

**THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**  
**PATRON: The Late HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**  
**Brompton Barracks CHATHAM, Kent ME4 4UG**

**03 July 2023**

**HQ CIRCULAR NO 175 ver 1.1**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **SapperCom.** HQ REA has created an online platform called [Sappercom](https://sappercom.com/). Sappercom provides a secure, password protected online location where REA members can; discuss ideas, advertise events, resolve challenges and access exclusive. To access SapperCom individuals are to go to: <https://sappercom.com/>.
2. **Life and Travel Insurance Offer.** The REA and Trinity insurance group have teamed up resulting in exclusive insurance deals for REA members. To find out more go to: <https://sappercom.com/resources/trinity-insurance-rea-member-offers>
3. **REA Badge and Corps Badges.** There is no change to any of the insignia that the REA wear, parade or use on stationery. HQ REA does not mandate on what members wear. It is an individual's choice whether they choose to wear, parade or be emblazoned with the ER II cap badge or the CR III cap badge. Branch standards are not to be replaced until such time that they become unserviceable. The REA badge remains unchanged.

## **EVENTS**

4. **Minley Weekend 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.** Details of the Minley Weekend have been published and sent to branch Secretaries. A redacted version of the administrative instruction can be found [here](#).
5. **Corps Memorial Weekend 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** Details of the Corps Memorial Weekend have been published and sent to branch Secretaries. A redacted version of the administrative instruction can be found [here](#).
6. **National Standard Bearers Competition 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023.** The National Standard Bearers' Competition is to be held at Brompton Barracks, Chatham during the Corps Freedom of Medway Memorial Weekend at 1030hrs Saturday 16th September 2023.
7. **Annual General Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.** The Royal Engineer Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 1330hrs, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in the Trafalgar Room, Victory Services Club. On arrival attendees of the AGM will receive a pack which will contain recruitment material and information for their respective branch.<sup>1</sup> The AGM will not be broadcast / streamed live however it will be recorded and published on Sappercom after the event. The agenda will be published in advance online.
8. **Attendance.** Attendance to the AGM is open to all REA members and the serving Corps. However, only members of the Board of Trustees and those nominated as branch delegates are eligible to claim travel expenses.

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<sup>1</sup> The packs are a one-time only issue and are limited to one per branch for individuals who attend the AGM.

9. **Dress.** Dress for the event is informal and relaxed. The timing of the AGM is to allow individuals the opportunity to return to their accommodation and change into formal wear (dinner jacket or lounge suit) for the Sapper VC Dinner.

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

11. **Registration.** Trustees, Group Directors Deputy Directors and Branch delegates will be invited to attend via email. From the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023 any REA may attend by registering on the [REA website](#).

### **THE SAPPER VC DINNER & SAPPER SUNDAY, VICTORY SERVICES CLUB 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023.**

12. **Outline.** This year's annual Dinner will be a Black tie event<sup>2</sup> for REA members, their partners, friends and serving personnel. This year's event will consist of a three course meal (menu can be found on the last page of this document), live music, historical artefacts, roving photographer and entertainment throughout the evening. Unlike previous years only the National Standard will be paraded.<sup>3</sup> Blazers are not to be worn with the exception of the National Standard Bearer.

13. **Tickets.** The cost of a ticket will be £30.00 per person. When booking tickets individuals are to state their preferred seating arrangements as well as any special dietary requirements. Tickets will only be confirmed once payment is received. Tickets can be [booked online](#) from the 1st August 2023.

14. **Cancellation.** Cancellation of tickets is acceptable at any time, but a refund of the cost of the ticket will only be made to cancellations received by 12th September 2023. Thereafter there will be no refund.

## **SAPPER SUNDAY**

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<sup>2</sup>Lounge suits may be worn.

<sup>3</sup> Standard bearers parading their standard at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for Sapper Sunday may claim their journey into London on the Saturday and return journey on the Sunday. This is to encourage attendance to the Sapper VC Dinner and Sapper Sunday.

15. **Sapper Sunday, Royal Hospital Chelsea.** Sapper Sunday will take place at 1000am on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the [Royal Hospital, Chelsea](#). The event is for REA members and partners to visit the Royal Hospital and mix with the Chelsea Pensioners. The event involves a short inspection and parade, church service with the [Chelsea Choir](#), curry lunch and the opportunity to have a few refreshments with the pensioners. Attendance of Standards is encouraged as Sapper Sunday is classed as a National event.<sup>4</sup> The current timings for Sapper Sunday are as follows:

1000am - Parade and Inspection  
(Including REA members)

1100am - Church Service

1230pm - Curry Lunch

1330pm - Social

16. Dress for the event is smart i.e. lounge suits or Corps blazers (complete with medals and berets for those wishing to parade). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.<sup>5</sup> Tickets can be [booked online](#) from the 1st August 2023.

17. **Cenotaph Parade, Whitehall.** The REA was successful in increasing its ticket allocation for the 2023 parade by 40%. Unfortunately, despite this success a number of members being unsuccessful in obtaining a place with the REA contingent. Members' can still have an opportunity to march past the cenotaph by applying directly to the [Royal British Legion](#).

18. **Future Events.** Details of other events, including those published in the circular can be found at this [location](#).

## **BADGE OF MERIT NOMINATIONS**

19. From this year Badge of Merit nominations will be made online. The facility will open in the Members Area of the REA website on 1st July. <https://members.reahq.org.uk/Badge-Of-Merit-Nomination-Form>.

20. REA HQ/Group Directors and Group Secretaries will receive an email notification once the nomination has been made. The nomination window will close online on 1st November 2023 and will not re-open until 1st July 2024.

21. Individuals wishing to submit a nomination are required to register an account and log into the Members Area of the REA Website.

22. Please note the following:

- a. Only one nomination can be submitted per branch each year.
- b. Nominations are only accepted between 1st July – 1st November each year.

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<sup>4</sup> Standard bearers parading their standard at the Royal Hospital Chelsea for Sapper Sunday may claim their journey into London on the Saturday and return journey on the Sunday. This is to encourage attendance to the Sapper VC Dinner and Sapper Sunday.

<sup>5</sup> REA members who are currently serving may wear their uniform but they will not be permitted to parade with the REA contingent prior to the church service.

c. Please refer to the REA Rules and Regulations Rule 18 before submitting a nomination.

23. **Centralisation of Branch Funds.** With immediate effect, all REA Groups & Branches (less overseas Branches) will be able to have their accounts held and administered centrally, in REA HQ. This service will be provided free of charge and remove the financial reporting burdens currently borne by Group and Branch Honorary Treasurers. This will be delivered without taking any of the control or decision-making processes away from those who manage the Group or Branch; it is, after all, Branche's money. Further information can be found on the additional attachment on the Circular's originating email (Due to sensitive details the attachment will not be published on the website).

Nick Gunnell  
Operations Director  
Royal Engineers Association

# THE SAPPER VC DINNER MENU

Scottish Smoked Salmon, Hot Roast Salmon, Pickled Vegetables, Dill Scone

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Poached Chicken with Wild Mushroom, Spinach & Brie Farce, Mange Tout Nicoise,  
Chateau Potatoes, Chicken & Tarragon Sauce

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Lemon Tart, Hazelnut Meringue, Raspberries, Fresh Raspberries

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British Cheese Selection Colliers Cheddar, Cornish Brie, Stilton & British Guest  
Cheese, Real Ale Chutney, Quince, Grapes, Celery & Biscuits

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LBV Decanted Port

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Coffee and Mints