

# The Royal Engineers Association

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

**Patron: THE LATE HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**



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Reference: REA/A/1/2

See Distribution

2 Aug 2023

## **MINUTES OF THE 139<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE RE MUSEUM AND ON ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

### **PRESENT**

Mr Kenneth Kirk  
Mr N Gunnell  
Mr J Allerhead  
Mr A Brown  
Mr R Bardsley  
Mr D Bell  
Mr Joshua Brown  
Mr M Facchini  
Mr M Forder  
Col R Hawkins  
Mr P Luscombe  
WO1 (RSM) P McBride  
Mr D Ormsby  
Mr M Payne  
Mr I Sidebottom  
Mr P Taylor

CEO REA – Chairman  
Operations Director - Secretary  
South East Representative  
Deputy Group Director Southern Group  
Committee Member  
South Wales Representative  
Central Southern Group Representative  
Committee Member  
Eastern Group Representative  
Corps Colonel  
North Midlands Group  
3 RSME Regt  
East Anglia Group Representative  
Central Southern Group Representative  
Corps Treasurer  
National Branch Representative

### **Apologies**

Mr M Heffer  
WO1 S Eardley  
Rick Tootle  
Maj P Marsh

Trustee  
Corps RSM  
Scotland and NI Representative  
HQ RE Representative

1. The CEO opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
2. The CEO noted that apologies had been received from those listed above.

## ITEM 1 - TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 138<sup>th</sup> MEETING

3. The Committee accepted that the minutes of the 138<sup>th</sup> meeting were a true record of the proceedings. The CEO signed the minutes.

**Proposed:** Mr Ian Sidebottom

**Seconded:** Mr N Gunnell

## ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 138<sup>th</sup> MEETING

4. No matters arising from the last minutes.

## ITEM 3 - HQ REA DASHBOARD & OPENING REMARKS

5. The Chairman gave an overview of the REA HQ dashboard covering:

- a. Membership
- b. Benevolence
- c. Outreach
- d. Sapper Games
- e. SapperCom
- f. Social media
- g. Governance
- h. Fundraising
- i. New branches
- j. Fund manager role - Further details can be found [here](#).

6. **Fund Manager.** Mr M Payne questioned how branches would operate with the funds / accounts handled by HQ REA. Ian Sidebottom explained the process. The CEO highlighted the benefits of the system including;

- a. Branches no longer having to produce an annual summary
- b. Branches no longer needing to find a bank willing to host branch accounts.

7. **Charitable Status of Branches.** The branches maintain their charitable status.

## ITEM 4 - KITCHENER FUND

8. 11 families are currently being supported by the Kitchener Fund.

## ITEM 5 - GABRIEL FUND

9. Currently two individuals in receipt of funding from the Gabriel Fund in order for them to retrain as commercial airline pilots

## ITEM 6 - CORPS COLONEL UPDATE

10. The Corps Colonel gave the following update:

- a. Personnel levels in the Corps are healthy – challenge lays with retention of people.
- b. Corps has completed two stints on public duty 23 Para Engr Regt and 39 Engr Regt.
- c. Support to Ukraine – improving training areas and training Ukrainian military engineering.

- d. Evacuation of British nationals from Sudan.

## ITEM 7 – THE BADGE OF MERIT AWARDS 2023

11. Nominations for 2024 are now open. Questions and queries are to be directed to [businessmanager@REAHQ.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:businessmanager@REAHQ.onmicrosoft.com) and [membershiptypistREA@rhqre.co.uk](mailto:membershiptypistREA@rhqre.co.uk).

## ITEM 8 – FINANCIAL UPDATE – Mr Ian Sidebottom

12. Annual audit for 2022 has been completed and is available at <https://www.reahq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2022-Signed-Financial-Statements-REA.pdf> The Corps Treasurer briefed the members on the value of the REA and he explained the balance sheet and investment sheet. He discussed:

- a. Investments valued - £9,977,455
- b. Property - £500,000
- c. Cash at bank just over £1,000,000 (this is due to legacies).
- d. Restricted funds £1.9m (Kitchener, Ballard and Gabriel Funds).
- e. Unrestricted funds £9.9m.
- f. Overall value - £11,773,647

13. **Forecast.** With returned grants totalling £9,000 and the final RBLI centenary project funding paid (the total granted has been £880,000) the current surplus is £341,000. On current forecasts the end of year balance will be £190,000- £200,000.

14. **Summary.** Despite the challenging market conditions the fund should generate approx. £400,000 a year allowing the REA to continue to meet its charitable objectives.

## ITEM 9 – EVENT GRANTS

15. **Annual Events Grants.** Concern was raised over money allocated to the Minley Weekend. The RSM 3 RSME Regt explained that issues with accommodation have led to a low take up. The following funding was agreed for 2024:

- a. London Bridge Restoration, Normandy, April 2024- £2,000
- b. Gibraltar Weekend May 2024 – £15,000
- c. Monte Cassino Anniversary, May 2024 - £10,000
- d. Ripon Weekend, July 2024 - Approx. £8,000
- e. Sapper Games, July 2024 – Up to £25,000
- f. Corps Memorial Weekend – September £8,000
- g. AGM, Dinner, Sapper Sunday October 2024 - £10,000
- h. Chillwell Weekend / Winter Ball, November 2024 - £6,000
- i. Izendijke 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 2024 –
- j. 3 x Sqns from 42 Engr Regt (Geo) 200 year anniversary – tbc
- k. 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day – tbc Corps Colonel mentioned the opportunities available in Normandy particularly the Corps Memorial at Arramanches.

## ITEM 10 - THE UNIT AND BRANCH SUPPORT FUND

21. Branches are reminded to keep submitting their applications for the grants.

## ITEM 10 – BALLARD FUND<sup>1</sup>

22. £25,000 has been allocated to Ex ATLANTIC QUEST.

## ITEM 11 – REA STRATEGY

23. The CEO gave a brief update on Digital transformation with the main point being that [SapperCom](#) is up and running and all are encouraged to use the online platform for sharing ideas and best practice.

24. **Affiliate Groups / Social Groups.** In order to meet the challenge of the declining veteran population affiliate branches are groups are going to be offered as an alternate to the branch structure i.e. committee members etc. Further detail will be included in a rewrite of the rules and put out for comment.

25. **Review of Membership.** Types of membership will be reviewed, current thinking is the idea to offer:

- a. Families membership and All Arms membership is an aspiration.
- b. Widow and Widower membership.

## ITEM 12 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. Mr M Payne raised the issue of the use of the term “Sapper Charity”, quoting that 4/5 people said that the term “Was not needed and everyone knows that we (The REA), is a charity”. Following a discussion it was decided that the term Sapper Chairty was appropriate, relevant and should be used.

27. Mr M Payne announced that he would be stepping down as the Central Southern Group member on the Committee and Mr J Brown would be replacing him.

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<sup>1</sup> The Ballard Fund is a specific fund for extreme expeditions.

**ITEM 13. – FINAL POINTS FROM THE CEO & DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

28. The CEO thanked everyone for attending and the next meeting will be 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023.

02 August 2023

Operations Director

Minutes Approved

Dated

Chairman

Distribution:

- Management Committee Members
- Board of Trustees
- Group Directors
- Deputy Group Directors
- Group Secretaries
- Branch Secretaries
- CEO REA
- Corps Treasurer