

# THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Brompton Barracks CHATHAM, Kent ME4 4UG

President: Major General A S Dickinson CBE

Chairman: Brigadier (Retd) Matt Bazeley OBE

CEO: Mr K Kirk

Operations Manager: Major I L George  
See Distribution

Medway (01634) 847005  
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## HQ CIRCULAR NO 174

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### ITEM 1 – AWARD OF THE BADGE OF MERIT 2023

1. At their meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Management Committee of the REA took great pleasure in approving the award of the prestigious Badge of Merit to the following members:

| Ser | Nomination   | Branch               | Group             |
|-----|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1   | Mr K Smith   | Lowestoft & District | East Anglia Group |
| 2   | Mr R Andrews | Newton Abbot         | South West Group  |
| 3   | Mr J Hawley  | North Wales          | North West Group  |

2. Their commitment to the Association and their comrades was remarkable and worthy of recognition through the award. HQ REA sends its congratulations to all those awarded the Badge of Merit. Well done!

### ITEM 2 - AGM NOTIFICATION

3. The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Association is to be held in the Victory Services Club and on Zoom on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, commencing at 1600 hours.

4. The attention of Groups and Branches is drawn to Rules 11.01 to 11.40, which govern the procedures at the Annual General Meeting.

5. More information on this meeting will be promulgated nearer the time.

### ITEM 3 – REA ANNUAL DINNER



6. The 2023 Annual Dinner of the Association is to be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2 2HF on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, following the Annual General Meeting. Reception will be at 1800 hours for 1830 hours with the bar opening at 1730 hours. Branches and Members are encouraged to support this very enjoyable annual event.

7. Dress for gentlemen will be lounge suits or blazer with Corps tie; ladies should dress accordingly.

8. The ticket price will be £25. This represents good value for a 4 course meal with entertainment at a top quality venue in Central London.

9. As last year applications will be made available electronically on the REA website. Payment for the event will also be processed electronically through BAC's. Information and links will be in the next HQ Circular. Closing date for bookings will be **22 September 2023**.

### ITEM 4 – SAPPER SUNDAY, THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

10. Sapper Sunday will take place on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023** at The Royal Hospital Chelsea. This is the day after the REA AGM and Annual Dinner and a good turnout from REA members in London and from around the country is expected. Members are encouraged to attend this event, meet RE In-Pensioners and swap stories over a few drinks. Branches are requested to give this event the very widest publicity. A curry buffet for limited numbers will be available. It is not necessary to advise HQ REA of your attendance at this event.

### ITEM 5 - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

11. Remembrance Sunday will be on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. Branches and individuals requiring tickets for the Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London, are to apply, in writing or by email (**membershiptypistREA@rhqre.co.uk**), to HQ REA stating the number of tickets required. In order to cater for the enhanced security situation, it is expected that the same process will be adopted this year and applicants need to be aware that extra information will be requested by HQ REA.

12. Before requesting tickets, Branches and individuals are reminded that tickets issued by HQ REA are for those intending to march with the REA contingent. Those wishing to march with other groups are to bid for tickets from those groups. **Only RE ex-servicemen & women are permitted to march in the REA contingent.**

13. The Royal British Legion will only accept bids submitted through Regimental Association Headquarters and not direct to them by individuals. Bids are requested by **23<sup>th</sup> June 2023** to enable a consolidated bid to be submitted thereafter.

### ITEM 6 – NATIONAL STANDARD BEARERS COMPETITION



14. The National Standard Bearers' Competition is due to be held at Brompton Barracks, Chatham during the Veterans/Corps Memorial Weekend on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. When published, the exact timings will be in the Calling Notice on the REA website – [www.reahq.org.uk/events/](http://www.reahq.org.uk/events/)

15. All Groups are encouraged to enter the competition, particularly as entrants for the competition may claim travelling and reasonable overnight expenses.

16. Groups and Branches are reminded that:

- a. Competitors must be REA members and members of the REA Branch for which they carry the Standard.

- b. Participation is limited to winners of Group competitions or the person nominated by the Group Director where no competition takes place.
- c. Only one Standard Bearer from each Group can take part in the National Competition.
- d. The current National Standard Bearer does not gain automatic entry to the National Competition. The criteria at 15.b above apply.
- e. If Groups and Branches require assistance with any Standard Bearers' training then please contact the Captain of Standards Mr Rick Tootle.

## ITEM 7 – VETERANS' WEEKENDS

- 17. The Veterans' Weekend at Minley will take place between 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. More details to follow.
- 18. Chilwell will be (as in previous years), a Winter Dinner, date to be confirmed.
- 19. The Corps Memorial Weekend at Chatham is to be held over the weekend **15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. When published, the Calling Notice can be found on the REA website – [www.reahq.org.uk/events/](http://www.reahq.org.uk/events/)

## ITEM 8 - GROUP AND BRANCH OFFICIALS CONTACT LIST

- 20. Branch Secretaries are requested to complete the Branch Information Form **electronically** on the REA website **by 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. Branches failing to do this will not have their up-to-date details on the HQ REA database and the REA website. **Please do not send paper forms.**

**ITEM 8a - REA FORM 2 FOR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS** – with effect from returns required for financial year 2023, you will no longer be required to submit a nil return. Due to the small number of Branches with members who are still required to pay an annual subscription, forms will be sent out by email to the relevant branches only. The form will not be made available online and will eventually be phased out.

## ITEM 9 – DIARY OF EVENTS 2023

- 21. 2023 Diary. Events of interest for 2023 have been notified to HQ REA.

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 09 March          | Corps Boxing at Chatham  |
| 19 March          | South West Group Re-dedication of Standards at Truro Cathedral |
| 15 April          | Army v RAF Rugby Kingsholm Gloucester                          |
| 13 May            | Army v Navy Rugby Twickenham                                   |
| 08 June           | The Royal Hospital Chelsea Founders Day Parade                 |
| 3 - 6 July        | Sapper Games at 1 RSME Regt Chatham.                           |
| 22-23 July        | Minley Weekend*  |
| 3 September       | March Armed Forces Fair  |
| 15 - 17 September | Corps Memorial Weekend*  |
| 7 October         | REA AGM and Annual Dinner *                                    |
| 8 October         | Sapper Sunday at Royal Hospital Chelsea                        |
| 09 November       | Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey                        |
| 12 November       | Remembrance Sunday   |
| TBC               | Chilwell Winter Dinner   |

\*National Events



## ITEM 10 – FOUNDER'S DAY - ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

- 22. Founder's Day 2022 will be held on **Thursday 8th June 2023, attendance is by invitation only**. Individuals wishing to attend the event should apply for tickets in writing or email to HQ REA. Because of the strict security arrangement that must be in place for such a high profile event, bids are to include the full name, address and telephone

number of each person wishing to attend. Bids must reach this HQ by 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to [membershiptypistREA@rhgre.co.uk](mailto:membershiptypistREA@rhgre.co.uk)

In the event of the number of tickets available being fewer than that requested, HQ REA will distribute the tickets as fairly as possible. The Governor's Review, which is open to the public, will be held on Tuesday 6th June 2023. Tickets are not required to attend the Governor's Review.

#### **ITEM 11 – SAPPER MAGAZINE ARTICLES**

23. HQ REA is always ready to receive Branch articles for inclusion in The Sapper. **Articles should not exceed 350 words and must be interesting, informative and in date.** It is thoroughly recommended that articles be accompanied by photographs. Why not bring attention to your Branch by submitting an article?

24. REA Branch articles for The Sapper must be sent direct to the Operations Manager and not to the Sapper Editor. Articles must be in **Word Document form, attached to an email and not embedded into the email.** To ensure digital picture quality is maintained, digital photos should be sent as attachments to emails, and not embedded into Word documents. Photo attachments must be in **JPEG format ONLY.** **Branches must send articles in plenty of time for that edition of The Sapper magazine and not at the last minute. Otherwise the article will have to wait for the next edition. Articles must be sent to HQ REA and not direct to The Sapper Magazine.**

#### **ITEM 12 – NOTIFICATIONS OF DEATH**

25. Branches are reminded that if a Branch member passes away REA HQ must be informed at the earliest opportunity by using the Notification of Death online form on the REA website.

**HQ REA will not accept notifications of death via the telephone or via email.**

{Original Signed}

IL GEORGE  
Maj (Retd)  
Operations Manager

Distribution:

Board of Trustees  
Management Committee Members  
Group Directors  
Deputy Group Directors  
Group Secretaries  
Branch Secretaries