

# The Royal Engineers Association

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**Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**

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REA/A/1/3

28 December 2017

Chairman REA  
Controller REA  
All Group Directors  
All Deputy Group Directors  
All Group Secretaries

## **MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE RECRUITING COMMITTEE HELD AT THE UNION JACK CLUB, LONDON, ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2017**

### Present

Lt Col (Retd) N A Jordan	Controller REA - Chairman
Lt Col (Retd) F Hollman OBE	South Midlands Group
Maj (Retd) A Scholey	North Midlands Group
Lt Col (Retd) J Rawlings	East Anglia Group
Maj (Retd) R C A Macgregor MBE TD VR	Scotland & NI Group
Mr G Scarborough	South East Group
Mr M Payne BEM	Central Southern Group
Mr G Jones	Assistant Controller/Secretary

### Serving Corps Observers

WO2 D Cross RQMS	26 Engineer Regiment
Cpl J McCambridge	26 Engineer Regiment

### Apologies

Mr E Briggs	London Group
Mr J E Prosser BEM	North East Group
Mr A Buxton BEM	South Wales Group

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present. He thanked those attending for giving up their time so freely and recognised that the long distances travelled by some members were often fraught with difficulties. He extended a special welcome to WO 2 D Cross and Cpl J McCambridge who were observers from 26 Engineers Regiment.

## **ITEM 1 – TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 28th MEETING**

2. The Chairman said he had not received any observations on the accuracy of the Minutes and asked the Committee if they agreed that the Minutes of the 28th meeting were a true record of the proceedings; the Committee agreed. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

## **ITEM 2 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 28th MEETING**

3. Paragraph 7. Welcome Pack POC within Units. WO1 (RSM) Carney suggested that the POC within units for the REA Welcome Packs should be the RSM who would then delegate down to the sub unit SSMs. As the REA is not in the COC the matter was discussed with the Chairman REA and Commander 8 Engr Bde who agreed that the POC should be the RSMs and said he would ensure this responsibility was promulgated to Engr units; this action was supported by the CSM. Committee members requested that an example Welcome Pack be sent to them in order to keep them up to date with its contents.

### **Action: Controller**

4. Paragraph 8. Serving Corps Observers. The Chairman agreed that serving soldiers should continue to be invited to attend REA Recruiting Committee meetings. This would ensure that Committee members were aware of the views and needs of this cohort. The CSM had agreed to ensure that units would provide such observers.

5. Paragraph 13. Spider Dome Tents. As agreed, the three Dome Tents and associated accessories had been packaged and distributed to units within the UK. This will ensure that REA Branches care able to access the assets more easily. A tent package is now available at 22 Engineer Regiment (Tidworth), 71 Engineer Regiment (Leuchars) and 66 Works Group (Chilwell).

6. Paragraph 14. REA Flimsy Advertising Stickers. The Chairman stated that he had not had sufficient opportunity to action this matter. The Chairman did pass around some designs of advertising stickers for the Committee and observers to comment on. The observers did not see any value in producing such stickers and suggested that serving members were unlikely to make use of them on mobile phone cases, mugs or the like. In view of this, the Committee agreed to drop the idea of procuring flimsy advertising stickers.

## **ITEM 3 – BUDGET REPORT**

7. The Chairman apologised for the non-availability of an up to date Budget Report at the meeting but advised that a report would be provided as part of the Minutes. He estimated that there was in the region of £3.5K remaining in the budget. The Budget Report is at Annex A.

## **ITEM 4 – CONTACT WITH THE SERVING SOLDIER**

8. The Chairman advised that the REA website was being upgraded and would then be mobile and tablet friendly. Amongst other much needed improvements, the process of joining the REA would be much simplified and able to be completed online.

9. The Chairman said that in conjunction with the re-focusing of the Welcome Pack distribution to unit RSMs and the utility that would be provided by the new REA website, he believed that the Association would be better placed to reach out to the serving Corps. He continued by saying that he would ask the CSM to write to all of the Corps RSMs asking them to support the Welcome Pack initiative. The effectiveness of this new push would be measured by the number of Welcome Packs distributed by HQ REA.

### **Action: Controller**

## **ITEM 5 – RECRUITING INITIATIVES**

10. There was some discussion on the provision of merchandise to the serving Corps. The idea of providing memory sticks was again raised but the observers pointed out that these would be of little utility as the secure military computers did not provide the connectivity required. The widespread use of mobile phones and tablets often meant that the transfer of data by memory stick was generally

redundant. The Committee decided that consideration of merchandising to support REA recruiting should no longer be pursued.

11. In view of the decision to move away from the provision of flimsy advertising stickers the Committee discussed ways in which *Branches* might be supported with advertising material. The Committee thought the provision of two roller banners to be held at each Group HQ for Branch use was the best way forward. These could be loaned to Branches to support any recruiting event they might attend; there was considerable support for the idea and a proposal was put forward.

**Proposal:** That 22 roller banner posters be procured and distributed equally to each UK REA Group HQ.

**Proposer:** Mr M Payne - Central Southern Gp

**Seconded:** Mr Glenn Scarborough - South East Gp

**Carried**

**Action: Controller**

12. Members said the provision of posters extolling the benefits of REA membership should be considered. These should contain a suitable REA graphic, be of at least A3 size and sent to all RE units for display in the all ranks dining area. The Controller agreed to look into the design of such a poster but asked that members contribute to the design by providing forms of words that '*extolled the benefits of the REA*'.

**Action: All Committee Members**

13. The Chairman gave a Sitrep on the status of the REA Welfare Fund. He said the initiative was due to end in December 2017 and that he expected there to be a last minute rush to take advantage of the offer.

#### **ITEM 6 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

14. There was no AOB that contributed to the aims of the REA Recruiting Committee.

#### **ITEM 7 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15. The date of the next meeting will be 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The meeting will be held in the Lawrence Room, Union Jack Club, London commencing at 1230 hrs. Coffee and tea will be available from 1200 hrs.

*Original Signed*

28 December 2017

Secretary/Chairman

Minutes Approved

Dated

Chairman

Annexes:

A. Budget Report

## Recruiting Budget 25 October 2017

### Income

Item	Amount	Remarks
Recruiting Budget for 2017	£7000.00	
Total Income	£7000.00	A

### Expenditure

Item	Amount	Remarks
Travel Expenses	£1278.28	
Meeting Room	£270.00	
Accessory Boxes	£430.73	
Roller Banners	£465.00	
Feather Flags	£604.80	
Sack Trucks	£144.42	
Ground Stakes et al	£67.20	
Total Expenditure	£3260.43	B

Balance Remaining at 25 Oct 2017(A-B)	- £3739.57
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