

ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



THE SAPPER CHARITY

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ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER CIRCULAR No. 176

A quick message from the Ops Director – Nick Gunnell.

2023 has been a busy year for the REA and its members with the hangover from COVID and all it had to bring gradually being shrugged off. The REA's final national event of the year was the London Weekend followed by Sapper Sunday at the Chelsea Hospital which was enjoyed by all including those in scarlet. However, members haven't rested with many a winter dinner, Christmas lunch and events underway. Thank you all for your active support and participation in REA events at whatever level in whatever capacity. If all that Christmas pudding and the like starts to become noticeable.....don't worry, there is [Sapper Strong Fitness](#) sessions running until February.

There is plenty of activity going on next year for you to get involved with – including Burns Night, Monte Cassino and Gibraltar to name a few ([Details below](#)).

The AGM and annual dinner is being held at Chatham over the Corps Memorial weekend with a view to increase attendance at both events.

[Sapper Sunday](#) at the Royal Hospital Chelsea has moved to 19th May 23.

In this Circular you'll also find details of Membership and Branch rule changes – all agreed by your Management Committee. So there is change, not for changes sake but to make the REA and its events more accessible to more of the Sapper family.

A final note:

Over the coming weeks between the festivities, reminiscing and catching up I encourage you to take a minute and think of a Sapper who isn't out and about. Give them a quick nudge and have a chat, be that online, on the phone, over a brew or even with a knock on the door.

Sappers talking to Sappers = Sappers looking after Sappers.

*Nick Gunnell
Ops Director*

P.S Keep up to date with the latest news by signing up for [Sappercom.com](#)

Fundraising Summary

1. In the past few months there's been some outstanding fundraising efforts; Sappers have cycled, run and eaten (yes – eaten) in the name of the Sapper Charity. All of the funds raised are allocated to the benevolence of the Sapper Family – so far this year we have granted £227,934.82. If you're thinking of fundraising for the Sapper Charity, get in touch and we'll support where we can - info@reahq.org.uk

2023 Sep – Nov Fundraising Champions

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Steve Craddock | Curry Lunch | £700 |
| Ken Kirk | Loch Ness Marathon | £500 |
| Katie Bristow | Bournemouth Half Marathon | £200 |
| Steve Craddock | Ride to Remember & Birthday donation | £200 |
| RSM 26 Engr Regt | His own "initiative" | £200 |

2. Social Branches in the REA

a. **Background.** Three Social branches already exist; Sappers in the City, White Horse Sappers and Stoke on Trent Sappers. The branches meet monthly and have their meetings advertised by HQ REA. These branches are proving a good way of broadening the REA message and keeping more Sappers informed of what the REA is and does.

b. Social branches exist where there is not the capacity to create a Branch with a committee.

c. **Rule Change.** The following will be entered into the REA Rules in order to recognise the existence of Social Branches and encourage further Social Branches to be created:

“Social Branches are groups of REA Life Members who meet on a regular basis but do not have a committee and branch structure. In order to be recognised by the REA and be informed of REA activity, Social Branches must have an admin / point of contact. REA members who solely belong to a Social Branch do not have a vote at the AGM, cannot sit on REA committees and are not eligible for any funding (including mileage) without the submission of a Unit & Branch Support Grant.”

3. **Membership Rule Changes.** The following changes to Membership were proposed and agreed by the [Management Committee](#):

a. **Annual Membership.** Discontinue the allocation of annual branch membership.

b. **Life Membership.** Unchanged.

c. **Associate Membership.** Discontinue the allocation of Associate branch membership, existing associate members remain associate members.

d. **All Arms Membership.** Veterans and serving of any arm or service (including Cadet Force Instructors) are eligible for this type of membership. All Arms members are approved by a branch vote. The number of all arms veterans is not to exceed 40% of the branch veteran membership. All Arms members may be subject to different costs when attending centrally funded REA events for example, the Corps Memorial Weekend. No fee is required by REA HQ for this type of membership.

e. **Widow & Widowers Membership.** Widows and widowers of any former Royal Engineer or veteran (regular or reserve) are eligible for this type of membership. Widow & widowers members are approved by a branch vote. Widow and Widowers members may be subject to different costs when attending centrally funded REA events for example, the Corps Memorial Weekend. No fee is required by REA HQ for this type of membership.

f. **Family & Friend's Membership.** Open to parents, adult children (over 18), partners, siblings and friends of former and serving Sappers (Regular and Reserve). This type of membership is aimed to encourage those who have had a close affinity with the Corps and wish to keep that connection going. Family and Friend members are approved by a branch vote. Family members may be subject to different costs when attending centrally funded REA events i.e. Corps Memorial Weekend. No fee is required by REA HQ for this type of membership.

4. **Sapper Strong Fitness Sessions.** Every Thursday at 1045 Online PT sessions aimed at mobility and keeping the joints moving are being held online. [Go to SapperCom](#) to take part.

5. **Branch Financial Summary.** Branches are reminded to submit to HQ REA by 31st January 2024, an online copy of their scrutinised Annual Financial Summary (AFS) declaring: income, expenditure, assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2023. The online facility is available from 1st December 2023 at <https://members.reahq.org.uk/>

a. Although the Summaries are required by 31st January 2024, Branch Treasurers are requested to make every effort to submit them to HQ REA by mid-January.

b. Branch Secretaries are requested to confirm with their Treasurers that they have received the opening balance for the Branch Annual Financial Summary. Some Branches will be asked to submit their full account records including bank statements in addition to their AFS. If this is the case, please ensure they are sent to REA HQ promptly and postage will be refunded.

6. **Branch Reports 2023.** In accordance with Rule 17.22, Branch Reports for the year 2023, as at 31st December 2022, are to be completed and returned to HQ REA. The previous paper REA Form 1 is now available from the Members area of the REA website <https://members.reahq.org.uk/> and is submitted online. Please ensure that you keep a copy for

a. One Copy to: Group Secretary (***Do not send this copy to HQ REA***)

b. One Copy: Branch records

REA EVENTS 2024

The following events are currently forecast. Any questions please get in touch - info@reahq.org.uk

| Date | Event | Information available from: | Contact |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 27 th Jan 24 | Chilwell Burns Night | Saturday 27 th Jan 2024 (6:30 pm) https://sappercom.com/events/burns-night-chillwell | Kev Street: kjstreet300@gmail.com |
| ## Apr 24 | Corps Boxing Finals | TBC | Tbc |
| 14-18 th Apr 24 | London Bridge Refurbishment, Normandy | Contact the Fenland Sappers on Facebook or via the branch details on the REA website www.reahq.org.uk | Nigel Spencer https://www.reahq.org.uk/branches/fenland-sapper/ |
| 11-13 th May 24 | Monte Cassino, 80 th Anniversary | https://sappercom.com/events Tickets available from - Eventbrite | George Cowie georgecowie103@yahoo.co.uk |
| 19 th May 24 | Sapper Sunday | Event starts at 10am at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – Tickets available from: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sapper-sunday-tickets-772851277977 | directoropsREA@rhgre.co.uk |
| 24-26 th May 24 | Gibraltar Weekend | https://sappercom.com/events Admin Instruction yet to be released. | Jack Noble - jacknoble40@hotmail.com |
| Various | Inter Service Rugby | https://sappercom.com/news/inter-services-rugby-tickets | |
| 6 th Jun 24 | Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea | https://sappercom.com/events | Details of how to apply will be released in the new year. |
| ## Jun 24 | Sapper Games, Kinloss | TBC | TBC |
| 13 – 15 th Sep 24 | Corps Memorial Weekend, AGM Annual Dinner Freedom Parade Brompton Barracks | 13th Sep 24 – The Dove Cup 14th September 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.30am AGM • 11.45am Standard Bearer Competition • 6.30pm (approx.). REA Annual Dinner, WOs & Sgts Mess 15th Sep 24: Freedom of Rochester Parade | Details of how to apply will be released in the new year. |
| 14 th Sep 24 | Cycle for Hero's (Sappers) Brompton Barracks | Charity fundraising cycle ride around the Medway area, starting at the Corp Museum, finishing at Brompton Barracks | Enquiries through the website: www.cycle4heroes.com |
| 18-21 st Oct 24 | Ijzendijke, Holland, 80 th Anniversary. | https://sappercom.com/events | jim.speckman@btinternet.com |
| 5 th Oct 24 | The Sapper Charity Dinner, London TBC | TBC | TBC |
| 10 th Nov 24 | Central London Cenotaph Parade | Bids to march in the REA column are to be submitted to the HQ NLT 01 Mar 24. Details of the event can be found here . | Details of how to apply will be published on – date TBC. |