

# ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION



## THE SAPPER CHARITY

All communications to be addressed  
to:

The CEO  
RE Association  
Brompton Barracks  
Chatham  
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### Minutes of the meeting of the Royal Engineers Association Board of Trustees on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7 Bedford Row, London.

#### Attendees

##### In person

Alastair Dickinson	President, REA	AD
Matt Bazeley	Vice President, Chair REA Benevolence	MB
Claire James	Trustee and Chair, Chair REA Recruitment	CJ
Colin Basnett	Trustee	CB
Jeffrey Jupp	Trustee	JJ
Mark Ruddy	Trustee, Honorary Treasurer	MR
Martin Heffer	Trustee, REA Finance Committee Member	MH
Rowan Adams	Trustee and Chair REA Fundraising	RA
Ken Kirk	CEO, REA & Chair REA Management	KK
Nick Gunnell	Secretary	NG

##### Online

Richard Hawkins	Corps Colonel, Trustee	RH
Spencer Eardley	Corps SM, Trustee	SE
Ian Sidebottom	Corps Treasurer	IS

#### Apologies

Mark Lancaster	Trustee	ML
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## ITEM NUMBER 1 - WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The President welcomed everyone to the committee and thanked Jane Thomson who has removed herself from the Board due to circumstances preventing her from adding value and contributing to the REA.

## ITEM NUMBER 2 – CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2. Confirm the minutes of previous meeting of the Board of Trustees on 5 May 2023.

**Proposer:** MR

**Secunder:** CB

## ITEM NUMBER 3 - CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. No conflicts of interest were declared.

## ITEM NUMBER 4 - MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

4. GOVERNANCE Terms of Reference have been updated to allow Board members to remain in post beyond what is currently stated.
5. REA HQ UPDATE AND DASHBOARD – The dashboard now contains details of benevolence

## ITEMS NUMBER 5 - MISC & UPDATES

6. The CEO provided the following update(s):
  - a. HM CR III has confirmed his patronage of the REA.
  - b. HM CR III visited Gibraltar Barracks, it is hoped that future Royal visits will involve the REA.
  - c. The REA received a donation from the Privy Purse.
  - d. Wings for Warriors have provided an update on the 2 veterans who are currently being supported by the REA.

## ITEM NUMBER 6 – DASHBOARD (Annex A)

7. The REA dashboard was presented to the board and the following topics of discussion were identified:
  - a. How will the potential increase of private / public school fees affect the Sapper Charity Children's Fund? **IS Action**
  - b. With reoccurring activity being requested through McCabe Grants set rates and guidance should be produced for applicants. **IS Action**
  - c. Dashboard to reflect impact of outreach (fundraising, membership). **NG Action**
  - d. Dashboard to include LinkedIn, Newsletter statistics. **NG Action**
  - e. CB offered training on analysing the effectiveness of communications. **NG Action**

## ITEM NUMBER 7 - DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

8. **KK** presented the REAs proposal for the second phase of digital transformation to the board. The following topics of areas were identified for further work:

- a. **Data management** – How is it going to be done? **KK** to report back at next meeting.
- b. **Benevolence detail** – Detail of benevolence cases to be reviewed. **NG** to review.

## ITEM NUMBER 8 – The Annual Report (TAR)

9. **IS** and **MR** outlined the TAR to the trustees. To note:
- a. The TAR will be signed once sent to board members for comment. **IS**
  - b. The accounts were summarised by **IS**
  - c. **IS** currently looking at other Fund Managers with a scoping paper being distributed in July.
  - d. A chart summarising the REA's portfolio growth and income can be found at **Annex B**.
  - e. **IS** to provide updated figures on the growth of the fund in September's meeting.

The Board of Trustees thanked all of those who contributed to the TAR.

## ITEM NUMBER 9 – FUNDRAISING

10. **RA** provided an overview of the decision to defer a major fundraising event by 12 months and presented the fundraising strategy which includes the proposal of a full-time employee to assume the fundraising responsibilities of the role.

- a. Proposal to allocate £150,000 to hire a professional fundraiser on a 3-year basis.

**Proposer:** RA

**Secunder:** CB

## Date of Next Meeting

11. Friday 20th September 2024, Location tbc.

Signed

Witnessed:

Maj Gen (Retd) Alastair Dickinson CBE

K Kirk

President REA

REA CEO

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Annex A - REA Dashboard

Annex B - Portfolio Growrh

REA DASHBOARD

# REA Dashboard Jan - Apr 2024

## Benevolence

Cases received	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
	186	171
Declined	42	33
Approved	133	127
Total assistance	£72,091.24	£80,526.99

## Membership

	Jan - Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2024
New members	178	236
New branches		1
Average age of new members		48

201 Life, 2 Comp Life, 1 Associate, 9 All Arms, 19 Friends & Family

## Funds



The Sapper Charity Childrens Fund

- No of families: 7
- New applications: 0
- Running total 2024: £24898.76



The Ballard Fund

- New applications: 1
- No of grants given: 1
- Amount granted: £25,000



The Gabriel Fund

- New applications: 3
- No of grants given: 1
- Running total 2024: £901.97



McCabe Fund

- New applications: 7
- Applications approved: 6
- Applications rejected: 1
- No of grants given: 6
- Running total 2024: £21477.99

## Finance

Income: **£440,861.29**

Expenditure: **£536,578.79**

Current investment value: **£10,277,965.45**

## Fundraising

Amount raised (Sep 23 - present) **£11,298**

Number of events/individuals **14**

## Governance

Substantial changes to REA rules completed Feb: new membership categories, removal of Annual Membership, changes to expenses for standard bearers/Social Branches/stewardship of branch accounts

ERS Gold Award submission completed March.

Reservist & CFAV leave policy (linked to ERS Silver Award)

9 day fortnight working arrangement began 1<sup>st</sup> March.

REA DASHBOARD

# REA Dashboard Jan - Apr 2024

## Member Services

Notifications of death via SCRM	55
Notifications of death via other means	22
Coffin drapes out	27
Requests for representation at cremations / funerals	10
Medical discharge notifications via APC	19
Obituaries - Sapper magazine	55

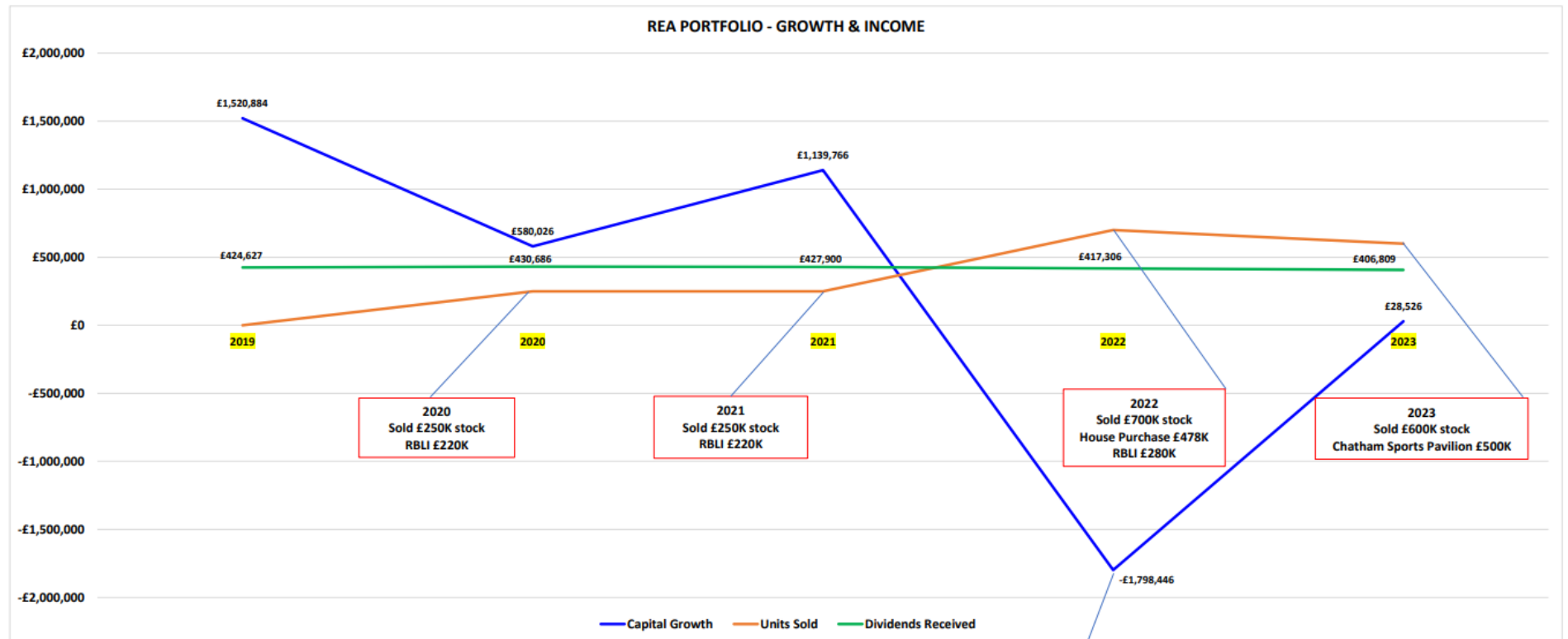
## Outreach Activity Jan – Apr

Branch Visits	7
Unit Visits	6

## Social Media

Website	Currently not available
Facebook	Engagement Percentage Rate: 4.53% <span style="color:red">↓</span> Follower Increase: 66 <span style="color:green">↑</span> Post Impressions: Avg Jan – Apr 205,675 Page and Profile Impressions Avg Jan – Apr 231,175
Instagram	Followers: 497 <span style="color:green">↑</span> Content Interactions Avg Jan – Apr : 104.75 Accounts engaged Avg Jan – Apr : 195 Accounts Reached Avg Jan – Apr : 553.25
X (formerly Twitter)	Followers: 1,016 <span style="color:green">↑</span> Engagement: Avg Jan – Apr 147.5

## REA PORTFOLIO GROWTH & INCOME



The 2022 stock market decline was an economic event involving a decline in stock markets globally. In Feb 22 the Russian invasion of Ukraine caused a sell-off across many financial markets throughout the world. The benchmark S&P 500<sup>1</sup>, at its lowest point, dropped 25%. Investors were also still wary of the effects of COVID on the global stock market.

<sup>1</sup> The Standard and Poor's 500 tracks the stock performance of the largest 500 companies listed on the stock market in the US.