Awareness presentations to the RE RSM's Course held annually.
4. In order to facilitate reaching out to and engaging with the serving Corps, the Committee agreed that its work would benefit greatly if its membership included the Corps Colonel and the Corps RSM. The Corps Colonel attended his first meeting in March 2016 and provided some valuable guidance.
5. Two REA dome tents have been procured along with advertising banners. The tents are available to all Groups and Branches to support local activities where promoting REA awareness and recruiting new members was possible. To date nine Groups and Branches have made use of this excellent advertising medium.
6. The 'Welcome Pack' initiative has not produced the high volume of membership applications expected but the initiative can only ever be as good as the RCMO's passing on the information and the recipients taking the required action. It was apparent from the number of 'Welcome Packs' provided by HQ REA to RCMOs that the initiative seemed to be failing. The last 'packs' sent out went to 36 Engr Regt; they have had 60 this year. In spite of around 700 officers and soldiers leaving the Corps in 2015, not one Engineer Unit requested any 'Welcome Packs' during that year.