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**RECORD OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, LONDON, 15 MAR 25.**

Present:	Col (Retd) D A Craft	Corps Sec / Gen Sec
	Col N C Bruce ADC	Corps Col
	Col E J Bruce	Dep Corps Col
	Lt Col (Retd) SM Lockwood	Asst Corps Sec / Asst Gen Sec
	WO1 (RSM) A Jarman - Virtual	Corps SM
	Mr W White	Area 1 N
	Mr K Bates	Area 1 S
	Mr M Nevill	Area 2 S / NI
	Mr T Holyoake	Area 3
	Mr G Marsh	Area 4
	Mr P Osment	Area 5
	Mr R Jephcote	Area Scotland
	Mr B Doughty	Area Wales
	Ms S Harler	RSA AA
	WO2 H Morris	Corps Welfare WO
	WO2 M Brand	1 Sig Regt
	2Lt C Adams	3DSR
	Sig A Pawson	3DSR
	Association Branch Representatives	Various
	Mrs T Muers	Ops Mgr / Mtg Sec
Apologies:	Mr I Thompson	Int Area 2 N

Discussions / *Decisions* / *Actions*

Item 1: Introduction

1. The Gen Sec shared sad news regarding the absence of Maj Gen McDowall, RSA Chair, due to a serious illness. Gen McDowall had been diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour and was undergoing treatment. The Gen Sec stated that the association remained hopeful for a positive outcome. He confirmed that General McDowall would be unable to continue as Chair, and that a successor would be sought with urgency. The CCM would be fully engaged with the succession plan but, due to the situation, the AGM would be asked to retrospectively ratify the new Chair at the next AGM. The Gen Sec expressed the Association's best wishes to General McDowall and his family.

(Secretary's afternote: Brig (Retd) David Hargreaves has offered to stand in as RSA Chair for a period of six months until a permanent successor has been identified.)

2. The Gen Sec welcomed some members to the meeting:

- a. Col Emma Bruce: New Deputy Corps Colonel, focusing on reserve matters within the headquarters, and a member of the Central Committee.
- b. WO2 Huw "Taff" Morris: New Corps Welfare Warrant Officer, engaging with the serving Corps and welfare business, including the SOS initiative.
- c. WO2 Martin Brand: Sgt Maj in 1 Sig Regt, involved in the SOS initiative, who would contribute with an SOS update during the meeting.
- d. 2Lt Charles Adams and Sig Alex Pawson from 3 Div Sig Regt who would provide an update on a major exercise involving the corps.
- e. Brig Nimal Don from the Sri Lankan Signal Corps Association who joined the meeting to observe how both associations could work together more effectively.

3. The Gen Sec thanked all for attending and for the members who attended the curry supper the previous night and the meeting.

Item 2: 79th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association

4. The Ops Mgr presented the minutes from the 79th Annual General Meeting.

- a. **Decision** – The minutes from the 79th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate representation of the previous meeting.*

5. The Ops Mgr covered the actions from the previous meeting.

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

Item 3: General Secretary's Report

6. The Gen Sec commenced his report by stating that General Dame Sharon Nesmith DCB ADC Gen had served as the Master of Signals for five years but due to her demanding role as Vice Chief, she had found it increasingly difficult to support both the serving and retired Corps. As a result, she had decided to stand down this year, despite having another year to serve as Vice Chief of the Defence Staff. The Gen Sec confirmed her departure would take place during the Corps Weekend this year and that Major General Paul Griffiths CB had been agreed upon by the Sovereign to succeed Dame Sharon as the next Master of Signals. He further stated that the Central Committee looked forward to welcoming General Griffiths in June when Dame Sharon stands down.

7. The Gen Sec announced that a collection had been organised for a farewell gift for Dame Sharon, on behalf of the serving and retired Corps. Donations were voluntary, and those who wished to contribute should ensure their donations are made by April 30th to allow time for organising the gift.

8. Area 2S and Wales: After the AGM last year, there were challenges in appointing Area Representatives for these areas. Unfortunately, both nominated individuals were unable to take up the position. However, Mick Neville had agreed to resume his duties for Area 2S, and Barry Doughty, who was heavily involved with the Cardiff branch, had stepped in temporarily for Wales. These are temporary arrangements until a more permanent solution could be found.

- a. **Decision – Mick Nevill to resume as Area Rep 2S and Barry Doughty to continue to be Area Rep Wales in the interim until someone else can be found.**

9. Area 1N: Ian Scrivin had served as Area Representative for 1N for four years but wished to stand down. Bill White, who offered to take over, was the only nominee, and the Central Committee approved his appointment. The AGM was asked to retrospectively endorse Bill White's appointment. The Central Committee extends gratitude to Ian Scrivin for his dedicated service.

- a. **Decision – Bill White confirmed to take over as Area Rep 1N.**

10. Area 2N: Bob Taylor had served as Area Representative for over 10 years but had expressed a desire to step down. Harry Ferguson from the Manchester branch had volunteered to take over the position. The Central Committee reviewed and agreed on his nomination, and the AGM is asked to endorse this change. Harry Ferguson's appointment would take effect immediately, pending no objections.

- a. **Decision – Harry Ferguson confirmed to take over as Area Rep 2S.**

11. The General Secretary emphasised that the biggest challenge facing the association was ensuring a steady flow of volunteers to support its operations. While the dedication of current volunteers was appreciated, there was an ongoing need to recruit new volunteers, especially as the footfall through branches continued to decrease. He stated that a significant factor contributing to the decline in branch participation was the diminishing number of veterans available, as the pool of former service members had decreased significantly since the end of National Service and the Second World War. This reduction in veterans, coupled with a smaller army, presented a long-term challenge for the association's sustainability.

12. The importance of engaging with younger members and encouraging them to join the association was emphasised. The Central Committee had been discussing this challenge for several years, noting that this issue was not unique to the association, as many other organisations, including the British Legion, are experiencing similar difficulties with branch closures. The Gen Sec continued to state that there was a need for more proactive outreach to retiring signallers and a greater effort to recruit younger members into the association. The Central Committee were seeking the help of everyone to identify where signallers are retiring and encourage them to join the association. It was noted that Corps headquarters could produce "heat maps" for branches, helping to identify signallers in specific areas. This data would help branches reach out to potential members.

13. The Gen Sec stressed the need to rethink the types of activities and events the association offers, to better appeal to younger veterans and serving personnel. This included looking at how to integrate the serving Corps more effectively with the retired corps. He further announced that some associations have moved to national models, and operated without a branch structure, but that the Central Committee believed the branch model was vital for the association. However, active engagement at all levels was required to ensure the success of the branch structure.

14. A suggestion was made to invite Phase 2 soldiers to learn about the history of the Corps and what the association offered, where branch volunteers would be present to explain the association's activities and purpose, as well as getting engagement from those who may have previously received the support of the Charity. There was also a view that the Association could help with the challenges faced by veterans transitioning out of service. Noting, that many veterans do not engage with the association until 10-15 years after leaving service due to life and career pressures this may encourage more engagement earlier in a veteran's journey. The Gen Sec noted both initiatives and confirmed that engagement with those transitioning out of the Corps was already happening with the next Career Transition Network Day being run by the Royal Signals Institution at the end of May 2025. Phase 2 soldiers also received a brief on the Association and Charity already, but the involvement of RSA Branch Reps would be investigated.

15. Further ideas to strengthen the connection between the serving Corps and veterans were discussed and several branches shared their success stories in maintaining strong ties with active units. One example was East London branch that continued to engage with its former unit, 68 Squadron, ensuring that new recruits are made aware of the association.

16. A member suggested the need for better communication and engagement with serving units and it was suggested that Corps headquarters was seen as the facilitator to help connect branches with active units and improve overall engagement with the serving Corps. It was further stated by the member that this would be key to ensure younger members were aware of the association and could join while still serving.

- a. **Action – Branches** were encouraged to reach out to retiring signallers and new recruits through various channels.
- b. **Action - Central Committee** would continue to work on strategies to appeal to younger veterans and serving personnel.
- c. **Action – RSA HQ** would look at the possibility of including Branch Reps in talks with Phase 2 soldiers.

17. The Gen Sec confirmed that the association area reps now had a dedicated pitch at the Senior Soldier Conference, held annually in Stafford over four days. The initiative, which started in the past 3-4 years, gives the Area Reps direct access to senior NCOs and warrant officers, allowing them to build connections within the military community and we had already seen great outcomes from the event. Notably, new branches have been established, including the Colerne branch from 21 Signal Regiment and Nuneaton branch from 30 Signal Regiment. He confirmed that strides had also been made in Cardiff by fostering stronger relationships with the local reserve squadron. This presence at the conference continues to grow and gives the association a prominent role within the Corps community.

18. The Gen Sec announced a tool which was available to help branches identify veterans in their areas using a 'heat map' generated from our membership data. The heat map can be customised based on any geographical area, allowing branches to target regions more effectively. For this to work, branches need to clarify the areas they are interested in, ensuring that we could provide accurate data. While we can share this data, branches should be aware that some of it may be outdated due to members moving or failing to update their contact details. To help address this, members are encouraged to regularly update their personal details on the RSA website, and branches should engage with RSA HQ to confirm the target areas they wish to focus on.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to regularly update their contact details via the website members area (royalsignals.org/members-area)
- b. **Action – Branches** to contact RSA HQ if they wish to avail of a heat map.

19. The Gen Sec announced that the charity is placing increased focus on fundraising efforts, particularly in promoting gifts in wills for the charity. The website will soon feature more information on this, and we will be actively encouraging branches to get involved. The website is being continually developed to serve not just as an informational hub, but also as a tool for supporting members and promoting charitable causes. A key feature is the "members area," which offers a range of exclusive discounts and offers. These include bespoke insurance deals, car rentals, personal trackers, and even military-themed bespoke equipment like the popular polo belts. Additionally, a new partnership with All Arms PRI, a company run by an ex-signaller, will offer members unique, customisable equipment, with a portion of proceeds going towards the charity. He stressed the importance for members to take advantage of these offers as they not only provide great deals but also support the charity's work.

- a. **Action – Members** to make use of the new member offers available on the RSA website, as these deals benefit both the individual and the charity.

20. The Gen Sec continued to state that the charity had not actively focused on fundraising over the years. A recent survey conducted by Altair, a company specialising in not-for-profit businesses, indicated that while fantastic fundraising events are happening frequently, few of the funds raised were being directed to the Royal Signals charity. The plea from the charity is to encourage more participation in supporting the Royal Signals charity. It was not suggested that all funds should go to the charity, but ideally, a portion of any fundraising could be donated. The charity is the only one supporting Signallers directly, and it is important to remember this when planning fundraising events. The Gen Sec also announced that this year marks the 105th anniversary of the charity, and there was a goal to surpass the £85,000 raised during the 100th anniversary fundraising event in 2020. A “105th Challenge” would be launched soon, and efforts are being made to get branches involved in this initiative and donation buckets were available to support branch fundraising if required.

- a. **Action – Members** to think of donating any fundraising funds to the charity.

21. The Gen Sec mentioned the Single Cap Badge Associations Network (SCAN). This is a forum that brings together military associations, including those from the Army, Navy, Marines, and RAF. It provides an opportunity to share best practices and address common challenges. The association will continue to engage with this network, and any branch or member issues can be raised for discussion at their meetings.

- a. **Action – Members** to communicate any issues with RHQ to be addressed at the SCAN meetings if required.

22. The Gen Sec announced the upcoming events this year, highlighting the following:

- b. Founders Day: The event will be held differently this year. The association will be invited to the Governor’s Parade on Tuesday 6th May 2025, which should allow a better opportunity to engage with pensioners. The ballot for places will be drawn in the next month.
- c. Corps Weekend: It will feature the handover of the Master of Signals. Members are encouraged to attend to support this, and accommodation will be available on the camp for booking.

Item 4: General Secretary’s Financial Report

23. The Gen Sec provided an update on the One Day’s Pay Scheme, highlighting that more than 80% of the Regular Corps had signed up which represented the highest participation rate in many years. While this is a significant achievement, efforts will continue to engage the remaining members and further increase participation in the scheme.

24. He stated that there was a notable 20% reduction in the number of benevolence requests for assistance to the Royal Signals Charity in 2024, compared to 2023. While this could initially raise concerns, the reduction suggests fewer signallers needed support, which was ultimately a positive development. It was confirmed that all requests for assistance have been promptly addressed, with no backlog. He encouraged branches to maintain involvement in their local communities and ensure that any signallers in need of help are directed to the charity for support.

- a. **Action – Members** to continue encouraging signallers to approach the charity for support when needed.

25. The Charity continued its commitment to supporting the Army Benevolent Fund with an annual donation of £35,000. In return, the ABF had provided over £70,000 in assistance to signallers complementing what the charity was able to offer. The charity remains dedicated to supporting the ABF to enable it to continue its important work in helping military personnel and veterans.

26. The Gen Sec was pleased to report a 50% increase in the amount of money received from branches in 2024. This increase was a significant and positive development for the charity, and he expressed sincere thanks to all branches for their generosity, which will greatly support the ongoing work of the Royal Signals Charity.

27. The Charity underwent a major shift in its investment strategy, moving its funds from the BlackRock Armed Forces Charity Fund to a new company, Meridiem, driven by a new investment strategy. While still in the early stages, this change has already resulted in an impressive 87% increase in returns from 2023 to 2024. The Gen Sec expressed satisfaction with this change and acknowledged that it had a positive impact on the charity's financial situation, positioning the association for future growth.

28. The Gen Sec stated that the Corps Accountant had made a request for all donations from branches to clearly identify if they are legacies (gifts in wills) which was important because legacies must be accounted for differently than regular donations. He emphasised that it is crucial for branches to specify if donations are legacies so they can be correctly recorded in the accounts which helps ensure transparency and accuracy in the charity's financial reporting.

29. Some branches had raised concerns about bank charges on their accounts. Legal advice confirmed that branches are independent and not formally part of the charity. However, branches can negotiate with their banks, highlighting that their purpose is to support charitable efforts related to the Royal Signals charity. Some branches have successfully managed to get charges waived.

30. The Gen Sec concluded by thanking everyone for their ongoing support and reiterating the importance of clarity in financial dealings. The positive financial outlook, bolstered by the increase in donations and the success of the new investment strategy, signifies a brighter future for the Royal Signals Association. The Gen Sec once again encouraged branches to help signallers in need and ensure that all requests for assistance are addressed in a timely manner.

Item 5: Assistant General Secretary's Report

31. The Asst Gen Sec confirmed that during the year, several grants were issued, noting that many were for serving reservists, retired reservists, and their families. Most of the grants were used for debt relief and to provide household items, particularly following events such as divorces and family relocations.

32. He sadly announced that in 2024, five serving members of the Corps had passed away. The Corps, including the Corps Col, Gen Sec, and the RSA Chair, are immediately informed, as are the family. Upon receiving this information, the Corps immediately contact the regiment to provide support. A £1,500 donation is sent to the regiment to cover costs not supported by public funds, helping the family with funeral and other related expenses. This initiative has been in place for several years and ensures next of kin are supported during this difficult time.

33. He further explained that within five days of a death in service, the Corps engaged to ensure that the next of kin receive the £20,000 Death in Service payment from the Army, and this had been consistently achieved without fail. The efficiency of the process was commended, with payments typically processed within 24 hours.

34. The Asst Gen Sec confirmed that the Corps had continued the annual £35,000 donation to the Army Benevolent Fund, which helped support those in need. In return, the ABF assisted with 77 grants, providing vital support for members, including large grants for essential items such as

stairlifts and bathroom modifications. The RSC collaborates with other charities, including the ABF and Royal British Legion, to ensure comprehensive support for beneficiaries.

35. He announced that some national affiliations consisted of groups of people who may no longer be able to sustain active branches as the units that feed them have disbanded but they continue to meet periodically to foster camaraderie and support. These groups rely on regular communication with the central office, ensuring members remained engaged and informed. Notably, members from these affiliations actively participate in Corps events such as the National Memorial Arboretum, Project Noel and Corps Weekend.

36. He confirmed that there were 62 branches on paper, though only 28 are actively operational. The challenge of sustaining these branches was acknowledged, and the importance of maintaining connections with members who may no longer be involved in active branches was emphasised.

37. A significant update to the RSA website was discussed, focusing on improving the user experience. It was planned to move away from individual branch pages and instead focus on a regional model, with areas color-coded which directed members to their local representatives and branches. This would help members find relevant information quickly and make it easier for people to contact the correct representative. A list of branch contacts and links to their respective social media (especially Facebook) would be provided.

38. It was noted that the branch pages on the website were often not kept up to date compared to the more dynamic and engaging content found on Facebook pages. Moving forward, the new structure would allow branch representatives to update their Facebook pages without having to replicate content on the website. For the branches that have maintained excellent pages, these will be integrated into the new system to maintain consistency across platforms. Feedback from branches and members regarding the website updates would be welcomed, and the Asst Gen Sec offered an invitation to discuss any concerns or suggestions offline, with the goal to improve the website's functionality and ensure it meets the needs of all members.

- a. Action – Branches to speak to the Asst Gen Sec regarding any issues or concerns they may have regarding the restructuring of the branch pages.**

Item 6: Operations Manager's Report

39. The Ops Mgr started her report by announcing that despite challenges faced over the last year, the RSA has had a productive year, focusing on strengthening the bond with the serving and retired community. Initiatives include roadshows, careers briefing days, and collaboration with the Royal Signals Institution (RSI). She reiterated what the Gen Sec expressed regarding the reintroduction of the SCAN meetings which had proven beneficial. These meetings had fostered collaborations with other associations such as the REME Association, allowing for the exchange of best practices.

40. In the past 12 months, 1,625 members attended events such as Founders Day, Corps Weekend, and the Cenotaph Remembrance Parade. Membership engagement at events remained high, although some members had to be turned away due to the growing popularity of events such as the Cenotaph parade. Sadly, 163 members passed away over the year, with the Admin Asst supporting numerous funeral services for those who requested assistance.

41. The HQ Team's efforts to promote the association and engage with the serving and retired community have resulted in a 50% increase in membership applications, adding 455 new members. Additionally, the RSA social media pages continued to grow however, only two submissions had been made to promote branch events. It is encouraged that more content be submitted to help boost branch visibility and membership growth.

a. Action – Branches to send any photos or events to HQ Team to utilise on the social media pages to promote branches.

42. Branch visits remained a key priority, with efforts made to visit as many branches and events as possible. Despite these efforts, whilst new members are always encouraged to join a local branch, many members still prefer the RHQ branch, which has around 12,000 members. More work is needed to encourage these members to join local branches. New branches had been created, including the Colerne, Fijian, and Nepalese branches, and they were welcomed during the meeting.

43. The SOS Network had gained over 140 volunteers from the retired and serving community. These volunteers have already supported 15 requests and had helped those struggling with various issues such as loneliness, bereavement, marriage breakdowns, and mental health problems. WO2 Brand and WO2 Morris, both highly experienced in welfare, have joined the team to assist with the complex cases and provide mental health support. WO2 Brand has a background in mental health and welfare, and he had assisted with the more difficult cases due to his expertise. WO2 Morris will soon take over as volunteer coordinator for the SOS Network.

44. WO2 Brand briefed on the development of a training package for volunteers which was underway. The pilot will include heads of departments, with the goal of ensuring volunteers are equipped with the tools to effectively assist those in need. The training will include how to identify struggling individuals and where to refer them for further help, including signposting to services such as 'Hub of Hope'. In addition to this, volunteers for the SOS Network are eligible for free DBS checks when volunteering for charity work, which is particularly useful for those going on home visits.

45. A question was raised about the involvement of non-RSA members, such as spouses, in the volunteer training package. The scheme is currently only open to those who have served, but this may be reviewed in the future.

(Secretary's afternote: The volunteer handbook which is being developed contains a list of guidelines which will help branch volunteers and will be published on the website.)

46. WO2 Brand clarified that while volunteers were not trained mental health professionals, they were highly encouraged to signpost individuals to appropriate services when necessary. The Hub of Hope is one such service where people can find support agencies by entering their postcode.

47. A big thank you was extended to WO2 Brand for his extensive involvement in the SOS Network and to WO2 Morris for his ongoing support.

48. The Gen Sec confirmed that the Admin Officer's title would be changed to Operations Manager for the Royal Signals Association to better reflect her responsibilities and the work she does for the association.

a. Decision – Admin Officer role name to change to Operations Manager.

Item 7: Corps Col Update

49. The Corps Col announced that next week marks the two-year point of his tenure with his departure being in the first or second week of October. He confirmed that the new Corps Col would be Col Ed Swift, who was currently serving in Army Headquarters. Col Swift previously served as the Commanding Officer of the 13 Sig Regt during its transition to the Army's Cyber Regiment.

50. He confirmed that there had been no significant change in the serving Corps, both regular and reserve forces. The Corps remained in high demand and relevant, as noted by Dame Sharon, who believed the Corps was in its strongest position in over three decades.

51. In terms of operational involvement, the Corps continued to be actively involved in various operations, including the Steadfast Dart and Steadfast Defender exercises. The Corps also led and won the Defence Cyber Marvel 4 exercise, a large international cyber exercise with 10,000 participants from 10 different countries. In addition to this, 222 Sig Sqn from 22 Sig Regt were currently performing public duties at Windsor Castle, reinforcing the public image of the Corps.

52. He continued by commenting that the Corps is currently struggling with soldier recruitment. Last year, Capita was only able to fill 45% of basic training places, compared to 48% for Gunners and 43% for the Infantry. The Royal Engineers were an exception, exceeding their recruitment targets by 134%. On a positive note, applications to join the Army had reached a 10-year high, indicating a growth of interest in military service overall.

53. Corps headquarters had conducted a complete overhaul of recruitment materials, including a change in terminology. The term "Cyber Engineer" had been removed, as it was seen to deter potential recruits. The new materials use accessible language, tailored to younger recruits. Despite the challenges, the Corps had still managed to fill 72% of Phase 2 courses at Blandford, with a positive outlook for courses between present day and June 2026.

54. He was pleased to announce that officer recruitment was at its best in years, with significant interest, partly due to having a company commander and two platoon commanders at Sandhurst who were Royal Signals. The Corps familiarisation and potential officer visits at Blandford remained highly popular.

55. The Strategic Defence Review (SDR) was set to shape future Defence strategy, with the Army aiming to double lethality by 2027 and triple it by 2030. While Project Wavell was reviewing the Army's structure in line with the SDR, no major changes were expected within the Corps. However, some restructuring may occur, but the Corps workforce size would likely remain stable.

56. The Corps Col thanked the association for their support for Project Etherton, a government initiative aimed at redressing the policy to discharge soldiers from the Army due to their sexuality which ran between 1967 and 2000. To date, 14 former members of the Corps have been identified as part of this initiative, including Gwen Pettigrew and Cat Dickson. The Corps Colonel expressed deep gratitude to the association for embracing these individuals as they re-engaged with the Corps.

57. The Corps Col concluded by thanking everyone for their support and encouraged continued engagement with these important projects.

Item 8: Corps SM Update

58. The Corps SM apologised for being unable to attend the AGM in person but emphasised that she would be attending the next meeting physically.

59. She confirmed the dates for the upcoming Ex MERCURY KNOWLEDGE which would take place in Stafford from May 20th to May 23rd, with the conference scheduled for May 21st and 22nd. The dinner night would be held on Thursday, May 22nd. The Corps SM encouraged the area reps to attend and promote the event which fostered synergy between serving soldiers, veterans, and reserves. WO1 (RSM) Kieran Stott was managing the event, and the area reps could reach out to him directly or contact her for assistance. Accommodation would be available, and travel details were still being finalised.

60. She stated that last year's Standard Bearers competition was a great success and urged members to encourage more RSA participants this year. The goal was to increase participation and make the event even bigger. WO1 John Miller, the new Army Sergeant Major (starting 31 Mar 25), had confirmed that he would be attending Corps Weekend. He hoped to have a role in the

Princess Royal Day Parade (PRD) and wished would speak to the RSA contingent before or after the parade. This presented a great opportunity for RSA members to showcase their standards in front of the Army Sergeant Major.

61. The Corps SM extended her thanks to the Royal Signals Charity for their continued support of the events organised by her and for their sponsorship contributions. She encouraged RSA members to support the Royal Signals Charity, when possible, especially during fundraising events, and stressed the importance of supporting the charity to ensure its sustainability, even if only through small donations, rather than prioritising other organisations such as the Army Benevolent Fund.

62. The Corps SM then introduced and thanked 2Lt Adams and Sig Pawson who then delivered an excellent presentation on their experiences during Exercise CERBERUS. The brief highlighted the pressures on the Corps today and discussion afterwards drew comparison with years gone by. The conclusion from those veterans in the room was that the issues raised during the presentation seemed very familiar to those experienced previously. The AGM was hugely impressed by both 2Lt Adams and Sig Pawson, who received a rousing ovation.

63. The Gen Sec also expressed his gratitude for the presentation provided. He thanked them for taking the time to travel to London, concluding that the future of the Corps was in good hands.

Item 9: Matters Arising

64. The Ops Mgr stated that a total of 54 Long Service and Honour Awards had been granted by the Central Committee over the last twelve months. Some recipients were present at the meeting, and congratulations were extended to them. She noted that the Central Committee meeting dates had moved forward by one month and members were advised to submit award applications four weeks prior to the updated meeting dates. Awards granted in the last six months are detailed below:

40 Year Awards

*John Abram – Shropshire
Steve Hall – Liverpool/RS Riders
Karen Nicholls – East London
Philip Osment – Salisbury
John Roberts - Birmingham
Karl Scaife - Shropshire*

50 Year Awards

*Roger Curr – Dorset
Michael Dent – Salisbury
Albert Graham – Glasgow
Thomas Guy - Liverpool
Geordie Thomson – RHQ
Walter Drain - RHQ
Granville Yeomans – Lincoln*

60 Year Awards

*Ali Mohamaed Abdulrahman – Dorset
Robert Clarke – Birmingham
Robert McLaren – Dorset
John Nicholson – Birmingham*

Item 10: Any Other Business

65. The Asst Gen Sec detailed several fundraising initiatives that were upcoming this year:

- a. **105 Miles for Charity:** Corporals Robin Dennis and Gary Chapman will walk 105 miles in 3 days from Exeter to Blandford, along the challenging Jurassic coastline, raising money for the Royal Signals Charity (April 25–27).
- b. **Coffee Morning Initiative:** The success of last year's coffee morning in Blandford, which raised over £1,000, will be expanded across the Corps in June. RSA Branches were encouraged to host similar events.
- c. **Exercise On Top of the World:** A challenge involving climbing telegraph poles to the height of Mount Everest, which will take place during Corps Weekend at Blandford. Participants include current and retired Tele Mechs.
- d. **Tough Mudder Challenge:** Signaller Adam Hughes from 2 Signal Regiment is organising a Tough Mudder event, with 32 participants raising funds for the Corps charity.

66. The Asst Gen Sec emphasised the goal to raise £100,000 for the Royal Signals Charity and encouraged everyone to get behind these events and support the charity.

67. Tony Mullin (Liverpool Branch Sec) announced that he had taken over the organisation of Project Noel after the sad passing of David Barnes, the original organiser. The event would be held from November 21–24, 2025, at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, with Corps activities like those of previous years. Details will be finalised by 26 Mar 25, and flyers will be distributed soon.

68. The RSA Admin Asst encouraged anyone fit enough to participate in Tough Mudder events, half marathons, or marathons to choose the Royal Signals Charity when signing up through Run for Charity, as the charity had partnered with them for fundraising.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to sign up to Run for Charity and choose the RSC when completing running fundraisers.

69. The Ops Mgr informed members that the RSC Fundraising Mgr would be distributing a marketing survey next week to gather feedback on how to improve the Corps' fundraising efforts. Members were asked to complete the survey to help enhance the marketing plan.

- a. **Action – Branches** to encourage their members to complete the fundraising survey.

70. The Gen Sec reiterated that the Corps Col will be moving on later this year, and the committee expressed gratitude for his support over the past couple of years. The Corps Col is expected to be present at the next Central Committee meeting but will not be at the AGM in 2026.

71. The Asst Gen Sec extended thanks to all members who had welcomed Gwen Pettigrew back into the association, notably the Riders, Liverpool and the Cardiff branches.

72. The Gen Sec thanked all speakers, participants, and those attending both in-person and online for their support and engagement. The date for the next Annual General Meeting was confirmed as Saturday, 14 Mar 26, at the Victory Services Club, London.

Item 11: Date of Next Meeting

- a. **Decision** – *The date of the next Annual General Meeting is 14 Mar 26 and will be held in the Victory Services Club, London.*

T C Muers
RSA Ops Mgr
(Original Signed)

Action:
RSA Branches

Info:
Corps Col
Dep Corps Col
Corps SM
COS
Corps Adjt
Corps Col PA
Area Reps
Ops Mgr
RSA AA
WO2 Morris
WO2 Brand