



**Minutes of the RAMC Association  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Held at the Officers' Mess Committee Room  
Defence Medical Services (DMS) Whittington, Lichfield  
Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 1510 hrs**

<b>Present</b>	Col (Retd) KNA Millar (KM)	National Chair	Chair
	Brig (Retd) P Gilbert (PG)	Reg Rep - South & SE England	
	Col (Retd) M Pemberton (MP)	Reg Rep - Wales & SW England	
	Mr K Roberts (KR)	Reg Rep - Midlands	
	Mr Willie Duffy (WD)	Covering - Reg Rep Scotland	
	Mr R Aitken (RA)	Covering - Reg Rep NI & NW England	
<b>Apologies</b>	Maj J Brice (JB)	Reg Rep - NI & NW England	
	Mr A Geelan (AG)	Reg Rep - Scotland	
	Mr J Wall (JW)	Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)	
	Post Gapped	Reg Rep - London & East Anglia	
	Post Gapped	Reg Rep - NE England & Yorkshire	
<b>In Attendance</b>	Col (Retd) I Simpson (IS)	Proposed Vice Chair	
<b>Secretary</b>	Lt Col (Retd) J A'Lee (JA)	National Secretary	

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
	The Meeting Opened at 1510 hours	
1.	<p><b>Chair's Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>a. The National Chair (Nat Chair) welcomed all for coming especially with the extra effort involved to attend a face-to-face (F2F) meeting (mtg). He then asked all in attendance to introduce themselves, which they did, noting that WD had yet to arrive. Immediately thereafter, PG asked how quorate the mtg was. The Chair stated that he believed the mtg was sufficiently quorate whilst noting the slight hiatus in the Executive Committee (Exc Cttee) structure due to the loss of the RAMC Regimental Secretary (Regtl Sec) and the RAMC Representative Sgt Maj, since the demise of the RAMC in Nov 24. At the request of the Chair the National Sec reported that the Cttee was gapped two Regional Representatives (Reg Reps) and that the mtg was still awaiting the arrival of WD noting when he arrives the Cttee would be able to vote as the extant rules require a simple majority.</p> <p>b. The Chair went on to say that he was still the Nat Chair of the RAMC Association and that those present may ask why it was decided to hold the mtg F2F, rather than virtually. The decision was taken after the Association was accused of being "perverse" in holding virtual meetings, when the Rules state that they should be held F2F. The Chair went on to say that the Rules, of course, predated CoViD, and all meetings, since he had taken over the Chair, had indeed been held virtually. Having taken this on board, a provisional location was booked in central England with this option offered to Reg Reps whereby the majority elected to give the F2F option a shot. He said it was up to the Cttee to decide the future of this route. Finally, he highlighted the difficulties involved for F2F forums in that of time, distance, finding a suitable location and – of course – costs, as both travel and accommodation are involved in the F2F option.</p> <p>c. The Chair said the Cttee were all aware that on 27<sup>th</sup> October the Charity AGM was to be reconvened, and that all Branches (Brs) have the necessary information on voting, proxies, agenda and so forth. He also reiterated their awareness of his brief exhortation that was pushed to all Brs and placed on the</p>	

Facebook (FB) page and that we must all pull together to allow matters to move on if the Charity's functions are to continue. He said that it was not the business of this Cttee to intervene, as voting at the AGM is entirely down to Brs and Trustees.

d. This led the Chair onto his thoughts on the recent past, and on how the future may shape up. He said that it was worth reflecting that his tenure occurred during a unique period including RAMC125, the formation of the RAMS and the Association's Centenary year. It is fair to say that the demise of our Corps under Project (Prj) VICTORIA was a blow to all – however inevitable amalgamation may have been. Indeed, he was surprised that such an amalgamation did not happen over 30 years ago. The potential effect of amalgamation on the Charity and the Association has been the subject of considerable discussion of which the Cttee were all aware. He did not intend to make any reference to what the eventual outcome may be – that will be firmly in the hands of the new Trustees who, following the Charity's AGM, will need the support of the Association whatever the outcome.

e. The Chair then moved onto his involvement in the work which has been carried out over the past year (and indeed prior to the official announcement of the outcome of Prj VICTORIA). His motivation throughout the process, as Association Chair, has been to ensure that the Association could continue with minimal change and without interruption of their "battle rhythm" for as long as it needed to do so, and separately, as a Trustee of the Charity, to ensure its funds were suitably managed to continue to support (sp) all potential beneficiaries with minimal administrative drain on these funds by ensuring that maximum funds remained available for charitable purposes. He said it was fair to say that this approach had drawn much criticism, and because of that criticism, and of the apparent lack of confidence in his position as the Chair, he wished to make the following statement:

*"I am conscious that I have lost the support of the Association. That has been demonstrated by the indicative vote of "no confidence" at the Association AGM in June, and by the fact that there is a proposed vote of "no confidence in the Chair" tabled later in this meeting. Leading the unwilling is of no assistance either to the leader or to those they aspire to lead.*

*Bearing these facts in mind, I wish to announce that I will resign from my post. I cannot do this immediately for the following reasons:*

- *This first one is an absolute. For the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> October the existing Trustees must be quorate to allow the entire proceedings to take place. If I resign today, the whole thing stops because there are not enough trustees to do the necessary on the 27<sup>th</sup> and allow the entire proceedings to take place.*
- *The second is, unalterable. I have representational commitments during Remembrance Week both at the Field of Remembrance and leading the RAMC Association in their march past the Cenotaph. These are both RBL ticketed events, and are subject to security, I cannot be replaced at either.*
- *The third is that a new Chair cannot be appointed until 27<sup>th</sup> October, and then his or her appointment must be ratified by the Brs. I don't know if that can happen on the 27<sup>th</sup> or not. There will be, I suggest a requirement for some handover / takeover between myself and the incoming Chair.*

*I therefore make the commitment that I will formally resign as Chair no earlier than 10<sup>th</sup> November, and no later than whatever date after 10<sup>th</sup> November the new Chair or the new Trustees decide. I make this commitment for the good and benefit of all at this crucial time."*

After this commitment, the Chair suggested that there would now be no need for another vote of "no confidence" at the mtg but that if the Cttee still wished to proceed with the planned proposition then it would be their decision. Immediately after, the proposer (MP) and seconder (KR) withdrew their proposition which was supported by all in attendance. The Chair thanked the Cttee and confirmed that the

Chair

Cttee all understood the rationale and sequencing in not being able to stand down immediately as the Nat Chair.

**2. Previous Minutes & Matters Arising**

a. The Nat Sec opened the floor for any comments on the previous minutes or any matters arising, noting that in Sep two formal objections had been received to the formal endorsement of the former mtg mins. One had been sent by the Shropshire Br Chair and the other from KR. Their objection related to Item 9 of the mins which discussed a letter received from Mr Roy Bedson (Shropshire Br member). They referred to inaccurate statements, an over personalisation, outstanding complaints and that the RAMC Charity Statement of 31 Dec 24, had yet to be ratified. A lengthy conversation took place with the following feedback:

(1) KR believed the observations on the previous mins had been addressed by the previous rescinded proposition but that the matter of the RAMC Charity Statement of Accounts still stood.

(2) The Chair stated that he had spoken to the Regtl Sec about the RAMC Charity Statement which had been disseminated a while ago for the original RAMC Charity AGM (Apr 25) as they are the official audited accounts. The delay to their endorsement has not been through any malice or attempt to cover anything up as they are the Charity's officially audited accounts. In terms of complaints, the Chair informed KR that his complaint had been answered, which he acknowledged, but that of Mr Bedson, which was substantial, and originally sent to the Association President, may not be finished. The Chair had made his comments to the complaint, via the President, but was still awaiting a response and was desirous to have an outcome ahead of the Exc Cttee mtg, which has not been the case. When challenged, the Chair said this detail was relevant as the complaints had been raised by the Shropshire Br Chair. The Chair then proceeded to read out what he would write to Mr Bedson and asked for it to be included in these mins, and thus;

*"I accept that at times I have been less careful with my language than I should. I recognise that this may have caused some distress to those concerned. Like all of us who are involved with or concerned about the future of the RAMC Charity and the RAMC Association, my emotions occasionally get the better of me. On these occasions I have allowed myself to be angered by others and have responded inappropriately where a less abrasive approach should have been taken. I will make every effort to control my emotions in the future and must encourage you all to do the same. We are all emotionally involved in this, but we also need to remember that the best interests of the RAMC Association and the RAMC Charity are served if rationality rather than emotion, guides our path, no matter how different these paths may be."*

The Chair rhetorically asked why he would agree or indeed if anyone would agree to redact the mtgs mins unless there was a cause for danger, national security etc. but in any case, he would not be happy redacting the mins as he felt there was insufficient cause. He said the mins had been in the public domain for some time and that only those who were present at the last mtg could verify their accuracy. In terms of being over personalised, the Chair said if something is raised by someone then it would be reasonable to say by whom.

(3) The Nat Sec confirmed to PG that the accounts being discussed were the RAMC Charity's Accounts and as such requested that the discussion realign to the previous mins. In terms of the objections raised, the Nat Sec said that any ongoing complaints should not be predetermined, one way or the other and as such they have no relevance to the mins. He said the mins reflect and capture what was said and discussed and accepting them was on that basis only, not if what was said or discussed was not

<p>subsequently liked. Given what was said, the Nat Sec asked if KR still objected to the mins as presented. When raised, the Nat Sec said that a GDPR breach had taken place but had been addressed, rectified and a public apology issued, whilst noting this was not the subject raised in the formal objections. In terms of his observation to the mins, he said that the year date was incorrect to Para 8a(21).</p> <p>(4) RA stated that the mins had found themselves on FB which received much feedback.</p> <p>(5) MP said he was unable to comment as he did not attend the previous mtg however, that at “parish council” mtgs you can only say a parishioner asked something and not their name.</p> <p><i>At this point WD arrived at the mtg (15:35 hrs).</i></p> <p>(6) PG stated that his Br Chair had attended the previous mtg and as far as he was concerned, he was content with the mins as presented. He also didn’t believe that the “parish council” rule of not naming people applied to Exc Cttee Mtgs.</p> <p>(7) Finally, with a consensus it was agreed that going forwards over-personalisation would be taken into consideration whilst the complaints raised did not affect the validity of the mins nor require any redaction.</p> <p>b. With no further dissention, the previous minutes were approved.</p>	<p>Exc Cttee</p>
<p><b>3. Financial Matters</b></p> <p>a. The Chair opened by stating that the current situation is that expenditure by the Association, including costs of the Centenary Service, the band, the lunch and the AGM at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) and other Centenary functions that have either already taken place or are planned, fall well within the substantial Trial bid of £100,000. That Trial bid recognised both the significance of the Centenary and the additional cost of running the day at NMA without the presence of the Regular Army.</p> <p>b. The Chair suggested that as the new Trustees are not yet in place, that for the record, the 2026 Trial Bid, placed with the RAMC Charity, should be a minimum of £50,000 to ensure that funding for the Association is in place. He said this was the recent default sum with previous increased deviations for a Battlefield Tour (2024) and this Centenary Year. He reminded the Cttee that prior to CoViD, the Trial Bid had been £13,000 but nevertheless it was a virtual sum i.e. there is no transfer of funds, but the Association can both over and under spend against it. The Chair said one of the tasks of the Exc Cttee, formally known as the RAMC Association Management Cttee, was to agree a sum and advise the Charity Board of its perceived Trial Bid need for the following year.</p> <p>c. The Chair said it would not be relevant to provide a full summary of expenditure this year as the costs are still running, and new bids are still arriving. A summary was provided at the Mar Exec Cttee Mtg because the previous financial year (2024) was complete. He suggested a like for like, year on year comparison can be provided at the next Ex Cttee Mtg in Mar 26.</p> <p>d. A brief discussion followed where MP queried if £50,000 would be sufficient especially should new Trustees wish to undertake other things that the bid did not cover. The Chair reiterated the Trial Bid was virtual and that currently is based on existing Association objects, with the existing Charity. JA stated it was a figure not fixed but one the Charity uses to plan against. In this respect, MP thought the potential new Board of Trustees had no concept yet of what they had to do.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>Nat Sec</p>

#### 4. Report from the National Secretary

a. The Nat Sec reported the following:

(1) Online Membership Application and Recruitment.

(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 183 online membership applications made versus some 169 in 2023 thus an annual increase by 8%.

(c) Thus far, this year, (end of Sep 25), some 178 Online Membership Applications have been made (a mini surge was seen in Feb). In the same period to last year, we had 97, thus an 84% increase in comparison to 2024, with still three months to go. The Nat Sec said an increased "active" Membership is thus expected when the 2025 Annual returns (rtns) are submitted.

(d) Since the last Exc Cttee Mtg there have been notifications by ten Service Leavers who have submitted the desire to maintain contact with their former Corps (RAMC). All were written to, but no responses nor membership applications have been received.

(2) Health of Brs – That the Association currently has 21 "Active" Brs, with the following status since the last Exc Cttee Mtg:

- (a) Closed - Coventry
- (b) Closing - None
- (c) Viability - Merseyside  
- Durham  
- Bristol

***Afternote: Bristol Branch have now notified their intention to close.***

(d) Standards to be Laid-Up

- Edinburgh
- N-Cambridgeshire & S-Lincolnshire.

The enduring reasons remain in that closures are attributed to two factors. Firstly, membership not willing to undertake Br Offr Roles to form their Br Cttee where sufficient membership exists and / or insufficient Members to maintain viability of the Br.

(3) Website Contacts – Since the last Exc Cttee Mtg (Mar 25 – Sep 25 incl.) some **79** Contacts have been made to the website for various reasons:

- 02 x Artefacts for Potential Donation (Medals, Photos, Letters, Papers, memorabilia etc.).
- 06 x Association Matters (Various)
- 04 x Deceased Notifications
- 00 x History Enquiries.
- 19 x RAMC Charity Matters (Mainly Funding) \***
- 03 x Searching Old RAMC Comrades
- 12 x Searching for Relatives Mil Svc Records \***
- 33 x Seeking Various Other Information.

***\* Represent the top two bespoke areas.***

<p>Thus far, this year, (end of Sep 25) we have had some 123 contacts with 121 in the same period last year thus no real drop in the interest of communicating with the RAMC through the website.</p> <p>(4) Br Centenary Celebrations – Thus far some 11 Brs have either had or are still to have their Association Centenary Celebrations.</p> <p>(5) Association Website. This update would be covered at agenda item 7, Communications.</p>	
<p><b>5. Report from Regional Representatives (Reg Reps)</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec ran through the reports from all Reg Reps in the following order:</p> <p>(1) London &amp; East Anglia – No update was available.</p> <p>(2) Midlands – A verbal update was given by KR for two Br reports which are enclosed to these minutes. The following observations were raised:</p> <p>(a) The Nat Sec said in noting that the East Midlands Chair recently announced their standing down at a Br dinner, that this decision would need to be captured in formal mins for the record. KR, as Br Sec, agreed to do this.</p> <p>(b) The Nat Sec also noted and enquired into the active membership of the Shropshire Br which had reduced by 30% from 82 in Feb to 63 recently. KR was unable to explain this substantial reduction.</p> <p>(c) On enquiring, it was confirmed to MP that both Birmingham and the North Midlands were active Brs.</p> <p>(d) The Chair observed that the Shropshire Br Chair seemed to be speaking on behalf of other Brs in his Br report and wondered if the other Brs referred to were happy with this and acting as their spokesman, given this is different to having a proxy vote mandate. RA said the Shropshire Chair was allowed to speak about the future of the Charity which the Chair agreed with but only from his own Br perspective.</p> <p>(e) MP said his now withdrawn proposition was raised because of a perceived danger in the confidence of the Association Chair and rhetorically asked, who is the Nat Chair when one Br Chair holds voting mandates for 15 Brs. He believed this brought a huge danger to the structural functioning of the Association and potentially the Charity. He felt the Brs needed to regain their authority / voice per se to resume the customary quasi chain of command (CoC); from Br, Reg Rep, Nat Chair to Trustees, rather than vote out the current Nat Chair.</p> <p>(f) PG said he found it odd that much of the Shropshire Br report, in laying out a whole agenda, was not the business of the Br report to the Reg Rep. He found it weird but hoped such issues would be addressed by the new regime.</p> <p>(3) NE England &amp; Yorkshire – No update was available.</p> <p>(4) NI &amp; NW England – A verbal update was given by RA which is enclosed to these minutes. He went on to say that the Merseyside Br Christmas dinner was confirmed for 27 Nov and that he would not only</p>	<p>KR</p>

attempt to increase Br membership but also source a Br Chair, given he had someone in mind.

(5) Scotland – A verbal update was given by WD which is enclosed to these minutes. In terms of his Central Scotland Br, WD talked about the struggles of their new treasurer in setting up internet banking, and the rationale behind their Br Card. For Dundee Br he highlighted that due to costs, they could only participate in a Battlefield tour last year by piggybacking onto one that had been organised by their local Combined Services Association. He believed a similar impact would apply to his Br due to limited attendance at Br functions. In terms of the Aberdeen Br WD highlighted that their Standard was being kept in Gordon Bks within the QM Dept who had added it to their accounts! He said this was being recovered and that on the advice of the SSB and akin to all other Br standards, it should be kept at home by its Br Standard Bearer (SB). On asking, Scotland Br numbers were provided to MP.

(6) South & SE England – A verbal update was given by PG noting at the time he had yet to receive the Aldershot Br report as their Chair was on holiday. Both reports are now enclosed to these minutes. PG went on to say that at the Kent dinner on 26 Oct the Br would have a discussion to provide the Br Chair with a mandate to take to the forthcoming RAMC Charity AGM on 27 Oct.

(7) Wales and SW England – A verbal update was given by MP which is enclosed to these minutes. In terms of the Bristol Br, MP stated that they had written a letter with a view to closing the Br albeit the recipient of the said letter was unknown. In that respect he went on to say the Bristol Br was already planning to Lay-Up its Standard and that the Br closure was “right and proper” as they have been a non-functioning Br. The Nat Sec agreed that Bristol Br was potentially non-viable but that the residual members retain the option to move to another Br. (*See Afternote above at Item 4a(2)*). In terms of the South West Br, MP added that they, along with the extant Bristol Br have taken a lead for the annual Glenart Castle Memorial (covered at greater length in agenda item 12 below). In terms of the South Wales Br, MP added that he had observed a drop in their Br numbers to events which may be due to the loss (death) of members. Collectively, MP said he was unaware of each Brs voting position, but at a TEAMS mtg the night before, he had been minded to sp the forthcoming motions at the RAMC Charity GM/AGM. MP then briefly talked about matters in his report where he said he was trying to “compare and contrast” the RAMC Association and Charity from the time when he last stood down as Reg Rep. He talked about the Association Rules in that their re-write should more broadly reflect how Brs do their business or that the South Wales Br could attract more active members from those operating in the FB space. He said he was attempting to explore what was happening with the RAMC Charity and whilst he acknowledged he was part of the RAMC Reunited Group (REG) he was entirely opposed to the then Option 4, as presented, primarily because the RAMS Charity constitution was not available to view and that more generally he was trying to spread a neutral message. In response to some of the comments in MP’s report, the Chair said:

(a) Option 4 had not been stated as a desired outcome rather a preferred one given there was no other. He had been awaiting the Option 5 Plan to appear, but as that still didn’t exist, there was nothing else the Trustees could look at or consider which had been costed, was workable, and covered potential penalties. Option 4 thus remained the only option as no other had been forthcoming to date.

(b) That the matter of unworkable rules was acknowledged whilst

<p>they were the priority in early 2023 when both the Nat Chair and Nat Sec had considered the need for revision. That said, with Prj VICTORIA running and an outcome that would potentially radically change matters in the rules again, there seemed little point revising the rules until the full outcome of Prj VICTORIA and its effect on both the Charity and the Association was known.</p> <p>Several other topics were raised and discussed in this agenda area but given they were not explicit matters for Br reports, they have been covered in Item 13 (Open Forum) below.</p>	
<p><b>6. Report from the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB)</b></p> <p>a. In the absence of the Senior Standard Bearer (SSB) there was no report for the mtg whilst this has since been produced and is enclosed to these minutes.</p>	
<p><b>7. Communication</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec opened this item to the forum, and stated it was for the entire cttee.</p> <p>(1) At the behest of the Nat Sec, the Chair started by saying that the forum should note from the agenda that all are expected to contribute to this. He said that a lot about communication had already been discussed and the importance of it, noting that if Brs won't communicate with their Reg Reps or Brs won't elect a Reg Rep then communications would not be brilliant.</p> <p>(2) The Chair said that the most important matter that was currently the focus of our attention was the RAMC Association website due to the sudden and unexpected loss of our webmaster and that attempts with both urgent and expert advice was being sought as quickly as possible. He said one area of loss was the ability to post any new matters as these could only be affected by the late webmaster. There are certain hurdles we must overcome, mainly legal but also GDPR, along with the sourcing of a death certificate to regain control and move forwards, noting that release of the Death Certificate was not in our hands. To that end he said there was no point badgering the Nat Sec as we are doing what we can, by asking the right people the right questions. PG asked if the site was rescuable once the right permissions had been obtained, to which the Chair said it was. From the Chairs own enquiries with SMEs in this field, most websites are run by sole operators and that we are doing everything that would be required in such circumstances. RA asked if there was a replacement to the late webmaster where the Nat Sec explained that engagement has already taken place with two companies for when we regain control of what is known as our Domain Name. The Nat Sec said that whilst routinely the face of a site can be managed independently it is the technical matters "behind the curtain" that require expert oversight and management, hence the engagement with such companies. MP suggested that an update be promulgated and whilst one had already been provided, after some discussion, specifically about FB, it was agreed to promulgate another. The Nat Sec finished by saying that documents remain accessible, the online membership programme is still running (with applications ongoing), and the contacts functionality remains up and running.</p> <p><b><i>Afternote: The requisite certificate has since been received with the necessary next steps taken and a further update on progress with the Website has also been circulated.</i></b></p>	<p>Chair / Nat Sec</p>
<p><b>Additional (tabled / Proposed Items) – In Italics</b></p>	

<p><b>8. The Consideration to source a National RAMC Standard</b></p> <p>a. The Chair started by saying that the Association had recently received an invitation from The Royal British Legion (TRBL) to parade our Standard at the Festival of Remembrance in London on 8<sup>th</sup> November, a major national event. Unfortunately, as they only parade National Standards, we were therefore excluded. He said that apparently, a previous suggestion, before his tenure, that we should have one was voted out as nobody could decide where it would be held, or who would decide when it was paraded and that perhaps the cost may also have been a consideration by the Charity. In his mind it seemed a great pity that we could not parade a Standard at this important annual event, in our Centenary year, with no time to “fix” this before the Festival of Remembrance. The Chair said he had made this proposal to the RAMC Charity, who were content, and he indicated that it could be sourced at “no cost” whilst the details of the funding were confidential. He said if an order was placed now then by the time of its arrival there would be a new trust, new people and potentially a new SSB due to him nearing the age limit of 80.</p> <p>b. KR said he believed it should be stored with the SSB.</p> <p>c. MP stated that the matter had indeed been discussed (argued) in the past but that the detail on who would be awarded it, its storage and use and who would carry it could not be agreed.</p> <p>d. The Chair said there were many occasions where a National Standard could be paraded such as the Turning of the Pages (ToP), Glenart Castle, the Dublin RAMC Memorial, etc. PG agreed whilst recognising that any National Standard should not usurp a County Standard.</p> <p>e. PG enquired as to the process and procedure of training (trg) RAMC SB, where multiple replies said TRBL provides / undertakes formal SB trg which is where most Brs send their SBs.</p> <p>f. WD requested that should a National Standard be procured that it would be “proper” to add the years of the RAMC (1898-1924), which the Chair agreed with but would need to investigate the additional cost.</p> <p>g. Proposed by: Ken Millar (Nat Chair)  Seconded by: Peter Gilbert (Reg Rep – South &amp; SE England)</p> <p>That the necessary steps be taken to initiate the purchase of a RAMC National Association Standard, and examine the administrative steps required to store it, and agree its authorisation for its deployment for future events.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nat Chair</p>
<p><b>9. The appointment of an Association Vice Chair</b></p> <p>a. KR started by saying that the Cttee propose and appoint a new Association Vice Chair, in accordance with the extant rules.</p> <p>b. The Chair said that the rules are indeed clear in that the appointment of a Vice Chair is allowed and that in his view, given he had earlier committed to stand down, that he certainly supported such a motion.</p> <p>c. Proposed by: Ken Roberts (Reg Rep - Midlands)  Seconded by: Jonathan Brice (Reg Rep NI &amp; NW Eng).</p> <p>That the Cttee appoint a Vice Chair.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>	

<p><b>10. The nomination of an Association Vice Chair</b></p> <p>a. In the absence of JB, who was the original proposer, MP stepped forward to make a proposition and name a Vice Chair.</p> <p>b. The Chair said that he would fully support the proposition and undertake to pass any advice and information to him should he so wish even after the Chair stood down and should the proposed Vice Chair eventually be appointed Chair of the Association, he would ensure that a full handover takes place to his satisfaction. He noted that under the extant Association rules the Vice Chair does not carry a vote except when he or she is standing in for the Chair.</p> <p>c. Proposed by: Mark Pemberton (Reg Rep Wales &amp; SW Eng)  Seconded by: Ken Roberts (Reg Rep - Midlands)</p> <p>That Col (Retd) Ian Simpson be appointed Association Vice Chair.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried</p> <p>d. IS thanked the Chair and the Cttee for endorsing his nomination, which he very much appreciated. He also thanked the Chair for his kind offer, which he will take up and very much appreciated given, in his mind, the future of the Association is paramount and for the last 40 years it had meant a lot to him. He personally thanked the Chair for all he had done for the Association during his tenure and thanked him for his previous service to the RAMC, which was not beyond him and something he fully respected.</p> <p><b>Afternote: A Biography of Col Simpson has been added at Enclosure 2.</b></p>	<p>Nat Chair</p>
<p><b>11. A proposal of no Confidence in the Chair by the Executive Committee</b></p> <p>a. This proposal by MP and Seconded by KR was withdrawn at Item 1e above.</p>	
<p><b>12. Forthcoming Events</b></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"> <li>(1) 25 Oct - Centenary Event – Dundee &amp; Tayside Br.</li> <li>(2) 27 Oct - RAMC Chairty GM &amp; Reconvened AGM.</li> <li>(3) 6 Nov - Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.</li> <li>(4) 9 Nov - Cenotaph Parade and Westminster Abbey Church Svc.</li> <li>(5) 10 Nov - Armistice Day.</li> <li>(6) 11 Nov - Centenary Event – Kent Br.</li> <li>(7) 15 Nov - First Anniversary of RAMS Formation.</li> <li>(8) 6 Dec - TOP, Westminster Abbey.</li> <li>(9) 26 Feb 26 - HMHS Glenart Castle Memorial Day (Date TBC).</li> <li>(10) 19 Mar 26 - Exc Cttee Mtg.</li> <li>(11) 20-22 Mar 26 - RAMC Reunited (Coventry)</li> </ul> <p>b. As previously raised at Item 5a(7), the matter of the annual Glenart Castle Memorial Day (above) was discussed.</p>	

<p>(1) MP said that because this was the largest single loss of life of the RAMC in a single incident, and whilst the RAMS have adopted it, we should continue to sp the event. Thinking MP had some prior knowledge the Nat Sec sought clarity from MP about the RAMS having adopted the event where the Chair interjected and said the RAMS were in the process of adopting it and MP accepted, he had got it wrong.</p> <p>(2) For context, the Nat Sec gave an update to the Cttee on the historical event stating, he believed a RAMC Standard representing the Association should attend (at the very least), along with other presence from the Association whilst there was sufficient time to address how that would be achieved. He said the event really came to the fore in 2024 where it properly landed on the Associations radar. In 2002, some 84 years after the sinking of the Glenart Castle, the family and relatives of those lost put funds together to create the memorial, however as time progressed, and they aged, the Hartland Club of TRBL took the annual event on. The key POC is John Shephard who is not a Veteran, is 83 and has been organising the annual event for nearly ten years. He said that whilst the Chair agrees that the event should be brought into the centre and ownership taken, it should be remembered that whilst 48 RAMC personnel were lost, so were eight QAIMNS (antecedents of the QARANC), two Army Chaplain Department and 96 Mercantile Marines. Independently, the Nat Sec has been trying to coalesce all relevant parties which include RCDM in Birmingham, who in 2018 named their Offrs Mess Glenart Castle, in recognition of the incident and because the Matron on the Ship, Katy Beaufoy, who was also killed, was from Longbridge, some six miles from RCDM. The QARANC Association, who will table the event at their next board mtg, have also been engaged and are sourcing a POC for the Navy who can represent the Mercantile Marines. The Nat Sec said it was important that this event was supported, not just in our presence, but also financially as there are costs to the event (Bugler / Piper, catering, refreshments and the production of a programme). This year the RAMC was the sole provider of financial sp with costs shared with the RCDM last year. The Nat Sec said that whilst this event does not necessarily sit solely with the RAMC, it is clear there is a requirement to coalesce all interested parties and then at some point hand it over to the RAMS. Whilst we are some four months out, the Nat Sec said he had a reminder to engage next month with John Shephard and confirm the date for 2026, which traditionally falls on 26 Feb.</p> <p>(3) MP said that his people had been pushed to the side given the diverse organisations and agencies that attend along with its arrangements being facilitated by the Hartland Club of TRBL, but that this was probably rightly so, if, at the very least a RAMC wreath was laid. The Nat Sec reiterated that given he didn't believe anyone was pulling it together, the need to coalesce the event with key stakeholders to ensure they are sighted, engaged and involved may have driven the perception that matters had been taken out of their hands.</p> <p><b><i>Afternote: The QARANC Association have now indicated their interest in a co-ordinated approach for 2026.</i></b></p>	<p>Nat Sec</p>
<p><b>13. Open Forum</b></p> <p>a. Further to Item 5a(7) above, the following areas were further discussed.</p> <p>(1) <u>Welfare Trg</u>. The Chair explained that the original briefing / trg, that had been planned in 2023 by his predecessor had not taken place as only 3-5 names were put forward to attend. The details were thus handed over to the Chair along with some 20 external speakers for the event. With subsequent interest only shown by some 3-4 Br members the Chair said he was not prepared to proceed, as it was not practical to do so. He went on</p>	

to say that Welfare at Br level, was primarily signposting whilst there seemed to be some perception that a great course would be delivered. He said there were already many websites' links and signposts available covering gambling, alcoholism, drugs etc. whilst he didn't believe such a burden should be placed on one Br individual. Indeed, whilst he believed Welfare should be low level he cited a case where a Br had asked for funding for a low-level welfare visit to one of their members who had moved to a different Region, rather than attempting to have a closer Branch carry out the visit. That said, when two more local Brs were approached neither responded and thus funding had to be provided for a long-distance visit. The Chair found this problematic given a key function of any Br is welfare - not just to members but to all RAMC Veterans in their area.

PG said that as a county president of TRBL trying to keep the welfare rolls populated was an absolute nightmare and thus trying to do any worthwhile sort of welfare would be a massive challenge to Brs. However, he said sometimes it is a struggle for TRBL to fill their own ran courses. In that respect he believed Brs should plan with TRBL to attend their courses. MP agreed and said that we should not preclude this if TRBL charge a fee, as financing this was not a problem.

***Afternote: This connection with RBL and other Agencies should be actively pursued by Branches.***

MP said that this subject crossed reflections of questions he deliberately asked his Brs and that the "noise" generated around the REG project, if you like, where everyone knows someone that was let down by the Association or the Charity. However, he did not agree with such a proposition (noise) as when he approached one of his Brs he heard very little complaint in terms of a lack of resource or trg. In another of his Brs there was no nominated Welfare offr but a collegiate approach was taken to attend via a Br cttee led friendship network. MP said that his line on the past course, trg etc. and feeling he had in the investment to our welfare function (however it was done), would demonstrate and quasi quiet the noise. He said that the Brs should be asked what it is they need to improve their ability and make it better in their sp to their members and / or the network of veterans. He suspected that there was not one model solution but what could be done is a Welfare push from the Association centre.

The Chair said that there were many ways welfare could be done including closer links with SSAFA. He said reaching out to SSAFA which is the interface with benevolence of whatever kind, be it RAMC Benevolence, TRBL, or anybody else, they all require SSAFA input, Occupational Therapy reports etc. Trying to do this internally becomes impossible.

MP saw the issue as a line of development in regaining credibility. The Nat Sec said that in terms of the noise, perception was subjective in what has and hasn't been provided and that he firmly believed that where any welfare case reached either the Association (through contacts / emails) or direct to the Charity, no RAMC individual has been let down. MP said he had crushed several noise arguments to that effect. The Chair said that whilst all cases received are heard by the Benevolence Committee some are rejected because of "want" rather than "need".

RA enquired as to why all cases are channelled through SSAFA (case workers). KR recited a historical case in his Br where the need of the individual was beyond the Br and was referred to SSAFA and in his eyes their process was deemed purely means testing. The Chair pushed back and said having sat on a Benevolence Cttee for five years that was no longer the case. He went on to say that SSAFA is used so that all Charities are working through the same agency, through a system which is common to all.

Brs

Nat Chair

The Nat Sec said that the matter can be slightly muddled as whilst Brs have quasi first-line sp, welfare isn't Association per se, it is a Charity / benevolence matter. MP accepted that Brs may well be the only ones who know that something is wrong and thus it was for the Br network to make sure that the person is signposted. The Chair believed this went further in that Brs should be finding out where RAMC Veterans in need are, via TRBL, Veterans breakfast clubs, etc., as welfare need is not just for Association members.

The Chair then declared, as a point of interest, that the RAMS Charity was now live (WEF 14 Oct 25).

(2) Turning of the Pages (ToP). The Chair said that this event now belonged to the RAMS and the reason for this is because it requires serving personnel to undertake the ceremonial event, with the RAMS immediately accepting this. PG said he agreed that it should absolutely stay with the serving army. MP referred to his report and asked why that was the case and who had spoken for the RAMC, rather than it being just swept away, where a deliberate and conscious decision should be made. The Chair said the Trustees had made the decision. PG said that irrespective of what is thought about the RAMC Association, even the REG knows that the RAMC Association will not exist forever whilst the ToP as an event will endure. KR stated that there will always be RAMC presence through the attendance of a Br Standard.

(3) Other Memorial Events. MP then asked about the Field of Remembrance in terms of ownership. The Chair said that this was RAMC and always would be. MP then talked about Remembrance Sunday and the Westminster Abbey service in its gravity and the symbolism of the RAMC Window in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He then considered how such significant ceremonial events would play out with the relevant ownership and that now the RAMS is organised in the way it is, who would be acting as the subsequent senior RAMC Offr and who would lay the wreath at the RAMC window. PG proffered that in this respect there would need to be some form of negotiation / formal agreement of such events. The Chair said such events have never been the responsibility of the Association rather the Corps RHQ whilst, as an aside, discussions were being had about the relocation of the QARANC and RADC Books of Remembrance to the Abbey, which was entirely in the gift of the Abbey, not the Associations involved. The Chair said as well as these events there was also the annual RAMC memorial in Dublin, which was a joint occasion organised through TRBL Republic Of Ireland (ROI).

(4) Joint Event with RAMS. PG asked about the AGM, quasi-Corps Day, at the NMA in Jun and the disquiet raised by some due to the absence of the RAMS serving element, and if there had been any progress since. The Chair said that realistically the current relationship with the RAMC Association and the RAMS was not brilliant, and he metaphorically wondered why. He believed this breakdown in relationship was not because of differences of opinion but rather due to reputational damage that has been done by certain people writing to external organisations like Ministers of State, the Army CoC, Army Strategic Command, The Charities Commission etc. which has not been helpful.

***Afternote: The Chair has had informal conversations with the RAMS Corps SM, WO1 Loy, on this matter. WO1 Loy is keen to have some co-ordination and potentially co-celebration in future.***

(5) RAMC Funding and Assets as Levers to RAMS. MP acknowledged the earlier announcement that the RAMS Charity had just formed and that unless funding has been received from another antecedent Corps, they would be financially empty. He tied this with the recent position of the QARANC in not "yet" aligning with the RAMS and thus totalling some rough

sums he believed the RAMC Charity was sitting in a position of strength, be it financial or physical assets (chattels) all of which could assist the RAMS Charity. He believed these were all levers for the way ahead “quid pro quo” with the RAMS. The Nat Sec said the RAMS were from us and of us. The Nat Chair told of a comment made to him by a senior retired RAMC officer, on hearing of the amalgamation, that he felt like an orphan. The Chair had replied that rather than losing a parent, the RAMC had now become a parent, that the RAMS was its child that should be cherished and nurtured and that together we were two sides of one coin.

**14. Closing Remarks**

a. The Chair said that the climate of my departure is not one he would have chosen and rhetorically asked, did he deserve a vote of “no confidence” at the AGM or indeed the similar proposed vote at this meeting? He felt he had the “right of reply” and said;

*“I have never been told the real reasons behind this proposed vote, nor for the earlier indicative vote at the AGM, apart from there being “anger”. I seriously question who has fermented this “anger”, “rage” and on what it is based. I appear to have been sentenced, if you like, without having the opportunity to defend myself, and without visibility of any allegations against me. That was raised specifically at the Association AGM by General Hawley, who said, “you’ve not actually demonstrated any malfeasance, by the Chair or the President”. That was brushed aside. I leave it to others to decide if these tactics have been fair and democratic or indeed based on anything other than bias, or occasionally vengeance. This, and some of the other tactics employed by some of the REG, has been disappointing, to say the least.*

*There were allegations about phrases and words I have used, like “resistance is futile. Perhaps a lack of understanding of irony may explain the “anger” at this phrase. For the rest, I have already apologised.*

*However, it is abundantly clear, as has been formally recognised by Ulster Br, that the proposal for a vote of “no confidence” in the President and Chair of the RAMC Association”, formally made by the Ulster Br Chair, had not been previously agreed by his Br membership and was subsequently rejected by that Br, and we have a letter from both the Br President and Chair acknowledging that fact. Because of that, I therefore have quite serious misgivings about the validity of some of the other proceedings that are going on.*

*I’m saying this as a cautionary tale to be careful that people don’t think they have more power than they have; however, it doesn’t alter my position regarding relinquishing my post as your National Chair. What I’ve tried to indicate is that true democracy appears to have been abandoned in favour of vote fixing. Don’t ask me to prove that - I can’t. I strenuously advise the new Trustees to be aware of this and take steps to ensure that it won’t happen in the future. Because democracy is not something which can be manipulated.*

*Despite what I have just said, I still look on my time as your Chair as having been a privilege, and a unique period, maybe a little too unique. My priority has always been ensuring and maintaining the forward existence and capability of the RAMC Association (as all the records quite clearly show). I will remain a staunch or even (dare I use the word) “Steadfast” member of the RAMC Association and an ambassador for the medical sp given to the serving Army, operational and otherwise, in whatever organisation this is vested today.”*

b. Having said his piece, he bade everyone farewell and left them his best wishes for the future, whatever it may hold. He said, there is much work to be

<p>done, and that will follow on from the Charity AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. He thanked the Cttee for their sp and bearing with him during what has been a difficult / interesting time. He quoted the ancient Chinese wish “May you live in interesting times”. Is this a curse, or a blessing? He said he seemed to have landed in many interesting times during his career and thought what the hell, why me again. He said that if he had known about Prj VICTORIA, and what was going to happen, would he still have said yes to Gen Hawley when he asked him to take on the Nat Chair of the association. He said he thought he probably would in that despite the “never volunteer” mantra in military circles, when somebody asks you to do something, you say yes, and say “I’ll do that”, because that’s what allows you to look at yourself in the mirror in the morning and say, “I did the right thing”. Thanks.</p>	
<p><b>15. Date of Next Meeting (DONM)</b></p> <p>a. The Nat Sec then sought consensus and agreement for the method of the next meeting i.e. virtual or F2F. PG proffered that due to the current and ongoing transitional period it would be prudent to have F2F mtgs. After some discussion, the majority preference was to hold the next mtg F2F.</p> <p>b. As outlined in the FOE and depending on location, the Nat Sec said the next mtg would aim to be on Thu 19 Mar 26.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">The Meeting Closed at 1730 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. Biography of new Association Vice Chair.

## 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	Reg Rep	No Report Received
	Birmingham	No Report Received
	East Midlands	<p>The East Midlands Branch has currently 68 members + 1 welfare case. We have lost 5 members who have passed away.</p> <p>We have paraded our branch standard at 3 funerals this half year. We will parade our standard at the DeMontfort Hall Leicester at the Festival of Remembrance on October 18<sup>th</sup> and a wreath will be laid by the secretary on behalf of the RAMC. The branch standard will parade at the "Stand Easy" memorial County Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Five members will be in attendance. On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November the branch standard will be on parade at Victoria Park cenotaph Remembrance Sunday. Two wreaths will be laid on behalf of the RAMC Association and the RAMC at this event.</p> <p>The East Midlands branch attends 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 Arboretum in June, and any taskings that RHQ would like us to undertake.</p> <p>Our next formal dinner evening will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2026 this being held at the Freemasons Hall Leicester. The meals are to our high standard that the branch insists on. Entertainment is also to RAMC standards. These events are usually subsidised for RAMC members. We have secured Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October for the biannual formal dinner evening.</p> <p>We hold our branch Christmas event at a local club where a hot 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 49 members &amp; guests 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 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>. The banter as you can imagine is top drawer.</p> <p>We attend the Charity AGM with 4-6 members at Camberly each year and 2026 will be no exception.</p> <p>We had 18 members attending the memorial service &amp; march past &amp; RAMCA AGM at the NMA representing the branch. Members were asked to join in the March past as no regular soldiers were on parade.</p> <p>The branch centenary event was a huge success and a coach was booked to take members to the Union Jack Club on Friday 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. Many members attended west end shows of their choice. All in all, a superb four days.</p>

		<p>At our AGM in September all serving committee personal were re-elected to serve until the next AGM in 2026 TBC. At the formal dinner evening on 4<sup>th</sup> October the chairman Jeff Underwood stood down as chairman after 14 years. B Johnson was elected to serve as chairman until the AGM in 2026 TBC.</p> <p>The branch Facebook page continues as a good recruiting tool and the 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 adjourned AGM in April 2025 that has been reconvened for 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Members are fully supportive of the RAMC Endures group.</p> <p>KJ Roberts Branch secretary</p>
	North Midlands	No Report Received
	Shropshire	<p>Branch Membership</p> <p>Both FULL and ASSOCIATE Branch membership numbers remain steady. A number of elderly members remain 'the faithful backbone' of the Branch with rightly younger Branch members doing 'the heavy lifting' which continues to contribute to the success of the Branch.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">FULL Branch Members - 34 ASSOCIATE Branch Members - 29</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Total Membership 63</p> <p>Branch Social Events</p> <p>The Branch continues to organise Branch social events at 6 to 8 week intervals throughout the year apart from July and August (Holiday Season). The most recent Branch RAMC Association centenary function was a resounding success, good food, good company and good entertainment enjoyed by all. Our social gatherings continue to foster 'esprit de corps', comradeship in keeping with the objectives of the RAMC Association.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A Branch Remembrance Sunday lunch is planned, for the 9 November 2025 and preparations for our annual Christmas function on the 12 December 2025 are well in hand with the normal annual Christmas Raffle.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Branch Standard will be on parade at Shropshire's County town of Shrewsbury on Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Branch Quarterly Newsletter continues to attempt to offset the void left by the unfortunate demise of <b>the Medic</b> Corps magazine at such a critical juncture in the history of our beloved Corps.</p> <p>The Branch committee in the form of Steve Bennett Branch Secretary, Garry Dean the Branch Treasurer and the undersigned continue to ensure the Branch is managed in accordance with the RAMC Association Model Rules 2020. We warmly welcome Colin Foot as our new Branch Welfare Officer. Colin brings a wealth of experience both military and</p>

welfare to the Branch having worked previously for the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) after a full and successful career in the British Army. Na-than Sharkey remains the Branch standard bearer.

#### The Future – The RAMC Charity / The RAMC Association

Shropshire Branch has been particularly pro-active in its attempts to ensure that the RAMC Charity *remains independent* of the Royal Army Medical Service (RAMS). The indications are as I write this Branch report is that the RAMC Charity and thus the RAMC Association will not only continue to exist but will be led by newly elected individuals who will become Trustees in the near future. Thereafter a series of phased RAMC Charity 'management change strategy initiatives' will ensue which will in time increase accountability and transparency to its loyal and dedicated membership.

As the only member of the *RAMC endures Group* who is a RAMC Association Branch Chairman or in Charities Commission speak 'a Company Member', I have been responsible in acting as a conduit for a significant amount of correspondence that has been produced by Mr Roy Bedson another fellow Branch member, to both the RAMC Charity Chairman, the RAMC Charity solicitors, and the Charities Commission Regulator but have also more importantly acted as a 'point of contact' on behalf of the *RAMC endures Group* to all twenty one (21) current and fellow Branch Chairmen so as to ensure an 'all informed net' regarding *RAMC endures Group* progress is maintained.

The majority of RAMC Association Branches fifteen (15) are in total agreement with the strategic objectives of the *RAMC endures Group* and have given / granted their mandate / proxy to the *RAMC endures Group* to represent them in any future vote / democratic process in accordance with the agreed and recently revised Memorandum and Articles of the RAMC Charity.

From a starting point of being *told to accept* the RAMC Charity Trustees preferred option in late November 2024 as to the future of the RAMC Charity as a result of the formation of the RAMS and that any *resistance would be futile* ; quite remarkable progress has been made and significant traction gained over the last 9 months. I am confident that by the end of this calendar year that the RAMC Charity will remain independent of the RAMS, thus ensuring its future for as long as it required and will continue to have a pivotal role to play in its support for RAMC veterans and their families.

It is envisaged that there will be considerable amount of prioritised work required to be taken by the new RAMC Charity Trustees in due course once elected. A Governance, Risk and Compli-ance (GRC) audit will be conducted to ensure that the RAMC Charity can move forward under new leadership in a professional and above all transparent manner. A number of well publicised 'known big spend ' expenditure decisions made by the previous Charity Trustees will be scrutinised via the planned audit, and feedback passed to RAMC Association Branches in order that they can regain *the lost confidence* in the current RAMC Charity Trustees and the National Chairman of the RAMC Association.

#### Shropshire Branch Finances

The Branch membership remain grateful for the normal 50% subsidies from the RAMC Association to offset costs of Branch social activities. The

		<p>one off 75% grant subsidy for RAMC Association centenary functions was also gratefully received. It is envisaged in due course that the Branch will submit a Branch proposition to the new National Chairman of the RAMC Association via the Regional Representative to return to the previous £50.00 per Branch member grant subsidy. This will of course require the support of the majority of RAMC Association Branch Chairmen after consultation with respective Branch members. This proposition will of course require endorsement by the future newly elected RAMC Charity Trustees.</p> <p>Summary</p> <p>All in all another successful 6 months for Shropshire Branch, seamless committee changes has en-sured that normal support when required has been maintained to our loyal and dedicated Branch mem-bers. Our close contact with the Shropshire Royal British Legion (RBL) and the Armed Forces Covenant co-coordinator for Shropshire has ensured that Branch members can readily and easily access advice and assistance when required.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>It remains the stated intent of the undersigned to handover Branch Chairman responsibilities by no later than 01 September 2026 after a eight (8) year period in post. This will allow for a new Chairman with a ‘ fresh outlook ‘ and new ideas to take the Branch forward now that the future of the RAMC Charity and thus the RAMC Association is all but determined.</p> <p>In Arduis Fidelis</p> <p><i>Original Signed</i></p> <p>D A JONES Lt Col (Retd) Shropshire Branch Chairman RAMC Association</p>
NE England & Yorkshire	Reg Rep	Post Gapped
	Durham	No Report Received
	Grimsby	No Report Received
	Kingston upon Hull	No Report Received
	Northumberland	No Report Received
	Sheffield	No Report Received
NI & NW England	Reg Rep	No Report Received
	Merseyside	Merseyside Branch now has the roles of Treasurer and Secretary filled following their AGM, held on 08 April 2025. Work is ongoing to promote membership, and it is hoped that a Christmas function will take place this year.
	Ulster	In NI the Ulster Branch grows in strength and participation; there are now 140 active members with four more expected to join soon. Since the last report we had numerous quiz nights and smaller Branch functions, our Branch AGM in April, participated in the National AGM in June and commemorated Corps Day with our Standard paraded at St Patrick’s

		<p>Cathedral in Dublin. On 15 August we remembered VJ Day, on parade with the National Malay and Borneo Veterans' Association.</p> <p>Our Centenary event in October sees the laying up of our old Standard in St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, followed by dinner at a prestigious local hotel. The remainder of the calendar year looks as so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turning of the Pages, Westminster Abbey, October</li> <li>• Remembrance Sunday, Royal British Legion, Belfast, November</li> <li>• Armistice Day, Pont Remy, France, November</li> <li>• Christmas Lunch, Ulster Reform Club, December</li> <li>• Branch function, February 26</li> <li>• Branch function, March 26</li> <li>• Branch AGM, Ulster Reform Club, 17 April 2026</li> <li>• ANZAC Day, Ballance House, April 2026</li> <li>• Battlefield Study Tour, Malta, September 2026.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Scotland	Reg Rep	<p>The 3 Scottish Branches voted in Andy Geelan as the regional rep</p> <p>Andy Geelan</p>
	Aberdeen	<p>In the process of up and running the branch AGM will be on 9th Oct so hopefully they will provide and update after that date.</p> <p>From Andrew Robinson</p>
	Central Scotland	<p>Since the AGM not much has happened. We have a new treasure and in the process of setting up online banking.</p> <p>Had a Veterans lunch with another one planned 1st Nov. Funding request to be made for both events.</p> <p>Branch general purpose card is now in place. Funding requests to be made for the cost of cards, envelopes and stamps.</p> <p>Panto and Christmas social coming up.</p> <p>2 personal cases sent to the Benevolent fund.</p> <p>From Andy Geelan</p>
	Dundee & Tayside	<p>Not a great deal to report, just plodding away rebuilding the branch we're now at around 40 members so looking good.</p> <p>We're having a centenary dinner on the 25th October with about 30 attendees.</p> <p>We have fully integrated into the Combined Services Association with representation at all the various recent events including future branch representation at this year's remembrance parade.</p> <p>From Mike Harrop</p>
South & SE England	Reg Rep	<p>Both branches have held confidential votes to establish the views of their members on the fourth "additional (tabled / proposed) item" regarding the vote of no confidence in the National Chair.</p> <p>Kent branch increased membership is noted.</p>

		<p>PG Brig (Retd) PH Gilbert QVRM TD DL VR Regional Representative, Southeast.</p>
	Aldershot	<p>No meetings have been held since the Branch AGM earlier this year. This is mainly due to the unsettlement being felt nationally. Once the dust has settled a meeting will be convened in order (hopefully) to give the direction of travel for the Association.</p> <p>The branch has been invited to the QARANC Association lunch being held at Aldershot Golf Club. I have encouraged attendance. We shall see how it goes.</p> <p>The Branch standard has been paraded regrettably at two funerals so far this year. On a positive note, it has also been paraded at several high-profile events marking the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE day.</p> <p>Aldershot branch currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 38 active members</li> <li>• 5 non-active</li> </ul>
	Kent	<p>Since March Kent Branch has held one meeting, which was at the beginning of June and prior to members attending the Association AGM on the 24th June at the NMA. Our scheduled meeting for September has been rescheduled for 26 October following a venue request for refurbishment works.</p> <p>During the Dunkirk Remembrance weekend at the end of May, the Kent standard was paraded and attended by members including the President at services in Ramsgate; considered to be the home port of the Little Ships, to commemorate their heroic deeds during the evacuation of Dunkirk in 1940, while Operation Dynamo was being conducted from Dover.</p> <p>The Branch executive have as part of the Association Centenary been planning a trip to the Brandhoek Military Cemetery to commemorate the deeds of Capt. N Chavasse RAMC VC and Bar on Armistice Day 2025 together with a tour of other cemeteries and finishing the day at the Menin Gate. We hope the introduction of biometric passport control does not compromise the detailed plan.</p> <p>Other events that members have been invited to as part of the Remembrance period include, the Southeastern Railway Memorial Service in Dover where the body of the Unknown Warrior was landed prior to transportation to London, passing the unveiling of the Cenotaph en route for burial in Westminster Abbey.</p> <p>The Chairman/Standard Bearer is preparing for the funeral of Barry Theobald-Hicks (London Branch) this coming Friday.</p> <p>Branch members have been kept in regular contact by updates on the RAMC Endures manifesto and proposals together with information promulgated by the National Secretary and the RAMS.</p> <p>There has been a review of Data Protection within our communications platforms resulting in some changes in practice.</p> <p>The Kent Standard Bearer has not been asked to attend any funerals during this report period.</p>

		<p>Over the reporting period there has been a welcome increase in branch numbers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 active members (membership paid)</li> <li>• 4 inactive members</li> </ul>
Wales and SW England	Reg Rep	<p>Situation – General Outline</p> <p>Having been re-elected to this appointment in June has given me, in parallel to my role with RAMC Endures (on which I have tried to be totally transparent with my Branch, and when elected Regional Representative, Branches, often sharing information that is not in the public domain) the opportunity to review previous reports and ask “Question 4”.</p> <p>On the one hand, at Association Level, I’d say not much has changed. We continue to have largely unworkable rules that are not enforced (and rightly so – “Build don’t Break”), have a feeble active membership (many of whom are Associates) compared to the number of ex-RAMC who are out there, and I believe we still haven’t had the welfare officer training package..... Perhaps most importantly we, as an Executive Committee, somewhat collude in the pretence that there as many functioning branches as we describe. Whilst it is the Trustees responsibility to “recognise” Branches, it is surely our job to warn and report on the status. I will do so later for my region and encourage other Regional Representatives to do likewise. I quite understand why Branches wish to vote in the Charity meetings on the 27<sup>th</sup> – to ensure that the changes occur, or indeed to vote against the proposals, but we all know that there are less “properly” functioning Branches than will be voting.</p> <p>On the other hand, the Charity we are part of, and in some way govern, is facing seismic changes since the mob, our Branches, were activated by the decision of Trustees to gift all its assets to a still undescribed RAMS Charity. Five Trustees resigned following the actions of the rebel alliance and the strength of feeling shown at the Association AGM, and those that remain appear to accept that “Option 4” is not a direction the Members are minded to have the Charity take. There will be two Charity meetings later this month, the first to change the Charity’s Memorandum and Articles to permit Members (Branches and remaining Trustees) to elect Trustees in place of those previously appointed through now non-existing <i>ex-officio</i> appointments, and then to allow those Members to elect new Trustees. The second meeting, with the new Board in place, will attempt to conclude the business of the adjourned AGM. Here I must declare my hand as I am one of those nominated for election. I have no particular desire to be a Trustee again, but having fought for change I feel that it is my duty to see the battle through until we have achieved the transformation we seek – primarily to provide an independent Charity reflecting both the new reality and updated Objects (purposes) whilst being governed in a similar manner to now. The intention is for the new Board to serve for the shortest period possible to amend the structure and articles of the Charity to reflect the new reality. If elected we will seek to democratise the process of appointment of Trustees thereafter, although how is a very big question given the confused state of possible, or even likely, Association membership when contrasted with our recorded active membership. It may well be that proof of service within the RAMC has to be accepted as enough.</p> <p>Until changed, the Charity will be governed by existing M&amp;A, which empowers the Branches of the Association, and it is they who will have to</p>

		<p>agree any changes proposed. So, far from the Association being, in the vernacular, “on the hind tit” of the Charity, it is now firmly in the driving seat and should seize the opportunity to ensure that the future structure supports our aims (“core reasons for existence” on the website; “objects” in the rules). To achieve this, we must revitalise the Association, regain the trust of the Branches and our Members, and have Branches stand up for what they believe to be important. As Regional Representatives we must reflect these wishes within this committee, which must become meaningfully Executive, and to the Trustees. In future the Trustees, including our Chair, will have to listen, for subject to the amendment passing, a simple majority of Members will be sufficient to remove any or all from their appointments.</p> <p>To my mind we need to lead in the re-write of our Rules, defining what we believe makes a functioning Branch and suggesting alternatives where smaller groups have decided to fold. Regional, or Hub and Spoke options (detachments?) to existing Branches would be worth exploring as methods of achieving some or all of our aims. We also need to determine which events and activities are key to the Association. In terms of the former, many have marched proudly behind our Chair at the National Remembrance Parade, but what of the Turning of the Pages at Westminster Abbey in front of the RAMC Memorial Window, or the Abbey Service, or the Field of Remembrance? Are these RAMS Business or ours? In terms of activities, the mob were angered by perceived failings in the welfare system, which we could assist with meaningful training and resourcing. Again, I say we need to lead the debate – we are now the dog not the tail. Given the Association’s importance should there be alignment of Charity and Association AGM’s? The latter is far better attended by Members and surely the 23<sup>rd</sup> June should be celebrated as the 15<sup>th</sup> November is now mourned. Lots to think about, lots to do.</p> <p>The Region’s Branches</p> <p>Members of at least two Branches again supported the memorial service at the HMHS Glenart Castle which probably rightly has been adopted by RAMS. However, it remains important that the RAMC brand and badge continues to be to the fore at such memorials.</p> <p><i>Mark Pemberton</i></p>
Bristol		<p>Bristol has survived longer than I anticipated but is very much on its last legs. I very much doubt that it operates as required by the Rules but it at least provides a forum where a small group can meet occasionally in fellowship. Whilst we might soon lay up the Branch Standard we should seize the opportunity for the Association to promote and even support smaller informal gatherings of previous or current Association members – possibly under the umbrella of a Regional Branch.</p>
South Wales		<p>South Wales probably the closest to a Branch as envisaged in the rules. It is well run, and meets regularly where it debates and votes on issues with decisions minuted. It also holds special events and from reports these are usually well attended. The Branch has a firm grip on welfare of members, by committee rather than welfare officer, and sadly it often falls to the Chair to announce illnesses or deaths. They also try to keep an eye on non-members within South Wales but this does require communication to flow.</p>

	South West Region	South West (Reg Reps own) is a branch which successfully does its own thing, in line with our Objects but perhaps not all of our rules, with quite large gatherings two or three times a year in addition to an AGM. The gatherings usually include some form of business led by the Chair but the majority of issues (such as the election of a Regional Representative) are determined by votes on-line. To my mind this structure represents a possible example of a future "Regional Branch", and with the on-line activity may represent an example for the Association and possibly Charity. The Branch has a firm grip on the welfare of it's members and attempts to support the needs of others known by association.
SSB	<p>The following Standard Bearers have now resigned:</p> <p>Peter Stobart and Ron Mallander Manchester Branch due to Branch Closing.  David Howell Bristol Branch Illness.  Ian Candy City of London Illness.  Wessex branch has now closed so their Stand in Standard Bearer Chris Gregory has resigned.</p> <p>I would like to thanks all those for their service as Standard Bearers.</p> <p>We have new Standard Bearers</p> <p>John Buckly and Kelvin Blower East Midlands Branch.  Paul Craft Deputy at Grimsby,  David Johnson Kingston-upon Hull Branch,</p> <p>I would like to welcome them and thank them for taking on this task.</p> <p>We had 14 Standards at the Arboretum which is the lowest we have ever had.</p> <p>We have attended quite a few funerals over the past few months.</p> <p>Dundee has not got a new Standard.</p> <p>John R Wall  Senior Standard Bearer</p>	

## Biography of the new Association Vice Chair.

I had the pleasure of joining the RAMC at 17 in 1979 as an Apprentice Soldier, until my discharge in 2017, some 38 years later, there wasn't one day that I didn't feel grateful to the Corps and grateful to the many friends that I made. My military experiences will be important part of my and my families lives forever.

My career was varied, an MA (I was never a CMT), then EHA / EHT, after my Commission in 1995 I had full Command twice, sub-unit Command twice, QM, Staff Officer Grade 3-1 and converted from LE to DE. Serving a 10-year stretch in Germany and 4 years in Cyprus was memorable. Time in places like the Middle and Far East (twice), Africa (4 times including Namibia for 6 months), the Balkans (Bosnia twice and Kosovo) were also memorable, and I always think of those that didn't return with us.

Since leaving the RAMC I became a Presiding Justice and I spend a day a week in courts, taking my experiences there to organisations such as the RBL (I was President of my local Branch for over 3 years) and trying to get the best for my Veterans community. I am also a None-Executive Director (NED) for my local Trust which is a £1.2 Bn organisation with over a 15k workforce, first I was a volunteer Governor, I was then asked to be a NED and I have done this for over 5 years, I have 18 months left of my current contract. During my time I have served on the Charities Committee and Chaired many other key Boards and Committees.



I was the Trust Armed Forces Lead and now I am a member of the Armed Forces Group which I helped to setup. We are now delivering a real service to Veterans and in some cases their families. I also work with Veterans who are having issues, I do this via Veteran Associations and other organisations. I've helped set up a Veterans voluntary scheme that looks at getting former service personnel into NHS employment and this is beginning to bear fruit.

I have also been an RAMC Association Branch President and a Regional Representative until 2023.

I am proud of my service and that of my fellow military Brothers and Sisters and I will always be there to help those in need.

**Colonel (Retired) Ian Simpson MBE JP**