



Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday 15th March 2025
Victory Services Club, London /
Virtual



AGENDA

THE 80th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING **ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION**

VICTORY SERVICE CLUB, LONDON / VIRTUAL

15 MARCH 2025

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

Annex

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

ITEM 2 – 79TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

3. To approve the minutes of the 79th RSA AGM held on 16 March 2024.
4. Actions Arising.

A

ITEM 3 – HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

5. General Secretary's Report.
6. General Secretary's Financial Update
7. Assistant General Secretary's Report.
8. Administrative Officer's Report.
9. Corps Update.

B

C

D

E

ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

10. Awards

Admin Offr

F

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Any Other Business.
12. Date of the next Annual General Meeting as **Sat 14 Mar 26.**



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Reference: HQ R SIGNALS RSA AGM

See Distribution:

Date: 19th March 2024

RECORD OF DECISIONS AND ACTIONS OF THE 79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION, HELD VIRTUALLY, ON THE 16 MAR 24.

Present:	Maj Gen D McDowall CBE	Chair RSA
	Col N Bruce ADC	Corps Col
	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
	WO1 (RSM) A Jarman	Corps SM Des
	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 P Osment	Area 5
	Mr M Nevill	Area Rep NI
	Mr R Jephcote	Area Rep Scotland
	Mrs T Muers	RSA AO / Mtg Sec
	Ms S Harler	RSA AA
	WO1 Dave Bates	21 Sig Regt
	Association Branch Representatives	Various
Apologies:	Mr Gwyn Phillips	Area Rep Wales

Discussions / *Decisions* / *Actions*

Item 1 Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the 79th Annual General Meeting by affirming the sensible approach to holding the meeting online due to financial restrictions. The Chair asked all members to join him in a round of applause to celebrate the formal recognition of the Master of Signals, General Dame Sharon Nesmith on her appointment as Dame Commander of the Order of Bath and for her continued work for the Corps and the Army. The Chair also thanked the Area Representatives and the branches for their continued work for the Association.
2. The Chair paid tribute to the outgoing Corps SM, WO1 Paul Steel for his tireless work during his tenure in strengthening the bond between the 3R's, the Regular, the Reserve and the Retired and for his work alongside the Corps Colonel, Corps Colonel Reserves, the Corps

Secretary, and units throughout the Corps building relationships and promoting Corp ethos. The Chair stated that WO1 Steel's contribution to the Corps was recently recognized as he was presented with an RSA Honour Award, which was particularly poignant as the recommendation for this award came from a number of RSA Area Representatives which demonstrated the respect he had gained from the Association. The Chair thanked him for his work and wished him the best for his new posting in America. The Chair then welcomed WO1 Steel's successor WO1 Alicia Jarman who would take over in May and be a tremendous asset to the Corps.

Item 2: 78th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Signals Association

1. The RSA AO presented the minutes from the 78th Annual General Meeting.

*a. **Decision** – The minutes from the 78th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate representation of the previous meeting.*

2. The RSA AO covered the actions from the previous meeting.

*a. **Decision** – All actions from the previous meeting had been covered in the HQ reports or closed apart from one. Providing Area Reps with funeral drapes which would be reconsidered at a later time due to financial affordability.*

Item 3: Headquarters' Reports

Gen Sec's Report

1. The Gen Sec opened his report reviewing last year's strategic review of RSTL board business and the 15 recommendations which they had been working hard to implement throughout the year. He confirmed that the recommendations had been fully implemented or classed as business-as-usual rendering the review closed in terms of further action. He confirmed the recommendations implemented would ensure the Charity was run more efficiently.

2. The Gen Sec stated that later in the meeting AGM members would be asked to vote on two nominations for Area Representatives, David Whimpenny for Area 2 South, and Wayne Broadhurst for the Wales Area. The Gen Sec stated that the Headquarters team were hugely grateful for the contribution that both of the current Area Reps had made and confirmed that Gwyn Phillips would be stepping down, but Michael Nevill would remain the Area Rep for Northern Ireland.

3. The Gen Sec confirmed the recent interest in association members overseas opening branches, highlighting the recent addition of a Fiji Branch. He confirmed that due to this there would be a minor, but important change reflected in the PD in respect of prohibitive expenses for branch committee members to attend the AGM from overseas.

*a. **Action – Gen Sec** to amend PD 155 to reflect expenses for branch committee members attendance at the AGM is only available to UK based branches. However, overseas branches can attend meetings virtually.*

4. The Gen Sec confirmed said section of the PD which could currently be interpreted to state that any nominations for Area Reps must be a member of a branch in that area. The Gen Sec declared as Michael Nevill stepped in as interim Area Rep for Area 2S successfully, it proved that although it

would be best for an Area Rep to be nominated from a branch in the area, this should not prohibit members volunteering as Area Rep outside the residing area.

a. *Decision – AGM content that Area Reps do not need to be a Branch member within the area they are representing.*

b. *Action – Gen Sec to amend PD 155 to reflect this.*

5. The Gen Sec highlighted the publication of the Etherton Review which was conducted to address the implications on service personnel who were wrongly discharged from the forces due to their sexuality between 1967 and 2000. He detailed the measures the MOD have taken after the publication of the Etherton Review and confirmed that Corps HQs will be collaborating with the MOD addressing these measures. The Gen Sec stated that the Association should clearly address the fact that the previous handling of this was wrong and that the Association should accept anyone who was discharged under those circumstances with open arms.

a. *Action – All Members to convey the message to their branches that the discharge of personnel in this manner was completely wrong and anyone who experienced this must be accepted into branches without discrimination.*

6. The Gen Sec announced Corps Weekend 2024 would be held in a similar fashion as last year and confirmed that there would be ample accommodation for people wishing to travel to Blandford to attend. He also highlighted the Summer Sales Festival which will be held in Kemble on the 9th – 11th August, Project Centurion: the Catterick Centenary celebration, held on the 12th July, and Project Noel which would be reorganised as a full weekend this year after the scaled down event last year, which will be held earlier than planned on the 15th – 17th November 2024.

a. *Action – Members to encourage their branches to attend all events detailed either through the Royalsignals.org website or by the individual event sites.*

7. The Gen Sec stated that he hoped the AGM would be in person next year after the disruption of the last two years and confirmed that further details would be released later in the year.

8. The Gen Sec offered some background on the financial situation that the Charity had experienced over the last couple of years, considering the turmoil of the markets during this period. He affirmed the turmoil of the markets combined with war in Europe made the global market difficult to navigate but confirmed that the RSTL board were taking positive measures such as the movement of funds into cash holdings with higher interest accounts. He continued to say that despite the turmoil the Charity had done well over the last year compared to many other military charities. The Gen Sec confirmed that over the last ten years the Charity had a 6% return on average and said that this was positive.

9. The Gen Sec confirmed the Royal Signals Charity Board made the decision not to cut charity spending and announced a huge increase in support to benevolence in 2023, which showed the Charity continued to provide financial assistance when needed. He then stated that benevolence in 2024 was up by nearly 50% and was equal to pre-covid levels but asked members to continue signposting people who required assistance to the Charity.

a. *Action – Members to continue to encourage anyone who requires assistance to contact the Charity for help.*

10. The Gen Sec asserted that the £35000 grant to the Army Benevolence Fund yielded a return of over £80,0000 back to the Association stating that it continued to be a positive outlay from the Charity. He also confirmed his continued dedication to increasing the income generated by the One Day's Pay Scheme, but remarked that there had been a gradual increase over the last two years after a decline in the last six years. The Gen Sec concluded his report by reinforcing the need for donations for the Charity and encouraged members to continue to support the Charity by fundraising and donations where possible.

a. Action – Members to continue to remember the Charity when conducting fundraising.

Assistant General Secretary's Report

1. The Asst Gen Sec delivered the benevolence update and highlighted the main areas of expenditure being mobility and housing. He confirmed grants for housing and properties repairs had increased significantly over the last year. He noted that benevolence assistance to the serving Corps was predominantly granted to meet the need during marriage break ups, including the relocation of spouses/partners, while the retired community need focused on house modifications for injuries or conditions. The Asst Gen Sec confirmed the Charity increase of individual support had risen to £1750 from £1500 previously. He also noted the misinformation that individuals receiving support from other charities were unaware that part of the grant was funded by the Royal Signals Charity and confirmed that this had been addressed to increase awareness and promote the Charity where possible.

2. The Asst Gen Sec conveyed the assistance the Corps provides to the families of serving members who pass away while in service. He affirmed the Corps dedication to supporting these families by stating that a payment of £1500 is paid to assist the family with any expenses in the immediate period after, whilst endeavouring to support the family for years after. The Asst Gen Sec sadly announced that four families had been supported this way over the last year.

3. The Asst Gen Sec detailed the affiliations he was currently representing and thanked them for their input to the Central Committee Meeting and AGM.

4. The Assistant Gen Sec announced the RSA Roadshow would be held between 7th – 11th October 2024 and would be visiting the following locations:

- Bulford/Tidworth
- York
- Glasgow
- Stafford
- Chicksands
- Aldershot
- London
- Corsham/Colerne
- Blandford (Virtual)

Admin Offr's Report

1. The RSA AO confirmed the admin office arranged the representation of over 760 members at events over the course of the year. She detailed the uplift in allocation granted for the Cenotaph Parade from 50 to 60 places but was disappointed that only 30 members attended the event. The RSA AO urged members to only apply for a place at the parade if they could attend to ensure the Association is represented fully at the event.

a. Action – Members to only apply for the Cenotaph parade if they are available to attend.

2. The RSA AO sadly confirmed the death of over 350 Association members of the year and stated the RSA AA had supported approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of these. She also confirmed there had been 230 applications to join the Association over this period and that the updated membership lists would be forwarded to branches from April onwards. The RSA AO was pleased to announce there had been no branch closures over the year, but two branches (Tayside and Firth and West London) had switched to affiliation status. She remarked that a few new branches were being implemented (Colerne and Fiji).

3. The RSA AO confirmed the roll out of Veterans ID cards was available to all veterans and this would suffice to attend Association gatherings. She stated that the RSA membership card would no longer be issued to new memberships with immediate effect. The RSA AO offered assistance to veterans who required information on how to apply for the veterans' card.

4. The RSA AO reaffirmed the success of the Signallers Network by stating since it became available to requests for help last month, 5 people had already been assisted. She asked the members to note the new email to request assistance from the network (SOS@royalsignals.org) and urged anyone who needed help to get in touch. She also encouraged more members to sign up to become volunteers via the SOS section of the website Royalsignals.org.

5. The RSA AO confirmed that she was trying to assist members who struggled using the online booking system make payments for Corps Weekend.

(Secretary's afternote: The RSA admin office is now available to take payments over the phone for Corps Weekend. If you need to make a payment, please get in touch.)

Corps Update

1. The Corps Col confirmed he had been in post for approximately a year and that the pressures of the Corps remained the same as last year. He stated that the overarching challenges remain with recruitment and retention, with recruitment Corps wide being low, correlating with the buoyance in the employment market particularly in areas such as Comms. The Corps Col countered that by saying Officer recruitment in the Corps was growing, however retention of Officers was a challenge, again due to the pull of outside industry recruiting DE and LE captains into civilian jobs. The Corps Col stated that it had come to the personal attention of the Chief of the General Staff which was welcomed to identify why people were leaving and how it could be rectified.

2. The Corps Col confirmed the Corps continues to lead in technical innovation, technical interoperability with the United States, while continuing to lead on concept development across the Army in terms of fighting future wars. He stated that the Corps was deploying globally, both on operations and exercises more frequently while working alongside the Reserves. He affirmed the Corps had led the international cyber exercise: Defence Cyber Marvel, while continuing to excel in

sport by becoming Army champions, British champions and European champions across a number of sports.

3. The Corps Col acknowledged the growth of integration between the serving and retired Corps lead by the Corps SM and praised the inclusion of retired members at events such as Mercury Knowledge stating that it was hugely positive for the Corps as a whole.

4. The Corps SM detailed the number of changes to the cap badge after the recent coronation. He stated that due to the changes of the design since the coronation, he had noticed some members were still using the initial cap badge change which had been amended and encouraged members to use the current version. The Corps SM confirmed that the admin office can provide members with the correct version of cap badge to be used.

5. The Corps SM reflected on his tenure and reiterated that although the Corps had progressed over time, the soldiers of today still had the same issues as the retired cohort when they were serving, but the declaration from the Corps was to continue to support its soldiers serving and retired.

6. The Corps SM reflected on commencing his tenure that one of the areas he aspired to develop was strengthening the bonds between the serving and retired and reflected that by opening communications between both cohorts he confirmed the network was strong. He reaffirmed the need to continue this work when he leaves by involving the retired community in Corps events. He also spoke about the Royal Signals Mentoring Scheme with a view to involving the retired community in the future.

7. The Corps SM praised the work of the branches and the standard bearers and persuaded the members to utilise the social media pages to celebrate and promote the work that the Association does, with a view to influence and potentially gain more members into the Association. He announced his aspiration to have every standard bearer attend Corps Weekend to promote the Association.

8. The Corps SM praised the appointment of the Corps' WO1 John Miller as the next Army SM and introduced WO1 Alicia Jarman as the next Corps SM stating that she would be fantastic at driving the network and appointment forward. He also announced a new position of Corps SM Reserves and stated that this would be filled by WO1 Regina Cullumbine of 71 Signal Regt.

9. WO1 Dave Bates gave a presentation on the development of 21 Signal Regt as it re-rolled from supporting Army brigades to the Army's second Electronic Warfare regiment and announced the implementation of a new RSA branch in Colerne. The presentation was warmly received by the AGM.

Item 4 Matters Arising

1. The Gen Sec put to a vote the appointment of David Whimpenny for Area 2 South and Wayne Broadhurst for Wales.

*a. **Decision** – The AGM confirmed appointment of both David Whimpenny and Wayne Broadhurst as Area Rep 2 S and Area Rep Wales respectively.*

2. The Corps SM awarded the Chair his fifty year award for continued service to the Corps and Association. The RSA AO announced that over the course of the year 91 awards had been granted to RSA members.

- a. **Decision** – The following awards were approved by the Central Committee in February 2024:

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
Maj Gen David McDowall CBE
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 Rodger – 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

Item 5 Any Other Business

1. The Gen Sec announced the implementation of a partnership between the RSA and Trinity Insurance Services. He stated that Trinity had been providing insurance to the Army for around 25 years and that they were branching out to provide support to veterans. He confirmed that RSA members would get preferential rates on Trinity Insurance products and that offer would be added to the members area of the website in coming weeks.

2. The Gen Sec urged branch members to inform Corps Headquarters of any initiatives they have to enable us to communicate this with other branches and to share best practice.

- a. **Action** – Branches to inform Corps Headquarters what is working and what is not in their branches to share best practice with other branches.

3. The Chair announced his upcoming visits for the next few months and reiterated the importance of meeting in person for events such as the AGM. He confirmed his desire for the AGM to be in person next year and would confirm details when known. He praised the work of members who engage regularly at area or branch level and affirmed that the Corps family is healthy, while praising the service of the Colonel in Chief for her continued advocacy of the Corps.

Date of Next Meeting

- a. **Decision** – The date of the next Annual General Meeting is 15 Mar 25 and location will be confirmed at a later date.

T C Muers
RSA AO
(Original Signed)

Action
Corps Sec
RSA Members

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



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

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 26 Feb 25

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 80th RSA AGM – 15 Mar 25

INTRODUCTION

1. The Controller of the RSTL Board recently briefed the Corps Executive Board that the Charity was operating in a “challenging but manageable” environment. Despite global efforts to derail the money markets, our income and investments do still seem to be holding up reasonably well (so far!) thanks to the considerable efforts of the Charity Board. With that as a backdrop, we are hopefully also looking at a more positive year for the Association from a financial perspective, with a reduced pressure on us to make savings, which had clearly impacted on activity levels in 2024. I think that we can all be proud of the contribution that the Association made last year to helping deliver that more positive financial outlook whilst still delivering across all areas of our Association, locally, regionally or nationally. I am clearly also delighted to be reporting that the more positive financial environment has also allowed us to hold the AGM ‘in person’ again this year.

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.

SUCCESSION PLAN FOR THE MASTER OF SIGNALS

3. I recently wrote to all Area Reps and branches to inform them that the Master of Signals, General Dame Sharon Nesmith DCB ADC Gen, would be standing down as Master at Corps Weekend 2025 after 5 years as the Master and would be handing over to Major General PR Griffiths CB. Historically, our Corps has been extremely generous in raising funds to provide a leaving gift for our Masters and, as Dame Sharon has been a huge supporter of the Association, I would hope that our branches would be equally happy to contribute to a leaving gift for her.

Any donations from individuals or branches for the Master's leaving gift should be forwarded to Corps HQ by 30 Apr 25.

NOMINATIONS FOR AREA REPRESENTATIVES

4. At the last AGM we confirmed Area nominations for Area 2 South (David Whimpenny) and for Wales (Wayne Broadhurst). Unfortunately, for different reasons, neither nomination was able to take up their roles and the Central Committee had to act 'out of committee' to ensure that the two areas had cover. In Area 2 South, Mick Neville (the previous Area Rep) kindly stepped back in to cover the area. In Wales, Barry Doughty from the Cardiff and South Wales Branch has agreed to cover the area until either Wayne is available to resume his responsibilities or until another volunteer is found. My thanks and those of the Central Committee go to both Mick and Barry for stepping in to cover the areas.

The AGM is requested to note that both areas have temporary cover for their Area Representatives and are requested to seek volunteers from within their Branches to ensure permanent covers are found.

5. **Area 1 North.** Iain Scrivin, the Area Rep for Area 1 North, confirmed last year that he intended to stand down at the end of his tenure and I am delighted to inform the AGM that Bill White has volunteered to cover the Area responsibilities. Bill is no stranger to the Central Committee having covered the responsibilities of Area Rep some years ago. As he was the only volunteer from the Area and, as Iain had requested to stand down with immediate effect, the Central Committee agreed to Bill stepping in early. Bill attended his first Central Committee meeting last month and has already started to engage with the branches across his area.

The AGM is therefore requested to retrospectively endorse Bill White as Area Rep for Area 1 North.

6. **Area 2 North.** Bob Taylor decided last month that, after more than 10 years in post, he intended to stand down as Area Rep with immediate effect. He had already stayed on far longer than he had intended due to a lack of volunteers to succeed him, but that enough was now enough. The Central Committee has already passed on its sincere thanks to Bob for the commitment he has shown to the Association and agreed to his immediate resignation from the post. As I am required to do, I have already written to all Branches within the area to ask for volunteers to succeed Bob but, to date, disappointingly I have not had a nomination. Thankfully, Ian Thomson from the Liverpool Branch has kindly agreed to step in temporarily to cover the gap and the Central Committee were extremely grateful for his offer.

The AGM is requested to note the temporary cover being provided for Area 2 North and the branches within the area are requested to encourage volunteers to come forward as soon as possible.

THE FUTURE OF THE BRANCH STRUCTURE

7. The Central Committee discussed the future of the Branch structure when it met in Feb 25. Footfall into branches continues to reduce and this trend is being seen across all Associations as the numbers of veterans continues to fall nationally. Many Associations have already stopped supporting the traditional geographically based branch structure. Our intent is to continue to support our branches and to do what we can to improve footfall but it can only be achieved with your support. Measures discussed by the Central Committee include:

a. Working more closely with other Associations within an area to ensure branches remain open. Our Signal Regiments are multi-capbadge organisations but our Associations do not seem to follow the same model. Consideration should therefore be given to inviting other capbadges along to meetings if it allows branches to remain viable.

b. Greater integration between the serving and retired Corps. Where possible, engagement between the serving and retired Corps should be developed. This has already allowed two new branches to start up and has ensured that some branches remain open but it is acknowledged that the footprint of the serving Corps does not always allow for this interaction.

c. A flexible approach to Branch meetings. Some branches have changed times and locations for their meetings to great effect. For example, many working veterans cannot attend meetings at lunch time so providing an evening option allows more to attend.

d. Active communication to attract new members. The days of veterans walking into branches are long gone. Engaging with veterans within a Branch area through email has proved successful in some areas. Hopefully Branches are aware that Corps HQ can provide 'heat maps' for branches which produces a list of veterans within a specific area and their contact details, allowing engagement locally to encourage more to attend.

8. The Central Committee acknowledge that our branches are run by volunteers and, as you are all aware, we have been trying to reduce the burden on branches over the last few years. So it may seem counter-intuitive to now be asking our branch representatives to do more. But, without this engagement at a local level to encourage more to attend, Branches will continue to close as we have sadly seen over the last few years. Our Association is there to provide camaraderie to all Signallers and our branches are key to delivering this. It is for that reason that we now need branches to take a more active involvement in attracting Signallers in. Many are doing this to great effect already for which the Central Committee are extremely grateful.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS WEBSITE

9. Work on the website continues (www.royalsignals.org). We are updating the site with information on fundraising and leaving a 'Gift in a Will' and we have continued to develop the 'Members Offers' page. The most recent post being with All Arms PRI, a company run by an ex-Signaller who produces an incredible range of tailored products from presentation gifts to clothing with personalised or Association branded goods. All Arms PRI have very generously agreed to donate at least 10% of all sales to the Royal Signals Charity, so everyone is encouraged to take a look and purchase Association or Branch products through them.

10. The Central Committee is also looking at developing the way Association information is displayed on the website. Many branches still do not use their pages on the site as they have their own social media platforms, so much of their information is now out of date. The intent is now to produce a more 'regionally focussed' page based on the Association areas,

and, picking up on the previous point about attracting new members, hopefully the site will incorporate links to the relevant Branch social media sites. The Asst Gen Sec is leading on this work in conjunction with the Central Committee.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY

11. Now that the RSTL Board has hopefully developed their investment objectives for the charity's portfolio and support for the One Day's Pay has been taken up by more Signallers than we have had in many years, our focus is now turning to increasing income from fundraising. Historically, this has not been an area of income that the charity has pushed but it is very clear that Signallers, both serving and retired, are raising huge amounts of money for charities and it seems only right that we try to ensure that our charity is not forgotten. After all, Charity begins at home! I would therefore urge all Branches to think about their own charity when planning fundraising events.

12. With that in mind and building on the huge success of #100 for 100 during our Centenary year, we will shortly be launching 'The 105 Challenge' in what is now our 105th anniversary. It would be great to get our retired community behind this fundraising initiative and I would kindly ask you all to do what you can to get people motivated to take part. More information on how you can get involved will be issued very shortly.

SINGLE CAPBADGE ASSOCIATION NETWORK

13. Some years ago the Single Capbadge Associations Network (SCAN) was set up to both share best practice across the Associations and to influence National policy makers on veterans' affairs. It was an excellent initiative which grew rapidly and started to catch the eye of the Office for Veterans Affairs, Cobseo and organisations such as the ABF. Unfortunately, in the last year or two, SCAN had slightly lost its way but the HQ team recently attended a meeting aimed at revitalising this network. There was strong buy-in from several Associations and we are hoping that it will once again become an influential think tank. If you have any issues/points that you would like the HQ team to take to SCAN, particularly if they are pan-capbadge, please just let us know.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EVENTS DURING 2025

14. As ever, here are the key 'National' events over the next few months:

- a. **Eden Camp - 18 May 25.** As ever, co-run by the Area Reps from 1 North and 1 South if further information is required.
- b. **Founders Day, Royal Hospital Chelsea - 3 Jun 25.** Association access to Founder's Day is being run slightly differently this year. We will actually be invited to the Governor's Parade on Tue 3 Jun 25. Many of you will remember attending this parade during the COVID years. The advantage of attending on this day rather than the actual Founder's Day event 2 days later is that our in-Pensioners are able to spend more time with us following the parade as they will not have families and friends to host. Requests to attend this prestigious parade should be forwarded to the Association Admin Officer.

- c. **Corps Weekend - 20/22 Jun 25.** This year's event will include the handover of the Master of Signals and I am delighted to report that accommodation should be available once again at the scale seen last year.
- d. **Summer Sales Festival, Kemble – 8/10 Aug 25.** The third iteration of this excellent and growing festival. Tickets available from summer-sales.org
- e. **Autumn Central Committee Meeting – 5 Sep 25.** The Autumn CCM will be held in the evening of Fri 5 Sep 25 and will precede the Corps Memorial Day at the NMA.
- f. **Corps Service of Remembrance, NMA – 6 Sep 25.**

15. As usual, all information/updates for these events and those toward the end of the year will be posted on our RSA webpage (www.royalsignals.org).

SUMMARY

16. There continues to be a lot going on and I thank you all for remaining engaged to promote comradeship across the Association. Looking ahead, our main worry remains supporting the branch structure by increasing membership at a local and national level. With your help, I am sure that we can address the worrying trend of a reducing membership.

Certa Cito

{Signed on MODNet}

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



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Reference: 04-17-03

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Date: 26 Feb 25

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE TO THE RSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING –
15 MARCH 2025**

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, the Corps Colonel and myself; your interests are, therefore, well represented.
3. There are 2 elements to the budget and these are extracts from the full RSC Outcome 2024 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 2023 which shows what we received and spent that year – purely as a comparison.
 - b. The Budget 2024 which shows what we thought we were going to receive and spend last year.
 - c. The Outcome 2024 which is what we actually spent and received last year and reflects the figures provided to our auditors.
 - d. The Budget 2025 which shows the financial targets set for this year.
5. The remaining columns are budget forecasts out to 2028 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 2024 and you can see that we spent **£290,238** in that period on **404** 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 down on 2023 (by about 21%); we are not sure why this was so but other Corps charities have had a similar experience. Looking forward, we have assumed a spend of £350,000 in the 2025 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 2024. This money enables the ABF to pick up various requests which the RSC might otherwise have to cover. The ABF actually gave **£73,797** supporting **77** Signallers in need. The rest of the 'expenditure entries' are, hopefully, self-explanatory.

(3) **Total Grants.** The total grant outcome for 2024 was **£340,532**, which is a **decrease** on 2023 of circa £90K or 21%.

b. **Income.**

(1) **Subscriptions.** The subscriptions from "One Day's Pay" giving remain the main direct income for our benevolence. In 2024 we received **£293,191** which, as mandated by KRs (formerly QRs), represents 50% of a day's pay income from the serving Corps. I am delighted to report that this figure is about 10% 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. In 2024 **£47,341** 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 **£58,169** from various donations (branches, individuals, lottery income, fundraising, etc) and **£10,861** from legacies throughout the year. Branch donations were up by nearly 50% on 2023. 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 **£82,258** in 2024.

8. **Benevolence/Welfare Conclusion.** Our overall 2024 expenditure on welfare was **£422,790**, a reduction on 2023 driven primarily by the downturn in benevolence support.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – DONATIONS & VETERANS

9. The following should be noted:

a. **Investment Income and Gains.** In 2024 some major changes in our investments took place in an effort to maximise our total return, without taking undue risks. We therefore should look at the totals of income and gains to gauge the overall performance. The total investment return for 2024 was **£475,676** (97,834 + 377,842) which is an 87% increase on 2023 which showed £255,147. The turmoil in global markets caused by wars and changes in governments has continued to affect our investments, and there is no room for complacency. The RSTL Board is working 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 2023 at **£143,605**, an increase of just under 7% on 2023.

CONCLUSION ON THE 2024 FINANCIAL SITUATION

10. The overall result for 2024 was a transfer of £240,694 to 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 2025 and beyond. This volatile environment was summarised by the Controller of the RSTL Board at the last Corps Executive Board as being “challenging but manageable”. But the measures taken by the RSA in 2024 to reduce expenditure has certainly added to the improving financial picture.

LEGACIES / GIFTS IN WILLS / IN MEMORY DONATIONS

11. There have been a few instances recently of incorrect terminology leading to confusion about the legal status of funds paid to the Royal Signals Charity. An RSA branch recently contacted us regarding a large donation in memory of someone who had recently died. However, a large part, if not all, of this was a legacy. Another RSA branch let us know that a legacy was coming to us, but it transpired that this was “in memory” donations given at a funeral.

12. Why does this matter?

a. A legacy (also known as a Gift in a Will) is a donation from a deceased person under the terms of their will. Their representatives (executors) have a legal responsibility to apply for “probate” and to carry out the terms of the will; they could be personally sued for any mistakes. It is therefore a good idea for someone with a legal or finance background to be involved. Legacies cannot attract Gift Aid.

b. Donations “In Memory” come from the family and friends of the deceased person, perhaps at the funeral or wake. The organiser will decide how any collection is to be applied, possibly guided by the will, and frequently with the assistance of the funeral directors. These donations can attract Gift Aid.

13. We are of course very grateful for any funds from whatever source but we have legal responsibilities to ensure that they are correctly dealt with. The donors also have legal responsibilities. If there are any doubts when sending through these donations then please just check with the Corps Accountant first so that the donation can be properly and legally accounted for.

THE CHARITABLE STATUS OF BRANCH BANK ACCOUNTS

14. We have recently had a few Branches contacting us to point out that their local bank was starting to apply charges to their account and asked for advice on their status as part of the Royal Signals Charity. After taking legal advice on this, I’m afraid that the answer is that our Branches are

independent of the charity – as you are all aware – and that means that, from a legal perspective, Branches are not part of the charity.

15. For those of you who may be going through this discussion with your bank, the legal advice is to ensure that your bank is aware that, under the rules of the RSA you are a recognised branch, and that the RSA is a registered charity (charity no. 284923-1) and that your purpose is to support the charitable objects of that charity. This approach has worked to date.

{Original Signed}

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

Attachment:

1. Royal Signals Association Outcome 2024 – Welfare and Donations & Veterans.

Outcome 2024**Welfare**

	OUTCOME 2023	BUDGET 2024		OUTCOME 2024		BUDGETS 2025	2026	2027	2028
Grant Expenditure									
Benevolence Grants	374,815	370,000	1	290,238	1	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Grants, etc									
Army Benevolent Fnd	35,000	35,000		35,000		35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Central Committee	7,750	7,500		8,500		8,500	8,500	8,500	8,500
Other	-	500		-		500	500	500	500
Funeral Expenses	2,198	1,000		794		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unit - Death in Service grants	10,500	3,000		6,000		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Welfare Grants	430,263	417,000		340,532		398,000	398,000	398,000	398,000
Income									
Corps Subscriptions									
50% of a day's pay	265,862	262,383	2	293,191	2	293,210	293,210	293,210	293,210
Veterans Fund	164,401	154,617		47,341		104,790	104,790	104,790	104,790
	430,263	417,000		340,532		398,000	398,000	398,000	398,000
Support Costs									
Welfare Grants Officer	46,432	46,700		46,957		46,000	46,000	46,000	46,000
General expenses	16	1,000		-		250	250	250	250
Shared Costs	31,701	36,360		35,301		37,260	35,010	35,010	35,010
Welfare Support Costs	78,149	84,060		82,258		83,510	81,260	81,260	81,260
funded by Donations & Veterans									
Total Expenditure	508,412	501,060		422,790		481,510	479,260	479,260	479,260

NOTES

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

Outcome 2024
Donations and Veterans

	OUTCOME 2023	BUDGET 2024		OUTCOME 2024		BUDGETS 2025	2026	2027	2028
Income									
Donations									
Individuals	37,556			27,755					
Lottery	5,541			6,244					
Branches	5,800			8,858					
Units	2,135			2,880					
Just Giving + web sources	18,414			12,432					
	69,446	60,000		58,169		50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Legacies	9,822	10,000		10,861		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Routine Income	79,268	70,000		69,030		60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Transfer to Corps Fund	(39,634)	(35,000)	1	(34,515)	1	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)	(30,000)
Legacies to "RSA"	16,908	-		3,708		-	-	-	-
Investment Income	143,889	134,337		97,834		72,071	71,920	71,726	71,535
Invest. Gains/(Losses)	81,258	22,542		377,842		223,380	222,817	222,338	221,830
	281,689	191,879		513,899		325,451	324,738	324,064	323,365
Expenditure									
Corps Weekend	16,702	18,000	2	19,892		20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%	(8,351)	(9,000)		(9,946)	2	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)	(11,000)
Memorials & Events			2						
NMA Memorial	9,023	8,000		13,112		12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Morale & Efficiency 50%	(4,512)	(4,000)		(6,556)	2	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
Other	420	700		6,680		4,550	4,550	4,550	4,550
Branch Support	100	1,000		845		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
AGM & other meetings	4,126	2,000		(1,565)		9,200	9,200	9,200	9,200
Support Costs									
RSA Secretary + Asst	62,527	62,600		64,092		62,600	65,200	65,200	67,900
Insurance	1,150	1,200		1,148		1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Travel & General expenses	10,283	7,000		8,835		7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Shared Costs	42,267	48,480		47,068		49,680	46,680	46,680	46,680
	133,736	135,980		143,605		150,230	149,830	149,830	152,530
Surplus / (Deficit)	147,953	55,899		370,294		175,221	174,908	174,234	170,835
Welfare Grants	164,401	154,617		47,341		104,790	104,790	104,790	104,790
Welfare Support Costs	78,149	84,060		82,258		83,510	81,260	81,260	81,260
	242,550	238,677		129,599		188,300	186,050	186,050	186,050
Balance to/(from) Capital	(94,596)	(182,778)		240,694		(13,079)	(11,142)	(11,816)	(15,215)

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 Ffund 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

15 March 2025

1. **Benevolence 2024.**

From 01 January to the 31 December 2024 the RSC awarded 404 grants to past and present members of the Corps totalling £310,883.00p.

59 of these grants were awarded to serving regular members of the Corps totalling £33,607.94p.

2 serving reservists and 29 retired reservists were supported with grants totalling £15,843.52p.

The majority of the grants awarded were used for debt relief and the provision of household items.

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. Unfortunately 5 soldiers died in service during 2024.

3. **Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) – The Soldiers Charity.**

RSC gave the ABF a grant of £35,000 in 2024 which they use to give donations to military charities on our behalf.

In return the Army Benevolent Fund through almonisation with the RSC supported 77 grants. 73 were for retired members of the Corps and 4 were for serving members of the Corps. The total worth of the grants awarded was £73,796.69p.

In addition, the Army Benevolent Fund stepped in on our behalf with 4 x Nursing Home Fees and 1 x annuity totalling £21,164.00p as annuities and nursing home fees are not with the RSC's remit to support.

4. **Area Rep for National Affiliations.**

- Memberships – Many of our National Affiliations are linked to units that have closed in the past and as such there is no fresh members coming through the door. Eventually these Affiliations will cease to exist, as such many of these Affiliations have started to come together which is great to see.
- Events – The National Affiliations are meeting 2 or 3 times a year with high turnouts, they are also fully committed to supporting other RSA events such as, Corps Weekend, Eden Camp, Founders Day and the Service of Remembrance at the NMA at Alrewas in Staffordshire. In addition, many of our affiliation members turned out at the Cenotaph this year proudly marching with the Royal Signals and other contingents and supported the RSA Roadshow.
- Visits – Not been invited to any unfortunately.
- Awards / Recognition – We have had a few members recognised for their ongoing support to the Corps.

5. **Branch Pages on the Royal Signals Website.**

- Potential changes to the layout of the site, bringing branches into a regional view. Is ongoing with the Corps HQ Comms and Media Team.

Steve

S M LOCKWOOD
Lt Col (Retd)



HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

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RSA Annual General Meeting Members

Reference: AGM/25

Date: 03 March 2025

Admin Officers Report to the 80th Annual General Meeting – 15th March 2025

Introduction

1. This report covers the performance and key achievements during the last 12 months. Over this period, we have focussed on meeting our main objective of promoting camaraderie between the serving and retired Corps, while continuing to deliver events, and ensuring the Association is well represented at National events. In addition, we have continued to develop and assist our branches, and commenced work to expand and develop the SOS network.

Delivery

2. During this reporting period we have arranged the representation of 1,625 Association members at events such as Founders Day, Corps Weekend and Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph. I am saddened to announce the reported deaths of approximately 163 members, with around ¾ of those receiving some support from the Admin Office. In this annual period, there have been 455 new membership requests, which shows a growth of nearly 50% on the previous year. The social media pages are continuing to grow with nearly 934 members on Facebook and nearly 591 on Instagram. Currently, 140 volunteers have signed up to the Supporting Our Signallers scheme, and we have received 13 requests for help, both from the serving and retired community.

3. Visiting our members is a crucial part of our work and in the last year we have been continuing to connect with our members. We have attended the following:

- Corsham – Briefing the retired and serving community in conjunction with the Royal Signals Institute
- Royal Hospital Chelsea – Delivering Christmas grants
- Summer Sales
- Project Noel
- Fiji Day
- Eastbourne Annual Dinner
- Ex Mercury Knowledge
- Peterborough Branch

Information Update

4. Branch updates – The majority of branches are still meeting regularly, despite a decrease in members which has been felt Association wide. Spennymoor branch has requested to change to an affiliation, again due to declining membership. We are delighted to welcome the newly opened branches; Colerne, the Fijian branch and the Nepalese Branch.

5. Supporting Our Signallers Update – As reported earlier, the Supporting Our Signallers scheme has helped 13 of our members. In conjunction with the Corps Welfare Warrant Officer Huw “Taff” Morris, and WO2 Martin Brand, we are developing a training package for our volunteers and hope to be in a position to deliver this in the coming months. Additionally, a volunteer’s handbook has been drafted and we hope to finalise this soon. WO2 Martin Brand is one of the Army’s Mental Health Fitness Instructors and has been instrumental in supporting the scheme with mental health advice. He will join us at the meeting, should you have any questions for him.

Events

6. As stated in the Gen Sec’s report, Corps Weekend will be held on the 20-22nd June 2025. The format will remain the same as previous years and I am delighted to confirm that accommodation will be available for our members. Booking can only be made via the members area of the website (royalsignals.org).

Conclusion

7. It has been a fantastic year for the Association, and we continue to seek improvement where we can. We are excited to continue developing links with charities, other associations and closer to home, the Royal Signals Institution. As always, if you have any queries or suggestions, you can contact us via tracey.muers101@mod.gov.uk and RSA@royalsignals.org.

Tracey

T Muers
Royal Signals Association
Admin Officer



Awards

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

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

60 Year Awards

Ali Mohamed Abdulrahman – Dorset
Robert Clarke – Birmingham

Robert McLaren – Dorset

John Nicholson – Birmingham

Robert White - Darlington

Honour Awards

David Crowther - RHQ