

# The Royal Engineers Association

(Registered under the Charities Act 1992 and a charity registered in Scotland)

**Patron: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN**



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All Council Members  
All Management Committee Members  
All Group Secretaries  
All Branch Secretaries  
Controller REA  
Corps Treasurer

30<sup>th</sup> October 2014

## **THE MINUTES OF 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE VICTORY SERVICE CLUB, LONDON, ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014**

### **OPENING REMARKS**

1. The Annual General Meeting was opened at 1600hrs by the President of the Association, Lt General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL, who welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending; he made special mention of those who had travelled long distances. He also took the opportunity of introducing and welcoming the new Controller REA, Lt Col Keith Lowerson MBE, for whom it was day one. He noted that there were 66 attendees at the AGM including: 15 REA Trustees, 23 REA Branch Delegates and 28 other REA members.

2. Apologies for absence had been received from:

- Lt Col (Retd) R W Murfin TD DL – Trustee Army Reserve
- Lt Col (Retd) A Bunting – Trustee Central Southern Group

3. The President reminded Branch Delegates to take meeting papers home and give them to their Branch Chairman or Secretary to promulgate to all Branch members. He asked also that once the Minutes had been published, Branches would ensure the widest distribution to all their members.

4. In order to ensure correctness of the records, the President asked that whenever someone rose to speak, they would clearly announce their name and Branch or official position.

### **ITEM 1 - To confirm the Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

5. The President emphasised that this Item was dealing only with the accuracy of the Minutes. The document had been widely circulated and HQ REA had not received any comments or proposed amendments. There were no comments from the floor.

**Proposal: That the Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> AGM be accepted**  
**Proposer: Mr R Price - Trustee North Midlands Group**  
**Seconder: Mr B Hayes –Trustee North West Group**  
**Carried**

**ITEM 2 - Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

6. There were no Matters Arising.

**ITEM 3 – To Receive the Council's 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to the AGM**

7. The President asked the REA Chairman, Maj Gen Colin Boag CB CBE, to present Council's report. The report was produced to supplement the Annual Report and Financial Statement required by the Charity Commissioners and to meet the Association's own internal requirements.

8. During his report Maj Gen Boag invited the Chairman of the Benevolence Committee, Brig Andy Craig OBE, to give three examples of where REA benevolence had made a difference in 2014.

9. The full text of Council's report is at **Annex A** to these Minutes.

**Proposal: That the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Report be accepted.**  
**Proposer: Mr B Owens – Trustee South East Group**  
**Seconder: Mr W Halloran – Trustee North East Group**  
**Carried**

10. The Chairman REA thanked the Chairman REA Benevolence for his and his Committee's outstanding work throughout the year; this was echoed by the President. He also paid tribute to the support given by the serving Corps at Chilwell, Minley and Chatham for laying on the highly successful Veterans Weekends at those locations.

**ITEM 4 – To receive the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the REA for the period 1 January to 31 December 2013**

11. The President reminded attendees that the full accounts were distributed to all Trustees and all REA Branches in May 2014. He invited the Honorary Treasurer, Col Roger Hunt, to present his report. The full text of the report is at **Annex B**.

12. The President thanked the Honorary Treasurer for his report and made the following comments.

a. He was concerned that even with the coverage provided by the main charities feeding the REA with cases, not all those in need were being reached. He said that the network of REA Branches throughout the UK provided an ideal opportunity to identify needy souls and bring them to the attention of charities such as SSAFA and The Royal British Legion (TRBL).

b. A recent ABF report highlighted the fact that the large National Servicemen cohort was rapidly declining and this would impact on the number of benevolence cases received by service charities. He recommended the ABF Annual Report as a useful analytical tool for financial planning and for identifying benevolence trends.

c. With regard to the Days Pay Scheme (DPS) he agreed that because of the reduced size of the regular Corps, there would be a fall-off in contributions. However, with the reserves playing a much fuller part in what the Corps does, there is a drive to ensure that they contribute to the DPS to a greater extent than they have in the past. This will not mitigate the drop in contributions but it will have an impact on the amount of money coming into the Central Charitable Trust.

13. He summarised by saying that there were a number of issues to be thought through and suggested that the REA 5 Year Strategic Review might be a good platform from which to consider them.

14. Mr G Scarborough asked if in Table 1 of Council's Report to the AGM the number of cases considered could be shown in addition to the Total Grants Made. The D Con said this would be added to the report in 2015.

**Action: Controller**

15. Col (Retd) M Gill, Trustee, said that TRBL had recently attracted the attention of the Charity Commission (CC) over its reserves. Given that the REA has over £9m in investments are we in danger of being censured by the CC? Maj Gen C J Boag said that whilst the CC did keep its eye on reserves, the main issue for them was what the charity was spending its money on; he believed that in the case of TRBL it was the amount of money that was being spent on infrastructure as opposed to assistance to those in need. He added that we were not in that area and that we did not appear on the CC radar for any reason.

16. Mr M Reilly, London Group Trustee, said that with regard to reaching those in need he believed that SSAFA, TRBL and Combat Stress were 'maxed out' on their case loads and that many in need were being turned away rather than being passed on to another charity. This was he believed due to a shortage of caseworkers. Mr B Hayes, North West Group, reminded the meeting that SSAFA did not have funds to support needy cases and that they relied on regimental charities and TRBL to provide financial assistance. It was his opinion that TRBL dragged their feet when it came to making grants and this had been going on for some time.

17. Mr J Hall, Newcastle & District Branch Delegate, said that in his experience the reserve army was most keen to contribute to the DPS but currently this was not available through JPA. Contributions were collected under unit arrangements and forwarded to Chatham as a lump sum each year. He asked how long it would be before the reserve army had access to JPA in order to better manage the contributions they were keen to make. The Chief Royal said that he had spoken to the Adjutant General on this very matter. There is a plan to widen the scope of JPA to accept reservists, however, the changes to JPA would take longer than previously thought and that full integration should be available within the next couple of years. The Corps Colonel said that at a recent meeting of Corps Colonels, the matter of JPA and reservist was raised. It would appear that each Corps/Regiment had differing ideas of how much the various contributions should be. Until the rates could be agreed it would not be possible to include reservists on JPA.

**Proposal: The 2013 REA Annual Report and Financial Statements be accepted**

**Proposal: Mr M Reilly BEM – Trustee London Group**

**Secunder: Mr J Cruddas – Cambridge Branch Delegate**

**Carried**

**ITEM 5 – To note the appointment of Reeves & Co LLP as the Auditors of the Association**

18. The President 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, Reeves & Co LLP were approved as auditors of the Corps' charities. REA Council has approved the appointment.

**ITEM – 6 - Appointment of Honorary Treasurer 2015**

19. The President said that Colonel Roger Hunt had sought to stand down as the Hon Treasurer at this AGM but agreed to continue in post for a short time whilst a replacement was found. He thanked Col Hunt for freely giving of his time and experience during his tenure as Corps Treasurer.

**Proposal: That Col Roger Hunt is appointed as REA Honorary Treasurer for 2015 or until a replacement is found.**

**Proposer: Maj P Gill MBE JP – REA Trustee**

**Secunder: Brig D W Southall OBE – REA Trustee**

**Carried**

## **ITEM 7 – Date of next meeting**

20. The date of the next AGM will be 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Victory Services Club, London.

## **ITEM 8 - A presentation by the Corps RSM WO1 (CRSM) P Marsh**

21. The President introduced the CRSM who gave a presentation on the Corps which included the new Corps structure, notable events during the past year and tasks on the horizon. He also asked for assistance from REA members in enthusing young people to join the services, not just the Corps and in providing advice in novel ways to train soldiers for contingency operations rather than campaigns; an area where many veterans have had experience. A précis of the CRSM's presentation is at **Annex C**.

22. The President thanked the CRSM for his excellent presentation.

## **Presidents Closing Remarks**

23. The President asked that his thanks be extended to all Branch and Group officials and the highly valued grassroots membership for the work that goes on in terms of promoting the REA and maintaining esprit de corps. He was keen that the serving Corps became more engaged with the REA and noted that whilst there were some Group Directors and Group Secretaries present at the meeting, he expected that he would see more at the 2015 AGM.

24. The President was keen to thank all members of the REA staff for their sterling work over the last year especially in the light of staff shortages. In particular he thanked Ann Warner and Julia Ferguson, both REA membership staff, for their work in ensuring the smooth running of both the AGM and the Dinner. As both were present he made a small presentation to them. Those assembled showed their appreciation in the usual enthusiastic way.

25. The President reminded those assembled that as usual Sapper Sunday will take place at The Royal Hospital Chelsea the next day and provided outline timings. There being no more business the meeting was closed at 1708 hrs.

30<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Deputy Controller

Minutes Approved

Date

President

Lt General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

**Council's Report to the 46th Annual General Meeting**

1. The REA is governed by the Deeds of Trust 1968 supplemented by the REA Rules 2009. Trustees of the REA are recommended to the Council after a thorough search for suitable candidates in the eleven REA Group areas and by ex-officio appointments for REA representation by the Chief Royal Engineer. On appointment each Trustee is given a standard Trustee briefing pack and is strongly encouraged to attend Trustee briefing days where they are given updates on various matters on the running of their Association.

2. Trustees make and approve Association policy and delegate the day to day running to the Controller REA and his staff through different committees for management, benevolence, recruiting and finance. At each Council meeting the Minutes of each of the delegated committees are reviewed recommending adjustments as necessary. Council also carries out an annual review of the Risk Register. Council is content that all measures are in hand to minimise risk.

3. The delivery of benevolence is at the heart of what the REA does and the Association is structured in a way to ensure that this is done in a caring and efficient manner. Government initiatives over the past few years have increased the awareness of the general public and local authorities as to the availability of benevolence assistance for those who have served in the Corps and their dependents. The total number of benevolence cases considered in 2013 was 24% less than the previous year. This is mainly attributable to a 43% drop in the number of cases submitted by The Royal British Legion (TRBL) and a 16% drop in cases submitted by SSAFA to the Association in 2013 compared with 2012. This is significant especially as the majority of the charity's cases invariably come through TRBL and SSAFA offices.

4. With the help of other charities like The Army Benevolent Fund – The Soldiers Charity, Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion our seriously injured Sappers are now given extensive treatment and advice in the Personnel Recovery Units as they prepare for the return to civilian life. As part of a wider range of initiatives, the REA, through the Corps RSM, provides a pack of “useful items” when a Sapper is admitted to hospital as the result of an Operational injury to help maintain his links with the Corps.

5. The audited net cost of REA benevolence in 2013 made up of Grants, Christmas grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities was in the region of £420,000; this figure does not include donated services support costs which amounted to a further £62,369 (£482,121 in total). This is substantially lower than 2012 where the audited net cost of benevolence was £597,252; this figure does not include donated services support costs of £85,521 (£682,773 in total).

Table 1 provides the net cost of REA Benevolence, including service support costs, for the last five years.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total Grants Made	737	966	969	953	1071
Net Cost of Grants incl service support costs	£482,121	£682,773	£676,675	£699,971	£706,467

Table 1

6. Effective benevolence requires many organisations working together to bring the help needed to the applicant. The REA relies on the volunteer caseworkers of SSAFA and The Royal British Legion to act as its “eyes and ears”. They inform us of the requirements of the applicant and help him or her complete the application form comprehensively and succinctly so the right type of financial assistance is accurately and speedily delivered. Additionally, Veterans UK through their Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) signpost the REA to those RE service personnel and veterans who may need assistance. Our link with the Army Benevolent Fund – The Soldiers Charity is also important as it contributes to the homes and other military charities, such as BLESMA and St Dunstan’s and Combat Stress. The ABF also continues to control the “ring fenced funds” set up following the comparatively recent operations in the South Atlantic, Northern Ireland, the Gulf and Afghanistan. To assist them in their work, the REA Council continues to support the ABF with an annual grant of £35K, SSAFA with an annual grant of £7.5K, and Combat Stress with an annual grant of £2.5K. Council also authorised a one-off grant of £3K to Veterans in Action to support their valuable work.

7. The REA Council wish to record their gratitude and appreciation to all these organisations and to the volunteers who act as caseworkers and fund raisers in a combined “partnership” for the benefit of all those in need in our Corps family. Caseworkers for all these charities are always required and volunteers are warmly welcomed.

8. Branch Changes. In January this year the Management Committee approved the formation of a Branch in Willich (Germany). There is gathering interest in the formation of a Branch in Hameln (Germany) and HQ REA is keeping a close eye on progress in this area. There were no branch closures in 2013 although a number of Branches are working hard to increase their membership.

9. Badges of Merit 2014. The Chairman REA and the REA Management Committee announced the award of Badges of Merit to the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Group</u>
Mr R G Howes MBE	Wolverhampton	South Midlands
Mr R F Davies	Stafford	South Midlands
Mr P J Swann	Blackpool	North West
Mr M Doherty	Manchester	North West
Mr W G Wilson	Minley	Central Southern

10. Recruiting Dwindling Branch membership continues to occupy the thoughts of the REA Recruiting Committee and much work remains to be done in this area. The problem appears to be confined to geographically located branches as membership of National Branches is at a steady state. Table 2 shows the number of new Life Members enrolled during the last five years and, of those members, how many were enrolled into the three National Branches with the highest take-up.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total new Life Members enrolled (All Branches)	442	469	458	349	541
Airborne Engr Branch (new members)	10	9	52	27	147
Bomb Disposal Branch (new members)	57	15	18	17	31
Cdo Engr Branch (new members)	24	47	42	37	54

Table 2

11. The REA Recruiting Committee continues to review ways of publicising the work of the REA to serving Members and marketing the activities of the REA with the aim of attracting more members to each of the branches. The RCMO's Welcome Pack initiative does not seem to be having the anticipated impact. This may be due to new RCMOs in post who are unaware of the initiative so a renewed effort is being made with RCMOs in order to capture those leaving the Corps. The REA is hopeful of complete support for this initiative from the serving Corps as part of the Chief Royal Engineer's 'Corps Through Life Concept'

12. In addition to the Welcome Packs, the following recruiting initiatives are in place:

- a. Information Cards for Branch members to carry and issue to potential members.
- b. Banners issued to Groups for display on barrack perimeter fences
- c. REA Website
- d. REA Facebook

13. Re-unions. The Association reunions have again been a great success and we wish to give you brief details on them:

a. Chilwell. The Chilwell Weekend was a great success. Twenty six REA branches were represented and 137 REA members and partners attended. The Weekend incorporated a Games Night in the Cpl's Club on the Friday, Freedom of Entry Parade to Kimberly, Borough of Broxtowe, with REA members marching on Saturday morning, equipment displays, dismounted close combat trainer shooting during the afternoon and a very well organised and attended Regimental Dinner in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess during the evening. In addition to 137 REA members and their partners, the dinner was also attended by about 93 Officers, WOs' and SNCOs' in mess kit, with music provided by the Nottinghamshire Band of the Royal Engineers; it made for a very grand evening. The Group Standard Bearers competition was held on the Sunday morning.

b. Minley. The 2014 REA Minley weekend was a great success, with around 168 members attending. The weekend got underway with welcome drinks in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess on Friday night. Saturday morning started with a brief by both the CO and RSM on life currently as a Royal Engineer, this honest and frank update was very much appreciated by the audience, after which the majority then went on to visit the Army Medical museum in Aldershot. The afternoon was spent on the 3 RSME Regt playing field where a series of display's had been organised. These included an Army Dive demonstration, an ABLE and Plant static display, a 'past and present' stand, a Commando and Para stand, a survival stand, IAB stand and finally an MGB race between the 3 Squadrons. That evening there was a function in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, where the CO presented Minley Branch member George Wilson with the Badge of Merit for services to the REA. The evening continued with a meal and entertainment. Sunday's Remembrance Service took place again inside the WOs' & Sgts' Mess, after which the majority paraded outside and were marched up to the Officers Mess for a carvery lunch before dispersing. Overall the weekend was very warmly received by all those attending. Early engagement took place with the REA branches to make sure they were happy with this years planned events.

c. Corps Memorial Weekend. The 2014 Corps Memorial and Veterans Weekend was a huge success, many agreed it was an improvement on previous years. The event was supported by branches nationwide, in total the REA attendance was around 250 with many being accommodated in Wildfire (formerly HMS Collingwood). The Weekend kicked off with an informal meet and greet in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess the event was well attended and everybody enjoyed the music performed by the REA Band. Saturday morning saw the veterans receiving a brief from the Corps RSM on recent changes within the Corps before being split down into

groups ready for the day's activities. During the day, veterans and their guests moved around various stands including workshop tours, in-service plant machinery and the highlight of the day was live firing on the 25m range. Both the regular and reserve bands performed together in the afternoon providing a spectacular display of traditional and contemporary music on the regimental square. The National Standard Bearers Competition and the Dove Cup (darts) ran concurrent to the day's activities. The prizes for the competitions were formally presented in the evening at the official function in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess. As always the function was well attended with some veterans staying until the early hours. On a fine Sunday morning some 72 veterans and 22 Standard Bearers sipped a glass of port before marching on parade – the numbers were impressive and they certainly added value to the parade. Rochester Cathedral was filled almost to capacity for the Memorial Service and after the service the veterans once again 'fell in' with the serving Corps to march through Rochester to exercise the Freedom of the Medway Towns.

14. Media Matters.

a. REA Facebook. This has proved a most useful interactive REA promotional tool. It is an excellent and modern means of delivering REA information and many REA branches are making themselves known by this medium. Of note was the HQ REA posting with photographs of the disbandment of 28 Engr Regt which reached over 17,600 people. The simultaneous publication of equipment photographs with REA information and information useful to those leaving the Corps or seeking employment is ensuring a wider than normal distribution of such information.

b. REA Website. The website continues to be the main REA information pool for those able to access the internet. The provision of the most recent Minutes of meetings, regularly used REA Forms and the Annual Trustees' report and financial statement has proved very popular and beneficial.

c. Corps Memorial Book. Since its commencement, this has proven to be a most popular development. The facility provided through 'Friends & Relations' that allows friends and families to add comments and reflections to those who have passed away is also popular.

15. Controller REA. The day to day running of the Association continues to be managed most effectively by the Deputy Controller. This arrangement is set to continue until mid-October when the newly recruited Controller, Lt Col Keith Lowerson MBE RE, starts work.

**Honorary Treasurer's Report to the**  
**46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

1. The 2013 budget was authorised by Council with an income of £759.3K and an overall deficit of £112.5K. The year closed on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 with a surplus of £177.7K. This positive performance against budget was primarily due to better than expected investment income plus a continuation of the lower levels of spending on benevolence grants.
2. This year's budget, which started on 1<sup>st</sup> January, had an authorised income of £769.5K and an overall deficit of £52.0K. This year we are on target to close, on 31<sup>st</sup> December, within budget.
3. Next year's budget has been approved by Council with an income of £829.7K and an overall deficit of £16.3K. The increased income over previous years is due principally to an expected increase in our investment income. This budget includes the agreed REA grant to the RE Museum Transformation Project of £30K although it is expected to slip again, improving the in-year situation. The very much smaller deficit in this budget is due to a reduced allocation to benevolence, reflecting recent trends, plus the increased income described above. Over recent years, our budgets have tended to forecast sizeable deficits mainly due to the difficulty of forecasting legacy income and benevolence spending. This year we have attempted to be more realistic and tighter in our budgeting. The problem is striking a balance between setting a budget which is easy to meet against one which is tighter but risks overspending.
4. REA capital is invested in the Armed Forces Common Investment Fund and as at 22<sup>nd</sup> August this year the capital value was £9.25M, compared to £8.70M in 2013 and £7.77M in 2012. The increase in value is principally due to the continuing improvements in the markets, although we have also transferred £250K of excess cash into the investments during this year. We do not need to realise any of our investments in the foreseeable future.
5. Benevolence is, of course, a key part of REA business and is its biggest expenditure. In 2013, £419.7K was spent on benevolence. This was a significant reduction against the budget principally due to less than expected benevolence grants (£264.6K against a budget of £475K). This is a continuation of the trend over recent years where the benevolence spend has been virtually flat and much less than expected. It is interesting to note that other military charities are seeing a similar trend. This year £614K has been budgeted for benevolence and we are on track once again to come within budget at the end of the year. As mentioned above, we have reduced the budget for benevolence in 2015 and beyond to try and produce a more realistic forecast. In practice, we are extremely fortunate that at the moment funding is not a constraint when considering requests for help. Indeed, Council has been able to approve a £5 per week increase in the weekly allowance as well as increases in the Christmas bonus payments, beginning next year.
6. Despite the reduction in the size of the Corps and the consequent reduction in income via the Days Pay Scheme, there is no immediate cause for concern over our financial health. The REA finances are in good order.

Colonel Roger Hunt  
REA Honorary Treasurer

## **CRSM's Briefing to the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting – 11 Oct 14**

### **What is the new Corps structure?**

#### **8 Engr Bde – HQ in Minley – under command of Force Troops Command (FTC)**

##### **25 (CS) Engr Group**

22, 26, 35 Engr Regts form the Reactive Force (RF) – Tidworth  
21, 32 Engr Regts for the Adaptable Force (AF) – Catterick (includes 1 x Reserve sub unit each)

##### **12 (FS) Engr Group**

36 Engr Regt – Maidstone – FS  
39 Engr Regt – Kinloss – FS  
20 Wks Gp Air – Brize Norton  
71 Engr Regt – RAF Leuchars – partnered with 39 Engr Regt  
75 Engr Regt – Warrington – partnered with 36 Engr Regt

##### **29 EOD & Search Group**

101 & 33 Engr Regts – Wimbish  
11 RLC EOD Regt & MWD under Comd

##### **170 (Infra Sp) Engr Group**

62, 63, 64, 65, 66 Wks Gp RE – Chilwell  
RMonRE – Wales

##### **Army Recruiting and Training Directorate (ARTD)**

1&3 RSME Regts  
Professional Engineer Wing (PEW)  
Royal Engineer Warfare Wing (REWW)  
Defence Animal Centre (DAC)  
Defence Explosive Munitions and Search School (DEMS) – Bicester  
Army School of Music

24 (Cdo) Engr Regt remain in Chivenor under command of 3 Cdo Bde  
23 Engr Regt (AA) remain under command 16 AA Bde in Woodbridge  
42 Engr Regt (Geo) under command Joint Force Intelligence Group (JFIG)

### **What have we done to facilitate this new structure?**

**Closed some units:** 28, 72, 73 Engr Regt along with sub units from the AF Regts.

**Re-born:** 28 Training Squadron 28 Oct 14 – ATR(P)

Unit moves from BFG for 32 Engr Regt into Catterick (2015) and 35 Engr Regt into Perham Down (2018/19), 21 Engr Regt will move from Ripon to Catterick 2018.

### **What does this mean?**

Reactive Force – Tidworth – High readiness units, first 3 tours of an enduring operation.  
Adaptable Force – Ripon/Catterick – Up stream capacity building and involved in tours 4/5 of an enduring operation – 18 month reaction time  
Spearhead units – 23/24 – first out the door

### **General Issues**

- Redundancy (T4) complete only losing a small number of QGE
- We are on a recruiting footing, do your part where possible influence the youngsters and gatekeepers

## What's been going on this year?

- 35 Engr Regt closing down AFG
- Exercises in Poland – cognisant of the Ukraine v Russia issue.
- Disaster relief to the Philippines
- NATO Summit Support – Scotland
- Africa Ebola virus support.
- Op PITCHPOLE – Flood relief.
- Support to Baltic Air Policing. 529 STRE (Air Sp) currently deployed to Lithuania to assist with the siting of aircraft in support of Baltic Air Policing.
- Libya, engaged in the training of Lybian Armed Forces (Bassingborn) but that is waning
- Pakistan, CIED capability development
- Kenya. The Infrastructure Development Plan (IDP) in Kenya continues with JFEES.
- DE & UCB. There have been a number of examples of specialist engineer involvement:
  - 33 Engr Regt integrated with 4X and hosted an Egyptian delegation in May.
  - 39 Engr Regt deployed personnel to advise Kosovan Engineers in the construction of a range and assault course.
- Veterans have taken part in the Invictus Games
- Reserve units (71) won the Army football competition.
- Hugely successful in many other sporting arenas.

And much, much, more!

## What's on the Horizon?

- Falklands islands radar heads starting 2015 – AF
- Training the Corps to better understand their new role on a contingency footing.
- Army 2020 transition and finalisation – were almost complete
- NEM, pay, pensions, allowances etc
- SDSR 15 – Scotland Influence, 82K right or wrong
- Recruiting the reserves to 30K – REA influence for Sapper recruiting – **MAIN EFFORT**

## What would I like the REA to assist with?

**Recruiting** – by enthusing those young people you come into contact with regarding not only the Corps but the services in general.

**Return to Contingency** – you guys lived through that so can add real value and advice of how things used to be done especially when considering novel ways to train soldiers.

## Corps Deaths

Sadly we have lost 8 serving members of the Corps this year and I know we have lost even more from the veteran community. Thank you to all who have shown support for all those who have passed especially the standard bearers etc.

## Afghanistan – Operational

23 Dec 13      Captain Richard Holloway  
05 Mar 14      Sapper Adam Moralee

## United Kingdom – Non-Operational

11 Nov 14      Sapper Kieron Blight  
10 Feb 14      Corporal Terry Christopher Stevenson  
25 Feb 14      Sapper Dylan Reece Gibson  
27 Apr 14      Lieutenant Colonel Peter Spilsbury  
23 May 14      Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Nigel Powell  
16 Jul 14      Sergeant Deborah Kelk

## Parish Notices

Please access the REA Facebook page and visit the Army website and specifically the RE pages to keep track on what's going on.