



**Addendum Minutes of the RAMC Association
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Held at the
National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) – Aspects Centre
Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 1307 hrs**

Present	Col (Retd) K N A Millar	National Chair	Chair
	Brig M Nadin Maj (Retd) M J T Ellis Mr I Hooper Mr K Roberts Col (Retd) C Mason Brig (Retd) P Gilbert Mr R Lawrence Mr J Underwood Mr C Heath Mr B Lawrence Mr D Barnish Lt Col (Retd) A Jones BEM Mr J Wall (JW) Col (Retd) T Trinick OBE Mr G Dickson Mrs J Lawrence Mr D Allardice Mr R Craven Mr S Bennett Mr M Stevenson Mr D Chatwin Mr P Saunders Col (Retd) A Rees Mr H Johnson Miss B Slocombe Mr G Mottley Mr W Duffy Maj (Retd) C Hunter Mr J Lockwood Mr T Hampson Other Association Members x 50	President / Rep Col Comdt RAMC Regimental Secretary RAMC Reg Rep – London & East Anglia & Chair – Essex Br Reg Rep – Midlands & Sec – East Midlands Br Reg Rep NE England & Yorkshire Reg Rep South & SE England Chair & SB – Bristol Br Chair – East Midlands Br Chair & SB – Kent Br Chair – N-Cambs & S-Lincs Br Chair – North Midlands Br Chair – Shropshire Br Chair – South Wales Br & SSB Chair – Ulster Br V-Chair – Birmingham Br Sec – Bristol Br Sec – Dundee Br Sec – Sheffield Br Sec – Shropshire Br Sec – South Wales Br Sec – South West Region Br Treasurer – Essex Br Treasurer – Kent Br Treasurer & SB – Shropshire Br Treasurer – South Wales Br SB – Aldershot Br SB – Central Scotland Br SB – Grimsby Br SB – Sheffield Br SB – South Wales Br	
In Attendance	Maj Gen A Hawley Brig P Carter Maj A Game	Trustee / Col Comdt Col RAMC NMA Grove RAMC LO	
Apologies <i>* Retrospectively</i>	WO1 (RSM) J Loy* Col (Retd) M Pemberton Mr A Geelan* Capt (Retd) P H Starling Col (Retd) W Robinson* Mr T Hissey	Rep Sgt Maj RAMC Reg Rep – Wales & SW England Reg Rep – Scotland & Chair – Central Scotland Br Chair – Aldershot Br Chair – South West Br Treasurer – City of London Br	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee	National Secretary	

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
The Meeting Opened at 1307 hours		
1.	<p>Chairman's Opening Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chair started by welcoming all to the AGM and congratulated them on their contribution to the day's celebrations. He gave particular thanks to the AMS SM for keeping the delegation in order and to the standard bearers for a great display, ably supported by the Tidworth band. He also thanked the RHQ RAMC for the day's arrangements – particularly the Regimental Secretary without whose efforts the day could not happen at all. He thanked Maj Andy Game our liaison officer at the NMA and finally all Association Branches (Brs) for their efforts throughout the year.</p> <p>b. On request by the Chair, the National Secretary (Nat Sec) reported those who had sent their apologies ahead of the meeting (mtg).</p> <p>c. The Chair stated his desire to keep the mtg brief to allow more time for catching up with old colleagues.</p> <p>d. The Chair talked briefly about the future, as many were aware, that changes to the structure of the AMS are very much in the wind. He could not enlarge on the changes but gave the following assurances:</p> <p>(1) Firstly, that the RAMC Association will continue for as long as it is required (that could be over 25 years). Much of his effort just now relates to ensuring that the Association has the necessary resources, financial and otherwise, to continue to operate much as it does today.</p> <p>(2) Secondly, as soon as he was permitted to do so, he would ensure that the Association is fully informed of the changes in the AMS and the way forward for the Association.</p>	
2.	<p>Previous Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec presented the minutes of the previous AGM on 23 Jun 2023, and as there were neither observations nor dissensions from the floor, the minutes were accepted as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>Chairs Report & Updates</p> <p>a. The Chair started by saying there has been great progress made in sorting out the administrative structure of the Association, thanks to the Nat Sec. The processes involved in becoming a member were seriously flawed, but they are now clear, which is at least partially responsible for the increase in our membership.</p> <p>b. He said that whilst some Brs have closed, he underlined that none of the closures were for financial reasons, but rather due to a lack of preparedness to take on the various posts required to run the Brs. While this may be put down to the increasing age of the membership, that is not the sole cause. Apathy, failure to recruit and properly involve new blood and, he dared say, an apparent reluctance to change approaches are also potentially involved. So he said clearly to the forum</p> <p><i>"Step Up To The Plate if you want the Association to Prosper, and Change your Approach to Attract New, Younger Members"</i>. Adapt and survive!</p> <p>c. The current Rules update has been put on hold because of the impending changes referred to earlier (Para 1d). He underlined the fact that the Rules apply to every Br and every member – there are no exceptions. He also highlighted that the Association now has a Safeguarding Policy and Guidance on Personal Behaviour – both are available on the Association Website.</p>	<p>Brs</p> <p>All</p>

<p>d. He said he would cover the new Funding Guidance under Item 4.</p> <p>e. The Association Website is now far more user friendly, is regularly updated and is a real source of current information. It is accessed regularly both within the UK and from overseas.</p> <p>f. The Chair noted with pleasure the increasing membership of the Official RAMC Association Facebook Group (FB Gp). Perhaps, in the fulness of time, more of these individuals will be prepared to come into the “face to face” membership. He thanked Ian Razzell (FB Page Manager) for his work in this area – keeping a well-managed Facebook Group with much banter - but no unpleasantness.</p> <p>g. The Association continues to be represented nationwide by Br participation in local events, by attendance and the parading of standards at relevant funerals. The Association had also recently been represented, 10 days ago, at the laying of wreaths at the RAMC Memorial in St Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin.</p> <p>h. Lastly, he mentioned the external assistance the Association receives, either financially or otherwise, from the RHQ. He couldn’t overstate the fact that without that assistance the Association would be floundering!</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>4. Financial Statement</p> <p>a. The Chair started by drawing the forums attention to the current liquidity state (as at 5 Jun 24) that had been circulated on the mtg tables (Enclosure 1).</p> <p>b. He reminded the forum that a recently conducted review of funding procedures across the Association has been completed. The new policy has now been published after scrutiny by the Executive Committee (Exc Cttee) and is available on the Association website.</p> <p>c. He stated that the reason behind this review was the need to be able to show the most accurate picture possible of the Association’s expenditure, backed up by a clear demonstration of the validity of that expenditure and the exercise of due diligence in financial management of charitable money. This was considered essential to make the case for an adequate level of funding for the Association to continue to operate despite any potential changes in related structures and organisations.</p> <p>d. He made it clear that any <i>reasonable</i> request for funding by Brs will always be considered but care has to be taken to avoid excesses which could be viewed adversely by the Charities Commission.</p> <p>e. Given that next year is the Association’s Centenary year, he would be applying for additional funds from the RAMC Charity to support whatever celebrations are agreed to hold and mark this auspicious anniversary.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Chair</p>
<p>5. Secretary’s Report & Update’</p> <p>a. The new Nat Sec started his report by thanking the Brs’ for their continued engagement and communication to his many communications and especially the support given when he seeks local assistance.</p> <p>b. He then covered three areas for the Brs to take forward:</p> <p>(1) <u>Annual Returns</u>. His experience of this year’s Annual returns (rtns) was for more positive than that of 2023 but he did request that Brs use the current forms he sends as this provides for conformity and uniformity while ensuring no loss of detail.</p>	<p>Brs</p>

<p>(2) <u>Deceased Notifications</u>. The Nat Sec requested that Brs make him aware of any Member that has died ASAP. Whilst, in the main, they are written in Br Minutes, these are sometimes received weeks after the event. In a similar vein he also offered replenishment to Brs of the bespoke Association Sympathy Card, should they be required</p>	Brs
<p>(3) <u>Br Minutes</u>. The Nat Sec reminded Brs of the need to submit their Br minutes (AGM, Cttee and / or Br) to him ASAP or at the very least within 28 days as per extant Association rules.</p>	Brs
<p>c. Update of Brs Status:</p>	
<p>(1) 2 x Closed - Maidstone & Wessex</p>	
<p>(2) 3 x Closing - Cyprus, Manchester and N-Cambridgeshire & S-Lincolnshire</p>	
<p>(3) 1 x Viability Issues - Aberdeen</p>	
<p>(4) 1 x Revived / Reestablished - City of London</p>	
<p>(5) 1 x Potential New - Sussex (Being Scoped)</p>	
<p>d. Membership & Recruitment:</p>	
<p>(1) The Nat Sec stated that online membership applications in 2023 had increased by some 73% to that of 2022 (59 v 161) and that despite the perception that the Association is reducing, through Br closures, its numbers are in fact increasing. Indeed, current numbers for 2024 are greater than they were in 2023 at the same time this year.</p>	
<p>(2) The price of the online application process was increased last Dec for the first time since its inception seven years ago (Sep 17), by our software management organisation – membermojo. Thus, membership has raised from £5 to £6.10 and for a replacement Membership card from £3.30 to £4.65.</p>	
<p>(3) The Nat Sec made the point that whilst local Br recruitment is fundamental, Membership must be made centrally via the online portal as you can't be a member of a Br if you haven't first joined the Association centrally.</p>	Brs
<p>e. New Rules Rewrite – Already covered by the Nat Chair as delayed due to Project VICTORIA.</p>	
<p>f. Association Website:</p>	
<p>(1) The previous Separate News Links for the RHQ RAMC and the Association have now been merged and as such we now only have one News / Post Feed.</p>	
<p>(2) Contacts via the Website are rich and varied coming from both UK-wide and from abroad including serving personnel. To date in 2024 some 88 have been made with an average of 15 each month. The most popular and common areas enquired about are Corps Matters followed by Family Service History Searches.</p>	
<p>(3) Website Diary. The Nat Sec reminded the forum to avail themselves of this new feature that was created last year so it can advertise and inform centrally but also can provide a holistic picture of pan-Association activities and events.</p>	Brs
<p>g. Association D-Day 80th Anniversary Battlefield Study. The Nat Sec informed that he had received some 82 Expressions of Interest (Eoi) and that currently the 40 places are fully allocated with some 29 reserves.</p>	

<p>6. Association Centenary 2025</p> <p>a. The Chair asked for, and welcomed, thoughts from the wider Association Brs on how it might best recognise this occasion bearing in mind that he would like to see as many members and Brs as possible being involved across the country. There would be practical matters to consider (distances, timing, locations, planning and so on) and work to organise this will need to start fairly soon. He said he would also be looking for volunteers to help with arrangements. As previously mentioned, he would be applying for additional funding for this occasion.</p> <p>b. When opened to the floor, the following feedback was received:</p> <p>(1) Events at Regional Level.</p> <p>(2) An afternoon event at Buckingham Palace.</p> <p>(3) A concert by the old RAMC Band.</p> <p>(4) At what time of year would this take place? The Chair suggested that this should not be tied to a specific date, and that events could take place throughout 2025.</p>	All Brs
<p>7. Confirmation / Election of Officers</p> <p>a. The Chair informed the meeting that two Regional Representatives (Reg Reps) had recently been appointed since the last AGM. He welcomed the following:</p> <p>(1) Col (Retd) Chris Mason - NE England and Yorkshire</p> <p>(2) Brig (Retd) Peter Gilbert - South and SE England</p> <p><i>Afternote; Ian Hooper had also been appointed Reg Rep since the last AGM for London and East Anglia.</i></p> <p>b. Some other Reg Reps will be stepping down in the next 12 months and replacements will be sought. If Brs within Regions cannot provide candidates, then the Rules permit the Chair to appoint them.</p>	Brs
<p>8. Forecast of Events (FOE)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec referred the meeting to the copies of the Forecast of Events (FOE) that had been circulated to the meeting (Enclosure 2).</p>	Brs
<p>9. Chairs Commendations</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec notified the meeting of the following Commendation recipients who were awarded and presented their certificates by the Nat Chair:</p> <p>(1) Chris Gregory * - Ex Sec of former Wessex Br</p> <p>(2) Colin Heath - Ex Sec of Antecedent East Kent Br</p> <p>(3) Graham Motley - SB of the Aldershot Br</p> <p>(4) Russ Parkes * - Treasurer of the Ulster Br</p> <p>(5) Willie Duffy - SB of Central Scotland Br</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Addendum Awards</i></p> <p>(6) Ian Candy * - SB of the City of London Br</p> <p>(7) Peter Stobart * - SB of former Manchester Br</p> <p>(8) Ronald Mallender * - Asst SB of former Manchester Br</p>	

<p>* Those not in attendance will receive their Commendation in an appropriate manner.</p>	<p>Nat Sec</p>
<p>10. Open Forum</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec then opened the floor to the meeting to take any issues raised. The following matters were raised:</p> <p>(1) Sec of East Midlands Br asked when the three AMS Corps would be amalgamated. In light of Para 1d above, the Chair provided a “tongue-in-cheek” response.</p> <p>(2) Chair of Shropshire Br raised a concern about the RAMC Charity funds on the future amalgamation. Again, in light of Para 1d above the Chair stated he could not comment on this matter except to say he will endeavour to secure the necessary funding to allow the RAMC Association to endure in the future.</p>	
<p>11. Closing Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chairman closed by stating that by the time next year’s gathering comes around, it is expected that there will be more certainty around the future of the Association in terms of the relationship with a re-shaped AMS. Next year is also the Centenary of the founding of the Association – and that should give us all the necessary spur to buckle down and take a fuller part in Association business. Encourage recruiting and convince Br members to take an active part in running matters by taking on posts where appropriate. He asked Brs to think of ways to attract younger members, bearing in mind that such members may want a different format from the traditional or that which Brs may be used to, suggesting that not all younger potential members may want black tie functions. The Chair thanked all for coming, that they enjoy the rest of your day, get home safe and that we meet again next year - whatever the future may bring in organisational terms.</p> <p>b. The Nat Sec offered Commendation recipients their frames original packaging to protect their certificates during travel and requested Br confirmed, after the mtg, their attendance against his booking list.</p>	
<p>12. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec stated that the full date of the next AGM would be TBC albeit it would be in Jun 25 also at the NMA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1349 hours</p>	

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

Enclosures:

1. Association Financial Statement as at 5 Jun 24.
2. Forecast of Events (FOE) 2024 – 2025.

RAMC ASSOCIATION

Year on Year Approval / Expenditure

Trial Bid

2017	£13,000	Virtual Allocations
2018	£13,000	
2019	£25,000	
2020	£50,000	
2021	£50,000	
2022	£50,000	
2023	£50,000	
2024	£60,000	

Expenditure Breakdown as at 5 Jun 24

	2024	2023
Amount Awarded at Trial Bid	£60,000	£50,000
Travel Expenses - Chairman	£761	£1,984
Travel Expenses - Meetings	£728	£2,272
Standard Bearer Expenses	£282	£4,959
Grants to Branches	£4,262	£25,541
Purchase of Standards	£87	£0
Stationery / Postage / Gen Expenses / IT	£190	£2,683
Battlefield Tour 2024	£0	£6,000
Secretarial Costs	£371	£1,216
Branch Insurance	£366	£389
Total Expenditure	£7,047	£45,044
Balance Remaining / Unspent	£52,953	£4,956

RAMC Association Forecast of Events (FOE) – 2024 / 25

Month	Date	Event		
		Association	RAMC	Other
2024				
June	Wed 19	AGM - NMA Aspects Bldg	Corps Day - NMA Alrewas	
	Thu 27		RAMC Offrs Dinner (Blue Book Event)	
	Sat 29			Armed Forces Day
July	Sat 6		TOP - Westminster Abbey	
	Mon 15			VJ Day
August	Sun 4			Closing Date to bid for Cenotaph E-Tickets
	Fri 2			AMS WOs' & SNCOs' Past & Present Dinner
	Mon 26			Late Summer Bank Holiday
September	Mon 2 - Fri 6	Battlefield Study - D-Day & Normandy Invasion		
	Sat 7		TOP - Westminster Abbey	
	Wed 25			End of Op MARKET GARDEN 80th Anniversary
October	Sat 5		TOP - Westminster Abbey	
	Thu 17	Executive Committee Meeting		
November	Thu 7			Fd of Remembrance - Westminster Abbey
	Sun 10			Remembrance Sunday - Cenotaph Parade
	Mon 11			Armistice Day
December				
	Fri 6	Northumbria Br Xmas Function		
	Mon 23 - Thu 2	National Secretary on Leave		
	Tue 24			Christmas Eve
	Wed 25			Christmas Day
	Thu 26			Boxing Day
2025				
Centenary Year of RAMC Association Formation				
January	Wed 1			New Years Day
February				
March	Mon 17			St. Patricks Day
	Thu 19	Executive Committee Meeting - TBC		
April	Fri 18			Easter / Good Friday

	Sun 20			Easter Sunday
	Mon 21			Easter Monday
May	Mon 5			May Bank Holiday