



**Minutes of the RAMC Association  
Annual General Meeting (AGM)  
Held at the  
National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) – Aspects Centre  
Friday 23 June 2023 at 1200 hrs**

<b>Present</b>	Col (Retd) K Millar Brig R Simpson Maj (Retd) M J T Ellis WO1 (RSM) R Melville Capt (Retd) P H Starling  Mr A Geelan  Mr K Roberts Mr R Lawrence Mr J Underwood Mr I Hooper Col (Retd) A Rees Mr B Lawrence Mr D Barnish Maj A Fitzgerald Capt (Retd) R Scott Lt Col (Retd) A Jones BEM Mr J Wall (JW) Col (Retd) W Robinson Mr G Dickson Mr B Wilson Mr J Caroll Maj (Retd) C Hunter Mr M Tate Mr R Mallender Mr T Hissey Other Association Members x 62	National Chairman President / Rep Col Comdt RAMC Regimental Secretary RAMC Rep Sgt Maj RAMC Reg Rep - South & SE England & Chair – Aldershot Br Reg Rep – Scotland & Chair – Central Scotland Br Reg Rep - Midlands Chair – Bristol Br Chair – East Midlands Br Chair – Essex Br Chair – East Kent Br Chair – N-Cambs & S-Lincs Br Chair – North Midlands Br Chair – Northumbria Br Chair – Sheffield Br Chair – Shropshire Br Chair – South Wales Br (aka SSB) Chair – South West Br V-Chair – Birmingham Br Sec – Coventry Br Treasurer – Durham Br SB – Grimsby Br SB – Kingston-upon-Hull Br Member – Manchester Br Member – City of London Br	Chair
<b>In Attendance</b>	Maj Gen A Hawley Brig P Carter Brig A Finn Brig C Parker Brig M Nadin Col G Johnson Col S Mellor Col (Retd) D Vassallo Lt Col J Dodds RAMC	Trustee / Col Comdt Col RAMC Snr Hlth Adv (A) / Hd of AMS Trustee / Col Comdt Trustee / Col Comdt Col AMS Chair Benevolence  SO1 Change	
<b>Apologies</b>	Col (Retd) M Pemberton Maj R Parkes RAMC Mr I Razzell (IR)	Reg Rep – Wales & SW England Reg Rep - NI & NW England Facebook Page Manager	
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee	National Secretary	

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
The Meeting Opened at 1202 hours		
1.	<b>Chairman's Opening Remarks</b>	
	<p>a. The Chairman (Chair) started by welcoming all to the AGM and voicing his gratitude for a great display of the Standards and march past on this the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.</p> <p>b. He thanked all Branches (Brs) for their hard work over the past 12 months and promised to keep the meeting as brief as possible so all could get to lunch and catch up with old colleagues.</p>	
2.	<b>Previous Minutes &amp; Matters Arising</b>	
	<p>a. The National Secretary (Nat Sec) then presented the previous minutes and with no observations from the floor, the minutes were accepted by the meeting.</p>	
3.	<b>Chairs Report &amp; Updates</b>	
	<p>a. The Chair opened his report by pointing out the two new faces on the speaking side of the lectern; namely himself as new Nat Chair and the new Nat Sec and expressed his gratitude for the comprehensive handover he received from his predecessor, Brigadier Macmillan. He also thanked the previous Nat Sec, Mike Ryan, for his sterling work in support of the Association while in office both through the difficulties of the pandemic and beyond.</p>	
	<p>b. The Chair then spoke on two observations since taking post. Firstly that active membership is ageing, diminishing and often dependent on a few stalwarts. This was not necessarily the case across the board, and indeed some Branches are flourishing. He said there was a clear need for younger blood and for others to step up to the plate to help the aforementioned stalwarts to keep the Brs concerned alive. Secondly, that there was a pretty serious lack of accurate and up to date information available to ensure that the Association had the relevant knowledge to allow its effective administration. He stated that the new Nat Sec has (as many will have known) been pushing hard to sort this out and that a number of anomalies and difficulties have been identified and are in the process of being fixed to give the association a workable database.</p>	Brs
	<p>c. The Chair spoke about Rules and that all were aware that the Association has its own set of Rules. However, and unfortunately, it has become clear that some have chosen either to disregard these Rules or interpret them less than accurately! The Chair impressed the reasons behind the Rules to ensure that the Association can satisfy the RAMC Charity that all is well. However, to ensure that the Rules are better understood, to include the new functions of the Nat Sec, and to remove any misunderstandings it is intended that a complete update of the Rules will be undertaken and then processed through the Executive Committee (Exc Cttee) and then the Charity Trustees for their endorsement in an attempt to make things clearer and encourage better compliance through such clarity.</p>	All
	<p>d. The Chair then spoke on a couple of updates. Firstly, Medic Magazine, which is a major means of communication to a wide audience, but is a major concern to us all as it has not appeared for some time. He pointed out that the Magazine does not fall to the Association but assured the meeting that the importance of the publication to the Association has been made clear to the RAMC Charity Trustees. He hoped that some forward progress can soon be made, and that the publication can once again be available. Secondly, he spoke on Welfare Training. He reminded the meeting that the Welfare Training day planned by his predecessor had been cancelled twice which was of course disappointing, as Welfare is a very important function of the Association. He gave his assurance that the matter had not been forgotten, and that it would be resuscitated once he could be certain that a proper representation from Branches will actually attend. Gathering some 20+ experts to address the various components of Welfare is not without its difficulties, and if the audience we provide is too small then the good name of the Association will inevitably suffer.</p>	Brs / Chair

<p>e. The Chair then highlighted the increasingly important part Social Media (SM) plays in keeping in touch, the passing of information and notification of events. To that end, he recorded his thanks to Ian Razell for his sterling work with the official Association Facebook (FB) page which has about 2500 members.</p> <p>f. The Chair spoke about the RAMC Br Standards. These are regularly deployed locally where appropriate, and the co-ordination of this has, where necessary, been sorted out by John Wall, our Senior Standard Bearer (SSB) and again, he recorded his thanks to John and indeed all the standard bearers for their sterling work.</p> <p>g. Lastly, the Chair noted all the external assistance the Association receives, without which it would struggle. This, as ever, includes the RHQ staff at Camberley and the Representative Sergeant Major RAMC. On behalf of the Association he also thanked all that are external to the Association who help to make things work – especially like the day in question.</p>	
<p><b>4. Financial Statement</b></p> <p>a. The Chair covered the Financial Statement from which copies of a full statement had been distributed amongst the meeting. He stressed the following important points:</p> <p>(1) The Association is allocated a virtual sum of money by the Charity on an annual basis. If that allocation is found to be insufficient, the Chair can bid for an uplift - but would need to justify it.</p> <p>(2) Per-Head Grants to Brs will no longer be automatic after this year's allocations – but grants, more generally, may still be sought by Brs in the usual way. This was because it is Charity money and all expenditure must be properly justified.</p> <p>(3) Last year, the Association overspent by about £20,000. This year, after paying out over £20,000 in grants to Brs the Association still has circa £20,000 remaining of its virtual pot of gold.</p>	
<p><b>5. Secretary's Report &amp; Update'</b></p> <p>a. The new Nat Sec opened his report with three statements:</p> <p>(1) Firstly, that it was a great privilege and honour to be selected as the National Secretary of the RAMC Association and he hoped to match many giants of the past who also held the post.</p> <p>(2) Secondly, he echoed the words of the new Chair by thanking his predecessor for the handover he provided especially as he knew he was also contending with some personal matters.</p> <p>(3) Thirdly, he thanked the Brs for their engagement and communication to the many emails he promulgates and saw their relationship as very much symbiotic.</p> <p>b. The Nat Sec then turned to talk about the Brs and his initial findings / observations since taking post. The Br return (rtn) that is due annually by the COP 15 Feb aligned around his arrival in post and was very much a baptism of fire into the role. Whilst initially challenging, it provided an ideal opportunity to get to know and understand the status of each Br where it brought to light the following:</p> <p>(1) That some branches are flourishing whilst the viability of others are at question. He stated that currently we have 21 vibrant and active Brs, 4 Brs who's viability is questionable and that post CoViD, some 4 Brs have closed.</p>	<p>Brs</p>

<p>He impressed the importance of engaging with him should any Br find themselves in difficulty and their future viability questionable.</p> <p>c. The Nat Sec then talked about Association Assets and thanked all Brs for their prompt response to his Asset holdings rtn. Prior to this the Association did not have a concrete record of what assets were being held and where. He stated that over £70,000 of assets were now recorded and tracked and that the SSB was also undertaking an exercise to capture all “Laid-Up Standards”, and he implored Brs to sp the SSB in his endeavours.</p> <p>d. The Nat Sec then informed the meeting that at the last Ex Cttee Mtg a request by one Br to source a “Bespoke” Association Sympathy Card had been endorsed and that was now in production. He also stated that this also presented the opportunity to not only source a High-Definition Association Logo but also update it with the Kings Crown. This will enable Brs to send a unique, formal but personal message to grieving families and that once the print is complete Brs would receive an initial batch.</p> <p>e. The Nat Sec then spoke about the official Association Website and how, when coming into post, it was inferred that the site was out-dated. However, he drew the meetings attention to various minor changes and updates that have already taken place in terms of updating certain data, making access easier and introducing some new changes. One key change he wishes to implement is the introduction of an Association Events Calendar, so all activity being undertaken, pan-UK, can be posted for all to see. He reiterated that the “refresh” remains a work in progress (WIP) albeit, like everything, it comes at a cost. He also informed the meeting that he receives circa. five contact emails every week so the means to reach the Association, by external agencies is very much alive.</p> <p>f. The Nat Sec finally covered the emotive subject area of Association Membership, how this is tracked/recorded and what measures are being undertaken to assist Brs in elevating their membership levels. Firstly he reiterated the words of the Chair that the recruitment of Br Members is the preserve of the Brs, however, he spoke on the following for Brs to better understand what assistance can and is being provided centrally:</p> <p>(1) The Strength of the Membership is held against two databases; the first is a historical one on <i>SubscriberCRM</i> which holds some 13,876 RAMC records. This was most probably created decades ago from the original Membership Index Cards. The second is the most modern via the online membership application software, <i>membermojo</i> which has some 467 Members and has been running since 2017. Like all data, the Nat Sec impressed that unless it is updated then it will never be a panacea and inaccuracies will exist i.e. deaths, contact details etc. and he illustrated this with some 23 Members on <i>SubscriberCRM</i> that are aged between 100 – 109! That said, this data can be used to assist Brs when trying to update, seek or notify who is in their capture area.</p> <p>(2) Going forward all applications are via <i>membermojo</i> and applicants data is not only checked but once agreement is given by the applicants their details are passed on to their preferred Br; this has happened in all but a few cases. Since arrival in post, the Nat Sec has managed 30 such applications who, in the main, have their application acknowledged and processed within 24 hours. The Nat Sec informed the meeting that the £5 fee for the online application is to cover the administration and production costs, as all applicants receive a Photo Membership Card.</p> <p>(3) Next the Nat Sec highlighted that regulars who are going through their discharge process, who in-turn become veterans, are also being targeted <i>if</i> they complete the requisite “UAMS Service Leavers Contact Details” form which goes to the RHQ RAMC. This form declares they are content for their personal details to be shared and forms received by the RHQ have already been used by the Nat Sec to reach out to those individuals and re-introduce them to the RAMC Association. Again, should they positively respond, their details are passed to their preferred Br.</p>	<p>Brs</p> <p>Nat Sec</p> <p>Nat Sec</p>
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<p>(4) Lastly, Local Unit Connections. The Nat Sec stated that this was arguably the most difficult due to the pace of life, commitments (esp. Operational), the transiency of personnel and key gatekeepers as they post/assign or undertake long courses, exercises or operations and that ultimately, not all CO's of units will be RAMC. Brig Finn agreed to assist in this endeavour.</p>	<p>Brig Finn / Chair</p>
<p><b>6. Confirmation / Election of Officers</b></p> <p>a. The Chair informed the meeting that two Regional Representatives (Reg Reps) had recently stood down from their post:</p> <p>(1) Ian Simpson - NE England and Yorkshire</p> <p>(2) David Human - London and East Anglia</p> <p>He thanked both of them for their sterling efforts over the period of their tenure and stated he had received suggestions for their replacements, and should those individuals agree to be nominated, the process for their election/selection will be in accordance with the Rules.</p>	
<p><b>7. Forecast of Events (FOE)</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec referred the meeting to the copies of the Forecast of Events (FOE) that had been distributed to the meeting and specifically highlighted the Cenotaph Parade on Remembrance Sunday 12 November, seeking the maximum attendance from Brs where possible.</p>	<p>Brs</p>
<p><b>8. Chairs Commendations</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec notified the meeting of the following recipients who had been awarded Commendations which were presented by the Chair:</p> <p>(1) Maj (Retd) Fred Curry-Peace - North Midlands Br For over 30 years as Br Treasurer.</p> <p>(2) Fred Nock * - Wessex Br For over 25 years as a Br SB and a former SSB.</p> <p>(3) Ralph Girling * - Norfolk Br For over 20 years as a Br SB.</p> <p>(4) Jack Lummis * - Norfolk Br For over 20 years as a Br Deputy SB</p> <p>(5) Alex Long * - Central Scotland Br For over 34 years of Long, Distinguished and Industrious Service having joined the Association at the age of 18.</p> <p>(6) Mike Ryan* - Aldershot Br For 3 years' Service as the Nat Sec of the Association.</p> <p>* Those not in attendance will receive their Commendation in an appropriate manner.</p>	<p>Nat Sec</p>
<p><b>9. Open Forum</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec then opened the floor to the meeting to take any issues raised:</p> <p>(1) Chair East Kent raised three subjects:</p> <p>(a) That due to viability issues, a potential merger between the East</p>	

<p>Kent and Maidstone Brs was being explored. Thus far, opinion from the East Kent was positive.</p> <p>(b) That the possibility of bespoke email domain names for Brs be explored to streamline communications albeit if it was too cumbersome or expensive, that would be understood. The Chair said the Exc Cttee would look at this again.</p> <p>(c) That the policy for expenses to attend the AGM be revisited.</p> <p>(2) Chair Shropshire Br sought clarity on the Per-Head Grant after having seen and read the most recent Exc Cttee Mtg Minutes from 19 Apr 23.</p> <p><b>Afternote;</b> Extracts from the said Minutes include; <i>“The Chair acknowledged that the £50 per-head grant for 2023 had already been established at the last Exc Cttee Mtg but was not content that it continued from 2024 onwards”</i> and <i>“The Chair suggested that he along with the Nat Sec review the current system with a view to simplification, revised or acceleration adding Brs’ could rightly seek fiscal assistance for admin sp. This review would then be shared with the Exc Cttee for comment”</i>.</p> <p>(3) Chair Durham Br raised the issue of an easier access route to local units (para 5f(4) above also refers). Brig Finn agreed to take this matter forward and will engage with the Chair accordingly.</p> <p><b>Afternote;</b> Communication between Brig Finn, Brig Carter and the Association Chair on this subject has been initiated. Any future information on this will be passed to Branches as it becomes clear.</p>	<p>Chairs East Kent &amp; Maidstone</p> <p>Exc Cttee</p> <p>Exc Cttee</p> <p>Exc Cttee</p> <p>Chair / Brig Finn</p>
<p><b>10. Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>a. The Chairman closed the meeting by asking all to keep the faith and try to recruit, be it via the RBL, breakfast clubs or otherwise and that such engagement was not the preserve of Branch officers but all members. He championed the attendance at the Cenotaph on Remembrance as there was still time to register and that it should firmly be on members bucket list if they had never done this before - it is a wonderful experience and occasion to join the 10,000 marchers involved. Lastly, he thanked all attendees for coming, that they enjoy the rest of the day but get home safely and he would see them next year, if not before!</p> <p>b. The Nat Sec asked to see a number of Br members once the meeting had closed.</p>	
<p><b>11. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec stated that the date of the next AGM would be 23 Jun 24 also at the NMA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1241 hours</p>	

J A'Lee  
Lt Col (Retd)  
RAMC Association National Secretary