



Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday 16th March 2024
Virtual



AGENDA
THE 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

VIRTUAL

16 MARCH 2024

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

Annex

1. Minute's Silence to Remember Fallen Comrades.
2. Chair's Opening Remarks.

ITEM 2 – 78TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

3. To approve the minutes of the 78th RSA AGM held on 18 March 2023.
4. Actions Arising.

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ITEM 3 – HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

5. Chair's Update (verbal).
6. General Secretary's Report.
7. General Secretary's Financial Update
8. Assistant General Secretary's Report.
9. Administrative Officer's Report.
10. Corps Update.

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ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

11. Area Rep Nominations Gen Sec
12. Awards Admin Offr

G

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13. Any Other Business.
14. Date of the next Annual General Meeting as **Sat 15 Mar 25.**



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Reference: HQ R SIGNALS RSA AGM

See Distribution:

Date: 5th April 2023

RECORD OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE 78th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, HELD VIRTUALLY, ON THE 18 MAR 23.

Present:	Maj Gen D McDowall CBE	Chair RSA
	Col (Retd) D A Craft	Corps Sec / Gen Sec
	Lt Col (Retd) SM Lockwood	Asst Corps Sec / Asst Gen Sec
	WO1 (Corps SM) P Steel	Corps SM
	Mr I Scrivin	Area 1 N
	Mr K Bates	Area 1 S
	Mr R Taylor	Area 2
	Mr T Holyoake	Area 3
	Mr G Marsh	Area 4
	Mr R Williams	Area 5
	Mr R Jephcote	Area Rep Scotland
	Mr M Nevill	Area Rep Northern Ireland
	Mr G Phillips	Area Rep Wales
	Mr P Osment	Area 5 Des
	Mrs T Muers	RSA AO / Mtg Sec
	Ms S Harler	RSA AA

Discussions / *Decisions* / *Actions*

Item 2: 77th Annual General Meeting

Serial 1: The minutes from the 77th Annual General Meeting

- a. *Decision*** – *The minutes from the 77th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate representation.*

Serial 2: Actions arising

- a. *Decision*** – *All actions from the previous meeting had been covered in the HQ reports or closed.*

Item 3: Headquarters' Reports

Serial 6: Gen Sec's Report

Events – The Gen Sec detailed the events coming up over the next six months. He stated that for Corps Weekend last year there was an offer to assist in transporting association members from key travel points such as Poole, Bournemouth and Salisbury which was not accepted by any branches last year but would be available again in 2023 if requested.

- a. **Action – Branches** to advertise the Corps Weekend transport offer to their members and inform **RSA AO** if there was a request for transport. **CLOSED**

Single Cap Badge Associations Network (SCAN) – The Gen Sec briefed the Central Committee on the creation of the Single Cap Badge Associations Network (SCAN). He confirmed the network is fully supported by the Minister for Veterans Affairs, Johnny Mercer MP and the Office for Veterans Affairs and working together with them and other cap badges is a fantastic way forward for the Association.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to forward any matters that could be raised at the SCAN meetings to **RSA AO**. **CLOSED**

Royal Signals Association Network – The Gen Sec introduced an initiative of creating a network of volunteers who are willing to act as first responders who can be called on to assist our members, serving and retired, at times of need or distress. The aim is to hold a database of volunteers who could assist with simple tasks such as telephoning members in times of loneliness or to run simple errands for housebound members.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to inform their branch members of the initiative and to ask potential volunteers to approach the **RSA AO** for inclusion on the database. **CLOSED BAU**

Benevolence – The Gen Sec stated that requests for financial assistance through the Royal Signals Charity were substantially down on requests for support pre-pandemic. He reiterated the importance of signposting members who required assistance to SSAFA and the British Legion. He stated the RSC Grants Co-ordinator is always available to offer advice on cases, but that cases must be submitted through SSAFA or the British Legion.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to continue signposting members in need to SSAFA and the British Legion for support. **CLOSED BAU**

Item 6 Assistant General Secretary's Report

Pensions – The Asst Gen Sec announced that anyone who is in receipt of an Armed Forces Pension would be receiving a 10.1% increase on the 12 Apr 23. He confirmed that this increase would also be reflected in normal state pensions.

- a. **Action – Association Members** requiring further information on the pension increase to contact the Asst Reg Sec via email steve.lockwood745@mod.gov.uk.
CLOSED BAU

RSA Road Trip 2023 - The Asst Gen Sec confirmed the dates of the next RSA Road Trip to be the week commencing 23 Oct 23, finishing with a virtual event on the Friday of that week. He stated that we would not be publishing the locations with the minutes of the AGM but rather publishing them on the website as soon as the locations had been confirmed.

- a. **Action – RSA AO** to publish the locations of the RSA Road Trip via Branch Secretaries and the website as soon as the locations have been confirmed.
CLOSED BAU

Item 7 Admin Offr's Report

Serial 4: RSA Memberships - The RSA AO confirmed that over 300 memberships had been processed clearing the backlog to 2021. However, some of the memberships were being returned due to members moving or passing away during this time. The RSA AO confirmed the Admin Office will be sending updated membership lists to branches in April and asked the Branch Secretaries to get in contact with anyone on their list they are unfamiliar with to invite them to branch meetings.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to advise their members to either resubmit any outstanding membership applications or contact the **RSA AA** to ensure they are processed. **CLOSED BAU**
- b. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to contact any new members on their membership list to make initial contact if they have not done so already. **CLOSED BAU**

Serial 5: Corps Memorial Book - The RSA AO highlighted the closure of the Online Book Company due to the death of the Managing Director in October. She stated that despite attempts to contact the company for an update communication had not been maintained and the assumption was the Corps Memorial Book could no longer be used.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to communicate to their members the deep regret felt over the closure of the Memorial Book but to encourage their members to use the Last Post until an alternative was sourced by **RSA AO**. **CLOSED**

Serial 7: Social Media - The RSA AO confirmed the creation of two new RSA social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram which would be publishing official content distributed by the RSA admin office.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to communicate to their members the creation of both social media accounts and encourage them to follow. They were also encouraged to forward relevant content to the **RSA AO/AA** to be highlighted on either channel. **CLOSED BAU**

Serial 10: Funeral Drapes Database - The RSA AO stated that demand for funeral drapes was exceeding supply. A member had suggested creating a shareable database of branches who

have purchased drapes to be called on in the event of the RSA Admin Office and other branches being unable to provide one due to availability.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** who wish to be included in the database to send their details to the RSA admin office who will collate the list. **CLOSED**

(Secretary's afternote: Closed due to lack of support)

- b. **Decision – Postage fees for the loan of drapes from Corps HQs will be reimbursed to the branch.**
- b. **Action – RSA AO** to explore the possibility of providing **Area Reps** with drapes. **ONGOING (pending financial affordability).**

Serial 11: Other Admin Points - The RSA AO stated that more deaths were being reported on the RSA Facebook group than into the RSA admin office and confirmed that these deaths were not being captured, therefore any recently passed members would still be showing as active on our membership database and may receive email updates.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to ask their members to inform the RSA admin office of any deaths they were aware of in the first instance so records could be amended and passed members could be added to the Last Post. **CLOSED BAU**

The RSA AO explained that the website providers had created a number of "How To" videos to aid in the training of branch website administration. The videos were created to demonstrate how to update branch information, add an event, and add blog posts.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** can request a link to the videos by emailing the RSA Admin Office. **CLOSED BAU**

Item 4 Matters Arising

Serial 12: Area 5 Rep Resignation/Nomination – The Gen Sec announced the resignation of Ray Williams Area 5 after a tenure of 8 years and the nomination of Phil Osment from the Salisbury branch.

- a. **Decision – Resignation of Ray Williams accepted, and it was confirmed that Phil Osment would take on the role as Area 5 Rep with immediate effect.**

Serial 13: Areas of Responsibility – The Gen Sec announced that the Central Committee agreed to split Area 2 in half to create Area 2 North and Area 2 South. He explained that the change was due to the huge geographical area covered and how difficult it was for an Area Rep to cover. Area NI Rep, Mick Nevill had been proposed as the Area Rep for Area 2 South, while the existing Area 2 Rep would remain as Area 2 North Rep.

- a. **Decision – Area 2 to be split in half below Chester to create an Area 2 North and an Area 2 South.**
- b. **Action – Gen Sec** to inform the branches in Area 2 South of the change and ask for nominations for Area Rep. **CLOSED – email sent on 27 Mar 23.**

- c. **Decision** – If there were no volunteers from Area 2 South in two weeks from the date of the meeting, **Area Rep NI** would be appointed as Area 2 South Rep.

Serial 14: Awards – The Gen Sec confirmed that the winners of this years Website Competition was the Royal Signals Caravan and Camping Club. The joint runners up were Poole, Peterborough and Aldershot. The Central Committee ratified the yearly/honour awards.

- a. **Action – RSA AO** to contact the Royal Signals Caravan and Camping Club to confirm their win. **CLOSED**
- b. **Decision** – The following awards were approved by the Central Committee on 17 Mar 23:

40 Year Awards

<i>Peter Alden Liverpool</i>	<i>Kelly Gill Bedford</i>	<i>Eric McWaters Glasgow</i>
<i>Steve Ball Liverpool</i>	<i>Frank Goodwin Liverpool</i>	<i>Ivana Muir Glasgow</i>
<i>Stephen Brisk Liverpool</i>	<i>John Goodwin Liverpool</i>	<i>John Mumford Liverpool</i>
<i>S.R. Burke Bedford</i>	<i>Roger Gurr Dorset</i>	<i>Terence Owens Liverpool</i>
<i>Terry Canham Dorset</i>	<i>Thomas Guy Liverpool</i>	<i>Maurice Owens Liverpool</i>
<i>Ron Clay Blackpool</i>	<i>Brian Hayes Liverpool</i>	<i>Frank Pacey Lincoln</i>
<i>Steve Clements Alpha 5</i>	<i>Reginald Hazeldine Liverpool</i>	<i>Paul Parker Liverpool</i>
<i>John Conlon Liverpool</i>	<i>Marjorie Heatley Liverpool</i>	<i>Les Pearce Bedford</i>
<i>Paul Corrie Liverpool</i>	<i>Thomas Helsby Liverpool</i>	<i>Peter Richards Poole</i>
<i>Susan Cracknell Cambridge</i>	<i>A.S. Hinson Bedford</i>	<i>Martin Roberts Dorset</i>
<i>Leon Cracknell Cambridge</i>	<i>Rob Horne Liverpool</i>	<i>Peter Sellers Poole</i>
<i>Alex Daly Liverpool</i>	<i>Alan Jenkins Liverpool</i>	<i>Stephen Slaney East London</i>
<i>Peter Davenport Chesterfield</i>	<i>Helen Jephcote Edinburgh</i>	<i>Clifton Springer East London</i>
<i>R Dickie Bedford</i>	<i>Peter Jervold Liverpool</i>	<i>Pauline Stuart Liverpool</i>
<i>Wally Drain RHQ</i>	<i>Colin Jones Liverpool</i>	<i>John Taggart Liverpool</i>
<i>Douglas Eaglesham Liverpool</i>	<i>Joseph Keegan Glasgow</i>	<i>Donald Titherington Liverpool</i>
<i>James Eddowes Liverpool</i>	<i>Neil Keen East London</i>	<i>William Weir Liverpool</i>
<i>Frank Farmer Bedford</i>	<i>Steve Lockwood RHQ</i>	<i>Jean Wenman Bedford</i>
<i>Gary Fogg Liverpool</i>	<i>Peter Maiden Poole</i>	<i>Ray Williams Poole</i>
<i>Carole Foog Liverpool</i>	<i>William McAllister Liverpool</i>	
<i>J Gill Bedford</i>	<i>William McAuliffe Liverpool</i>	

50 Year Award

Roger Barker Bedford
Jim Blake Aldershot
G.J. Chapman Bedford
R.D. Collingridge Bedford
Roy Gorringe Bedford
Phil Hogg Bedford
Trevor Holyoake Bedford
Robert Major Bedford
M McHugh Bedford
William Metcalfe Harrogate
Brian Murray Edinburgh
Ian Parry Dorset
Leslie Rix Dorset
Anthony Shaw Liverpool
Robert Sheridan Bedford
Ian Slatter Bedford
Raymond Thomas Harrogate
Gordon Townsley Harrogate
James Wakefield Bedford
Clifford Walters Dorset
A Welch Bedford

70 Year Awards

James Carruthers Liverpool
Ronald Dixon Newark and Mansfield
Clive Howells Harrogate
Peter Norman Chesterfield
Michael Stanger Scarborough

60 Year Award

John Barlow Liverpool
David Barnes Liverpool
David Cater Bedford
Alan Davies Poole
Peter Gray Poole
Edward Hampson Liverpool
George Hedge Birmingham
Rod Mansfield Poole
Rod Mansfield Swindon
Melvyn Mullin Liverpool
Robert Peake Poole
Thomas Perkin Langeleben Reunion
Alastair Petrie Glasgow
Terry Robinson Liverpool
James Ross Dorset
David Smith Harrogate
William Sydney Wilson Harrogate
Michael Vokes Middlesex Yeomanry

75 Year Awards

Pat Soward Air Fmn Sigs OCA

Honour Awards

Valentine Keeton Chesterfield
Pat Soward Air Fmn Sigs OCA
Alan Turner East London

Item 5 Any Other Business

Eden Camp – Area 1 North Rep confirmed the date for this year's Eden Camp as 21 May 23 at 1000 hours. He asked attendees to bring identification. He confirmed the dress code was blazers and announced that dogs were welcome.

- a. **Action – Branch Secretaries** to confirm with **Area 1 North Rep** if branches are travelling by coach before 14 May 23 to be allocated a parking space. **CLOSED**

Date of Next Meeting

- a. **Decision** – *The date of the next Annual General Meeting is 16 Mar 24 and will be held at the Victory Services Club, London.*

T C Muers
RSA AO
(Original Signed)

Action
Corps Sec
Asst Corps Sec
RSA AO
RSA AA
Branch Secretaries

Info
Chair RSA
Corps Col
Corps Col Res
Corps SM
COS
Corps Adjt
Corps Col PA
Area Reps



**Headquarters Royal Signals
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Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 6 Mar 24

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 79th RSA AGM – 16 Mar 24

INTRODUCTION

1. I am writing this report in preparation for a virtual AGM this year. The difficult decision to conduct the meeting in this way was driven by the global financial situation which continues to affect the Charity's income. The financial cost of the AGM drives substantial expenditure into the RSA's annual budget and this was one way to reduce that expenditure, ensuring that the Association plays its part in reducing the financial burden. So, my sincere thanks for your understanding. We will, of course, look to bring back the 'hybrid' AGM for 2025 assuming that the financial situation allows it, and your Central Committee will be looking at options for that when they next meet. As ever, all information for the Association will continue to be published on our website (www.royalsignals.org).
2. This report will continue to follow the format of updating you on issues where required and highlighting those areas that we will have the opportunity to discuss at the AGM.

RSTL STRATEGIC REVIEW

3. I briefed you all on the outcome of the RSTL Board's Strategic Review at our last AGM. The review, which had been conducted by Maj Gen John Stokoe, had made 15 recommendations all aimed at improving efficiency and effectiveness. I am delighted to report that these have all been implemented and are now considered 'business as usual'. Most of the recommendations were focussed on getting the processes right between the charity and the serving Corps, in order to ensure the correct support and reporting procedures were in place, but it did make some important changes to support for the Association, particularly to benevolence, which saw an increase in the level of support given to individuals who need assistance; underlining the pre-eminence of benevolence despite financial pressures elsewhere. Funding would continue to be made available to Signallers and their families who may be in need wherever they were.

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA REPRESENTATIVES

4. There are two positions which require endorsement at this year's AGM. Both candidates have been supported by the Central Committee which sat last month.
 - a. **Area 2 South – David Whimpenny OBE.** David is Chair of the Alpha 5 Branch and has volunteered to take over from Mick Nevill as the Area Rep for '2 South'. We have had no other nominations from the Branches within the Area. Assuming the AGM's support, I would

like to pass on my sincere thanks to Mick for 'holding the fort' over the last year. Despite living outside the area, Mick has been outstanding in leaning in to support the fledgling area.

b. **Wales Representative – Wayne Broadhurst.** Wayne is the new Chair of the Cardiff and South Wales Branch. Again, there are no other nominations from the Wales area. I would like to pass on the Association HQ's huge thanks to Gwyn who has been the stalwart Area Rep for Wales for many years. Despite recent ill health, Gwyn has continued to remain engaged with the HQ team to drive Association issues forward within the Area.

The AGM is requested to endorse both nominations.

ONGOING AMENDMENTS TO PD 155

5. As part of the continuing development and updating of the rules supporting the Association, there is a need to make further tweaks to the current PD. Two issues are put forward for the AGM's ratification, both of which are supported by the Central Committee:

a. **Support to Overseas Branches.** The Association is continuing to look into the development of a new Branch in Fiji and we now have a nomination for Chair and Secretary. However, this has raised the issue of allowances to support these new posts. Clearly, providing T&S funding for the Branch to attend our AGM (when it is held 'in person') would be prohibitive and therefore we need to make this clear within PD 155. The proposal is very simply to make clear that T&S cannot be provided for any Branch members outside of the UK but that they would be extremely welcome to join virtually if they are able to. The amendment to PD 155 would therefore read:

(1) **Para 32. Branch Standard Bearers.** Our Standard Bearers do an excellent job supporting local, regional and national events. To allow them to carry out these key duties, UK based Standard Bearers are eligible to claim for the following T&S expenditure:

(2) **Para 37d. Expenses.** As a direct result of these updated and formalised roles and responsibilities it has been confirmed that expenses are available to UK based Branch officials for the following: ...

b. **Area Rep Nominations.** There has been a need to further clarify the direction on Area Rep nominations, specifically the requirement for Area Reps to be a part of one of the Branches within the area that they are representing. The current rules at Note (ii) to para 34 state: *A representative of each Area will be nominated for election to the Central Committee from the Branches in that Area...* This could be interpreted that you have to be a member of one of the Branches. However, as Mick Nevill has so ably demonstrated, a willing volunteer who actively engages with Branches within an area is just as effective. The proposed amendment to PD 155 would therefore state:

A representative of each Area will be nominated for election to the Central Committee from the Branches in that Area. This representative should ideally be a member of a Branch within the area but, if no volunteer is forthcoming, the nomination could come from a willing volunteer who has the support of the Branches.

Your endorsement is sought for these small but key points of clarification.

THE ETHERTON REVIEW

6. Following the Ethernorton Review, a series of measures are being put into place to enable the single Services to reach out to their own cohorts impacted by the Defence policy in place at the time

which saw servicemen and women discharged between 1967-2000 based on their sexuality. The delivery phase of the Review will require Corps/Regt HQs to engage, and we are stood by to assist the MOD where possible. However, this is a fundamental issue which has wider implications for Associations. Those who were wrongly discharged from our Corps should now be welcomed within our Association should they wish to join and I would ask that you ensure this key message is properly understood throughout all branches and Association members.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EVENTS DURING 2024 AND INTO 2025

7. As ever, here are the key 'National' events over the next year:
- a. **Officers 3Rs Dinner, Stafford - 9 May 24.** (Book via the Members Area of the website.) Options to move the event to Perham Down in 2025 are being scoped.
 - b. **Eden Camp - 19 May 24.** Email Catterick.secretary@daspad.co.uk for further details.
 - c. **Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea - 6 Jun 24.** Ballot closed on the 28 Feb 24 and the successful applicants have been notified.
 - d. **Corps Weekend - 21/23 Jun 24.** Accommodation availability TBC but is looking very positive this year due to the excellent work of Steve and Tracey to push the issue within the Garrison.
 - e. **Project CENTURION, Richmond – 12 Jul 24.** The Freedom Parade to celebrate the 100 years connection with Catterick Garrison will take place on Fri 12 Jul 24 and work continues to develop the day. Information is starting to be pushed out now but save the date.
 - f. **Summer Sales Festival, Kemble – 9/11 Aug 24.** This excellent festival is running for the second time and promises to grow on the success of last year's inaugural event. Tickets available from summer-sales.org
 - g. **Corps Service of Remembrance, NMA – 7 Sep 24.**
 - h. **Association Roadshow – 7/11 Oct 24.** Planning for this event remains ongoing and will only run if funding can be reduced. As a result, we are engaged with units to see if they can host, reducing location and accommodation costs substantially. More detail will be issued through Area Reps once known.
 - i. **Autumn Central Committee Meeting – 17 Oct 24.**
 - j. **Field of Remembrance – 7 Nov 24.** Yet again, there is likely to only be 4 places available for this event. However, we are hoping that there will be a Royal Signals Veterans photographic display within Westminster Cathedral on the day, so if there is an option to increase our allocation as a result, we will pursue this vigorously. More to follow.
 - k. **Cenotaph Parade – 10 Nov 24.**
 - l. **Project NOEL – TBC Nov 24.** Following the impact of the significant cost increases seen in 2023 which, in effect, stopped the event from running bar the Carol Service, the Project NOEL team are already working hard to secure preferential rates for this year's event. Without this, we may have to look carefully at the long-term viability of this event.
 - m. **Spring CCM and the AGM 25 - TBC.** The format and location for next year's CCM and AGM remains TBC at this point in time.

8. As ever, all information/updates will be posted on our RSA webpage (www.royalsignals.org) and those key events towards the end of the year will also be included there.

SUMMARY

11. There is a lot going on and I thank you all for remaining engaged to promote comradeship across the Association. The HQ team will continue to engage with you all and we are hoping to get out again this year to meet as many as we can on the roadshow. We will push all information to you through our website; so, stay connected.

Certa Cito

{Signed on MODNet}

DA CRAFT
Colonel (Retired)
General Secretary
The Royal Signals Association



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Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 6 Mar 24

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE TO THE RSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –
16 MARCH 2024**

INTRODUCTION

1. This short financial report has been compiled to aid wider briefings within the RSA community. At this time of year, we audit the previous year's budget, establish the indicative budget for this year and then look further ahead in the forecast of outturn columns. This report is, therefore, designed to be read with the attached budget sheets.
2. All money is held as part of The Royal Signals Charity (RSC) and constitutes part of the wider Corps finances. RSA input to the RSC is represented through the RSA Chair, who is both a Trustee of the charity and the deputy Controller of the RSTL Board; your interests are, therefore, well represented.
3. There are 2 elements to the budget and these are extracts from the full RSC Outcome 2023 report:
 - a. The Welfare Fund.
 - b. The Donations & Veterans.
4. In both, we need to focus on the first 4 columns of figures which are, left to right:
 - a. The Outcome 2022 which shows what we received and spent that year – purely as a comparison.
 - b. The Budget 2023 which shows what we thought we were going to receive and spend last year.
 - c. The Outcome 2023 which is what we actually spent and received last year and reflects the figures provided to our auditors.
 - d. The Budget 2024 which shows the financial targets set for this year.
5. The remaining columns are budget forecasts out to 2027 but these will be amended over time so they will not be covered in any detail in this report.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – BENEVOLENCE/WELFARE

6. The following points should be noted:

a. **Expenditure.**

(1) **Benevolence Grants.** The last financial year ran from 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023 and you can see that we spent **£374,815** in that period on **433** individual cases. (Note that there are the normal end of year discrepancies between the Grants Co-ordinator and Corps Accountant's figures caused by sums carried over at the end of the year.) This spend was substantially up on 2022 (by nearly 50%), which had remained very subdued following the COVID period. Looking forward, we have assumed a spend of £370,000 in the 2024 budget. However, as you are hopefully all aware, **there is no cap on benevolence** should demand rise even further; so, this figure is purely for budgeting purposes.

(2) **Grants.** The remaining grants are, once again broken down into the main areas. The annual grant to the ABF remains at **£35,000** in 2023. This money enables the ABF to pick up various requests which the RSC might otherwise have to cover. The ABF actually gave **£80,633** supporting **77** Signallers in need. The rest of the 'expenditure entries' are, hopefully, self-explanatory.

(3) **Total Grants.** The total grant outcome for 2023 was **£430,263**, which is a total **increase** on 2022 of circa 47%.

b. **Income.**

(1) **Subscriptions.** The subscriptions from "One Day's Pay" giving remain the main direct income for our benevolence. In 2023 we received **£265,862** which, as mandated by QRs (soon to be KRs), represents 50% of a day's pay income from the serving Corps. I am delighted to report that this figure is yet again slightly higher than was reported last year and is a result of our continued efforts to sell the benefits of the One Day's Pay Scheme to our serving Corps. Despite this, the substantial increase in benevolence spend meant that **£164,401** was transferred from the Veterans Fund to cover the benevolence bill (highlighting my earlier point about the primacy of benevolence spend within the charity).

(2) **Donations.** You will see from the 'Donations and Veterans' sheet that we had a total income of **£69,446** from various donations and **£9,822** from legacies throughout the year. Unfortunately Branch donations were down by nearly 30% on 2022. The Association thanks those RSA Branches who have so generously donated and would urge those who haven't to help if/where they can. I would also urge you all to consider a legacy to the charity, if you are in a position to do so.

7. **Support Costs.** Support costs represent the overall cost of employing the RSC grant co-ordinator, general expenses specific to Welfare and shared costs (such as IT support) split between all elements of the charity. These totalled **£78,149** in 2023.

8. **Benevolence/Welfare Conclusion.** Our overall 2023 expenditure on welfare was **£508,412**, a substantial increase on 2022 driven primarily by the upturn in benevolence support.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – DONATIONS & VETERANS

9. The following should be noted:

a. **Investment Gains/Losses.** Unfortunately, the turmoil in global markets has continued to affect our investments, as it has for the last couple of years. However, 2023 was thankfully a more positive year than 2022. As at Dec 23, there was a very slight Investment Gain of **£81,258**. You will recall from last year's report that we reported Investment Losses of **£605,497**. The RSTL Board is working exceptionally hard to ensure that our investments work hard for us and they remain closely engaged with our Investment Advisers to ensure that we are as reactive to the current situation as we can be.

b. **Expenditure.** Expenditure in support of Veterans activities was up slightly on 2022 at **£133,736**, an increase of just under 10% on 2022.

CONCLUSION

10. The overall result for 2023 was a transfer of **£94,596** from capital. Looking ahead, our Financial Advisers continue to be nervous about the financial picture, which will likely continue to remain volatile for the foreseeable future and this is reflected in the continued cautious forecast investment figures in 2024 and beyond.

{Original Signed}

DA CRAFT
Col (Retd)
Corps Sec & RSA Gen Sec

Attachment:

1. Outcome 2023 Royal Signals Association – Welfare and Donations & Veterans.

Outcome 2023**Welfare**

	OUTCOME 2022	BUDGET 2023		OUTCOME 2023		BUDGETS 2024	2025	2026	2027
Grant Expenditure									
Benevolence Grants	256,162	340,000	1	374,815	1	370,000	370,000	370,000	370,000
Grants,etc									
Army Benevolent Fnd	35,000	35,000		35,000		35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Central Committee	-	7,500		7,750		7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Other	-	500		-		500	500	500	500
Funeral Expenses	92	1,000		2,198		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unit - Death in Service grants	1,500	3,000		10,500		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Welfare Grants	292,754	387,000		430,263		417,000	417,000	417,000	417,000
Income									
Corps Subscriptions									
50% of a day's pay	255,441	259,192	2	265,862	2	262,383	262,382	262,382	262,382
Veterans Fund	37,313	127,808		164,401		154,617	154,618	154,618	154,618
	292,754	387,000		430,263		417,000	417,000	417,000	417,000
Support Costs									
Welfare Grants Officer	43,268	44,720		46,432		46,700	46,700	48,600	48,600
General expenses	-	1,000		16		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Shared Costs	31,569	33,398		31,701		36,360	37,275	37,365	38,355
Welfare Support Costs	74,837	79,118		78,149		84,060	84,975	86,965	87,955
funded by Donations & Veterans									
Total Expenditure	367,591	466,118		508,412		501,060	501,975	503,965	504,955

NOTES

- 1** Benevolence Grants budgets are estimated outcomes; no actual "cap" is enforced.
- 2** Standard - 50% of a day's pay, in accordance with QR 5.613a

Outcome 2023
Donations and Veterans

		OUTCOME 2022	BUDGET 2023		OUTCOME 2023		BUDGETS 2024	2025	2026	2027
Income										
Donations										
Life Subscriptions		-			-					
Individuals		37,084			37,556					
Lottery		6,886			5,541					
Branches		8,074			5,800					
Units		2,352			2,135					
Wristband & other sales		-			-					
Just Giving + web sources		20,320			18,414					
		<u>74,716</u>	60,000		<u>69,446</u>		60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Legacies		534	30,000		9,822		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Routine Income		<u>75,250</u>	90,000		<u>79,268</u>		<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>	<u>70,000</u>
Transfer to Corps Fund		(37,625)	(45,000)	1	(39,634)	1	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)	(35,000)
Legacies to "RSA"		-	-		16,908		-	-	-	-
Investment Income		128,307	124,219		143,889		137,106	129,916	129,462	128,516
Invest. Gains/(Losses)		(605,497)	78,576		81,258		23,007	23,119	23,472	23,722
		<u>(439,565)</u>	<u>247,795</u>		<u>281,689</u>		<u>195,113</u>	<u>188,035</u>	<u>187,934</u>	<u>187,238</u>
Expenditure										
Corps Weekend		17,556	25,000	2	16,702		18,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%		(8,778)	(12,500)		(8,351)	2	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)
Memorials & Events				2						
NMA Memorial		10,056	14,500		9,023		8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%		(5,028)	(7,250)		(4,512)	2	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)	(4,000)
Other		695	700		420		700	700	700	700
Branch Support		-	5,000		100		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Centenary Branch Events		400	-		-		-	-	-	-
AGM & other meetings		12,384	13,000		4,126		2,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Friends & Relations		1,800	1,800		-		-	-	-	-
Support Costs										
RSA Secretary + Asst		37,041	34,600		62,527		62,600	65,200	65,200	67,900
Insurance		1,163	1,215		1,150		1,200	1,260	1,320	1,380
Travel & General expenses		12,660	5,000		10,283		7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Shared Costs		42,092	44,530		42,267		48,480	49,700	49,820	51,140
		<u>122,041</u>	<u>125,595</u>		<u>133,736</u>		<u>135,980</u>	<u>150,860</u>	<u>151,040</u>	<u>155,120</u>
Centenary Items		<u>400</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>					
Surplus / (Deficit)		<u>(561,606)</u>	<u>122,200</u>		<u>147,953</u>		<u>59,133</u>	<u>37,175</u>	<u>36,894</u>	<u>32,118</u>
Welfare Grants	4	37,313	127,808		164,401		154,617	154,618	154,618	154,618
Welfare Support Costs	4	74,837	79,118		78,149		84,060	84,975	86,965	87,955
		<u>112,150</u>	<u>206,926</u>		<u>242,550</u>		<u>238,677</u>	<u>239,593</u>	<u>241,583</u>	<u>242,573</u>
Balance to/(from) Capital		<u>(673,756)</u>	<u>(84,727)</u>		<u>(94,596)</u>		<u>(179,544)</u>	<u>(202,418)</u>	<u>(204,689)</u>	<u>(210,455)</u>

NOTES

- 50% of Donation and Legacy Income is credited to the Corps Fund, unless given with specific terms.
Grants could be made from the Corps Fund to support Welfare, if needed.
- Reunion and Memorial Events have widened into Corps events (not mostly Veterans) and so costs are shared.

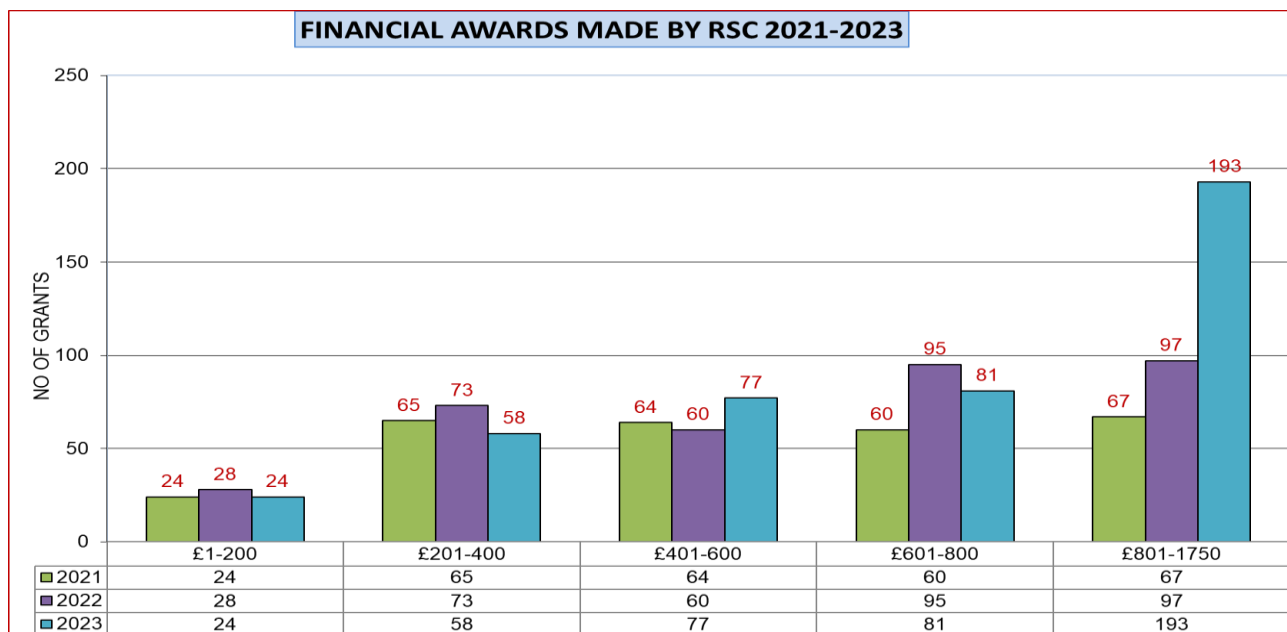
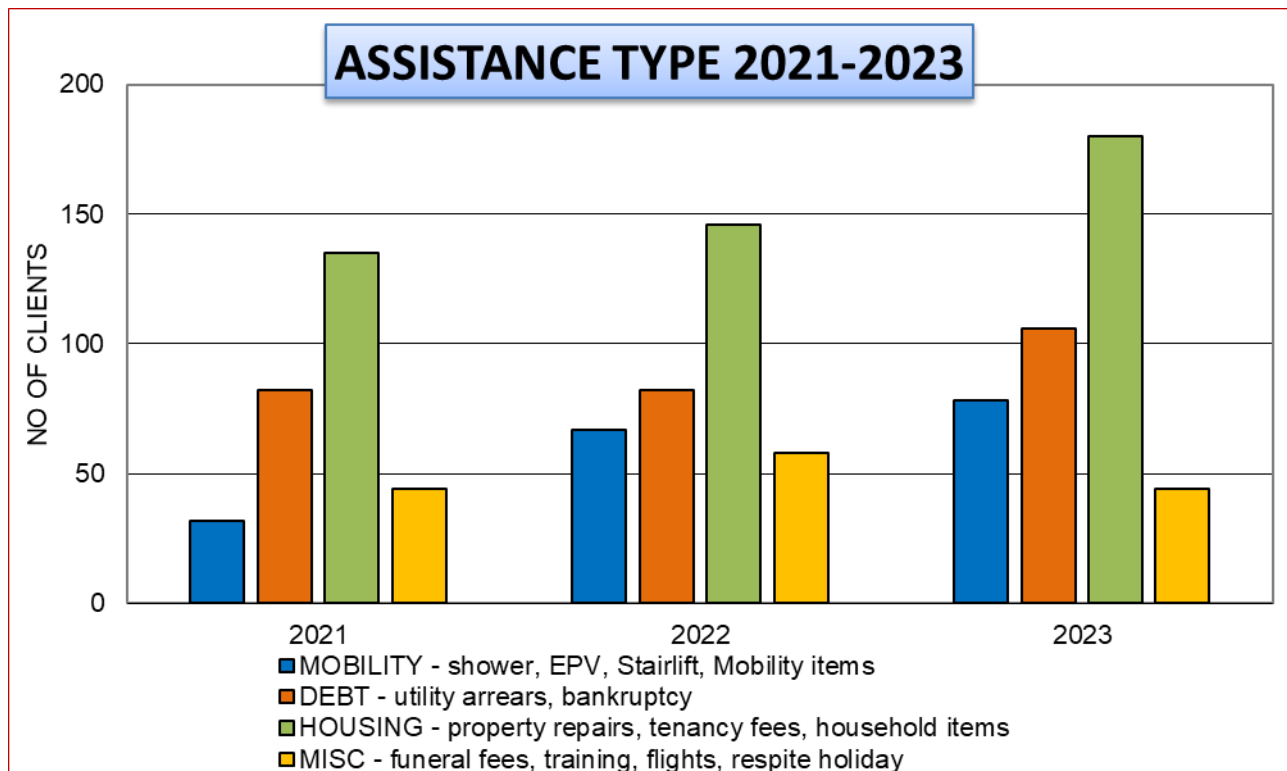


Assistant General Secretary's Report

Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting

16 March 2024

1. Benevolence update:



2. **Death in Service.** When a serving soldier passes away RSC makes an immediate grant of £1,500 to the Unit so that they may assist the family with the expenses of the funeral, for example, the wake or additional transport requirements. Last year unfortunately 4 soldiers died in service.

3. **Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) – The Soldiers Charity.** RSC gave the ABF a grant of £35,000 in 2023 which they use to give donations to military charities on our behalf. In addition, they used this grant to be able to support us with contributions towards applications which require almonisation and the provision of annuities and contributions towards fees for nursing/care homes. In 2023 ABF assisted with 77 grants totalling £80,633.15

4. **Area Rep for national affiliations.** I have received feedback from some of the Affiliations under my stewardship. Many people will be attending the virtual AGM, Corps Weekend, Summer

Sales and the Corps Memorial Service. Many people have asked about Project NOEL and what is happening to it in the coming years?

5. **Road Show.** The itinerary for this year's RSA Road Show is below:

	1100 – 1230hrs	1200 – 1400hrs	1930 – 2130hrs
Monday	Bulford		York
Tuesday		Glasgow	Stafford
Wednesday	Chicksands		Aldershot
Thursday	London		Corsham / Colerne
Friday	Blandford (Virtual)		

I will produce you a more detailed itinerary at the meeting.

Steve

S M LOCKWOOD
Lt Col (Retd)



HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH

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RSA Members

Reference: 04.17.01

Date: 7 Mar 2024

Admin Officers Report to the 79th RSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) – 16th March 2024

Introduction

1. Since I reported last year at the AGM work has been carrying on at a satisfying rate and we are continuing to develop the Association in a number of ways. We have already seen the success of some of the new initiatives such as the Supporting Our Signallers Network, and as you will hear during the course of the meeting, there are a number of new branches currently being implemented, nationally and worldwide.

Delivery

2. Over the previous year, we have arranged the representation of 760 of our members at events including Corps Weekend, Founders Day, and the Corps Annual Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum. The last event of the reporting year was the Cenotaph Parade in November, and we arranged the representation of 60 members to march on Remembrance Sunday. Worryingly, only 30 of those allocated places marched on the day, which we will address later this year. The start of the new year brings the planning and implementation of the year's upcoming events, and we are looking forward to another Road Show at the back end of the year. Sadly, in the last year the deaths of approximately 350 members have been reported to us with around $\frac{3}{4}$ of those receiving some support from the Admin Office. 230 new members have been signed up to the Association and Sarah will have contacted all the branches they are aligned to. The social media pages are continuing to grow with nearly 800 members on Facebook and nearly 300 on Instagram. The deficit with the numbers are showing that the demographic of our social media members are more aligned with Facebook. We endeavour to increase the number of younger members on Instagram.

Information Update

3. Branch updates – The Tayside and Fife branch and the West London branch have currently switched to affiliations. The newly reformed Cardiff and South Wales branch has been reinvigorated by amalgamating with the West Wales area and the creation of the Nuneaton branch has been extremely successful. Potential branches in the implementation stage are Colerne and the Fiji branch. As always, we try to keep branches open and the Roadshow has been instrumental in encouraging this. If you are aware of anyone who would like to reintroduce a branch or open a new one, please get in touch.

4. Membership cards – Due to the success of the trial roll out of Veterans ID cards, applications are now being invited from all Veterans, regardless of age or discharge date. In light of this and as previously agreed by the Central Committee, we have decided that now is the time to cease production of membership cards to new members. The Veterans ID card will now be sufficient for access to events like Corps Weekend and branch meetings and will free up administrative time for

the team to focus on other tasks. Sarah will continue to issue membership letters and badges to all new members with the instruction on how to apply for a Veterans ID card.

5. Supporting Our Signallers – The initiative was launched in December requesting volunteers to assist members requiring support. I am pleased to inform you that the initial push for volunteers has yielded 130 people who are willing to lend their time to this good cause. On the 1st of February the scheme was opened to requests for assistance and since then we have supported five members. If someone requires support from the network, they can email SOS@royalsignals.org and we will respond to them during office hours. I would ask that you continue to publicise the website amongst your areas Royalsignals.org/Supporting-Our-Signallers. It would be fantastic to grow the number of volunteers to further support members nationally.

Events

6. I am happy to confirm that we have again secured accommodation for our members during Corps Weekend this year. There are bed spaces available and the Caravan and Camping sites. If you wish to book a space, please do so via the Members Area of the website (royalsignals.org). Due to financial restraints and the number of people who booked meals last year, but did not attend, we have decided to add a small surcharge of £5 for evening meals during the weekend. Booking for Corps Weekend will open on Monday 19th February and can be done so through royalsignals.org/members-area.

Conclusion

7. It has been a fantastic start to the year, and we continue to seek improvement in the Association where we can. As always, if you have any queries you can contact us via tracey.muers101@mod.gov.uk and RSA@royalsignals.org.

Tracey

T Muers
Royal Signals Association
Admin Officer

Note

01 February 2024

File reference: 20240201-RSA_CCM_AGM_Corps_SM_Update

To: Chairman RSA, Maj Gen McDowell CBE

From: WO1 (Corps SM) Paul Steel

The Royal Signals Association Central Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting Update

1. The Royal Signals Association (RSA) Central Committee Meeting (CCM) will take place virtually on 21 February 2024. The RSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will also take place virtually on 16 March 2024 (Teams link to follow).

2. Corps SM Readback.

1. **Ex MERCURY KNOWLEDGE (Ex MK) 23.** Having the RSA Area Reps in attendance during Ex MK 23 has been very positive. The networking conducted during this event has helped establish a new branch in Fiji and encouraged the regular/reserve cohort to actively engage with our retired community – lots more work to do but the 3Rs initiative is working. Ex MK 24 will be taking place 21-24 May 2024, invites to follow.

2. **RSA Roadshow.** The Corps Col and I visited the roadshow in Cardiff and received a fantastic update from Col Craft and the team. Although attendance from the regular cohort was low, we did speak about ways to improve this. Feedback showed that the roadshow should include a R SIGNALS mess, as this would assist with promoting regular SP to attend.

3. **Senior Soldier Conference.** Area Reps were invited to attend the conference in Glasgow which focussed on updating the senior soldier network on Corps issues and how we approach them as a collective. The Area Reps attendance was very positive, with conversations around the re-emergence of the Bath branch and the feasibility around affiliations. The Area Reps engaged in discussion, which enabled us to understand issues from a 3Rs perspective (Area Rep feedback attached).

4. **Social Media.** The new RSA Facebook page is growing, displaying some great content from the RSA team's recent visits to branches and initiatives. I also share social media content across platforms to help promote the 3Rs family and always try to tag the RSA Facebook page, encouraging the retired community to engage. The Remembrance videos from the Chairman and Area Reps worked very well and I would recommend more short videos highlighting the fantastic work the branches are doing, this will assist in elevating their profile.

5. **Standard Bearers.** The Standard Bearer Competition for Princess Royal Day (PRD) 2023 went well but we need more to attend PRD 2024. I am engaging with units to request their support but would prefer branches to be present if possible. Please support me, it would be great to have all standards on parade this year.

Note

3. **Corps Update.** The Corps Col/Corps SM will deliver a Corps update.
4. **Unit update for the CCM/AGM.** WO1 (RSM) Dave Bates from 21 Sig Regt (EW), has volunteered to deliver a brief on the regiment's growth and their new role.
5. **New Cap badge update.**



Correct



Incorrect

6. **Questions.** On completion of the presentation, there will be time for RSA members to ask questions.

Summary

7. The CCM/AGM is a fantastic opportunity to update the 3Rs family and share information, building relationships and promoting Corps Ethos. Although this is my last CCM/AGM as the R SIGNALS Corps SM, please continue to support your branch, the Corps and my successor – WO1 Alicia Jarman. I wish everyone good health and look forward to seeing some of you in branches soon.

WO1 (Corps SM) Paul Steel

Skype: 03001671871

Paul.steel615@mod.gov.uk

Annex:

A. Area Rep Feedback – Senior Soldier Conference.

Note

Annex A to

File reference: 20240201-RSA_CCM_AGM_Corps_SM_Update

01 February 2024

Area Rep Feedback – Senior Soldier Conference

1. Four RSA Area Reps who participated in the recent Senior Soldiers Conference, gave the following feedback for the Chairman.
2. Firstly, it was an honour and a privilege to be offered the chance to attend the conference. Even before the conference officially started, we were included and encouraged to be active participants. Our opinions and observations were sought and considered, the links made with individuals and unit representatives can only bring a positive enhancement to our Corps. Sadly, for various reasons, only four of us were able to attend, the others, we all believe would have benefited greatly from the event. The honest and open dialogue and the face-to-face networking were invaluable and gave a very honest picture of our Corps today and looking to the future.
3. It was interesting, that the home of the Corps was not in one particular location, Catterick, Blandford, Salisbury or even Stafford, it would appear home is wherever we make it and it's flexible, although we have bases to work from, mainly through the availability of technology.
4. The fact that some of the issues faced by our Corps today were so familiar to when we were serving, such as pay and conditions, pensions, the lure of the big technology companies (particularly for the technical LE officers and seniors) and the extensive workloads, with double and triple 'hatting' in roles due to causes totally out of your control. A great positive was that to ask for help and support now is not a sign of weakness or failure and that the emotional and mental health support systems are in place - as long as they are used positively.
5. The insight into modern soldiering was fascinating, and how the Corps personnel are facing the dilemma of enabler versus user, although still using the maxim we did of soldier first tradesman second. Some of us still find it difficult to address an RSM or even the Corps SM by anything other than sir, but the collaborative way of working seems to be productive and is another positive step forward.
6. The presentations, both physical and virtual, were most professionally given and it was clear that the deliverers really valued their audience and had thoroughly prepared for them. They were open to, and often encouraged, challenge and valued collaboration. The visit to APC was invaluable and the lengths that were being considered and actively pursued to get the right person to the right place were incredible, although again challenging - it appeared that now reasons were given why things could or could not happen and the best solution found, whereas previously it would be, 'that's how it is, get on with it'.
7. The dinner night was exceptional, an outstanding meal professionally delivered, and the networking afterwards was incalculable. Thank you for this CPD opportunity for myself and the others, those who didn't attend missed the chance to serve our Corps better. We all valued what we have done and hope that they will become a fixed item in the FOE with our successors working collaboratively with yours and continuing to ensure we have an enduring agile Corps for the future.



Awards

40 Year Awards

Allan Beever - Rotherham
Maj Paul Buckley – Darlington
Linda Cooper – East London
Roderick Gladwin - Shropshire
Bernard Hewitt - Edinburgh
Ann McKenzie-Hughes – Edinburgh
James Johnson – Southport and District
Derek Lambert – Edinburgh
Kevin Shelmerdine – Edinburgh
Alan Wright - Darlington

50 Year Awards

Jackie Allan – East London
Kevin Barnard – Norfolk
Keith Bates – Rotherham and Sheffield
Robert Burnett - York
Helen Coultish – Catterick
Stephen Freeman-Pannett - Norfolk
James Johnson – Southport & District
Christopher Lane – Dorset

James Mill – Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment

Iain Scrivin – Catterick

Peter Sellars - Poole

John Wharton – Catterick

60 Year Awards

Fred Alexander - Darlington

Roy Bilby – East London

John Dollen – Glasgow

Maj (Retd) James Barry Greenwood – East London

Keith Hall - Aldershot

William McNamara - Glasgow

Maj (Retd) Brian Murray MBE TD – Edinburgh

John Robson – 56 Div (Signals) OCA

James Roger – Catterick

Maj (Retd) Robert Gordon Simpson - 41 Signal Regt PLKR Association

Allan Whillock - Dorset

Honour Awards

Ray Jeffery – Darlington

WO1 (Corps SM) Paul Steel - RHQ

Peter Mark Watson – Catterick

