

The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992 and a charity registered in Scotland)

Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



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All Board Members
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All Branch Secretaries
Chief Executive REA
Corps Treasurer

11 October 2022

THE MINUTES OF 54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE VICTORY SERVICES CLUB AND ONLINE SATURDAY 08 OCTOBER 2021

Item 1 OPENING REMARKS

1.1 The Annual General Meeting was opened at 16:00hrs by the Chair of the Association Brig (retd) Andrew Craige OBE, who welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending; he made special mention of those who had travelled long distances. He noted that there were 49 attendees at the AGM: including 7 Trustees, 4 in person and 3 online. 7 Branch delegates online, 2 Group directors in person, 6 Deputy Group Directors in person and 2 Group Secretaries in person. The Chairman thanked all attendees who had managed to get to the meeting despite a national rail strike, and climate protesters gluing themselves to the roads at Hyde Park.

1.2 Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Maj Gen (retd) Alastair Dickinson CBE
- Mark Ruddy
- Larry Inge
- Colin Basnett
- Claire James

1.3 The Chairman drew the meetings attention to the Annual Report and thanked the REA HQ team for their work in producing a document of such a high standard.

The CEO explained that the Annual report was available online and that all RE Units and Branches would receive hard copies by mail in the coming week.

1.4 In order to ensure correctness of the records, the Chair asked that all microphones were turned other than that of the speaker to ensure that all attendees could hear and prevent interference.

1.5 The Chair outlined the boards aims for the Association to become an Association of Aspiration seeking to expand beyond our primary functions of providing benevolence and camaraderie. In addition to this primary function, we will enable young soldiers to access sport, adventure training, and other opportunities, this will help us down range to deliver help as we involve more members of the Sapper Family.

Item 2 - To confirm the Minutes of the 53rd AGM held online on Friday 08th October 2021

2.1 The Chair emphasised that this Item was dealing only with the accuracy of the Minutes. The document had widely circulated, and HQ REA had not received any comments or proposed amendments. As we were online, we will not do votes however if an individual has a point, they may identify themselves and raise the point. There were no comments from the floor.

Proposal: That the Minutes of the 53rd AGM be accepted

Proposer: Mike Payne, Deputy Group Director

Secunder: Mal Forder, Deputy Group Director

Carried

Item 3 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting.

3.1 No Matters arising

Item 4 – To Receive the 2021 Annual Report

4.1 The Chair invited the CEO Ken Kirk to present the financial report which can be found at annex A and Annex A appendix 1

The CEO explained that our finances were in a sound condition and that our income streams remained secure with contribution from investment, days pay scheme and legacy continuing to provide funds that enabled us to support the Sapper family in many ways from benevolence, welfare support, sport, adventure training, facilities, and elite sports.

The Chair invited questions on the accounts, there were no questions from the floor.

ITEM 5 – To note the appointment of Kreston Reeves LLP (Formerly Reeves LLP) as the Auditors of the Association

5.1 The Chair advised those assembled that the responsibility for appointing auditors to the Corps charities rests with the Chief Royal's Committee. At the last Chief Royal's Committee meeting, Kreston Reeves LLP were approved as auditors of the Corps' charities and the REA Board of Trustees.

Item 6 - Appointment of Honorary Treasurer 2021/22

6.1 The Chair asked the delegates to support the appointment of Col (retd) Mark Ruddy as Honorary treasurer. This was agreed.

Proposal: That Col (retd) Mark Ruddy is appointed as REA Honorary Treasurer for 2023

Proposer: Eric Hargreaves, Trustee

Seconder: John Ettles, delegate Highland Branch

Carried

Item 7.0 The Chair invited Operations Manager Iain George to present the Benevolence Report.

Iain George delivered a presentation on benevolence in 2021 see Annex B

Item 8.0 Assistance Dog Brief

The Chair invited Neil Marshall and his assistance dog Arbhair to provide the meeting with an insight to the use and provision of assistance dogs in the treatment and support of those suffering with PTSD. Neil explained how he had become involved in securing the recognition of assistance dogs, the process of training and registration for dogs and some of the barriers he had to overcome.

The Chair thanked Neil for his excellent presentation and for the excellent behaviour of Arbhair.

Item 9 Corps Update

Corps SM Marc Elliott gave a detailed update on the current deployments and activities of the Corps

The Chair thanked the Corps SM for his excellent and comprehensive report on the Corps

Item 10 – Date of next meeting 07 Oct 2023 AGM and annual dinner at the VSC

Item 11 Closing remarks from Andy Craig, Chair REA

11.1. The Chair thanked the delegates for attending the meeting despite the obstacles that the rail strike had placed in their way and the work of all the branches over the past year. He thanked the staff at REA HQ for preparing and organising the meeting and the VSC for their support in facilitating the meeting.

Annex A

Honorary Treasurers Report to the AGM

Annex A appendix 1

REA presentation AGM presentation 2022

Annex B

Benevolence Presentation to the AGM

19th October 2021

Chief Executive REA
Mr Kenneth Kirk

Minutes Approved

Dated 08 October 2022

Brig (retd) Andrew Craig OBE
Chairperson
REA