



**Minutes of the RAMC Association
Executive Committee Meeting
Held at the Officers' Mess Committee Room
Defence Medical Services (DMS) Whittington, Lichfield
Thursday 19th March 2026 at 1450 hrs**

Attendance	Col (Retd) I Simpson (IS) Lt Col (Retd) S Hall (SH) Mr J Wall (JW) Mr K Roberts (KR) Mr R Aitken (RA) Mr M Pipe (MP) Mr C Mason (CM) Mr C Heath (CH) Mr W Duffy (WD) Mr A Geelan (AG) Mr C Foot CF)	National Chair Deputy National Chair Senior Standard Bearer Reg Rep Midlands Reg Rep NW & NI Reg Rep South West & Wales Reg Rep NE & Yorkshire Reg Rep London & SE Reg Rep Aberdeen Reg Rep Central Scotland Welfare	Chair
Apologies	Brig (Retd) P Gilbert	Reg Rep London & SE	
In Attendance			
Secretary	Maj (Retd) A FitzGerald (AF)	National Secretary	

Item	Minutes	Action / Lead
	The Meeting Opened at 1450 hours	
1. Chair's Opening Remarks	<p>a. The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and was pleased that so many had been able to make it to Litchfield</p> <p>b. The Chair opened by declaring that it was his wish that the tone of these meetings would change and that they would be more of a partnership. The Chair then spoke of his hopes for an increase in the strength of the Association. He had high hopes that the membership would break the 1000 members mark by Easter.</p>	
2.	The Delegates then introduced themselves.	
3. Open Discussion	<p>a. The Chair reported that there had been a Charity Meeting on 18 Mar 26. Results of that meeting awaited.</p> <p>b. Nominations for the Charity Committee would be accepted at the next meeting on 19 Oct 26. The Committee would consist of 9 members.</p> <p>c. The Chair then informed the Meeting that the cost of the advice</p>	Reg Reps

<p>given on the Charity audit had amounted to £15,000.00. The interim report had been received but the final report should be delivered shortly.</p> <p>d. The Chair announced the commencement of Branch Health Checks to satisfy the need for governance and correct central oversight. The Deputy National Chair would lead with this initiative. There were several questions raised on the content of this check. The Deputy National Chair stated the check would consist of going through the Branch Meeting Minutes, the Branch Account and the current and up to date members nominal roll. Branch officers to be present would ideally be the Branch Chair, Dec and Treasurer. Reg Reps would also be welcome. The Deputy National Chair informed the meeting that the National Secretary would be sending out an email to all Branches to arrange a date for the checks to take place.</p> <p>e. The National Chair then opened a discussion on Branch Funding. He informed the meeting that he favoured returning to the per capita system of funding. This would allow the Branches to properly be able to forecast their spending and correctly allocate funds. He stated that it would be issued on the previous level of £50.00 per active member. However, discussion was entered into as to whether that rate was at the right level and IS stated that he thought the level might need to be £100.00 per head. IS tasked the Reg Reps to 'pair off' to discuss this subject more fully. Branches should submit their active member strength to AF by 30 Apr 26 in order that payments could be made. It was also agreed that the £1.00 per member annual subs are to be abolished with immediate effect.</p> <p>f. The Chair stated that the Meeting scheduled for Oct 26 would be held at the National Memorial Arboretum. It was considered to be a more appropriate venue as it was more central.</p> <p>g. The Chair spoke of the Future of the Association and asked Branch Chairs for their ideas on taking the Association forward.</p> <p>h. There was discussion on financial allocations from funds and IS informed the meeting that these would gradually be tapered away. He informed the meeting that the MMM financial allocation paid mainly for the staff, (£205,000).</p>	<p>SH Br Chair Br Sec Reg Reps AF</p> <p>AF Br Chair Reg Reps</p> <p>All</p> <p>Br Chair</p>
<p>REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES</p>	
<p>4. North East and Yorkshire</p>	
<p>CM stated that his Region was ticking over and working well. However, some kind of an uplift would be beneficial to get more people involved. This was particularly important for people putting themselves forward to hold Branch appointments.</p>	

<p>Central Scotland</p> <p>AG raised the issue of getting people interested in joining the Association. We need to get the message out there and to entice people to join by ensuring that the product is worth joining.</p> <p>AG mentioned that the website content goes back some 3 years and new material was needed to better get the Association message out in the public domain. He also suggested that an Annual Dinner be held with the RAMC Reunited in one year and the Association in the alternate year.</p> <p>South West Region and Wales</p> <p>MP stated that there had been some difficulties since the closure of the Bristol Branch. These have now been resolved and the Branch closure had now been completed.</p> <p>South East and London</p> <p>CH informed the meeting that the Aldershot Branch was creating a WhatsApp group to keep Branch members informed. It was thought useful but universal as not everybody had access to WhatsApp.</p> <p>Kent Branch raised issues concerning the allocation of vacancies on the Association Battlefield Tour. Allocations made prior to the Tour being made public. Agreed that should not happen and slots are not to be allocated until after any subsequent Tour is in the public domain.</p> <p>The Kent Branch also highlighted how they manage to get their profile out to the public. They produced a local newspaper clipping informing the readership of their activities and how to make contact. This was thought to be a good idea that should be taken forward by other Branches</p> <p>North West and Northern Ireland</p> <p>The Ulster Branch is running very well and there are no worries regarding Their future.</p> <p>Merseyside Branch reported they were having difficulties in arranging their AGM. It is scheduled for 9 Apr 26 and they are hopeful it will go ahead.</p> <p>They enquired if there was still a need for Branch Meeting Minutes to be Forwarded to the National Secretary in the light of the Branch Health Checks. After the subject was discussed it was agreed that Minutes did not need to be forwarded, they would be checked on the Branch Health Check. Bids for Grants will be annotated with the Branch Minute and SH will confirm that appropriate records are made and held on his Check.</p>	<p>IS</p> <p>AF</p> <p>Br Chairs</p> <p>Br Chairs Br Secs</p>
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<p>Midlands</p> <p>It was reported by KR that the Midlands Region was running smoothly and no problems were highlighted.</p> <p>Senior Standard Bearer</p> <p>JW had been in contact with the RHQ and all Turning of the Pages Ceremonies had been covered. They would be under the leadership of the RAMS with a RAMC Association Branch parading their Standard.</p> <p>He reminded the delegates of the need to notify the Senior Standard Bearer when a Branch had been approached to parade their Standard at a funeral.</p> <p>JW announced that he felt that the time was right for him to step aside and retire from his position. IS thanked him for his long and loyal service and stated that there would be a Selection Board convened at a time and place to be determined to select JW's successor. SH would be the Chair and 2 x Reg Reps would constitute the Board.</p> <p>Welfare</p> <p>CF briefed on Networking Mental Health Teams and funding streams such as through some food banks. He also mentioned TRUSSEL is also a funding resource. He also discussed that SSAFA is a valuable local resource and also the RBL.</p> <p>CF introduced an organisation called Veterans in Custody. They help those veterans who fallen foul of the law and find themselves in prison. This group visit them and attempt to offer support. CF was asking whether it was possible for our Branches to support Veterans in Custody by enquiring within the Branch area whether there were veterans in the prison population who might need support.</p> <p>IS reported that Branch Welfare Officer online training would be released soon. CH stated that Kent had a SSAFA trained welfare officer, but IS stated that he would still benefit from the online course.</p> <p>Closing Comments</p> <p>IS ran through his thoughts for Corps Day, 23 Jun 26. JW enquired about early access to the National Memorial Arboretum for Standard Bearer training ahead of the service. SH informed him that this had already been arranged for 0900 hrs.</p>	<p>Br Chairs</p> <p>SH AF</p> <p>Br Welfare</p> <p>Br Welfare</p> <p>Br Chairs</p>
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<p>Look Forward</p> <p>IS closed the meeting by informing those present that the next meeting would take place on Thu 15 Oct 26 at the National Memorial Arboretum.</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 1730 hrs</p>	<p>All</p>
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A M FitzGerald

Maj (Retd)

National Secretary