



**Minutes of the RAMC Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Held via ZOOM on
Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 1800 hrs**

Registered No. 1129091

Present	Col (Retd) KNA Millar (KM)	National Chair	Chair
	Col (Retd) C Mason (CM) Maj J Brice (JB) Maj (Retd) M J T Ellis (ME) Mr K Roberts (KR) Mr A Geelan (AG) Mr C Heath (CH) Mr J Wall (JW)	Reg Rep - NE England & Yorkshire Covering - NI & NW England Reg Regtl Sec RAMS & RAMC Charity Reg Rep - Midlands Reg Rep - Scotland Covering - S & SE England Reg Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)	
Apologies	Brig (Retd) P Gilbert (PG) Post Gapped Post Gapped	Reg Rep - South & SE England Reg Rep - London & East Anglia Reg Rep - Wales & SW England	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee (JA)	National Secretary	ZOOM Host

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
	The Meeting Opened at 1800 hours	
1.	<p>Chair's Opening Remarks</p> <p>a. After some administrative points by the National Secretary (Nat Sec), the Chair welcomed all for coming at what is for many a busy time and went on to say that there are several matters which need to be covered at the meeting. The Chair stated there would be an additional item that he had only received the day before but would be added at Item 9 of the agenda and asked KR (who had asked for the document to be added) was content with the Chairs intention; KR was content. The elephant in the room was, of course, the future of the Association and the Charity. However, he would deal first with some other matters which are less contentious!</p> <p><u>ASSOCIATION CENTENARY</u></p> <p>b. It has been unfortunate that the Centenary of the Association falls during a period of intense activity, with the amalgamation of the three Corps in November 2024, the fact that the Museum shop has no manager at present and of course the quantity of work involved in finding a way ahead for the Association. However, having confirmed that the new Corps did not want to hold a central gathering this year, the pre-booked (by RHQ RAMC) slot was taken by the Association at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) which had been reserved against such a possibility.</p> <p>c. As has been promulgated the RAMC Association's service, march past, lunch and AGM will take place at the NMA on 24th Jun. A band and bugler have been applied for, the NMA Aspects Centre is booked, and the Chair was preparing an "order of service" booklet. It is anticipated that Father John Harvey will be available to take the short service. The salute will be taken by Brigadier (Retd) Martin Nadin, currently the Association's President. Major General Tim Hodgetts has been invited by the Chair to attend, and whilst he has accepted in principle, a final confirmation is awaited.</p> <p><i>Nat Chair Afternote: Father John is not available; an alternative padre is being arranged.</i></p>	

<p>d. The Chair has ordered some small items of Centenary related “accoutrements” (although he needs to be careful about using this term). These are a <i>RAMC Association Brooch</i> with the term “Centenary” added, a <i>tote bag</i> showing the Association Badge, again with the word “Centenary” on one side, and the wounded warrior sculpture on the other and as the chair felt appropriate this year, a <i>RAMC Pin Badge</i> with “ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS” beneath the old cap badge in place of “In Arduis Fidelis” with the addition under that scroll of 1898-2024. The latter is not directly connected with the Association, but significant as a link to our parent Corps. As soon as these are on sale, this will be widely publicised. Where possible, pictures of the items will be attached, to these Minutes.</p> <p><i>Nat Chair Afternote: The Tote Bags are now available from the Museum of Military Medicine (MMM) at a cost of £6 each.</i></p>	
<p>e. It would be good to have as many as possible attending the service, the AGM, and participation in the march past! It is not a long march, and anyone younger than the Chair (he will be 79 on the day after the parade) claiming age as an excuse for not marching is hardly either being Fidelis or Arduis! Being serious, the chair said that a band has been ordered, the Standard Bearers will be there, we have a saluting officer and there will be no serving contingent to march past, so it is up to the Association to put on a good show. He exhorted Branches (Brs) to join in with the marchers and demonstrate our continued solidarity and active efforts in representing the RAMC, especially being the centenary year.</p>	All Brs
<p>f. Indirectly affected is showing the flag at the other major and very public Gathering, the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. In our Centenary Year, the Chair hoped for an even greater attendance in Nov 25 both because it is the Associations Centenary year and to recognise both that we are now the sole representatives of the Corps in which we all served. The Chair asked that Brs are encouraged to put feet on the ground at these two important days.</p>	All Brs
<p>g. To negate a perception of an endless lecture from the Chair, he paused to take any questions on what he said thus far, before moving on to his next topic.</p> <p>(1) KR sought clarification that transport (Minibus / Coach) funding could be sought to attend the AGM – which was affirmed by the Chair and Nat Sec, via Grant applications. He also sought clarity of cost of attendance to the AGM sighting a stated £10 on the Blue Book site. The Chair reiterated that cost was gratis to all Br Members and that the £10 cost was for guests only, as in previous years.</p> <p>(2) JW raised the matter of the Flag Changing ceremony as part of the remembrance service, which traditionally has been undertaken by the serving delegation who would not be in attendance this year. The Chair asked for this to be an action against him in the minutes.</p> <p><i>Afternote: The mechanism to achieve this is being studied.</i></p> <p><u>THE FUTURE OF THE RAMC ASSOCIATION</u></p>	Chair
<p>h. The Chair started by focusing on the heart of the matter, rather than being side-tracked by social media (SM) explosions of disapproval, or by matters which do not directly affect the future of this Association. By this he meant, for example, the question of the RAMC Charity funding items of uniform. He assured that this decision was taken in tandem with the other two Corps (QARANC and RADC), who contributed in accordance with the numbers of their members serving at the time. Their payments were channelled through the RAMC Charity as a matter of convenience. Whether or not this was “legitimate” is not for the Association, but for the Charity Commission to decide. Questions on other charitable donations in the past have also been raised in this context and once again, these are irrelevant to the Associations future. To keep focused, the Chair said we should disregard “white noise” (or sometimes “black noise”, including trolling).</p>	

i. Before he allowed another pause to allow comments or questions, he had a couple of other things to say. Firstly, he needed to apologise for including the statement “*resistance is futile*” in his communications with the Brs. It was meant to be ironic, and refer to the inevitability of change, but his humour didn’t seem funny to the recipients and that was his fault. Next, in retrospect, he was misguided in forwarding a copy of his Draft paper on Option 3 when asked to do so. He did this in the spirit of openness, making it clear that it was not now being considered as an Option. The fact that it seems to have been widely circulated has caused some upset and misinterpretation, which, had he not sent it out in the first place would not have resulted in some of the recent and chaotic correspondence! Thus, this was perhaps not entirely his fault!

j. The Chair went on to say that for information purposes, the Option 3 paper was asked for by the Trustees and presented to them in Jul 24. After discussion, the Trustees unanimously rejected this option and suggested other Options, which resulted in the production of the paper outlining the proposal to move the RAMC Association to become a dependent part of the emerging RAMS Charity. That draft paper was signed off in Nov 24, just before amalgamation. It has since been updated and was finalised again on 9 Mar 25. The draft paper has been seen by the Trustees, but it is yet to be sent and seen by the Brs, mainly because of the furore that followed the release of the Option 3 paper. That said, the Chair stated he would continue to push permission from the Trustees, for its release.

k. However, the chaotic correspondence has allowed greater insight into how the Association thinks, and both he, and the Charity Trustees, accept that they have been trying too hard to move along, without the necessary recce to ensure that they were on the right track.

l. The Chair stringently assured that he wasn’t anyone’s enemy. As he has said from the outset, his overarching intention remains to ensure a secure future for the RAMC Association with the best possible solution. That solution should allow the Association to continue to operate in much the same way as it does today. In examining potential solutions, he has looked at practicality (*will it work?*), simplicity (*is it difficult to administer or to effect the necessary changes?*), costs (*what assets, financial or other, does it need to allow it to continue to operate?*), change (*how much will the organisation or functions of the Association change?*) and viability (*how long can it survive?*). In all these considerations, he has had to consider and remember that each Br is different, and he must ensure that any solution works as well as possible for all Brs, not only the large and flourishing ones. Before describing the situation, we find ourselves in today, and how we got there, he again paused for questions and comments.

(1) CH raised and suggested if it was reasonable to get legal professionals to consider what is being put forward, rather than laymen. The Chair stated that legal input was already in-hand by those who are versed in Charity matters. Both CH and the Chair agreed there was a lot of “opinions” circulating whereas legal advice would be the most assured way of moving forward.

(2) KR sought clarity that Option 3 would not be “on the table”. The Chair stated that it was unlikely that Option 3 would be “on the table” as it is very expensive, very complicated and would require a lot of work. KR then went on to ask if all Brs would receive sight of the RAMS Foundation Trust (FT) document. The Chair suggested this be covered later in the mtg.

m. The Chair stated that some background to the process may help the understanding in how we got to where we are today. Although it directly involved only those serving, the process of amalgamation of the three Corps was rightly perceived by the RAMC Charity as a matter which would ultimately mean major changes in how it did its business. The Association, although not directly affected by changes to the serving Army, would obviously be affected by any change to the RAMC Charity, and incidentally by the demise of RHQ RAMC as an independent

entity. The Association Chair therefore started to work with the RAMC Charity on the problems it would face after amalgamation.

n. The date of the amalgamation was less than clear until late in the day, and it is fair to say that some of the work by the serving Army was not perhaps as well advanced by that stage as it might have been, despite prods from the Charity in relation to the knock-on effects that amalgamation would produce. The prior work, however, was well-advanced, but restrictions placed upon the Association meant it was not possible to canvass opinion from the wider Association, nor even discuss the matter with the Nat Sec. This was a major difficulty which the Chair made a lot of noise about, but unfortunately to no avail. The Chair explained how he was restricted in any engagement especially as the matter in hand didn't even mention the Association. Thus, at the time of amalgamation, the Association was confronted with a very short deadline to complete its prepared and preferred proposal for the future of both the Association and the Charity.

o. The Chair was glad to say that now the original timeline has been accepted as impossible to meet, but it was the earlier timeline what drove the aim to present a formed proposal, which was for the Association to move with the rest of the RAMC Charity to the new RAMS Charity. This would have meant two voting options: to agree that the Association should become a dependent part of the RAMS Charity, and if that passed, agree that the RAMC Charity should transfer all assets and responsibilities to the RAMS Charity. Conditions were to be made clear for both votes; the RAMC Charity cannot transfer any assets without conditions being met, and without the acceptance by the Charities concerned and the Charities Commission. Including another second Option for the Association would have been complicated, and if there was not a clear "winner" of that vote between Options we would have been back to square one! This explains why a single option was originally proposed.

p. It has become obvious that the new organisation, including the forming (but not yet formed) RAMS Charity, has not kept up with the work the Association and RAMC Charity have done, or indeed with their own timelines. It has also become obvious that both the RAMC Charity and the RAMC Association must re-examine their options, make a clear case to those involved relating to potential solutions, and gain agreement for a revised way forward. Had this been apparent earlier, and had the earlier timelines not been so tight, there would have been proper opportunities for a clearer, more democratic approach. That all being said, the Chair made it clear that there was no attempt to "con" the Association into agreeing; what was trying to be done was to allow a simple choice ensuring the future of the Association and the proper transfer of assets. No-one was going to be asked to vote "blind"; the precise motions to be voted on, with any conditions which the recipient RAMS Charity would have to meet, would have been clearly set out before people would have been asked to vote. The Chair again, opened the forum to any questions:

(1) KR asked for clarity in that if the RAMC Association decided to stand alone then surely the Charities Commission would accept such a decision to operate as it does now. The Chair asked "to what end" in that the RAMC Charity, as it currently stands does not just look after veterans. KR continued in that it was clear that should the RAMC stand-alone then some assets would need to be given to the RAMS i.e. the Day's Pay Giving Scheme (DPGS), at which point the Chair interjected and stated the RAMS would receive all the DPGS funding, as there are no longer RAMC serving personnel. For clarity to KR the Chair went on to say that the RAMC no longer exists as a Corps and by default (since Nov 24) all DPGS now goes to the RAMS. KR asked about Veterans who had previously donated into the DPGS, whilst serving where the Chair stated that such funds would have gone to those veterans whilst serving, indeed, the majority of the DPGS funds go back to those serving. When requested by the Chair, ME confirmed that the bulk of funding received via the DPGS goes to those serving personnel and that the DPGS can only be paid, from a serving pocket, into a current Corps. Therefore, the Chair stated, the only funds available was that current held in investments.

(2) AG apologised for arriving late at the meeting and proffered if there was an option to ballot the current veteran members of the RAMC, including those that have transferred to the RAMS, and ask if they wanted to donate money to the RAMC Charity. The Chair said that whilst people may wish to donate, at a point the RAMC Charity will fold which means it would no longer exist to receive such donations. AG then asked if the RAMC Charity could just remain as is for it to receive donations as other Regts have done in the past. The Chair explained that Charity law had changed over the last 20 years and was very tight in that donations and a Charity must exist for a purpose / for something, thus who would the RAMC Charity look after if the Charity does not exist. The Chair explained that until the RAMS formed, all serving RAMC personnel were, by default, members of the RAMC Association, whereas that is no longer the case. AG pressed in that could those now in the RAMS be asked if they wished to donate to the RAMC Charity, but the Chair stated that RAMS personnel are no longer in our gift to ask. The Chair stated that there are sufficient funds to look after the RAMC Veterans. AG then asked if veterans could elect to donate and continue to donate to the RAMC Charity where the Chair asked, which Charity as the likelihood would be that the RAMC Charity would have to transfer its assets because there is no RAMC anymore as the majority of the Objects of the RAMC Charity, relate to the RAMC. The only bit that is not affected is the Association which continues to be a RAMC Association, but the RAMC Charity can't be. The Chair asked that the practicalities be considered in that individual decisions would vary if such a question was indeed posed, which would be impractical to administer. ME explained to AG that she believed personnel had to subscribe through the DPGS, to the Corps serving in, managed through the JPA administration and the Chariry Aid Foundation, thus a military process wrapped up in a charitable one. ME went on to say that there was nothing stopping people making personal donations, but a formal service DPGS donation must be to the Corps served in. AG accepted that any donations to the RAMC Charity would be of a personal nature via Direct Debit or Standing Order. ME stated that such donations would be random and not produce a regular source of income to maintain the work that the Association would consider doing.

(3) CH asked that if what prospectively would be a vote on Option 4, with just a yes or no, and the majority voted against it, what would be the outcome? The Chair stated that votes are votes which is democracy and whether there is one or two options does not matter. If the option is for the Association to move with the RAMC Charity, Option 4 or Option 3 would not matter because and if people vote against them, they will simply not happen, which then puts the Association back to square one, albeit the Charity would be able to move but the Association would be left stranded.

(4) KR then asked, if there is only one Option and that is Option 4 and that was voted down then surely a return to the negotiating table would prevail to find a solution. The Chair said possibly but that such a position had not been arrived at and whilst advise would be sought on how to conduct such a vote, to address the "what ifs" as such a vote would not be entered into blindly. When raised by KR, the Chair clarified that the RAMS FT, as originally referred to in the Options 3 paper, was a term used at the time as it had no official name but in fact it is called the RAMS Charity.

q. The Chair went on to say that there were major concerns expressed include the perception that we are being asked to vote on transferring assets and responsibilities without sight of the written Constitution of the new Charity. This was a fair comment, but there is a difficulty here. How could the Constitution of the new RAMS Charity include the RAMC Association before the Association agreed to join it (chicken and egg)? The same can be said for the inclusion of the other functions of the RAMC Charity whilst these are simpler as they almost certainly would have to be transferred in any case to continue to support the serving, Army. Both potential transfers would be dependent on conditions being met by the RAMS

<p>Charity. These conditions have been set down by the Chair for the Association whilst the RAMS needs to agree them and indeed, some of these conditions might have to be negotiated, and until all negotiations are undertaken and there is a complete agreement no sensible vote can be produced. Work continues, the RAMS Charity is shaping itself with input from the antecedent Corps, particularly from the RAMC but currently there would be no point in placing the conditions in the Chairs paper as they are “his” conditions and whilst they may be agreed by the RAMC Charity, they also have to be agreed by the RAMS Charity. The Chair understands the perception and belief that people would be asked to vote blindly, which he said would not be the case. Precisely what is being voted for and the set conditions that would apply, would have to be in the vote.</p> <p>Nat Sec Afternote: The original Conditions were provided to Brs by way of an email from the Nat Sec on 27 Nov 24.</p> <p>r. This brings us to where we are today. A lot of work and thinking has been undertaken, and discussions are being held with the new Corps. No discussions are being held by the Chair with the RAMS Association whilst along with the other antecedent Corps the new RAMS Charity is seeking advise on how to establish an Association, however, such assistance has no influence of the future of the RAMC Association. The Chair reiterated that, among the trolling and abuse, which has been difficult, and some of the misperceptions and inaccuracies of the various comments, there has arisen the opportunity to step back, take a deep breath and look again at how we should proceed. We are no longer debarred from communication, an outcome the Chair is pleased with, as will Brs be. Now the Association can properly work together to arrive at a common approach to this difficulty which, unfortunately, will not go away. The Chair then chose to steal a quote from one Branch Chair, in their meeting minutes; “we must adapt to survive”. It is perhaps that very sensible perception against which “resistance is futile”.</p> <p>s. A letter from Brigadier Nadin, who is both Chair of the Trustees of the RAMC Charity and President of the Association, may shortly be sent out to all RAMC Veterans to further explain matters. The Chair hopes Brs will be sent a copy, and it will be published on the Association website, whilst such decisions are matters for the author, not the Chair.</p> <p>t. The Chair sought support for sensible discussion with Br focused on the problems of tomorrow, rather than SM ranting, personal vendettas or other sideshows. He stated that as the RAMC Association, there is a great responsibilities incumbent on all to ensure not only our own future, but the proper support of our successors in the RAMS. Having spoken enough, the Chair again opened the forum to any questions:</p> <p>(1) KR went on to say that having trawled his Regional Brs, he wanted to make clear that everybody viewed the Nat Chair and Sec as assets in every respect and that as far as he was concerned no one is against the Nat Chair or Sec, indeed the complete opposite. Jokingly, the Chair asked if he could proffer the evidence.</p> <p>u. Finally, the Chair thanked the forum for its patience, comments and points. He did not expect to “fix” the Associations future through one mtg of the Exc Cttee, but its input is of assistance to the work he will now need to get up and running to define the adaptation we need to ensure our survival.</p>	
<p>2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec opened the floor for any comments on the previous minutes or any matters arising. The Chair raised the following issues:</p> <p>(1) Welfare Trg – Regrettably this matter has had to slip sideways again due to other pressure of work (which he believed the forum would understand). He apologised to AG and asked AG to resend another email with the volunteer he had previously provided.</p>	<p>AG</p>

<p>(2) RAMC Reunited Dinner. This was now firmly on target, with a substantial grant by the RAMC Charity to sustain the dinner club and ensure its future.</p> <p>(3) Poor Communication from Brs to Regional Representatives (Reg Reps). There seems to be a degree of communication, but all Branches are not seen to be engaging with their Reg Rep. The other problem is that the selection and election of new Reg Reps to fill gaps is not happening in some cases, which means two things:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) Brs are not represented on this Cttee.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) The ‘message’ of this Cttee is not being passed to all Brs.</p> <p>(4) CH raised a question on behalf of his Regional Rep, Brig Peter Gilbert in that as there are only two Brs within his South & SE Region, could each Chair from both Brs be represented on the Exc Cttee as opposed to a Reg Rep? The Chair said this would have to be ubiquitous and all Chairs would be in attendance which would then be a Br mtg not a Exc mtg. The Chair said that the construct would nevertheless need reviewing and whatever Option is taken, the Association Rules would need to be rewritten. He also shared that his predecessor has shared his concerns on handover about the Exc Cttee and the Reg Reps and as such the Chair was not convinced that it was working as it should and would appreciate any thoughts on how they could be better organised.</p> <p>(5) AG asked about the Centenary year whilst it was explained it had been raised earlier in the mtg prior to his belated arrival.</p> <p>b. With no dissention, the previous minutes were approved.</p>	<p>Affected Brs</p>
<p>3. Financial Matters</p> <p>a. The Chair opened by stating he had little to say on financial matters but that it appears that the new system is bedding in well, that applications for financial assistance are being met, and that expenditure is falling within the “trial bid” placed on the RAMC Charity by the Association.</p> <p>b. The Chair further stated that funding for the Centenary had been agreed and promulgated and that initial applications for Centenary functions have already been processed. Other costs for the Centenary include the purchase of the items previously discussed, i.e. the memorabilia that has been purchased by the Association which the Museum will sell whilst the Chair said he had to discuss pricing with the museum, but such prices will not be at a scale that provided the museum with a large profit. The Chair made it know that he was conscious, from another example, that too much unsold stock would not be financially helpful to the museum. The hire of the NMA and the Aspects Centre, plus the lunch are all covered within the uplift requested in the 2025 Trial Bid.</p> <p>c. The Chair stated that the Financial Guidance, could always be tweaked and there may be a desire for a different system, if so, then suggestions should be made, for consideration and approval. Currently the system is working well, and the Chair was no desirous to make changes in the current climate. The Association is comfortably supported financially, via the current Trail Bid, even if there is an overspend or underspend, both of which are not insurmountable.</p> <p>d. JW sought clarity that funding support would be available for the Standard Bearers (SBs), from which the Chair stated there was no change to such arrangements as in previous years.</p>	<p>Chair</p>

4. Report from the National Secretary

a. The Nat Sec reported the following:

(1) Health of Brs – That the Association currently has 22 “Active” Brs, with the following status since the last Exc Cttee Mtg:

- (a) Closing - Coventry
- (b) Viability - Aberdeen
Merseyside
Durham
- (c) Closed - Nil
- (d) Standards to be Laid-Up - N-Cambridgeshire &
S-Lincolnshire.

It remains the case that closures are attributed to two factors only; firstly, membership not willing to undertake Br Offrs Roles to form their Br Committee where sufficient membership exists or insufficient Members to maintain viability of the Br. Thus far, funding has never been an influential factor, and in fact substantial funds have been sent back to the centre when Brs have closed.

(2) Recruitment / Online Membership Application and Process:

(a) That the 2024 reported collective Br “active” membership was some 777 versus some 775 from 2023 (0.5% increase).

(b) In 2024 there was a total of 182 online membership applications made versus some 162 in 2023 thus an annual increase by 11%.

(c) Thus far, this year, (end of Feb 25), some 72 Online Membership Applications have been made (a mini surge was seen in Feb). In the same period to last year, we had 33, thus a 118% increase in comparison to 2024.

(d) Whilst the increase in online applications project a positive picture, analysis of these against the “active” Membership reported from the 2023 and 2024 Annual Rtns also shows that one Br had 19 and another Br had 38 new applications in 2024, but both their “active” membership remained the same in 2024 as it was in 2023!

Further, one Br had 9 new applications in 2024, but their “active” membership decreased by 12 between 2023 and 2024!

Lastly, some Brs have talked about lethargy and apathy from their membership which could explain the impacts on the “active” Membership (as well as the difficulty filling Br Offrs & Reg Reps posts). Indeed, from the 2024 Annual Rtns, some four Brs have more “non-active” members than “active” with one Br reporting 67% of their total membership as “non-active”!

(3) Website Contacts – Since the last Exc Cttee Mtg (Oct 24 - Feb 25 incl.) some **80** Contacts have been made to the website for various reasons:

- 03 x Artefacts for Potential Donation (Medals, Photos, Letters, Papers, memorabilia etc.).
- 12 x Association Matters (Various) ***
- 04 x Deceased Notifications
- 01 x History Enquiries.

<p>14 x RAMC Charity Matters (Mainly Funding) * 02 x Searching Old RAMC Comrades 08 x Searching for Relatives Mil Svc Records 36 x Seeking Various Other Information.</p> <p>* Represent the top two bespoke areas.</p> <p>(4) Annual Returns (Rtns) – Less two struggling Brs, all Brs submitted their 2024 Annual Rtns and whilst some had errors or observations, the level of Rtns was the best seen in the last three years. For the first time, some anonymised data from the rtns will be added, as an enclosure, to the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>(5) Br Centenary Celebrations – Thus far some five Brs have fixed a date for their Association Centenary Celebrations, and one has already submitted their Grant Application.</p>	
<p>5. Report from Regional Representatives (Reg Reps)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec ran through the reports from all Reg Reps in the following order:</p> <p>(1) London & East Anglia – No update was available.</p> <p>(2) Midlands – A brief verbal update was given by KR which is enclosed to these minutes. The Nat Sec requested that KR send his East Midlands report soonest, to incorporate them into the final minutes, which he agreed to.</p> <p>(3) NE England & Yorkshire – A verbal update was given by CM which is enclosed to these minutes. He also stated that he concurred with the Chair that the role of Reg Rep is not working, least not for him. He also raised the desire from the Sheffield Br to see individual voting on-masse predicated on a perception that Br leadership may not necessarily represent the views of the Br members overall. Lastly, in terms of communication, and despite the assertions otherwise, the Br do get sufficient information but that he believed some video explanations by the Chair could be more helpful and easier to understand than the written text. The Chair said the latter request would be considered.</p> <p>Nat Chair Afternote: Following discussion, it was considered (for a variety of reasons) that a video would not be appropriate. The Chair would instead produce a note explaining the process involved in reaching the Option 4 versus Option 3 decision.</p> <p>(4) NI & NW England – A verbal update was given by JB which is enclosed to these minutes.</p> <p>(5) Scotland – A verbal update was given by AG which is enclosed to these minutes. He also mentioned that Br members are eagerly debating and awaiting the results of the future of the RAMC Association and the RAMC Charity as he believed the misinformation on SM is concerning and would agree that some form of videos, as suggested by CM, could be used to quell the misinformation on SM of which he thought there was a lot with many not knowing the facts. Whilst people can form opinions, he felt much was just personal hogwash. He also raised the structure of Brs and any viability in merging his Regional Brs, whereby the Chair said post the vote and a review of the rules this would certainly be considered.</p> <p>(6) South & SE England – A verbal update was given by CH which is enclosed to these minutes. He also stated a visit by Maj Gen Hawley to his AGM was very enlightening and when asked said that the discussion with</p>	<p>KR</p> <p>Chair</p>

<p>Gen Hawley did quell certain myths and misinformation, with many members.</p> <p>(7) Wales and SW England – No update was available, whilst JW gave an update on his Br.</p>	
<p>6. Report from the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)</p> <p>a. A verbal update was given by the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB) which is enclosed to these minutes.</p>	
<p>7. Communication</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec opened this item to the forum.</p> <p>(1) The Chair highlighted that the former Association Facebook (FB) Page Manager, Ian Razzell, had stood down from his role and as such a future successor was being sought. The Chair said he had done much work for the Association but had decided to move on and asked that thanks and gratitude for all his efforts and work be placed on the record. AG asked if any form of gift would be sought for Ian Razzell where the Chair stated that someone would need to make a submission.</p> <p>(2) Due to a forced ZOOM update, AG joined the mtg 15 mins after its commencement.</p>	
<p>8. Forthcoming Events</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec then provided the following primary dates and events that were on his radar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 5 Apr - Turning of The Pages (TOP), Westminster Abbey. (2) 30 Apr - RAMC Charity AGM. (3) 5 May - WW2 Commemoration (Pontyclun War Memorial). (4) 31 May - Centenary Event – Grimsby & South West Region Brs. (5) 20-23 Jun - Centenary Event – East Midlands Br. (6) 24 Jun - Centenary Service and AGM. (7) 28 Jun - Armed Forces Day. (8) 5 Jul - TOP, Westminster Abbey. (9) 26 Jul - Centenary Event – North Midlands Br. (10) 1 Aug - WOs' & SNCOs' Past & Present Dinner. (11) Aug / Sep - TBC – Last period by which Blue Book Cenotaph Tickets can be secured. (12) 5 Sep - Centenary Event – Shropshire Br. (13) 6 Sep - TOP, Westminster Abbey. (14) 4 Oct - TOP, Westminster Abbey. (15) 15 Oct - Exc Ctite Mtg. 	

<p>(16) 6 Nov - Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>(17) 9 Nov - Cenotaph Parade and Westminster Abbey Church Svc.</p> <p>(18) 10 Nov - Armistice Day.</p> <p>(19) 15 Nov - First RAMS Formation Anniversary.</p> <p>(20) 6 Dec - TOP, Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>(21) 26 Feb 25 - HMHS Glenart Castle Memorial Day</p>	
<p>9. Open Forum</p> <p>a. Further to Item 1a above, the Chair opened by raising a letter he had received from a Mr Roy Bedson (Shropshire Br Member), via the Midlands Reg Rep who also copied it to all other Reg Reps. He sought clarity that the Reg Reps have indeed had sight of it.</p> <p>(1) The Chair stated he received it rather late for the Exc Cttee mtg agenda and he was unsure as to why the content of the letter should be put to the Exc Cttee. The chair was also not entirely sure what the Cttee was being asked to do, less answer lots of questions, some of which relate to the RAMC Charity not the Association. The Chair stated the letter contained some misinterpretations e.g. the Board is subordinate to the membership which was not quite accurate as the Board is not entirely subordinate to the membership in all matters. He believed it contained “value judgements” and pejorative statements quoting “the promulgation of ill-judged, inflammatory communications which has caused people to take umbrage to the dictatorial language expressed” by the Chair. The Chair said he would hold up the letter and call it “dictatorial” language whilst it was a question of opinion. He said the letter stated he had no control of the outside factors that are shaping the future of the Association”, whilst he countered as this was not what he had said rather, he was acting in a situation where matters were outside of his control i.e., the amalgamation of the three Corps or the secrecy placed upon him by the Army, as examples. The Chair felt it necessary to make his points as he felt the letter was “strong” in some areas.</p> <p>(2) He did not want to go into detail but at the end of the letter Mr Bedson asked a number of questions, some of which relate to the rules with some of his notes less than clear, as far as the Chair was concerned. Apart from the questions, Mr Bedson demands that the letter is put to the Exc Cttee Mtg and that formal written responses should be given within seven working days of the closure of the mtg. The Chair said that he could provide a written response, but that Mr Bedson wanted the Cttee to be aware of what he was thinking. The Chair said he was not clear on what Mr Bedson expected the Cttee to do, apart from minuting the fact that his letter had been discussed and reply to him with some sort of response. The Chair said he intended to provide Mr Bedson with a holding response explaining the tardiness of its receipt and that seven working days for a response was not possible as the views of the Reg Reps would need to be sought. The Chair asked the Reg Reps to look at the letter and send him any responses they had, as he was not clear exactly what Mr Bedson wanted, nor would he want to unduly influence the Reg Reps in any direction. The Chair proffered a period for Reg Reps to respond and then CH stated his experience in similar matters traditionally gave a 28-day response period after the minutes, which with no dissention, was accepted. When asked for any thoughts as the transferor, KR just reiterated that all he was asked to do was forward the letter on.</p>	

(3) In terms of being viewed as dictatorial, the Chair stated that he was not known as having a short fuse but the wider point was that he could not dictate and can't tell people what to do as the Association is a democratic organisation, which exists for its members. What he does try to do, occasionally, is direct.

(4) JW asked if the letter would be passed by Reg Reps to their Brs from which the Chair said it was a matter for the Reg Reps to decide. Given there are certain regions without Reg Reps, the Chair tasked the Nat Sec to attach the letter to the Mtgs minutes.

Nat Chair Afternote: The Chair had sent an email to Mr Bedson explaining that his letter had been put to the Cttee, and that because it had been submitted too late to allow proper consideration, the Cttee had asked for 28 days to consider it. Mr Bedson insisted that his timeline should be adhered to; the Chair, however, would not countermand the democratic decision of the Cttee. Mr Bedson's response was to demand the resignation of the Chair by midday on the Monday following the mtg, otherwise he would submit a formal complaint against the Chair. The Chair invited Mr Bedson to carry out his threat. The Chair then added that as a formal complaint was being raised against him, he could no longer respond to any of Mr Bedson's requests as this could jeopardise the complaint.

b. ME then provided an update of interest to the forum on the Museum of Military Medicine (MMM), in her capacity as the previous Regtl Sec of the RAMC and now the RAMS, still a trustee of the RAMC Charity and specifically as a trustee of the MMM. Given she is often asked about the MMM, she felt an interest update for the membership would be useful. She stated that the trustees had now decided not to pursue the Cardiff option as a future MMM location, due to a lack of interest by Cardiff, and the task of raising the required finance to get there. The future of the MMM was still the focus in being a financially sustainable organisation, that focusses more than just Regimental Museum but also academia, educational outreach etc. The biggest issue is that the MMM has been given notice to vacate Keogh Barracks (Bks) by the end of 2025. The trustees were not of the mind that the MMM should be boxed awaiting an alternative location option and thus along with the new MMM Chair, Maj Gen (Retd) Alan Hawley, movement was afoot and with the need to vacate Keogh Bks it was for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Army Heritage to find another alternative site. To that end an option has prevailed at Lichfield, which is deemed good being outside the wire, (which encourages a greater footfall) as well as in the close proximity of Soldiers In Training (Whittington Bks). The intent of the MMM Chair is to have a forward operating base (FOB) at Lichfield whilst seeking another site potentially in the Southeast, which is being pursued. ME main message was that of reassurance in that the MMM would continue to function and operate, both physically and online. Furthermore, she stated that the Central Records Archive of all hospital documents were able to be sourced given that their time-bar had elapsed, which will be "digitised", and will provide a future source of income as individuals undertake historical and family research. The MMM online shop will continue, whilst there have been complicating factors, namely "Samuel Brothers" have been appointed by the RAMS to be able to produce uniform only, whilst the MMM Shop will continue with RAMC, RADC and QARANC items for purchase, not uniform currently which is anticipated to return soon. Clearly, RAMS items are also being incorporated. The takeaway and assurance is that the MMM will not end up in boxes, it will continue operating, it will thrive, and the future looks bright.

(1) AG asked if it had been looked at having the MMM at a more centralised location to facilitate easy access, as appose to having it located in the South nationally. ME stated that was indeed the future intent with the MMM located in a Major City, being part of a City Passport, affiliated to universities and medicine, which albeit a utopian future, it nevertheless remains the intent, whilst where the city would be is not yet known.

Nat Sec

<p>10. Closing Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chair felt he had talked at length throughout and thus would close by thanking the forum and asked that they “keep the faith”.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>11. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec then sought consensus and agreement for the next meeting date including if it should remain virtual or Face-to-Face (F2F). KR said that he felt a F2F mtg should take place at least once a year and would be preferable as it would be more personal and that virtual mtgs can be subject to IT gremlins. The Chair said that a F2F mtg should consider certain difficulties, including sourcing a suitable and affordable location, but also time away from work, the need to travel and equally the cost for travel and for some, given the distance, hotels, all of which is sourced from Charity funds. CH believed virtual settings were beneficial as there were no costs against individuals. Whilst there was no majority from the forum as to the type of mtg, the Chair asked the Nat Sec to investigate a F2F location for either of the next two Exc Cttee Mtgs.</p> <p>With no preference from the forum the Nat Sec proffered Wed 15 Oct by ZOOM at 1800 hrs (unless F2F), which was accepted.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1954 hours</p>	<p>Nat Sec / Exc Cttee</p>

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

Enclosures:

1. Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.
2. RAMC Association Centenary Accoutrements / Merchandise.
3. RAMC Association - Annual Rtns Data.
4. Letter – RAMC Association – Review of Association 2020 Edition – Project Victoria (PjV) Governance, Risk, Compliance, (GRC) – dated 16 Mar 25.

Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.

Region	Branch	Report
London & East Anglia	Reg Rep	Post Gapped
	City of London	No Report Received
	Essex	No Report Received
Midlands	Birmingham	<p>At a recent Branch meeting the following events were agreed and circulated to branch members:</p> <p>Brunch - Saturday 29th March - 10am The Navigation Inn, Kings Norton Birmingham.</p> <p>Garden Party - Sunday 27th July, 1pm, Maggie Day's residence in Redditch - details to follow</p> <p>Middleton Hall & Gardens - Wednesday 18th June - details to follow but below is the link for information - there is also a VE 80th Birthday celebration on the 3rd & 4th May.</p> <p>RAMC Birmingham Branch Reunion dinner - Friday 8th November, Edgbaston Gold Club</p> <p>The next meeting Birmingham Branch Meeting is on Wednesday, 14th May, 19.30.</p> <p>Whilst the number of members on paper is in the region of 100, there are only 20-25 active members. It is through the active members and their families that we are able to hold such events. The Branch is also made up of ex-202 Field Hospital members some of which are not technically RAMC, like myself who is AGC(V) but we are all long standing friends so are able to keep the branch going. Sadly we have had a number of deaths of members over the last 2 years so this has also depleted the numbers who regularly attend meetings and events. Mr Gerald Dixon is our Standard Bearer and has done a great job of attending many of the members funerals and even attending an ex-202 member's funeral in Bournemouth who had been an RAMC Association member. Branch members also endeavour to attend members funerals where possible. We have not planned any 80th VE day celebrations as it seems that some members were doing this locally so it was felt that there would not be a good response. I did however inform members of VE 80th celebrations in and around Birmingham.</p> <p>Secretary Birmingham Branch</p>
	Coventry	No Report Received
	East Midlands	<p>The East Midlands Branch has currently 67 members with 4 outstanding members to pay subs 2025.</p> <p>We were asked to provide a SB for the funeral of T McDonald ex RAMC at Peterborough crematorium on 14 March 2025. Our DSB K Blower did an excellent job and was thanked by the family.</p> <p>We are a proactive branch and we attend all City, County and Diocese events as well as all RAMC taskings that include turning of the pages at Westminster Abbey, Corps Day at the National Memorial</p>

		<p>Arboretum in June (24th) and any taskings that RHQ would like us to undertake.</p> <p>We hold 2 formal dinner evenings annually usually April & October, the next one being held at the Freemasons Hall Leicester in April. These meals are 1st class and entertainment are top class. These events are usually subsidised for RAMC members.</p> <p>We also attend the Remembrance Service at DeMontfort Hall Leicester, annually, and 4 members and the branch standard are on parade at this event. A wreath is laid at the indoor cenotaph on behalf of the RAMC. We attend the annual Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph in Leicester where 2 wreaths are laid on behalf of the Branch & the RAMC on Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>We hold our branch Christmas event at a local club where a buffet meal and entertainment are served during the evening at nil cost to members. A Christmas raffle is popular at this event. Last year we had 51 members attending.</p> <p>We hold sporadic evenings throughout the year such as Ladies Night, Pongo Night, Waterloo Night, St Georges night, Cocktail Night, to mention a few.</p> <p>We attend a quiz night once a month at the local Navy club and we always do pretty well either 1st or 2nd. The banter as you can imagine is top drawer.</p> <p>We attend the Charity AGM at Camberly each year and 2025 will be no exception.</p> <p>We anticipate sending 12 – 14 members to the AGM at the NMA representing the branch. Members are being asked to join in the March past as no regular soldiers will be on parade this year.</p> <p>The branch centenary event has been booked and members will go to the Union Jack Club on Friday 20th, 21st, 22nd & 23rd June 2025.</p> <p>The branch Facebook page continues as a good recruiting tool and the vice chairman does an excellent job in policing this media means.</p> <p>As with all branches we undergo loss through age and frailty related issues and former members who have passed away. We maintain a healthy branch with no major problems to report.</p> <p>All members await the outcome of the RAMCA in whatever form that becomes.</p> <p>KJ Roberts Branch secretary</p>
	North Midlands	No Report Received
	Shropshire	<p>Branch membership continues to increase. Branch membership is currently 82 FULL and ASSOCIATE members. The Branch continues to organise Branch social functions to promote esprit de corps and camaraderie at 6 to 8 weekly intervals.</p> <p>The Branch has a new treasurer namely Garry Dean an Associate member who served in the RAPC a fortuitous choice. The remainder of the Branch committee remain the same as per the last reporting period. The Branch also has a new Standard Bearer Nathan Sharkey.</p>

	<p>Significant time, thought, and Branch interaction has been spent on the respective Options as presented by the National Chairman concerning the future of the RAMC Charity and by default the RAMC Association post the formation of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) in November 24.</p> <p>The Branch committee views have been expressed in numerous correspondence in 2025. To summaries the Branch committee require what they believe to be three fundamental requirements from RAMC Charity Trustees prior to requesting that the Branch casts its vote namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So as to ensure that any future vote concerning the future of the RAMC Charity / RAMC Association is meaningful Option 3 which was discounted by the RAMC Charity Trustees on the grounds that it would be too costly and complex namely to create a RAMC Association Trust <u>requires to be placed on any future ballot paper</u>. A explanation so as to ascertain why Option 3 was deemed 'unworkable' by respective trustees a simple on liner "too complex and costly" is simply not good enough. • The Branch respectfully requests to have the opportunity to have FULL sight and be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed RAMS Foundation Trust (FT) FINAL DRAFT prior to any ballot / vote. We require to be fully aware of the detail contained inclusive <i>of any red lines</i> in any future RAMS FT constitution and its impact on the RAMC Association. • The Branch has respectfully requested access and visibility to a number of RAMC Charity policies and registers since January 2025 in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of the RAMC Charity effectively the governing document as registered with the Charities Commission so as to be better placed to brief its Branch members prior to a future vote. Sadly, access to date has been denied. The Branch will continue with renewed vigour to achieve access to numerous relevant documents and policies. As a Branch committee we do not consider the requests above to be excessive as members of the 'Company' all are in keeping with the Memorandum and Articles of the RAMC Charity <p>Sadly, the stance, and attitude, thus far has created a disquiet and unease amongst 'Company' / Branch members and a degree of determination among Branch members that I have not seen in my nearly seven years as a Branch Chairman to be treated in a respectful and considerate manner.</p> <p>Branch Annual returns were passed to the National Secretary to meet imposed deadlines. The financial state of the Branch can be described as ' fiscally healthy'.</p> <p>Our next Branch social gathering a Branch Sunday luncheon is scheduled for the 23 March when we will welcome General Hawley a RAMC Charity Trustee and currently a future RAMS FT Trustee who will meet Branch members.</p> <p>The Branch shall celebrate the RAMC Association centenary on the 5 September 25. Recces of venues are complete and now the committee will work had to ensure that the main social event of the year will be a success. We are grateful that a grant increase to offset the cost of 75% has been granted.</p> <p><i>Original Signed</i></p>
--	---

		D A JONES Lt Col (Retd) Shropshire Branch Chairman
NE England & Yorkshire	Reg Rep	<p>Only two responses (Northumbria & Sheffield) received from an initial email request and reminder. I thus report the two responses combined.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Branch Members: No of active members; change in numbers <p>Northumbria maintain their numbers at 35 members, with one loss through bereavement and one new member. Sheffield have added six members, though notably not all plan to attend meetings in person. Trialing virtual attendance at meetings has been a success.</p> 2. Branch Committee membership: Changes <p>Northumbria have remained stable regarding Branch committee posts, whereas Sheffield have successfully changed, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary adding also a Deputy Standard Bearer.</p> 3. Activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ceremonial: <p>Both Branches report little ceremonial activity, but with the Northumbria Standard present at the funeral service for their deceased member. Neither Branch paraded collectively on Remembrance Sunday, but rather members attended their local parades. Northumbria had several members attend the National Act of Remembrance in London.</p> b. Social. <p>Both Branches had very successful pre-Christmas functions with in both cases nearly 100 attendees. In addition to raising Branch funds, Northumbria raised funds for the QARANC Association Branch (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).</p> c. Other: 4. Finance: <p>Both branches report finances remain healthily solvent and they have raised funds at their recent functions.</p> 5. Branch Plans: Both Branches have plans in place to celebrate the RAMC Association Centenary. Northumbria are to hold a lunch at the Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park and Sheffield are planning a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum. <p>In addition, Northumbria are planning a trip to Bletchley Park and visits to Civil War sites. Sheffield are planning to undertake a commercially organised Battlefield Study in July 2026, that coincides with the Nijmegen Marches in the Netherlands plus a trip to the Army v Navy rugby match.</p> 6. The Future of the RAMC Association. <p>Northumbria:</p> <p>Discussion has taken place at the Branch, but the consensus was that "information was scarce, and a fully developed plan was</p>

		<p>not available and therefore a reasoned response was not possible". It was agreed that the issue would be revisited at the next meeting in late March and further discussions would take place should further information become available. The Branch welcomes the news that the National vote has been delayed, this will enable all Branches the opportunity to hold fuller discussions and enhance the ability to arrive at a reasoned and well thought through decision.</p> <p>Sheffield:</p> <p>There is a feeling of a lack of information to enable a fully informed debate. Issues raised related to the desire to not see the RAMC Association fade away, with RAMC memories as "museum items" only. Suggesting the need to keep the Association alive, associated with the Royal Army Medical Service. Another view was the need to sound out the membership as a whole, perhaps via a survey. This is to avoid a possible perception that the views of the majority of members may not be represented by the branch hierarchies (stated that this was not a view of the Sheffield Branch!) and Association officers.</p> <p>7. Ideas.</p> <p>8. General Comments.</p> <p>Northumbria:</p> <p>The Branch is ticking along. Meetings are generally poorly attended, and the Secretary meets with poor responses to his emails. However, we are holding our own with good financial support from our members which defies their otherwise lukewarm feelings toward the Association. We actively seek new members but with the advent of the RAMS this would appear to make that particular task even more difficult; we persevere.</p> <p>In Arduis Fidelis</p> <p>Chris Mason</p>
	Durham	No Report Received
	Grimsby	No Report Received
	Kingston upon Hull	No Report Received
	Northumberland	See above, combined Reg Rep Report
	Sheffield	See above, combined Reg Rep Report
NI & NW England	Reg Rep	See below Br Reports
	Merseyside	Merseyside Branch is in a period of recovery with the roles of Treasurer and Secretary being currently filled with interim Officers. Their AGM is being held on 08 April 2025 when it is strongly anticipated that these roles will be filled and their Branch numbers will increase.
	Ulster	In NI the Ulster Branch grows in strength and participation. 2025 started off with another successful afternoon tea in a prestigious Belfast hotel and the remainder of the calendar year looks as so:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz night, local British Legion premises, March • Branch AGM, Ulster Reform Club, April • We will have representatives at the National AGM and hope have the standard on parade, June • Corps Day, St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, June • Branch function, July • Quiz night, August • National Malay and Borneo Veterans' parade and service, Lisburn, September • Centenary/laying up of standard, St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast followed by dinner at the Titanic Hotel, October • Turning of the Pages, Westminster Abbey, October • Remembrance, Pont Remy, France, November • Christmas Lunch, Ulster Reform Club, December.
Scotland	Reg Rep	<p>Branches - On paper there are 3 branches in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundee branch: I have asked Derek Allardice (SB), for a branch update and hopefully I will have something before next week. • Aberdeen branch: I have not heard anything from the Aberdeen branch, however I note from the minutes of the last meeting that there was a viability question around the branch. • Central Scotland Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welfare unfortunately, since the last meeting we continue to have attended funerals which the branch reps and standard beards have attended at the request of the family. ○ Remembrance service - The branch continues to be supporting remembrance services across our area. ○ Branch family event – this was the first time that the branch had a family panto event and social event and it was well attended. ○ Gulf War 1 reunion event - the branch will be holding a reunion on the 22nd March, laying a wreath donated by BAE systems at the Glasgow cenotaph. The branch will be applying for funding to support this event • Regional rep role – post still to be decided on who will take it up. I have not had any volunteers yet from Dundee or Aberdeen branches. <p>Andy Geelan</p>
	Aberdeen	No Report Received
	Central Scotland	See above, combined Reg Rep Report.
	Dundee & Tayside	<p>All well, we have 20 paid up members.</p> <p>12 members went on a Normandy battlefield tour last June 6.</p> <p>Our AGM is planned for 26 March To plan this year's events.</p> <p>Derek</p>

South & SE England	Reg Rep	<p>Both branches are actively looking at ways to improve both membership numbers and attendance.</p> <p>PG Brig (Retd) PH Gilbert QVRM TD DL VR Regional Representative, Southeast.</p>
	Aldershot	<p>a. At the AGM in January, Peter Starling (in post since 2018) handed the Chair to Andy Reynolds with the unanimous support of the meeting.</p> <p>b. Graham Mottley, along with the National Chairman represented the Association at the parade on 15 November 2024 for the formation of the RAMS.</p> <p>c. The old branch standard has been laid up in the Aldershot Garrison Church now that the refurbishment is complete, thanks to Father John Harvey who made the initial contact many months ago.</p> <p>d. During 2024 Graham Mottley, as Standard Bearer, attended and paraded the Branch Standard at 8 funerals.</p> <p>e. At the AGM a lively debate was held on the future of the Association including the status of “option 3”. At the end a vote was held, and those present unanimously supported “option 4” as recommended by the National Chair.</p> <p>f. Thanks are due to Peter Starling, not only as Branch Chairman but also as the Museum Director.</p> <p>g. Incoming Chairman Maj Reynolds will contact the membership soon to discuss taking the branch forward and hopefully increase membership. Possibly holding meetings on weekends or evenings.</p> <p>h. The branch currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 active members • 28 non active • 13 widows •
	Kent	<p>a. The initial momentum has been maintained, and the new Kent Branch is active and busy.</p> <p>b. Plans are well underway for the Armistice Day visit to Ypres on 11 November 2025. There will be representation from the Branch at the Corps Day event at the NMA on 24 June.</p> <p>c. The standard of the Maidstone Branch was laid up on Sunday 3 November 2024 in All Saints church, Maidstone, the home church of 220 Medical Squadron and its antecedents. This took place at a choral evensong and was well attended by former Maidstone members and the Kent Chairman.</p> <p>d. The Standard of the renamed East Kent Branch was laid up on Sunday 19 January 2025 in St Mary in Castro (St Mary’s in the Castle) Church in Dover Castle. This church is the former Garrison Church of Dover Garrison and as such has a strong Military History. The Sunday morning Communion Service also commemorated the 80th anniversary of the death of LCpl Eric Harden VC on 23 January 1945. The service was well attended by members of both Kent Branch RAMCA and the Royal Marines Association and was followed by an excellent lunch and reception at the RM Association Club in Deal.</p>

		<p>e. The AGM was held with lunch at the Conningbrook Hotel in Ashford on Sunday 2 March. RAMC and RAMS Charity Trustee Maj Gen Alan Hawley kindly travelled from Shropshire to join us for lunch and comprehensively brief the members on the background to and plans for the evolution of the Association in light of Project Victoria. As the National vote has been postponed, no branch vote was held on the "Option 3" and "Option 4" debate.</p> <p>f. The Kent Standard Bearer attended 3 Funerals during the period.</p> <p>g. The branch currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70 active members (membership paid) • 3 inactive members
Wales and SW England	Reg Rep	Post Gapped
	Bristol	No Report Received
	South Wales	<p>We have had good attendances most months our average per meeting is about 22. We have had a few new members again this year and we welcome them all and thanks to those that attend each month</p> <p>We held a BBQ in August at which we had over 30 attendees. The weather was very good with plenty of shade. We had Skittles night in October and fish and chip night in November these are regular events for the Branch, we also had afternoon tea in the Centre of Cardiff, plus a group went off to Bath and Longleat, we did have the trip to the Poppy Factory arranged for May but this has fallen through no fault of ours. We have a visit to the Principality Stadium home of Welsh Rugby including some members undertaking an abseil from the top of the building I won't be one of them. After the visit we are planning afternoon tea at a local hotel. We are also organising our annual BBQ.</p> <p>The Branch went out for our Christmas meal at the Walston Castle again which went well as usual.</p> <p>Our Standard Bearer has attended several events.</p> <p>Thanks to all members of the Branch who have acted as Welfare Officers. We are keeping in touch with those that are unable to attend due to ill health.</p> <p>We have had our AGM I was re-elected as Chairman, Gary Lock as Vice Chairman, Michael Stevenson as Secretary, Bonny Slocombe Treasurer and Tony Hamson Standard Bearer</p> <p>John Wall Branch Chairman</p>
South West Region	No Report Received	
SSB	<p>Our Standard Bearers have been very busy this year we have had many funerals to attend. It is sad that we have lost so many of our former comrades RIP to them all.</p> <p>Our Corps day went off ok it was dry so that a good start. We only had 12 standards on parade which is very low compared with other years, but some Branches do not have a Standard Bearer. The new Kent Branch (formally East Kent) had their new Standard dedicated they now cover the whole of Kent Area and many members of the closed Maidstone Branch have transferred over.</p> <p>We lost a former Standard Bearer and Chairman of Hull Branch Jason Kinchin RIP Jason.</p>	

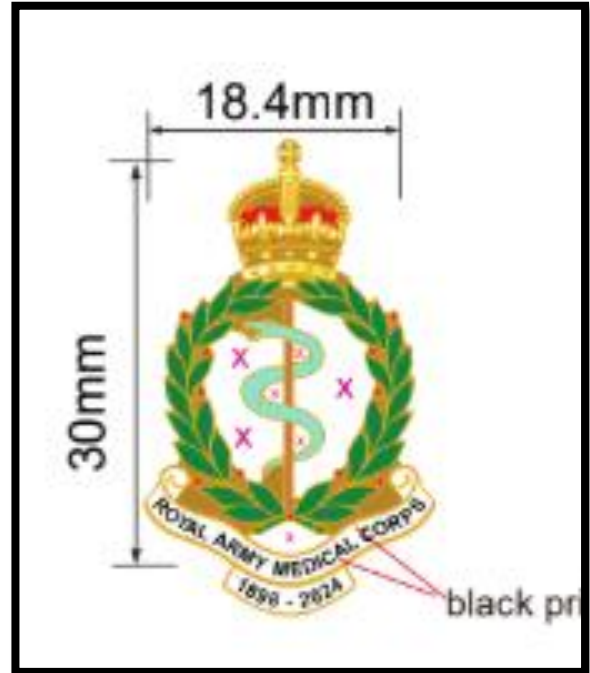
Manchester Branch has closed and have lidy up their standard at the Army Reserve Centre Stockport. Wessex have laid theirs in the Garrison Church Litchfield. Glasgow Branch (which is now Central Scotland) laid up their old Standard in the Army Museum in Edinburgh Cyprus Branch have laid theirs up in The Garrison Church Episkop. I have also had an email from Ulster Branch they are looking at laying up their old Standard.

John Lockwood of Sheffield Branch took his Standard on the tour of the battlefields. Due to Branches closing some of our long serving Standard Bearers have now finished, Peter Stobbard and Ron Mallander from Manchester, Chris Gregory and Fred Knock from Wessex who was a former Senior Standard Bearer, Gordon Bell Cyprus. David Howell from Bristol has also finished due to ill health. We have also lost Ian Candy from London Branch who has medical problems and is replaced by Gary Reynolds. East Midlands have two new SB in the form of John Buckley and Kelvin Blower, Grimsby have a new Deputy SB in Paul Mayhen, I believe that Hull have a new SB but still waiting for details. We wish then all well and thank them for their years of service to the Association as Standard Bearers.

All the turning of the pages for 2025 are covered, and at this time I have 12 standards attending Corps day still waiting to hear from others. Hope we have a good turn out this year.

John R Wall
Senior Standard Bearer

RAMC Association Centenary Accoutrements / Merchandise



Side 1



Side 2

RAMC Association - Annual Rtns Data *

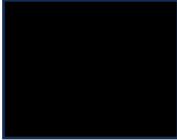
Serial	Domain / Area	2024	2023
1	Active Brs	22	25
2	Annual Rtns Received	20	24
3	Membership - Active	777	775
4	Membership – Non-Active	362	748
5	Closing Balance of Collective Funds Held	£65,934.64	£79,666.34
6	Social Activities - Collective Expenditure	£33,489.32	£34,316.93
7	Social Activities - Average % <i>versus</i> All Expenditure	87%	71%
8	Grants Approved - Volume	28	5
9	Grants Approved - Value	£8,514.43	£4,229.93
10	Per-Head Grants - Volume	Nil	12
11	Per-Head Grants - Value	Nil	£21,750.00
12	On-Line Membership Applications	182	162
13	Website Contacts	157	60
14	Virtual Allocation of Funds from RAMC Charity (aka Trial Bid)	£60,000.00	£50,000.00

*** All data is from Annual Returns submitted less Serials 8-14.**

From: Mr R. Bedson MBE

SENT BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Lt Col T. Jones BEM
Chairman
RAMC Association Shropshire Branch



16th March 2025

Dear Tony

**RAMC ASSOCIATION – REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION 2020 EDITION – PROJECT VICTORIA (PjV)
GOVERNANCE, RISK, COMPLIANCE, (GRC)**

References:

- A. Letter Bedson R./ Nadin M RE: RAMC CHARITY (Company number 06782587) PROJECT VICTORIA (PjV) – GOVERNANCE: “*CONFLICT OF LOYALTIES & RELATED MATTERS*” dtd 7th March 2025 (NOTAL)
- B. Royal Army Medical Corps RAMC Association Rules 2020 Edition.
- C. Memorandum of Association of The RAMC Charity
- D. Articles of Association of The RAMC Charity
- E. Charity Commission 2014 “Conflicts of interest: A guide for Trustees”

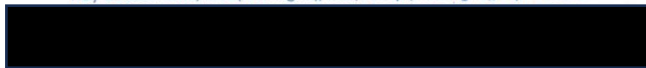
Introduction

The full consequences of Project Victoria (PjV) are profound and remain to be fully determined with regard to its effects on the RAMC Association. The status of the RAMC Charity in terms of its future as an incorporated Membership based Charity is also a subject of intense debate. The Board of Trustees stewardship of the Charity, and by extension the Association, is under close scrutiny by concerned individuals in terms of overall governance, decision making, attitude and performance. Overall, the mandatory Governance, Risk, Compliance (GRC) related criteria, both statutory and 'leading practice' that the RAMC Charity is mandated /obligated to adhere to and demonstrate such is being tested.

The Membership of the Association provides the 'bedrock' upon which the Charity (The Company), is dependent upon for its existence. In simple terms, the Board is subordinate to the Membership. The Association is contingent, conditional upon the Membership.

Since announcement of the formation of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS) and the conduct of the Associations leadership since, including the promulgation of ill-judged, inflammatory communications to the Veterans community, a significant number of the 'reasonably informed' Membership of the Association have taken umbrage to the dictatorial language expressed by the Associations leadership. A significant number of individuals linked to the RAMC have taken

Roy Bedson MBE, MSc (Risk Mgmt), MSc/PGDip (H&S Mgmt), DipNEBOSH.



to social media to express, with notable conviction. Their individual opinions have now gathered together and expanded to express disquiet and unease directly questioning the wider conduct of the RAMC Charity as a whole.

The turbulence within the Association is unprecedented. Concerningly, the National Chairman (ex Officio Trustee) has documented that his appointment position has totally no control of the outside factors that are shaping the future of the Association. Simple interpretation of the documented statement is that the Association is not in control of its destiny. By any measure this is defeatist.

Alternatively, a more probable assessment would be that the current leadership of the Association is supportive, complicit, to the intended strategy of the current Board of Trustees, ego, the RAMC Charity is subsumed in its entirety into a new charitable body the RAMS Foundation Trust. The current National Chair has already stated as a documented 'fact' that RAMC Charity ('The Company') can no longer exist as a discrete entity and 'must' transfer its responsibilities and assets to a new RAMS Charitable body.¹

A detailed review of the RAMC Charity's M&A's has been undertaken and the subject of separate correspondence (Reference A). The governance of the Association is exercised through the Board (The Company) by the nomination of a Trustee, 'elected' by the members to serve for a period of five years as Chairman of the RAMC Association Management Committee.²

The current Rules are made under authority of Articles of Association Clause 68.4. (See Reference D). The Rules are binding on all Executives/Members (Reference B). It should be noted that the individual Trustees/ Trustees are defined in the Articles of Association of The RAMC Charity as Members (See: Reference D Members Clause 7)

In consequence of recent statements, sentiments, commitments, documented proposals and management decisions made by the National Chairman, the current rules of the Association demand exacting scrutiny.

Purpose and Intent

The intent of this correspondence is simplistic in purpose. That being to determine the following:

1. Provide an opinion if the Association Rules (in total) , as documented, are being interpreted and applied in a reasonable, proper manner and as intended.
2. To obtain qualified, authentic, authoritative clarifications and interpretations of the subject rules where explicitly identified.
3. To make an informed judgement as to whether the Rules as drafted, are 'fit for purpose' and able to be adhered to in the current changing circumstances.

For ease of reference, detail the main topics of enquiry requiring clarification are given under discrete headings (Enquiry). The 'Enquiries' (Questions) seeking clarification, explanation and authoritative response are categorised as given in the Rules (Headings).

ENQUIRY 1: Executive Committee Meetings (RE: 19th March 2025)

Rules Para 21 Extract from Rules: *"these meeting will normally be physically conducted together but in exceptional circumstances may have to be conducted by telephone and/or televisual link/2"*

¹ Millar K. RAMC Association: Option 4 Paper "The RAMC Association and the Royal Army Medical Service Foundation Trust"

² Reference C. 'Articles of Association' of The RAMC Charity Clause 50

Question 1. Taking the prevailing, unprecedented challenges facing the membership and by extension the Association Management Committee into consideration, precisely what are the 'exceptional circumstances' that the meeting scheduled for the 19th March 2025 is **only** to be held via televisual link (Zoom or similar) notwithstanding a specific written request for the meeting to be 'held in person' ?

Note 1: The extract from the Rules is clear and explicit. Taking the prevailing, unprecedented challenges confronting the Management Committee, the decision of the National Chair not to conduct the meeting 'in person' is perverse, indefensible. For the avoidance of any doubt, the scheduled meeting should in accordance with the Rules be held 'in person.' It is reasonable to assume the decision was made **solely** by the National Chair. Only the Chairman in consultation with the RR's and the ex-Officio' committee Members 'own' the decision with regard to the format of the RAMC Association Management Committee Executive Meeting.

Note: 2 As the RAMC Regt Sec & RAMC Regt RSM posts no longer exist, their individual preference concerning the meeting of the 19th March 2025 is as a matter of record, irrelevant.

Note 3: If in the given circumstances the Association Secretary made the decision, his position is not invested with the Powers to do so. If the decision to conduct the meeting of the 19th March 2025 by 'televisual link (Zoom etc) was made by the Secretary in accordance with Annex C to RAMC Association Rules 'duties of Executive committee Members Para 3 Secretary, the decision is **NOT** within his remit nor his Duties as listed.

ENQUIRY 2 - Conflict of Loyalties (Reference A)

The Association, by default the RAMC Association Management Committee, is governed by the RAMC Charity Board of Trustees and empowered through the 'The Company' Rules (References C&D). The RAMC Charity is subject to relevant statute.^{3,4} Timely clarification has been sought from the Chair of the Board of Trustees with regard to justifiable concerns that five (5) of the current sitting Trustees are possibly compromised under the definition of 'Conflict of Loyalties' as published by the Regulator (Reference A) .

The National Chair of the Association is one of the named Trustees who may, in consideration of the recent documented statements and proposals (Option 4 Paper) be considered 'compromised'.⁵ At this point in time, I nor any other interested parties to my knowledge are implying, alleging wrongdoing or infringements on behalf of the Board. The preceding statement however has context and contingent upon the responses given, extent of disclosure and with due consideration being given to the cited References and authoritative advice as received.

Even the perception that there is a conflict of loyalties can damage a Charity. Where the perception is not accurate because there is no conflict of loyalties or interest, the Trustees should always, without exception be able to respond appropriately to the situation by managing the risks to the charity and being prepared to explain how they have made their decisions only in the best interests of the charity (Reference E)

ENQUIRY 3 – 'Delegated Powers' (See: Reference B Annex A Para 3.4)

As stated at Reference A (Annex A), 'ANY' business conducted by ANY member of the Committee, and such business being considered of an urgent nature, shall be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee at the

³ The Companies Acts 1985 – 2006

⁴ The Charities Act 2011 -2022

⁵ Conflict of loyalty: 'this means a particular type of conflict of interest, in which a trustee's loyalty or duty to another person or organisation could, or could be seen to, prevent the trustee from making a decision only in the best interests of the charity. Source: Charity Commission – 2014

next available Committee Meeting. This clause is qualified. The conduct and nature of business must be within the terms of the Delegated powers of the Committee.

Question 1 – As all powers granted to the RAMC Association Management Committee are made under authority of Articles of Association Clause 68.4. (See Reference D) what are the specific documented details of the 'Delegated Powers' as cited to which a Member of the Committee must conform to ?

Question 2 – By definition, 'Delegated Powers' to which the Committee Members shall adhere to are required to be documented and brought to the attention of all RAMC Association Management Committee Members – Have all Committee Members been made fully conversant and are understanding of the subject 'Delegated Powers' and there significance ?

ENQUIRY 4 - 'Rights and Privileges' (Pre 2008) - (See: RAMC Association Rules Membership Paragraph 4).

As stated at Reference B, Members of the Association prior to 2008 (**Note:** 'Life Membership') retain rights and privileges afforded under the previous incorporated Charitable entity (Registered Charity Number 1024102).

Question 1 – As a matter of some urgency is the Shropshire Branch able to obtain a documented (detailed) copy of the 'rights and privileges' afforded to 'Life Members' under the previous incorporated Charitable entity (Registered Charity Number 1024102).

Summary

Although a number of enquiries/ questions have been presented, all are considered lacking in complexity, simplistic in nature and should not in any instance inhibit the provision of a prompt, 'suitable and sufficient' response from the RAMC Association Management Committee. The information and clarifications requested are based on information that should be readily accessible to the Management Committee and retrievable.

In consideration of the current turbulence within the RAMC Charity, and by extension the RAMC Association, without exception, all of the above enquiries and questions should be able to be fully considered, verbal confirmations and/or clarifications given during the meeting schedule for the 19th March 2025 with formal written responses given within 7 working days of the close of meeting. All enquires above should also be itemised in the minutes of the meeting.

Yours Sincerely



Roy Bedson MBE
Member - Shropshire Branch