



# Military Survey (Geographic) Association

A member of the  
Royal Engineers Association



## MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING

held at the

Officers' Mess, Hermitage, at 1900hrs 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### In Attendance:

Chairman: Angus Cross  
Treasurer: Alf Isherwood  
Event Organiser: Mick Perry  
Webmaster: Dave Johnson  
Secretary: Rod Siggs

1. **Welcome and introduction** - The Chairman welcomed all present and opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Alan Gordon, Bob Avenell, Noel Grimmett, Ken Hall and the RSM. (The atrocious weather resulting in terrible road conditions and a road accident, also a trip to the Falklands, all contributed to their various absences.)

3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting(s)** –

**TOR** – A recent letter received by the Chairman from HQ REA might reflect upon any review and subsequent amendment upon our TOR. **Action: W/O**

**Unpaid Subs** – There were 15 members who had not paid the 2013 subscriptions and Alf had passed on a list to Rod who was cleaning up the membership list together with Alf's list, and would report on the situation at the next meeting.

**Action: RS**

**Branch AGM** – Mick had asked Dave to put a notice on the website reference date, time and venue of the AGM. Dave had actioned. **NFA**

4. **Current Statement of the Account** - The Treasurer, Alf Isherwood, gave an overview of the worth of the Branch with the Working Capital profile and Cash Flow assumptions as at 4<sup>th</sup> January 2014 being:

Savings a/c	£6,622.52	Current a/c	£3,173.37
Cheques to clear	nil	<b>Combined Bank Accts</b>	<b>£9,795.89</b>
		Geo Support Fund	£2,382.96

There followed a short discussion and Alf was asked to slightly change his presentation summary, ie. By removing the letters "AGM" so it read "Function(s) 2014". It was also realized that Chris Nash, who was voted to be the second scrutineer of the Accounts for 2013, was away. Accordingly, it was agreed to ask

Mick Gowlett to perform this function together with Tony Keeley.  
Alf also mentioned that despite chasing, he had still only received one stable belt bill and he knew there had been a number of presentations. Rod agreed to chase again.

**Action: AI/RS**

**5. Welfare** – Noel had telephoned Rod to report that he would attend the funeral of John Eady at Basingstoke Crematorium, on Tue 11 Feb 14, at which Mick Nottage would officiate as standard bearer on behalf of the Association.

**NFA**

**6. Editors Update** – Alan had asked Rod to remind all the committee that the next edition of the Newsletter was due at the end of April. He would therefore be happy as always to receive input as soon as possible. The latest newsletter was thought to be a resounding success again, certainly from comments received. There followed general discussions about personnel who might be approached to replace Alan and the Chairman will take this forward.

**Action: AC**

**7. Web-site Update** – Dave handed a summary sheet of the amount of daily hits/visits the website had received to the committee. He pointed out that despite the summary being only as per 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 14, already the current (part of) monthly hits were incredibly high. Various theories were put forward, ie. the bad weather, or interest in the forthcoming commemorative events marking the Regt's departure from Newbury. All the average daily "Hits", "Files", "Pages" and "Visits" were all holding up well.

Dave said that he had not had time to carry out any further scoping of the remaining **RSMS Course photos** and slides or the work he had previously undertaken in order to give a costing for the project. He also still didn't know the position with DSA regarding the historic photo albums.

**Action: DJ**

**8. Branch AGM** – Mick spoke reference the returns that were now coming in slowly and the need to see the RSM on his return from the F.I. to obtain assurances that all our requirements would be met, especially reference the social buffet. Mick also asked that all committee members arrive in good time to lend a hand in preparing for the AGM. Rod asked Mick to request the normal list of items including: Table and two chairs for registration; two free standing notice boards; and a projector screen for Dave. Rod would chase Mike Payne for his Standard Bearers Report. Angus would liaise with the Regt reference who would give the Annual Military Report. And although the Regt might go through the administration actions necessary to identify the recipient of the Association's Annual Award, this would be presented on the weekend of the commemoration of the Regt's Departure from Hermitage – 21/22 Jun 14.

**Action:RS/MP/AC**

**9. Regiment's Departure From Hermitage** – There were various questions put to Mick about what the Regt were doing to advertise access to the various functions and events in Jun, as it was suggested they (the Regt) might be grossly underestimating interested numbers. There had also been the mention, believed attributable to the RSM, that it would only be advertised to or through the veterans' agencies. (Assumed to mean the RBL, Reading & West Berks Branch REA, and our Association.) Angus and Mick both recalled that the CO had expressed a wish that the events would be open to as many ex serving members as possible, but Mick was not sure if this had been conveyed or fully understood by those planning the

occasion. He said he understood the Regt were planning to publish information, in what manner he did not know, as there had not been any further meetings that he had been invited to attend. Rod injected Alan's suggestion that the Mil Svy (Geo) page on "Facebook" would be a good start for any dissemination as it had many subscribers. Mick said he would try and get to see Maj Alex Harris next week and explain some of our fears but asked Angus that if it was not a favourable answer would he follow it up with the CO. Angus affirmed he would. In the meantime perhaps a note on our website asking for an expression of interest might be a good place to start. Rod said he would draft and send out to all. **Action: AC/MP/RS**

**10. AOB –**

a. Angus referred to the total of our membership numbers which seemed at odds from Alf's list. Rod will send Alf a new list as we have of course Overseas Members who are exempt subs and therefore would not necessarily appear on Alf's list. They would work together to reconcile the differences.

**Action: RS/AI**

b. Rod reminded all that at the AGM it was necessary to advertise and vote upon the three elected member's posts: Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. He would draft something accordingly for the website as he missed the last newsletter.

**Action: RS**

**11. Election of new President -** Angus, spoke of the necessity(?) of a president but it was generally decided this was favourable and a few names were discussed for Angus' consideration.

**Action: AC**

**12. Date of next meeting –** The date of the next meeting, being the **AGM**, is Friday 14 March 2014, and will be held in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess at 1900hrs. All committee members are requested to arrive early to assist in setting up.

**Action: All**

*Rod Siggs*

Honorary Secretary  
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