



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 15^h January, 2015

In Attendance:

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| Chairman: | Angus Cross |
| Treasurer: | Alf Isherwood |
| Editor: | Noel Grimmett |
| Military Liaison: | WO1 (SMI) Mark Keiras |
| Webmaster: | Dave Johnson |
| Event Organiser: | Mick Perry |
| Secretary/Welfare: | Rod Siggs |

1. **Welcome and introduction** - The Chairman welcomed WO1 Mark Keiras, the new military liaison representative, and all present, and opened the meeting.
Apologies for absence - Apologies were received from Ken Hall.

2. The Chairman spoke of the shock and sadness of Bob's hospitalization and asked if anyone had any further news to inform all later in the meeting.

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

Rod looked back at the previous Committee Meetings of the 15th July 2014 and the AGM held on 14th March:

- **Stable Belts** - Rod updated the committee again about the position regarding not having received any bills for previous engraved stable belts (now 5) for the RSMS presentations. However, Mark was able to elaborate upon the situation further and he informed the meeting that RSMS intends to purchase 20 new stable belts for the use of RSMS only and for the Branch's presentations. He felt confident that bills would now follow through correctly. **Action: Wait out**
- **Unpaid Subs** – Rod passed Alf an updated list of members that will be chased for unpaid subs but noted that a number on Alf's original list had died and there were other discrepancies. However, some non-payers would be struck off our membership list by September if no subs are received following further chasing by Rod. **Action: RS**
- **Hardcopy Newsletter** - Rod obtained a quote from Allan Bishop (a new member with his own printing business) reference the printing of the hardcopy newsletters. However, the quote was slightly higher than currently being paid so we will not change printer. **Action: RS**

4. Current Statement of the Account - The Treasurer, Alf Isherwood, gave out the printed "Worth of the Branch" as at 31st December 2014.

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|------------------|-----------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Savings a/c | £4,624.69 | Current a/c | £2,340.69 |
| Cheques to clear | £63.27 | Combined Bank Accts | £6,902.01 |
| | | Geo Support Fund | £1,201.53 |

Following discussions on the statement it was agreed that Alf should show the £2,000.00 made available for the digitising of the historic photos under "commitments" this money is being held by the project treasurer in the DSA bank account.
Action: AI

Alf explained that two cheques sent in respect of payments for the buffets at last year's AGM and the Farewell to Newbury Weekend have been sorted by cancelling those and the subsequent reissuing which had now been cashed. **NFA**

Alf explained that submission of the accounts to the auditors and thus to HQ REA was nearly finalized but he was having slight problems which he hoped would be resolved with the help of Mike Gowlett.
Action: AI

5. Welfare – Rod and Mick reported to the Committee the details so far received about Bob's condition which was an improvement but still critical. Chris' wish was that no further contact be made to her at this time, please.

Rod gave details of Len Wallace's funeral, attended by Jack Crompton with our standard and outlined the details received about John Mason's funeral on Monday, and a "service of thanksgiving" to be held at Christchurch on Mon 26 Jan 15, which Rod hoped to attend.
Action: RS

6. Military Update – WO1 Mark Keiras gave a short update on the possible date for the build and subsequent move of RSMS to Wyton which was likely to be around 2017. He emphasized that nothing was set in stone as yet, of course. Gus briefed Mark on the requirement for a military input which he agreed to chase from the Regt in a timely manner and volunteered to undertake the duplication and distribution of the newsletters to each soldier within RSMS.
Action: MK

7. Editors Update – Noel's first edition of the newsletter had been well received. He said he had enjoyed researching for the articles but he had been warned by Ken that the volume had been close to the letter post size limit. Any thicker and it would need to go as a package, obviously costing more. There followed discussions about the timing of the editions as they had now gone a little out of sync with the requirement for returns for the AGM. It was agreed that the next editions should be around the end of March followed by one in June, then Aug/Sep and Nov. The first edition in 2016 would again be back to normal in February to allow for Mick to chase returns for the AGM.
Action: NG

8. Web-site Update – Dave handed out the website usage summary that showed the continued interest in the site which was going from strength to strength. He said it was his intention to refresh the various articles and historic articles that had been published in order they remained both relevant to current interest and discussion and reduce large amounts of data that were "stagnating". **Action: DJ**

9. Mil Svy History Digitisation – Dave said that a meeting was being set up (possibly within the next couple of weeks) between John Fitzgerald, himself and the curator of the Corps museum to discuss the possibility of using the same software.

Action: JF/DJ

10. AGM – Mick reminded all that the AGM was to be held in the WOs' and Sgts' Mess, Hermitage on Friday 27 March, but that he had only received a few returns and only one from the Committee. There followed comment about the lack of available accommodation in either the Offrs' or Sgts' messes, as a result of the new Units in the barracks. Mark was to ask the Sgts' Mess Manager if there was any transit accommodation available and if there was, could the mess provide breakfast for those using it. Mick requested that we send out both a special hardcopy and email reminder to members in early to mid-February with returns required NLT mid-March. The additional finance for this was agreed.

Action:MP/MK/RS/KH/ALL

11. TOR – Gus has gone through and made amendments to the current Branch TOR and he will circulate these for comment. Members of the Committee were requested to act swiftly as they needed to be published prior to the AGM in order they can be ratified at that meeting.

Action:AC/All

12. AOB –

- Rod said that he had received an email from Chris Nash reference visits to elderly members. He had sought guidance from HQ REA but there was no provision for visits, branches were to make their own arrangements. Following discussions it was suggested that Rod might try SSAFA or RBL to see if they could help. If that was unsuccessful then perhaps he could trawl for members in the vicinity to see if they would be prepared to make an occasional visit.

Action: RS

- Rod had received an email from Mike Payne, in his capacity as Central Southern Group Representative to the National Committee of the REA asking Branches for their views upon the ratio of Associate Members to Life Members of their Branch. The Committee decided that no more than 5% of Associate Members should be allowed in each branch. This will be forwarded to Mike P.

Action: RS

- Noel explained that there were still slight problems reconciling the Christmas Dinner accounts but after discussion this was sorted out and Noel would forward bills to members attending.

Action: NG

13. Date of next meeting – The date of the next meeting is proposed to be held at the WOs' & Sgts' Mess Hermitage at 1900hrs on Thu 12th Mar 15.

Action: All

Rod Siggs

Honorary Secretary

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