



THE SAPPER CHARITY

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01 Oct 2024

MINUTES OF THE 56th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM BROMPTON BARRACKS 14th SEP 2024

ITEM 1 – PRESIDENTS INTRODUCTION

1. The Annual General Meeting was opened at 0900hrs by the President of the Association Maj Gen (Retd) A Dickinson CBE who welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending; he made special mention of those who had travelled long distances.

ITEM 2 – CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE 55TH AGM

2. The CEO confirmed that HQ REA had not received any comments or proposed amendments. The minutes had been online for the past 6 months. There were no comments from the floor. Proposal: That the [Minutes of the 54th AGM](#) be accepted

Proposer: Bob Prosser

Seconder: Michael Payne

ITEM 3 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 55TH AGM 2023. There were no matters arising from the 55th AGM.

ITEM 4 – TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE REA FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JANUARY – 31ST DECEMBER 2023

3. [Honorary Treasurers Report](#)

4. [Signed Financial Statements](#)

ITEM 4 - TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF KRESTON REEVES LLP (FORMERLY REEVES LLP), AS THE AUDITORS OF THE ASSOCIATION

5. The Chair advised those assembled that the responsibility for appointing auditors to the Corps charities rests with the Chief Royal's Committee. At the last Chief Royal's Committee meeting, Kreston Reeves LLP were approved as auditors of the Corps' charities and the REA Board of Trustees.

ITEM 5 - APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY TREASURER

6. Mark Ruddy agreed to continue to be the Associations Honorary Treasurer.

ITEM 6 – BENEVOLENCE REPORT & UPDATE

7. Nick Gunnell presented the [2023 Benevolence Report](#) and provided an insight into trends.

ITEM 7 – STRATEGIC INITIATIVES & UPDATES

8. Ken Kirk provided an overview of the association (Annex A) and an update on the following strategic initiatives that HQ REA is undertaking.
 - a. IT and Comms – A move to Microsoft 365
 - b. Change to REA email addresses - now are <name.name>@reahq.org.uk
 - c. Membership offer – increasing the offer to members through partnerships with other firms / organisations i.e. Trinity insurance.
 - d. Fundraising – The appointment of a dedicated fundraising manager.

ITEM 9 – MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & RECRUITMENT

9. Col (Retd) Waters, Deputy Group Director REA NW Group. presented an update on the initiatives that the Lancashire Sappers had introduced to increase membership and relevance.

ITEM 10 – RIPON HERITAGE

10. Bob Prosser, Ripon Branch, presented a case for the Corps & Association to come up with a plan for when 21 Engineer Regiment departs Ripon.¹

ITEM 11 – AOB & QUESTIONS

11. **The following questions were submitted prior to the AGM:**
 - a. **Question:** “Is there a list of available equipment for events?” Mr K Street
 - b. **Answer:** “I cannot speak on behalf of Unit and Sub-unit QMs for equipment availability and their (QMs) willingness to loan it to REA members for events. It would be safe to assume that equipment is not going to be loaned to REA members for such a purpose. **WO1 (CSM) Spencer Eardley.**
 - c. **Question:** “Will the REA badge be updated?” Birmingham Branch Secretary Mr Lee Greensall.

¹ It has since been established that there is already a plan in place between 21 Engineer Regiment and the Town Council.

- d. **Answer:** “There is no record of the REA badge being endorsed by the Crown. The succession of HM CR III to the throne provides the REA the opportunity to become more relevant to the serving Corps and the next generation of soldiers and members.” **Ken Kirk.**
- e. **Question:** “Can the REA make sure that its members who served in the Territorial / Reserves are aware of the potential changes to the pension scheme for them?” James Hall, Newcastle & District Branch Secretary.
- e. **Answer:** “It is recommended that members follow the Armed Forces Pension Society for updates” **Ken Kirk.**

Annex A - REA Dashboard

REA Dashboard Jan-Dec 2023

Membership

New members	2022 342 (avg 28.40)	2023 511 (avg 42.58)
New branches	<u>2022</u> 1	<u>2023</u> 6
Median average age of new members	<u>2022</u> n/a	<u>2023</u> 51

Member Services

Notifications of death via SCRM	182 (avg 15.1)
Coffin drapes out	83 (avg 6.9)
Medical discharge notifications via APC	67 (avg 5.6)
Obituaries - Sapper magazine	149 (12.4)

Outreach

A total of 38 outreach visits/events carried out since May 2023, avg 3.16 visits/events per month.

Digital Marketing

Website	2.8k users (avg) 8.4k views (avg)
Facebook	211 likes (avg) 17.7k engagement (avg)
Instagram	35.3 new followers (avg)

Benevolence

Benevolence figures for 2023 are included in the Benevolence report

Governance & Finance Headlines

Membership/Branches

Rules to include new branch types and new membership categories were agreed by the Management committee this year. The Rules and the Membership section of the website will be updated.

Legacies

A legacy of £97,000.00 received from the estate of Barham Robin David Hill.

Restricted Fund – McCabe

Restricted fund of £2,000,000 based on the McCabe legacy, this will fund the CUBS (Community Unit and Branch) Support Grant each year.

Armed Forces Covenant

The Association achieved the Silver Award in the Employer Recognition Scheme 2023

Branch Funds

14 Branch accounts were transferred to the stewardship of the Branch Funds Manager in 2023.