



Registered No 1129091

**Minutes of the RAMC Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Held via ZOOM on
Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 1030 hrs**

Present	Col (Retd) K Millar (KM)	National Chairman	Chair
	Col (Retd) I Simpson MBE (IS)	Reg Rep - NE England & Yorkshire	
	Col (Retd) M Pemberton (MP)	Reg Rep - Wales & SW England	
	Maj R Parkes RAMC (RP)	Reg Rep - NI & NW England	
	Maj (Retd) M J T Ellis (ME)	Regimental Secretary RAMC	
	Mr A Geelan (AG)	Reg Rep - Scotland	
	Mr J Wall (JW)	Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)	
In Attendance	Mr I Razzell (IR)	Facebook Page Manager	
Apologies	Capt (Retd) P H Starling (PS)	Reg Rep - South & SE England	
	Mr K Roberts (KR)	Reg Rep - Midlands	
	Mr D Human (DH)	Reg Rep - London & East Anglia	
	<i>Post Gapped</i>	RAMC Rep SM	
Secretary	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee (JA)	National Secretary	Zoom Host

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
	The Meeting Opened at 1035 hours	
1.	Chairman's Opening Remarks	
	<p>a. The Chairman (Chair) started by thanking all for attending and apologised for the late but necessary change to the meeting from 16 Mar which was due to the appointment of the new salaried National Secretary (Nat Sec) who took post on 13 Feb 23 and the delay in the former Sec's ability to handover (HO) until Mar this year. He recognised this was not ideal and that everyone had full diaries and other commitments but would try in the future to avoid such changes.</p> <p>b. The Chair took the opportunity to recognise and record the work carried out by the previous Nat Sec, Lt Col Mike Ryan RAMC.</p> <p>c. The Chair apologised for the postponement of the recently scheduled (Sat 25 Mar) Welfare Study Period which had already been put-back by his predecessor (Brig Alistair Macmillan). It became apparent that assumptions about facilities and catering had been made by Brig Macmillan, and thus, with his agreement, the event could not go ahead. Fortuitously there were only a few number of registrants for the event.</p> <p>d. As a matter of record, the Chair had received a full handover from his predecessor and started his appointment as the Chairman on 1 Nov 22.</p> <p>e. Finally, the Chair gave his intention that, where possible, the meeting (Mtg) would finish by 1230 hours, and asked attendees to keep their contributions brief.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>All</p>

<p>2. Previous Minutes</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec raised the following items from the previous minutes:</p> <p>(1) The Welfare Officers' Study Period that the Chair had already raised.</p> <p>(2) The "per-head" grant of £50 per "active" members would continue for 2023 (he had already processed six applications) and that there was a proposal at Item 10 of the mtg in respect of the said grant.</p> <p>(3) The late HO of the Nat Secs' (already mentioned) which had an impact on the receipt and processing of the 2022 Annual Branch (Br) Returns (Rtns).</p> <p>(4) The issue of effective communication across the Association and that for his part, the previous aspiration was to respond within 48 hrs but that with the permanency of his post most, if not all communications are being addressed within 24 hrs.</p> <p>b. The Chair stated other points were raised at the previous mtg but would be captured as they arose throughout the mtgs agenda.</p> <p>c. With no dissention, the previous minutes were approved.</p>	
<p>3. Matters Arising</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec raised the issue that certain Brs' had not yet paid their Annual Affiliation fees that traditionally accompany their annual rtns. This has been confirmed on the return of the Bookkeeper at the RHQ RAMC this week. Thus, in due course the Nat Sec will be hastening those defaulting Brs' to ensure the fees are duly paid.</p>	Nat Sec
<p>4. Financial Matters</p> <p>a. The Chair raised the importance of understanding where funds are derived from and where they go. He stressed that a proper overview of all financial matters must be undertaken for the Association as it has been increasingly apparent that this has not always been the case. Currently there are some "dark corners" so that the Chair is uncertain if all cash-flows are being properly monitored. He stressed he did not believe any fraud or criminality had taken place but possible incompetence and over involvement. Efforts to address this matter are "in train", specifically through work by the Nat Sec and others.</p> <p>b. The Chair went on to talk about the volume of funds held by the association and its fiscal allocation. He made it clear that the annual allocation by the RAMC Charity (hereafter Charity) to the Association or any money, is "virtual". The funds are not deposited in an Association bank as such, hence the virtuality. Notwithstanding (NWS) the annual allocation, should the Association require more funds, with an appropriate justification, the Chair can place a bid for an uplift of the virtual sum. The Chair reminded all in attendance that as a Trustee of the Charity he has to ensure due diligence is carried out on all financial matters, which includes hastening funds (i.e. fees) and that funds are spent appropriately in accordance with the rules and regulations involving a Charity.</p> <p>c. The Chair went on to state that currently he was not content with continuing the practice of automatically granting £50 per head of "active" members to Brs. His rational was that to assist Brs out of CoViD-19, they were given a one-off grant of £500 and at the last committee (cttee) mtg, the per-head grant had been continued. However, having seen the list of "active" members, there is now a requirement to justify every expenditure, rather than just handing out cash grants based on a "head-count", with no specific purpose. The Chair stated that if taking</p>	

<p>the entirety of the current “active” membership, then the Charity would be paying out in excess of £20000 with no measurable effects! He then opened the matter to the floor for views and feedback:</p> <p>(1) IS agreed with the broad sentiment of the Chairs position and his perception having newly taken over but highlighted the angst that existed over the last two years on how best to move the Association forward. He raised the proposal for an association “Financial Plan” of which he would assist, to highlight to Brs’ what funding could be used for. He also raised the point of membership numbers and said there existed a disparity between Brs’ and the “Centre”. The Chair then stated that the term “active” should be properly defined.</p> <p>(2) MP concurred with the points raised by IS and that the perception from his Brs’ was that a very high standard of preparation was required in order to gain the “grant”, whilst he agreed a balance should be struck. NWS his cry for governance to be applied there were painful trails some Brs were put through (particularly the SW Br) in their genuine attempts to meet due diligence and procedure as the “Centre” appeared to be overtly obstructive. The Brs’ ultimate desire was to draw members out where the previous chair stated it was a “Bung” to draw members back on-side. MP went on to say that there are certain standard running costs for a Br, which he believed should be “grant-aided” by the Charity albeit a decision may end up being a half-way house. He also spoke about his understanding, when a Trustee, that the grant was only for RAMC Members of the association, albeit many Brs have more associate members. Ultimately he supported IS view of a final plan along a potential “half-way” house and that if Brs’ submit their rtns correctly and appropriately and are accepted, he didn’t believe it to be unreasonable to pay a form of grant to maintain or improve their position whilst it need not be the current £50 per-head, but sufficient to promote active administration. The Chair broadly agreed with MP and the consideration of a half-way house and that any process used should be seamless and non-judgemental.</p> <p>(3) AG raised the issue of “active” versus total members. Indeed, he sought the definition of “active” membership so that it was not conflated with actual membership and that cash would be required to move members from “inactive” to “active” status. The Chair agreed that the “centre” must define “active” membership.</p> <p>d. The Chairman summarised that his position/view was not entirely agreed with however he remained resolute that as a Trustee he was not keen to issue funds for “no specific reason” especially when no return can be defined. He confirmed the need for expediency and efficiency in the process with as little a delay as possible. He also supported the view that irrespective of Membership (Full/Associate) we should embrace and accept equitably those who share our same values, aims and goals.</p> <p>(1) IS took the opportunity to explain the perceived definition of “active” status of members in-line with new membership. The annual affiliation Fee (£1) provided the “Centre” with an indication of how many Br members were active. This differs to what is held centrally which captures the entirety of Association membership. On joining the Association, applicants can opt for a particular Br but the Br selected may never see the new member! Hence, it was decided that an “active” members was someone who regularly attended events, whereas “inactive” members were not seen by Brs’ but remained on their books so contact and communication can be maintained with a view that they may come back into the “active” fold. Further to the £50 grant, he believed that 2023 should be treated differently as it had already been agreed that this would be the case and honoured and as such Brs’ have factored this into their planning for events. He was unsure where the figure of £50 derived from as it was</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair / Nat Sec</p>
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<p>something presented to the Executive (Exc) Cttee, whilst he anticipated it would have derived from some prior calculation. The Chair acknowledged that the £50 per-head grant for 2023 had already been established at the last Exc Cttee Mtg but was not content that it continued from 2024 onwards and that greater accountability was required and credibility with the Charity whilst ensuring Brs' don't suffer as a result of this.</p> <p>(2) AG suggested that going forward, from 2024, there should be some form of administrative (admin) fee grant for Brs'. The Chair said this was perfectly reasonable but the "Centre" would not be in a position to decide what a Br would require to admin itself, this would fall to Brs to request funds accordingly, albeit he did not envisage this being thousands of pounds. IS sought final clarity, which was confirmed by the Chair and ME, that the £50 per-head grants for 2023 would be honoured. The Nat Sec advised that to-date all six applications had been processed and paid.</p> <p>(3) IR highlighted that a smart algorithm, in a spreadsheet, could be created to determine how a Br looks and its activity in any given year and in turn measure the level of funding support (sp), something the Charity Commission are very familiar with. The Chair was doubtful about using an algorithm and believed it would be better to keep things as simple as possible.</p> <p>(4) ME raised the observation from the Auditors that the total value of funds held in the Brs was £20,000 greater to that of last year's report. She underscored it was an observation NOT a criticism.</p>	
<p>5. Report from the Secretary</p> <p>a. The new Nat Sec reported the following:</p> <p>(1) That he was still bedding-in to his role, making contacts and finalising control of certain processes. Nat Sec</p> <p>(2) That he was looking into Br viabilities and closures, of which there have been several. Nat Sec</p> <p>(3) That he had reviewed the current rules with his finding being passed to the Chair (see also Item 9a below).</p> <p>(4) He has received numerous enquiries about the new King's Crown (Tudor) badges, be they the association Badge or the RAMC Cap-Badge worn by our Standard Bearers' (SB). He reminded all, that Badges were a dress issue which is a matter for the RHQ RAMC via the Regt Sec, and as such further details and direction is awaited. All to Note</p> <p>(5) Sadly, posting many death and funeral details on the Association Website.</p> <p>(6) He was still processing 2022 annual rtn matters, which, whilst illuminating, will provide a great handrail going forward for 2023 rtns.</p> <p>(7) Updating Br contact details being a daily affair with constant changes and movements of Br Officials. Nat Sec (WIP)</p> <p>(8) Assessing and reviewing membership and its process given there are two membership databases, one that sits on Subscriber CRM held within the RHQ RAMC a quasi-legacy system and the other that sits on the RAMC Website. The intent is to try and dove-tail the data to ascertain a true representation of the association membership. Nat Sec</p>	

<p>b. IR raised two follow-on issues:</p> <p>(1) An aspirant membership applicant – will be taken off line.</p> <p>(2) Clarity of Facebook (FB) and Social Media (SM) generally as it was clear “rogue” Association Brs exist and this raises the broader question of what we do about them? The Nat Sec suggested this was also taken off-line but in his view if Brs, so explained, are not registered with the “authorised” Association, as part of the registered Charity, then they are indeed “rogue” and not formally recognised. Further, they are not declared, not visible, hold no Standards nor are they in receipt of official funding hence non-recognition.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>IR</p>
<p>6. Report from Regional Representatives (Reg Reps)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec ran through the reports from all Reg in the following order:</p> <p>(1) London & East Anglia – No Report Received.</p> <p>(2) Midlands – Report attached to these minutes.</p> <p>(3) NE England & Yorkshire – A verbal update was given by IS which is also attached to these minutes. IS also raised the following other issues:</p> <p>(a) An update on the future lay-down of Medical Units as many units we’re amalgamating as part of “Future Soldier” which resulted in access to historical “life-support” infrastructure being removed for Brs. The Chair agreed to promulgate the new Medical laydown. (Afternote. The Nat Sec has send a Excel laydown)</p> <p>(b) That in July he would be meeting with 5 Med Regt to brief both the Other Ranks (ORs) and Sgts’ Messes on the Association and its activities. He sought a default association PowerPoint that could be used. (Afternote. This has been provided by the Nat Sec)</p> <p>(c) That in his AOR, an organisation called “Strensall Meet” exists which is formed by circa. 28 Ex AMS personnel. They meet quarterly but he has considered how best to try and bring them into the association fold. One idea is to rename Durham Br to Durham and N-Yorkshire Br, to create an affiliation?</p> <p>(d) Another organisation called “Offrs Meet” exists within the Ripon area and is led by Col (Retd) Chris Dickinson which meet for meals every other month.</p> <p>(e) The progress on a previous discussion of trying to bring other akin organisations into the wider Association fold namely the “AMS Past & Present Dinner Club” and specifically “RAMC Reunited”.</p> <p>(4) NI & NW England – A verbal update was given by RP which is also attached to these minutes.</p> <p>(5) Scotland – A verbal update was given by AG which is also attached to these minutes. AG raised two oblique issues:</p> <p>(a) Promotional Literature for RAMC125 – The Chair stated there was nothing specific but anything would fall to the RAMC not the association.</p> <p>(b) Pop-Up Stands and their availability. The Nat Sec agreed to sign-post their availability. (Afternote – IS stated x 20 spere were held by the old Nat Sec)</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Nat Sec</p>

<p>(6) South & SE England – Report attached to these minutes.</p> <p>(7) Wales and SW England – A verbal update was given by MP which is also attached to these minutes.</p> <p>c. The Nat Sec asked all Reg Reps to ensure their reports are submitted to him, if not already done so.</p>	Reg Reps
<p>7. Report from the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)</p> <p>a. A verbal report was given by the SSB which is also attached to these minutes.</p> <p>b. In light of certain detail exposed by the SSB, IR asked to raise two questions:</p> <p>(1) The Belgium Burial on 10 May of a WW1 RAMC serviceman in that it would be helpful to share with the wider RAMC community what the RAMC, per se, is doing for this burial to show wider Corps engagement. He raised this as certain negative comments are pervading on SM as to what input, or otherwise, the RAMC is making.</p> <p>(2) Secondly, for those who have served on operations, there is an official method (through a JSP) to request a serving Military Bugler for a Funeral. IR agreed to share the details.</p> <p>c. ME took the opportunity to respond to IR questions and explain to those in attendance specific unknown details. Firstly, the Belgium funeral is Army led and the RAMC is in a supporting role to the J-Cell and in this instance is providing two serving soldiers, from the Chain of Command, and a SB via the RHQ RAMC. In terms of sourcing buglers, ME stated that there already existed a default process, which to date, has never been declined. ME went on further to explain the ever changing dynamics and the lesser pull and influence the RAMC can bring to bear. The RAMC Charity has already considered what it could do for RAMC125 which happens in a totally difference influence environment than that of 1998 (Corps Centenary). She highlighted events that have been incorporated to recognise RAMC125 along with certain memorabilia that will be available for RAMC125, via the Museum and hopefully some free gifts, as a memento on Corps day. Equally, there will be two presentation pieces, one for the Duke of Gloucester (RAMC Colonel-in-Chief) and one for the RAMC. ME finished by saying that the loss of the “MEDIC” magazine was a huge shock, as a medium to communicate.</p>	IR
<p>8. Communication</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec opened the floor for this item.</p> <p>b. The Chair started by covering the following:</p> <p>(1) Communications per se should incorporate Reports and Rtns, up-to-date contacts and addresses, SM, Newsletters and all manners by which communication is maintained. To that end, if the Nat Sec is not updated with details he will struggle to ensure matters are correctly communicated. The Chair stated that updating of contacts details is a large problem; a plethora of erroneous details that were substantially out of date had been uncovered. He did clarify that this failure was not entirely at Br level but also at the “Centre”.</p> <p>(2) SM, specifically the Official Facebook Group and correlating the volume of members there to that of registered members with the Association whereby we should be asking those Facebook members why they are not joining their local Association Br.</p>	Reg Reps / Brs

<p>(3) The Association website, in that we needed to work with RHQ RAMC, with whom the site is shared, to ensure that any alterations are mutually acceptable and work. The Nat Sec has already engaged with the Webmaster to effect certain changes whilst changes should be driven by the user and what they want to see.</p> <p>(4) The Association newsletter - which he stated he had not seen. AG stated that he thought a newsletter was a good idea whilst previous conversations had raised the issue of a potential RAMC Association App. IR championed to cover the last three communication areas. In terms of SM he called it the devil but one that needed to be danced with. To that end it is used positively by some and conversely negatively by others. In terms of Facebook, the site is being administered and effectively rooting out the bad apples and trolls. Interestingly, most members of the AMS Veterans site are also on the RAMC Association page. Secondly, it is potentially the right time to undertake a poll of the association FB page and he would be happy, working with others, in formulating a poll and its ultimate intent.</p> <p>(5) MP raised the issue that previously he had considered running a "SurveyMonkey" ® in isolation of his own Region but was "politely" requested not to by the previous Chair and Nat Sec. He agreed with the Chair that there is an array of overlapping unofficial sites which, in the main, most of the time are spreading the fellowship and active. Indeed, the many former personnel he maintains contact with are not part of the Association despite remaining exceedingly proud of their RAMC heritage and in doing so are marketing the Corps by attending key memorial events - <i>however</i>, they have no inclination to join the Association as their community is electronic. IR stated he could easily undertake a survey/poll in collaboration with the Nat Sec and Chair. IR touched on the RAMC Website and stated, in current parlance, that it is a "lagger" in terms of what a website should deliver. It should enable users to reduce physical contact, access information and contact as they see fit and part of this would include Br parts of the main website. Equally, the website must be on an App, which is now quite common with other Cap-Badges Associations. Lastly, IR touched on the Newsletter which he had originally volunteered to produce and was widely effective but he ceased production as conversations moved onto having a digital MEDIC magazine.</p>	<p>IR</p>
<p><i>Additional (Tabled / Proposed Items) – In Italics</i></p>	
<p><i>Note: The text below has been taken in part from the Chair's speaking notes, as there were problems with both the Zoom connection and the Chair's voice which made it difficult for some attendees to hear. They are included for completeness.</i></p>	
<p>9. Association Rules</p> <p>a. <i>The Chair stated the association rules need to be revised, least of all because with a new permanent Nat Sec, their remit will have changed. Equally, the Nat Sec had already produced a report having observed other anomalies in other parts and that together he and the Nat Sec could get some revised rules out for review for the Exc Cttee later this year and hopefully before the next Exc Cttee Mtg. Specific areas in the Rules e.g. identifying more clearly the roles and function of the Exc Cttee and indeed the Reg Reps (informed by MP recent work) would need to be looked at whilst he had no favour with words like "chain of command" and all its implication, but advice rather than direction and guidance rather than instruction. The Chair reiterated, at IR's behest, that any revision/updates to the rules would be shared with the Exc Cttee, as a DRAFT for review. The Chair also reminded the forum that any changes would require the final endorsement of the Charity. The Nat Sec made it also clear that the revision of the rules would not be a radical departure, rather updates and a tidying exercise. The Chair made the point that rules were of no use if they were not read, understand and adhered to. Lastly, the</i></p>	<p>Chair / Nat Sec</p> <p>JW</p>

<p>Nat Sec put to the SSB that he check his latest revision, some two years ago, to confirm they are what is in the current rules.</p>	
<p>10. Propositions</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec led with saying the subject of the following proposal had already been discussed at length (Item 3c-d above refers):</p> <p><i>“That the Association formally recognises Association Branches that make the required submissions on time by <u>automatically awarding and paying them the annual per-head grant</u> for the following year based on the membership numbers contained in their annual returns”</i></p> <p>b. MP said that as the proposer he was prepared to now withdraw the proposition provided there was a motion to replace it and what form that proposal should take and equally, who should formulate it. The Chair suggested that he along with the Nat Sec review the current system with a view to simplification, revised or acceleration adding Brs’ could rightly seek fiscal assistance for admin sp. This review would then be shared with the Exc Cttee for comment. IS, the seconder also agreed to withdraw the proposal but then proffered the potential necessity for the Association to have a Business Plan (BP) to indicate to Brs’ what they can and cannot do. Such a Plan will not be subject to higher endorsement but rather for internal Association consumption. The Chair sought a volunteer to produce a draft BP where IR agreed to oblige.</p>	<p>Chair / Nat Sec</p> <p>IR</p>
<p>11. Associate Membership Eligibility</p> <p>a. MP raised the issue to discuss the criteria for Associate Members.</p> <p>b. MP highlighted that within one of his Brs’ they had a member from the Royal Navy that had long-standing relations with Br members and as such the Br requested if they could grant the individual associate Membership. Currently, the Rule 3b does not allow for this as it states; <u>“Associate Membership is open to friends or family of serving or retired members of the RAMC, Regular and Reserve, or other Regiments or Corps who have had close links with the RAMC”</u>.</p> <p>c. MP said that the request by the SW Region Br was reasonable given the individual had a long association to the RAMC, and that initially he be permitted to take associate membership and in due course the rules would be amended accordingly. MP recited the “purple” links that have existed for many years, especially operationally and current organisations and ultimately this should also be reflected in the criteria for associate members. The Chair completely agreed with this suggestion and with no other aired dissention, the rules would be duly changed to reflect this.</p>	<p>Chair / Nat Sec</p>
<p>12. The Way Ahead</p> <p>a. The Chair put forward his view of the Association’s future and where it is moving towards. Firstly, he highlighted the recognition that the Association is currently made up of diminishing active members with advancing age and that the vast majority are “Cold War” Warriors. Other past conflicts i.e., the Korean and Falklands Wars along with National Service also seem to gain recognition. However, there have been many more recent campaigns from the Balkans, Sierra Leone, Iraq, Afghanistan and various UN deployments that our potential younger members will better relate to – not Dad’s (or even Grandad’s) Army! Equally, the Reserves had been far more intimately involved in campaigns and operations since 1990 (Gulf War 1).</p> <p>b. Secondly, he talked about Project VICTORIA in that the AMS had been reorganised with changes to the locations, structure and nomenclature of Units. Not included in that restructuring was the “top structure” and the overall way ahead</p>	

<p>for the Corps' which currently make up the AMS. He referred to the recent letter from Brigadier Finn and expanded slightly by saying there were three options available for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Remain as we are (three Independent Corps) (2) Place all three Corps' into the RAMC. (3) Merge all three Corps into a new Corps/Service. <p>He did not know which of these three options are currently under discussion at the Executive Committee of the Army Board (ECAB) level, but that, unless the "remain as we are" option is agreed (which seems highly unlikely) there may be difficulties ahead that could impact upon the Association. He did not wish to speculate on these matters, but rather flag them up. There will be time to examine any impact when the decisions of ECAB are promulgated later this year.</p> <p>c. Thirdly, he mentioned Badges. The cap (and other) badges we wore when serving members of the RAMC should continue to be worn when we are Veterans. Similarly, our Standards were dedicated when the Queen was on the throne, and should be unchanged in recognition of that fact.</p> <p>d. Lastly, he talked about the inability to fill Official Cttee posts within Brs. One potential way of resolving this would be to create larger, but fewer Branches – thus reducing the number of officials required to volunteer!</p>	
<p>13. Forthcoming Events</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec led on the following primary dates and events that were on his radar:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 20 Apr – Funeral of Late Sgt Leslie. (2) 26 Apr – RAMC Charity Board of Trustees Mtg (AM) and AGM (PM). (3) 26 Apr – Funeral of Late SSgt Bradley (4) 6 May – King Charles III Coronation. A RAMC PI will be on Parade with a RAMC Offr carrying the Chavasse Sword. (5) 10 May – Funeral in Belgium of Late Pte Malcolm. (6) 12 May – Memorial Service for the Late Maj Gen Short. (7) 15 – 29 May – Regt Sec on Leave. (8) 16 May – RBL and NMA Celebrate 60 years since last NS Demob. (9) 22-26 May – Nat Sec on Leave. (10) 7 Jun – RAMC Offrs Annual Dinner. (11) 23 Jun – RAMC125 Corps Day and Association AGM. The Chair urged encouraging attendance on the day by Brs'. ME reminded the forum that there will be a charge for Guests of £10 for the AGM Lunch albeit free for all Serving and Retired Members. Importantly, prior notification of attendance is key for catering numbers. (12) 27 Jun – RAMC125 NAM London Study Day. The Chair also encouraged attendance to this event. (13) 27 Jul – RBL mark 70 years since the end of the Korean War. (14) 21 Aug – 1 Sep – Nat Sec on Leave. 	<p>All</p>

<p>(15)19 Oct – Association Exc Cttee Mtg.</p> <p>(16)9 Nov – Fd of Remembrance.</p> <p>(17)12 Nov – Cenotaph Parade and Westminster Abbey Church Svc. The Chair requested attendance at this event to deliver the maximum possible RAMC presence; noting <i>the closing date for registration (for e-tickets) is the beginning of August.</i></p>	
<p>14. Open Forum</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec started with the following three issues:</p> <p>(1) The Chairman’s Commendation Certificates – The next presentation of Commendation Certificates will be made at the AGM on 23 Jun and as such all submissions are to be made to the Chair, via the Nat Sec, by Mon 12 Jun.</p> <p>(2) Br Closures – It has become apparent, with some recent closures, that the rules of procedure have not been followed. Thus, along with this, any Br contemplating its viability or believes it should close must make this known to the Nat Sec.</p> <p>(3) A Bespoke Association sympathy card – A suggestion had been received from AG that potentially the association source its own bespoke sympathy card that Brs’ could use. AG took the floor and discussed the matter in that it would make a personal touch from the Corps. The Chair agreed but that a template would need to be universally used across the association. IS suggested this could be pursued via the Museum. The Nat Sec agreed to take this forward.</p> <p>b. IS raised the issue of bespoke email domain names to streamline email addresses and asked the Nat Sec to revisit, who agreed. IS also raised the work towards the Regular/Association interface by the previous vice-chair. He suggested this was best placed to be led by a regular serving inside defence whilst the Chair stated this would be a greater challenge with the diversity of push-backs from regular personnel. A lengthy discussion followed where it was explained that getting permissions and access to the regular component has unfortunately been diminished over the years along with the loss of senior “2-star” influence.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Nat Sec</p> <p>Nat Sec</p>
<p>15. Closing Remarks</p> <p>a. The Chairman closed the meeting by underlining that grants would not be withdrawn from Brs, just the seeking of a proper audit trail.</p>	
<p>16. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</p> <p>a. The Nat Sec raised the issue of the mtgs time which was not convenient to all, especially those that work. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the next Exc Cttee Mtg would take place on Thu 19 Oct circa. 1800/1900 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1236 hours</p>	

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

Enclosures: Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.

Regional Representatives and Senior Standard Bearer Reports.

Region	Branch	Report
Midlands	East Midlands Br	<p>The branch is at the moment healthy, and our membership is currently standing at 83. We have 2 ongoing welfare cases.</p> <p>As usual the branch attends all City, County and Diocese meetings coupled with all our RAMC taskings. Diocese meetings have been suspended due to rebuilding work that is due to finish this year. City meetings are now held at City Hall and the branch usually sends 3 members on these occasions. County meetings have been restored and again 3 branch members usually attend these meetings.</p> <p>I have attached the FOE to this preamble and you will see that the branch is again very busy in 2023. Our branch standard has again had a very busy year in 2022 and there is no change for 2023, this year promises to be as eventful if not more so. As a branch we are financially sound with good bookkeeping from our treasurer</p> <p>Laura Saunders. We are currently undergoing change with our bank HSBC as they have now started introduced banking charges for a charity. We are due to close HSBC and move to Metro bank where there are No banking charges whatsoever. Branch outings are a topic on our next agenda and the recent trip to the Royal Hospital Chelsea then onto the Union Jack Club was the talk of all who attended.</p> <p>KJ Roberts Secretary</p>
	Shropshire	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shropshire Branch 'active membership' has increased to 63 since the last report. With another 11 non active members who receive Branch Quarterly Newsletters and regular correspondence and communication from the Branch committee. 2. The Committee remains as reported previously: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch Secretary - Steve Bennett Branch Treasurer - Harry Johnstone Branch Welfare Officer - Sarah Kerr 3. The Branch has recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary with both the new National Chairman of the RAMC Association and Regional Representative present. 42 members attended this memorable evening. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A Branch lapel badge was commissioned to mark the 30th anniversary and all current active Branch members received a branch badge. Branch members also received a bespoke Welsh slate table coaster with the RAMC Association Badge annotated with Shropshire Branch printed onto it. 4. A number of Branch members will also celebrate Corps Day at the NMA on Friday 23 June 23. 5. As it is the 30th year of the Branch and the 125th Anniversary of the Corps 5 Branch members will participate this year in Cenotaph 23 on Remembrance Sunday. A RAMC poppy wreath will also be laid in

		<p>Shrewsbury Shropshire's County town by a Branch member as in recent years.</p> <p>6. Branch social gatherings continue on a 6 to 8-week basis mostly in the form of a weekday or Sunday luncheons at various hostelrys around the county of Shropshire.</p> <p>7. Annual Branch returns were submitted as requested earlier than imposed time lines to RHQ RAMC in accordance with RAMC Association Model Rules in late December 22.</p> <p>8. Branch finances remain sound and in good order with regular audits being conducted. The Branch has recently received its Annual Grant based on 'active' membership. The Branch treasurer issues receipts for all financial transactions and produces quarterly Branch account updates to the Branch committee which in turn are communicated to Branch members via the Branch Quarterly Newsletter.</p> <p>9. Branch administration and communication via the Branch Secretary remains effective via the Branch Internet gmail account. GDPR procedures are adhered to via the Branch Secretary for all electronic communications.</p> <p>10. We are fortunate that the Branch Welfare Officer is employed by Shropshire County Council as the Armed Forces Covenant Outreach Support Co-ordinator. She has a wide network of welfare contacts throughout the County and beyond which when required assists branch members with direct assistance and advice as and when required.</p> <p>11. Due to our geographical location the Branch are fortunate to have the new Armed Forces Veterans Hub located at the Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry. The official opening of this new facility will take place on the 4 April 23. The Branch standard bearer and will be present for the formal opening ceremony which will be conducted by the Duchess of Edinburgh.</p> <p>12. The Branch AGM is scheduled to take place on the 21 June 23 at Shrewsbury. The current Branch committee intend to put themselves forward to remain in post for another 12 months.</p> <p>13. In summary I am happy to report that the Branch has increased its membership, Branch 'battle rhythm' is being maintained and it is pleasing to note that over the last 12 months that younger former Corps members have joined the Branch which bodes well for the future.</p> <p>D A JONES Lt Col (Retd) Chairman RAMC Association Shropshire Branch</p>
NE England & Yorkshire	Grimsby Br	<p>They have recently renewed their Committee, a first in the last five years, with Andy Burch as the new Chair. The Br has plenty of events and functions scheduled including a joint event with the Kingston-upon-Hull Br. Community liaison remains good including with the Durham Br where joint events in the community are being arranged and putting to good use the new tentage. These events are currently self-financed but requests may be made for more expensive events. They will be in attendance and are very much looking forward the RAMC125 Corps Day.</p>

	Northumberland Br	Monthly Br meetings continue with the current committee being voted in in January this year. The Br run events between meetings including a successful Christmas lunch along with scheduled Battlefield Tours along with a couple more events later in the year. They have an event on 24 Jun, as a farewell function to 201 Fd Hosp as it will amalgamate with 212 Fd Hosp to form 214 Multi-Role Med Regt (MRMR). They will be in attendance and are very much looking forward the RAMC125 Corps Day.
	Sheffield Br	The Br was previously a "Sick-Child" some 12-18 months ago in terms of potential viability, is beginning to turn a little corner and are resuming their monthly meetings and are up to ten members. They held a dinner last year which went well with some 40 attendees, which they intent to repeat this year. This Br is losing its medical reserve unit link (212) after it amalgamates with 201 Fd Hosp, and it is unknown how this will play out and affect the future of the Br. They will be in attendance and are very much looking forward the RAMC125 Corps Day.
	Durham Br	This is the Reg Reps most active Br which had a successful 2022 with plenty of community events, circa seven, attending various fairs etc. and certainly sold the name of the RAMC. They are looking forward to this year where the new tentage will be put to use along with a plethora of RAMC merchandise for their events. Their gratitude was conveyed to the Association for their new Trailer, which was collected last week, but will await the final decisions on the new Kings' Cap-Badges before embellishing it with RAMC regalia. Three community events are already booked between now and July along with two Br events. A visit has also been arranged o 5 Med Regt in July to brief the OR's and Sgts Mess separately about the Association and its activities.
	<p>General Summary</p> <p>There are five Brs' in the Region with one Br quite quiet whilst this is a reflection of historical cycles invariably due to being personality led. In the wider Reg Rep AOR were some "rogue" organisations that the Reg Rep will aim to engage and bring into the wider RAMC Association Fold (See Serial 6a(3)(c)&(d) to minutes above).</p> <p>Ian Simpson MBE JP MICG Col (Retd) Reg Rep</p>	
NI & NW England	Manchester Br	The Branch currently has approximately 15 members with 10 members attending a virtual AGM in Sept 22. There is a planned committee meeting taking place at the end of Apr 23.
	Merseyside Br	In January the Chairman and Secretary were rotated. Currently the membership is approximately 60 members. The AGM had 15 members attending. Currently the Branch is planning a major recruiting in Jun 23.
	Ulster Br	The Branch continues to flourish with a membership of approximately 230 members. The AGM will take place next week with an attendance of 60 to 80 members. The Branch is intending to visit Pont-Reme for Remembrance Day.
	<p>General Oversight</p> <p>Liverpool and Ulster Branches are doing well. Manchester unfortunately has much reduced activity and attendance and the branch is struggling to remain viable.</p> <p>Russ Parkes, Capt Reg Rep</p>	

Scotland	<p>There were five Branches in Scotland; Edinburgh Br (closed), Dundee & Tayside Br, Cowal & Highlands Br (closed or Partially closed) and Aberdeen Br. There have been problems contacting Aberdeen and Edinburgh whilst attempts are being made to get others to try and make contact. The Central Scotland Br is the only "active Br at the moment with circa. 30 active members and its next AGM scheduled for 22 Apr 23. There are two planned visits, NMA in Aug and Cultybraggan (Ex Army Trg Camp) . In light of the other Brs, discussions on Regional Brs' have been had which is supported as the best way forward.</p> <p>Andy Geelan Reg Rep</p>	
South & SE England	Aldershot Br	<p>The branch Annual General Meeting was held on 6 December 2022 at Longparish near Andover. Thirteen members plus wives attended.</p> <p>Activities have been quiet over the winter except for some members attending the annual Christmas dinner organised by the Aldershot Branch of the QARANC Association. It is hoped that another lunch will take place in early June.</p> <p>One new member has joined the branch during this period.</p>
	East Kent Br	<p>East Kent have been very quiet over the past few months. Sadly we lost Mike Durup at the last quarter of last year. Our last meeting took place in November, we presented to the landlord of our favourite pub an Association Plaque on his retirement and prior to the pub closing for refit; hopefully we can manage a similar arrangement with the new management.</p>
	Maidstone Br	<p>Things have been quiet since the last report. We attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Maidstone last year and marched behind our standard. Sadly there were only three of us fit enough to do so. We had our Christmas dinner on 9th December at our local Brewers Fayre. We sat 26 people at the meal. 12 members and 14 guests, (wives and partners, plus widows of past members). We used our 'Get over Covid' grant for this.</p> <p>Branch members attended two funerals with the standard since September last, one, an ashes interment for Major Mike Cross, RAMC. MBE. who passed away during Covid. The family were forced to postpone the event after a very reduced attendance at his cremation. The second was for an old comrade, Cpl. Andy Cripps, RLC (A.R.) who was not a member of the branch, but his widow requested our presence. There has been a lot of ill health suffered by members over the winter and we are very much an ageing membership. Our oldest, Mr Pat Clements, aged 95, our last Second World War veteran has been hospitalised on two occasions after a stroke and fractured hip. We have arranged visits when possible. Our committee meeting for 30th March had to be cancelled as four of our six members were unwell. We have been invited by the Mayor of Maidstone to march in the annual 'Mayor's Day' parade in May with the standard but I fear that we will not be able to accept due to lack of able members.</p>
Wales and SW England	S Wales Br	<p>South Wales continues to be active and efficiently managed, and very much keep me in the loop, copying all papers to me.</p>

	SW Region Br	South West has a new Chair, and active committee, and appears to be settling into a battle-rhythm of two quite smart functions per annum. They too keep me informed of what is going on.
	Bristol Br	Bristol, has emerged from the darkness and although probably without its full quota of officers functions as an occasional lunch club for a few like-minded folk.
	Wessex Br	Wessex has admitted that it is in the last chance saloon. "One more go" is the cry from the stalwarts and clearly no one wishes to see it fail, but there seems to be little enthusiasm from younger or more vigorous folk to take it on. I wonder if something like the Bristol model might work for small clusters in Salisbury, Southampton or Gosport, but other than I fear that the geography is just too dispersed.
SSB	<p>The following Standard Bearers have now resigned:</p> <p>Fred Nock - Wessex Branch, Jack Lummis and Ralf Girling - Norfolk Branch</p> <p>All in their 80s, they have all worked hard during their time as SBs' Fred has completed over 30 Years the other two 20 years plus. All three are worthy of recognition.</p> <p>Wessex - Standard will be carried at present by the Chairman Chris Gregory, not sure who is carrying the Norfolk Standard.</p> <p>Bristol - Dave Howells is making slow process after his fall a few years ago. I have recently found out that he is going in for an operation soon.</p> <p>John Wall Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)</p>	