

Dear All,

Happy New Year. I trust you are all well and had a marvellous festive season. Like my last update the first part of this email is aimed at branch secretaries so apologies for the wide distribution but I want to ensure no branches are missed. The second part is my latest update.

Part 1. Sincere thanks to all who have submitted your lists of current active branch members as at 1 Oct 17 in order to establish those that qualify for the free continued membership of the REME Association from 1 Apr 18. To remind you, as a one off gesture the Corps Colonel proposed that all active branch members of the REME Association i.e. those members with branch subs fully paid up as at 1 Oct 17, would not be required to pay the annual membership fee of £15 per annum. I am still diffy some branch lists so please trawl your branch records and pass the lists of your branch active membership as at 1 Oct 17 to me as soon as you can. This need only be a quick and dirty list of names and types of membership, which will give me some idea of the numbers that will qualify for free membership. Full individual details will be captured once I send to you the full GDPR compliant form which is awaiting approval. I will send it as soon as it is ready and I hope this will be before the end of the month.

Please warn everyone in your branches that it will be necessary for each member to complete a form giving individual details and permissions. These details are quite comprehensive I am afraid but it is a requirement of GDPR and we must comply or face the prospect of a heavy fine.

Part 2. A few things to update you on:

Fees. Thanks for your feedback regarding fees. A subscription to Craftsman magazine can be chosen within the new membership fee at an additional cost. The option to choose and pay a subscription will be included in the membership forms I mention above.

Fees will be kept under constant review and will certainly be re-assessed if an on-line version of the magazine becomes available.

Roadshows. The first Roadshow will be in Wales on 22 Feb 18 to coincide with the branch AGM. The Roadshows in Catterick and Tidworth will be arranged for later in the year and of course Mike Tizard, the Corps Secretary, Rachael Murphy, Hayley Bodman and I will all be available at the Association Weekend in April 2018. We are stood by to arrange further Roadshow events if demand is there.

Rules. You are all aware that our existing rules (The Jubilee Rules) date back to 1977 and are clearly due a review. The revised rules (The REME 75 Rules) have been approved by the REME Charity Trustees after minor amendments by the Committee Chair, Major General Stephen Andrews CBE. These will be sent out to you all in advance of our AGM at the REME Association Weekend in April to provide your opportunity to comment with the aim to publish as soon as possible following the Weekend. The Jubilee Rules are extant until such time as the REME 75 Rules are published.

These revised rules will need to be supported by a 'Handbook' or something similar which is on my list of things to do this year. There are many useful things that do not need to be a 'rule'.

Executive Committee Meeting. The next Executive Committee Meeting is Tue 20 Mar 18. Please pass points that you may wish to see raised to your Regional Reps in advance. As a reminder your Regional Rep should be your immediate point-of-contact for comms in both directions. Overseas branches should pass any points they wish to see raised directly to me.

SE & London Region. I am delighted to announce that Maj (Retd) Bob Hambly, a longstanding member of Arborfield branch and former Corps RO2 Welfare at RHQ in our Arborfield days, has been appointed Regional Rep for SE and London. Following my last email and application period, Bob has been appointed in an out of committee decision so that he can attend the 20 March meeting and thus ensure the region is represented.

New branches. A number of members based in the Wilts/Glos area near Lyneham are meeting next month to discuss opening a new branch here. WO1 (RSM) Chris Kipling, the MoD Lyneham RSM has kindly granted permission to use the Sgts' Mess facilities here to host meetings. If successfully launched, the branch will also serve as a non-geographical branch for all members that do not wish to formally join a branch in their area. This will be the 'St Eligius' branch and be on similar lines to the St James's branch of the RBL.

Professional Linkages. The Corps focal point for Professional Engineering Institutions (PEIs) is Lt Col (Retd) Dave White. Dave works here in Lyneham and is the Professional Registration Adviser (PRA) for serving REME personnel and exceptionally those within 2 years post discharge. Dave advises our officers and soldiers on their professional institution membership applications at all levels (Eng Tech, IEng and CEng) and has established strong links with the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS). The Society of Operational Engineers (SOE) has its own Military Committee but Dave can signpost the SOE as required. I am sure you will all understand that this fills his day but he is willing to advise all former members of the Corps on the merits and processes for PEI membership. The Corps has agreements with PEIs; the IMechE 'Specially authorised process' and IET 'Special registration agreement' but these, as previously mentioned, are intended for serving individuals. Please be aware that if you are not serving or within 2 years of discharge Dave can provide no more than a quick chat or an email exchange. His contact details are:

Lt Col (Retd) Dave White – 01249 894508 – david.white159@mod.uk

The aspiration for a network of ambassadors and mentors remains and I am sure there are many professional engineers, who are able to act in a similar role to Dave for former members of the Corps. Provided an individual is already a PEI member, the PRA course is free, takes one day and Dave can advise the best way to obtain a place. Once registered as a PRA, an individual is then empowered by the PEI to help others through the membership process. In other words – act as a mentor. If you are able to or know someone who is able to perform this role for the REME Association please get in touch with Dave. Similarly, I am sure there are many former members of the Corps able to act as mentors for other professional institutions such as Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Chartered Management Institute, etc. the list is endless. If you can help – please give Dave a call or email or let me know.

Army v Navy 2018. Our info stand in the REME Bar at Twickenham for the 2018 event on Sat 5 May 18 is confirmed. Hope to see you there.

Website. The aspiration is to have all our information available on The REME Charity website accessible via a 'members' login'. I will keep you informed as this develops.

Benefits. I remain open to ideas for approaches to businesses etc. that may be interested in offering discounts or other benefits to our members. Please let me know your ideas.

Summary. I hope you are all finding these updates useful and please let me know if there is something I am not including you would like to see. You are likely to see these repeated in further communications from me on social media, websites, Craftsman magazine and other means. Please bear with me on this as I aim to reach the maximum possible audience and as always please forward this email to anyone within the REME Family you feel should receive it.

Stuart

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