



Military Survey (Geographic) Branch

A member of the
Royal Engineers Association



MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE MEETING held at the

WOs' & Sgts' Mess, Hermitage, at 1900hrs 18th August, 2015

In Attendance:

Chairman:	Angus Cross
Treasurer elect:	Ted Davies
Editor:	Noel Grimmatt
Webmaster:	Dave Johnson
Military Liaison	WO1 (SMI) Mark Keiras
Event Organiser:	Mick Perry
Secretary/Welfare:	Rod Siggs

1. Welcome and introduction - The Chairman welcomed all present, and especially Ted Davies, who had very kindly agreed to take up the position of Treasurer in the absence of Alf. He then asked Rod to give the meeting an update on Alf's health.

2. Alf's condition is terminal and he had just been removed from the Royal West Berkshire Hospital and placed in the Beacher Hall Nursing Home in Reading for what was considered palliative care. Diana, his wife, was being supported kindly by Mike Nolan and his wife, who ensured Diana could frequently visit Alf, who was now in a private ward and a lot more comfortable.

3. Rod said that he and Angus had retrieved much of the accounts from Alf's home with help from Dave Bowery (Alf's brother-in-law) and permission of Diana, but there were still vital missing documents which were not enabling the accounts to be taken over seamlessly. Angus said that he was committed to getting them in order so as to give Ted the proper and correct start. Rod was awaiting the Annual Financial Summary as at 31 December 2014, the starting point for 2015, from HQ REA.

4. The Chairman then spoke about the normal method of electing a Treasurer at an AGM but all agreed this was an exceptional circumstance and all present agreed the election of **Mr. Ted Davies** to the post. He will assume the full post following Angus' rationalising of the accounts as much as possible. The Chairman went on to say that he intended to reduce the number of accounts from three to two in order to simplify them and use single line accounting rather than the rather cumbersome double entry accounting system currently used. **All committee agreed this suggestion.**

5. Matters arising from the previous meeting(s) –

Rod looked back at the previous Committee Meeting of the 26th May 2015 and had

the following to report:

- **Unpaid Subs** – Rod said that he was still chasing non-paying subs members from 2014 and he had received a few of the outstanding subs. He said that most surprisingly he had not even received a response from some very well-known ex colleagues.
Action: RS
- The Mil Svy Historical Digitization project – This was an agenda point today, so an update would follow.
- TOR – Rod had not been able to check to see if the TOR had been past to Dave for publication on the web. He would do so immediately and would also pass Ted a copy.
Action: RS
- Noel’s point about his and others belief that the History of Mil Svy Project to be so big it needed a separate meeting to devise a strategy would be addressed later in the meeting.
Wait out
- The Branch’s visit to the Regt at Wyton 1st & 2nd Sep 2015 was an agenda point at this meeting and therefore would be discussed later.

Action: MP

6. **Current Statement of the Account** - The Chairman, Angus, announced the “Worth of the Branch” as at 22nd May 2015.

Savings a/c	£4,625.75	
Current a/c	£5,080.28	
Total:		£9,706.03
Cheques to clear	Nil	
Geo Support Fund	£1,660.41	

The Chairman went on to say that he was awaiting statements of each account from the Bank for the whole of 2015. He also suggested that as the accounts were to be managed by personnel who were Newbury centric he believed that it made sense for another signatory of cheques etc., to be from Newbury. This was unanimously agreed by the committee and so **Mick Perry was duly elected as an additional signatory in addition to Ted Davies (Treasurer), Angus Cross (Chairman) and Rod Siggs (Secretary).**

7. **Welfare** – Rod said that he had been informed of the deaths of Chris Everett and Charlie Brown – he was awaiting funeral arrangements before informing the membership.
Action: RS

Military Update – WO1 Mark Keiras said that there had been a Long Service and Good Conduct medal presentation earlier that day to SSgt Steve Avis. Maj Gen Hockenull. (Late Int Corps) the ‘DCI3’ (Director Cyber, Information and Intelligence Integration) presented the medal. The General also gave a very short brief about the possible move of the RSMS to Wyton, which is still expected to be in 2017.

8. Mark, then told the meeting about the new idea of combining the Class 2 Geographic Technicians course with a Cadre, in order the young soldiers were not disadvantaged. This would combine all elements of the Command, Leadership & Management (CLM) course and he said they were looking for a shield or similar to present to the best soldier. Rod asked about the “John Stevens” Salver and Cufflinks

award that already existed. This prompted much discussion and following the meeting was the topic of discussions with the Regt's 2 i/c. (More to follow.)

9. Mark said that the next Class 2 Graduation was to take place on 4th Sep and following discussion Ted said he would make the Stable Belt presentation on behalf of the Branch. Rod said he would forward his briefing notes to Ted to give him an idea of what has been said to previous courses. **Action: TD, RS**

10. Mark also said that the 4 x Svy Parties that had gone to Korea are all back and are now going to Oman. Mick said there was an article in the Sapper magazine reference the Survey of the Korean Border – very interesting. Noel would try and gain this to reproduce for the next newsletter.

11. Editors Update – Noel said that the trip to Wyton would form the basis of the next edition which he hoped would be out in mid-September. There followed discussions about reducing the number of copies from four to three but Angus said in his opinion many members looked forward to their newsletters and was one of the main reasons for their membership. Noel was happy to continue producing four editions at the moment but said if copy dried up then it might be a consideration later. He spoke about the obituaries still outstanding and Rod promised to forward the Keith (Aka) Butt obituary that he had been asked to amend. Mark also asked Rod to ensure he was on the newsletter distribution in order he could get it re-printed and distributed around the RSMS and Regiment.

Rod said he needed to chase Darrel Ball again reference his rugby article to continue the series. Dave said he has a lot of newsletters on the web and needed to produce an index to cross reference the articles – a lot of work.

Action: NG, RS, DJ

12. Web-site Update – Dave handed out the recent download of website statistics and usage summary for the period up to 15 August 2015 that shows more average daily hits already for the half month than the whole of July. As usual it shows the continued interest in the site. **Action: Ongoing DJ**

13. Mil Svy History Digitisation – Chris Nash has been trying to chase the Corps Museum reference hosting the finished product, but the Museum seems to be dragging their feet and no response had been forthcoming to date. Mick spoke of his real concern that he was losing the plot and wondered if we should not actually be producing a prototype to show members what we are trying to achieve with their money. Dave said that he had demonstrated a mini version at the AGM and he and Angus again outlined what it was that they were hoping to finally achieve. Digitising of many photos had been completed but the problem now was how we produce the wherewithal to allow members to access it. The original cost of the software was approx. £4k but the Corps Museum was willing to host it for free and they also had 4 x spare licenses.

Dave believes the museum is still the way ahead but this would inevitably lead to delays. Mick said he was still not happy with the current situation and could not see the way ahead and believed we should withdraw from the agreement with the DSA.

Angus said he will talk to the DSA and call the Museum requesting that by the end of September they give a firm answer as to “yes” or “no” to hosting our Mil Svy (Geo)

site on their software.

Action: DJ, AG

14. Wyton Visit – Mick said that there were approximately 20 members attending the Wyton visit although he was still chasing a few who had indicated their intention to join the visit but had not submitted a return. Of the 20, 15 were to stay overnight and for dinner in the WOs' & Sgts' Mess. He said there was still discussion about the type of midday meal that was to be provided, he had asked for a buffet style in order members could circulate and talk to one another but they (the Wyton caterers) were talking about set meals. The original indications were that the cost of meals would be £36.00/head and this had been forwarded to members but due to the continuing confusion he would not be surprised if the final bill was higher. Accordingly, he asked the committee for agreement that should the final bill exceed the quote then he could cover this from his annual entertainments fund of £500.00. **This was agreed by the committee.**

Mick said he was surprised the latest newsletter had not contained timings in detail for the visit but would send around a separate email to all attendees. **Action: MP**

15. AOB – Mick had picked up that the Regiment is planning an Open Day in July 2016 and we should plan to have a presence when more details are known.

16. Date of next meeting – The date of the next meeting proposed to be held at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess Hermitage at 1900hrs on Tue 27th October 2015. **Action: All**

RB Siggs signed: *R.B. Siggs*
Honorary Secretary
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch REA

AP Cross signed:
Chairman
Military Survey (Geographic) Branch REA