



# Military Survey (Geographic) Association

A member of the Royal Engineers Association



## MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, Denison Barracks, Hermitage on Friday 15th March 2013, at 1900hrs

In Attendance:

President:	Bob Avenell
Chairman:	Angus Cross
Secretary:	Rod Siggs
Treasurer:	Alf Isherwood
Military Representative:	WO1 (RSM) W Robinson RE
Function Co-ordinator:	Mick Perry

29 Members were present. *A list is attached.*

The presentation of the Association's Annual Award was made prior to the commencement of the meeting by the President, Bob Avenell, to Spr Leroy Heritage. (*A separate report with citation will be contained in the next Newsletter.*)

### ITEM 1 – CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed those present, commenting that this was the first of the new system to separate the AGMs and the Reunions. Subsequent AGMs would hereafter be at this approximate time in the year with any reunion held in late summer. He thought the attendance was very good, about the normal strength, despite it being only six months since the previous meeting, and he thanked all for attending. He again stressed that he would keep the AGM to the minimum possible and he hoped members would enjoy the evening.

### ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

The names of those members who had tendered their apologies were listed on the notice board and are *attached*.

### ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE 13<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2012

The Secretary was asked if there were any action points outstanding from the previous AGM and although there were not he highlighted some points of contention raised reference the name change and the audited financial accounts with the entry of an amount shown both as an asset and a liability. The latter follow up action had been settled with the questioner directly. The Chairman asked if there were any comments, errors or omissions from the floor. As there were none, he asked for a proposer that they be accepted as a true record of that meeting:

Proposed:	Charlie Marks
Seconded by:	Mike Stanbridge

**Carried by majority with one abstention.**

#### ITEM 4 – ANNUAL REPORT ON 2011/2012

a. The Chairman reported that the RSMS Course CD had been very well received by the membership and many favourable comments had been received both for the idea and financing of it and also the obvious effort that had been made by Alan Gordon and Dave Johnson in producing it. Sales were still coming in but currently were approximately 45 CDs.

b. He explained that the Association was sponsoring the “Soldiers Soldier Award” of a new Geo Stable Belt for all Class 2 Military Soldiers Graduations. He explained that this is the first geographic qualification course our Geo soldiers actually undertake now. Class 3 being of military proficiency. Two such awards have taken place and it was the idea of the RSM to help promote the Association to the young soldiers at the beginning of their service. Committee members will be invited to make the presentation at each graduation ceremony.

c. The membership is holding steady at approximately 350.

d. There had been one deceased comrade, but a number of friends and colleagues since the last AGM, including the recent tragic death of Cpl Clark. Their names appear on the notice board.

e. The Chairman then invited Mike Payne to present the Standard Bearers report. The Standard has been paraded four times and regrettably two of those were at funerals, Frank Litterick’s at Bournemouth in January and at Cpl Clark’s at Barton Stacey in February. Mike Nottage paraded it on Remembrance Sunday at Newbury and Jack Crompton very recently paraded it at David Wright’s memorial service near Nottingham. Mike asked that a special vote of thanks be recorded for Jack Crompton. He also informed the meeting that Charlie Marks had volunteered to help out if needed to cover the West Country. A most generous offer. The Chairman said that he knew the Standard Bearers were all very much appreciated and on behalf of the members gave thanks to Mike Payne, Mick Nottage and Jack Crompton for undertaking these duties. He also thanked Charlie Marks for his very kind offer of assistance.

#### ITEM 5 – Military Update.

The RSM, WO1 Will Robinson, gave a comprehensive update on Geo matters which is [to be published in Newsletter](#).

#### ITEM 6 – FINANCIAL STATUS

The Treasurer Alf Isherwood gave a résumé of the Audited Accounts of the Association and Auditors Comments which had previously been displayed in the Newsletter, on the website and had been attached to the noticeboard, prior to the meeting.

He explained that the Association maintains three accounts, the current, the reserve and the soldiers account. The headline statistics of the accounts were as follows:

Current Account	£911.46
Savings/Reserve Account	£7,119.67
Total	<b>£8031.13</b>
At the yearend there was one uncashed cheque	£71.80
Geo Sldrs Fund	<b>£2,377.96</b>
Anticipated spend	£3,450.00

Alf explained that our expenditure exceeded our income by £318.04 as a result of the investment of £1000.00 for the RSMS photographs digitising and production of the CD. The Standard remains on the books at a value of £650.00.

Alf asked if there were any questions and there were none so accordingly he asked the accounts be accepted.

Proposed by: Ken Hall  
Seconded by: Stan Osborn  
**Carried unanimously.**

#### ITEM 7 - ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS/EXAMINERS 2013/2014

The Chairman explained that Maj A Keeley (Retd) has volunteered to continue to undertake this duty of independent auditor or examiner of the accounts on behalf of the Branch and the Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder to re-elect him. However, it was pointed out from the floor that the REA Rules state at para 17.21 that the accounts should be audited or examined by **two members** elected at the AGM. Chris Nash had fortunately offered his assistance if required and so it was proposed that both he and Maj A Keeley (Retd) be elected as auditors or examiners for financial year 2013/2014.

Proposed by: Dave Johnson  
Seconded by: John Stamp  
**Carried unanimously.**

#### ITEM 8 – COMMITTEE

The President informed the members that the three Officers of the Committee, the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, had to be elected each year. Bob, said he had approached the three Committee Officers who were all willing to stand again and therefore, unless there were any different nominations from the floor, he would ask that all three be re-elected en bloc.

Proposed by: Mick Perry  
Seconded by: Mike Vickers  
**Carried unanimously.**

The President concluded by speaking about the need for good governance and the requirements for new blood and for support, or we will fade and die as an organisation.

#### ITEM 9 – AOB

There had been no written matters put forward to the Secretary prior to the meeting but the Chairman allowed the following:

- a. Mike Nolan informed every one of the DSA's next seminar which was to be held at Hermitage on 22 June 2013.
- b. Ken Hall had brought spare hard copies of the latest Newsletter which he invited all to help themselves and give to others if thought appropriate.
- c. Mike Payne informed the members about their "local" Branch which he requested they didn't overlook – The Reading & West Berks Branch and said that they were most welcome to join or even just attend their meetings which were held at the Mess every month.
- d. Adrian Lovell asked if the Chairman was going to mention the subject of our name change that had been adversely reported upon at the REA Management Committee Meeting. The Chairman said that he had not intended to raise the subject as there was nothing really he could report upon but that as Adrian had mentioned it he had better explain. Despite having been sent all the correspondence concerning the name change matter, and having met our Secretary face to face to discuss and confirm our Associations

intentions not to leave the REA, the Deputy Group Director of Central Southern Group had still presented our name change in a very negative light. Also, HQ REA was very unhappy with our TOR concerning who our membership was open to, which it seems is at odds with REA Membership. Accordingly, the minutes of that meeting stated that the Corps Colonel and Controller should discuss and contact me (our Chairman). Angus stated that they had not done so and therefore there was no action or anything for him to report at this time. The Chairman reiterated that we have no intention of leaving the REA.

Maj Gen Roy Wood (Retd) commented that our Association represents a very wide community and we should not feel uncomfortable, we should remain robust in our defence of our decisions. He explained there are others in the RE world that also have similar wide communities.

e. David Taylor asked if there was to be a Reunion this year. The Chairman explained there was not but it was hoped that we would be trying to tie in with the Regiments commemorations for their Hermitage departure likely in July, 2014. Indeed Mike Perry was already engaged in some consultation on the subject and our wishes to be included were well known and accepted by the Regt.

f. Adrian Lovell asked the Secretary how many new members had joined as a result of our name change. Rod explained that there had been approximately 15 new members since 2011 although how many had joined as a result he did not know. He doubted we would ever know in the short term. The Chairman said it was also only one of a number of things we were introducing and he had already mentioned others. He welcomed Adrian to attend our next Committee meeting.

#### ITEM 9 – DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

No date has been fixed at the moment but the next meeting will take place in spring, 2014, as previously discussed, at Hermitage.

#### ITEM 10 – CLOSING REMARKS

The President thanked all members of the Committee for their efforts in keeping the Association going and thanked the RSM for his informative brief, the use of the Mess and asked that he thank the Mess Manager and the Chef and staff for undertaking all the additional work on our behalf.

He spoke on the move of the Regt to Wyton and the difficulty this will naturally bring regarding the “hands on” we experience at Hermitage and the loss of not “being on the spot” to being able to keep abreast of regimental activities and how we will support the soldiers. He asked that the Committee and all Members think about the possible effects the split might cause us.

He thanked all for attending and hoped they would all enjoy the remainder of the evening.

The meeting closed at approximately 2003 hrs.

*Rod Siggs*

Honorary Secretary  
Military Survey (Geographic) Association

Attachments:-