

Dear All,

Herewith my latest update to keep you all informed of the REME Association Reform Project progress. It was fantastic to see so many of you at Twickenham at the Army v Navy match earlier this month. Thank you to all those who stopped to say hello as you saw me rugby tackling everyone entering the REME Marquee. On with the update.

Annual Voluntary Charitable Donations. Just to remind you all of the decision taken recently - there will be no Annual Membership Fee. All those leaving the Service will be invited to consider making a voluntary annual charitable donation and those who have already left will be similarly invited to do so via Corps comms such as this message. All will have the opportunity to ring-fence their donations to the REME Association.

This is consistent with the principle of voluntary donations currently made under the Day's Pay Scheme in which the vast majority of our serving officers and soldiers are enrolled. A donation also better reflects its purpose, which is to further the charitable aims of the REME Association rather than provide a form of benefit or service in return for payment. There is NO PRESSURE to donate, just an invitation.

GDPR. Further to my last update you will all now be aware our forms are authorised and are in use. Completed forms continue to roll in – thank you to all who have submitted so far. As a reminder, the approved GDPR and supporting forms are attached. You will see these are in 3 x stages:

1. Description and GDPR permissions.
2. Subscriptions and donations.
3. Direct Debit mandate for those wishing to subscribe or donate.

Please adopt these forms within your branches and regions now. Rachael and Hayley will be sending a wad of them to your branches and regional reps over the next few weeks. In the meantime please continue to send these by email within your own resources where possible. Each individual member is requested to complete the GDPR form in order to give their permission for us to keep in touch. Spouses and partners are similarly invited to complete the permissions form if they wish us to keep in touch also. Personal choice. The subscriptions and donations form plus the Direct Debit mandate are for those who choose to do so. Again, personal choice. Forms can be returned to RHQ by post or by scan and email as long as an original signature is clear in each case. Please address any questions to me.

Member. Our status as Members will be unaffected whether an individual chooses to make a voluntary donation or not. To quote the revised rules: 'Anyone who has served, or is serving, in REME and their spouse/partner is a member of the REME Association for life.'

Revised Rules – The REME 75 Rules. To remind you all the REME 75 Rules are now officially published and to be adopted by us all. The Jubilee Rules are archived and now part of our history. The REME 75 Rules were attached to my previous update. Please let me know if you cannot track them down.

Handbook. A Handbook to support the REME 75 Rules will follow and I am very interested in your views on what you would like to see covered as a handy reference guide. I can of course crib from previous versions and the Jubilee Rules but I am very interested in your opinions. Please let me know.

REME Museum. Colonel (Retd) Mike Crabbe is standing down as Corps Historian this summer. Anyone interested in taking over this highly interesting and rewarding post please see link below. Spread the word.

<http://www.rememuseum.org.uk/about-us>

Also Jennifer Allison, the Museum Curator has asked for help from anyone that has knowledge of RCEME/EME GEM, our Canadian brethren. She has been contacted by an individual holding a silver coin showing: EME GEM cap-badge, the words Branch Member and a 4 digit serial number. Before she gets in touch directly she wonders if anyone can help within the Association. Perhaps you have seen such coins before? Please pass any details to me and I will discuss with Jen.

Roadshows. Delighted to say we have confirmation that 1 CS Bn REME is able to help host a Roadshow in Catterick later this year. Dates and locations for both Catterick and Tidworth will follow but likely to be in Autumn 2018.

New groups/branches. The first meeting here at Lyneham was held on Tue 22 May 18 and I am delighted to say it was an unqualified success. It is hoped the group will evolve into a fully-fledged branch and then the non-geographical St Eligius Branch – one step at a time though! Much progress in Cumbria too where Nigel Cannar has had a terrific response. He is looking at an initial meeting in June 18. Great news.

Summary. I hope you agree we are getting there. Your continued assistance and support is greatly appreciated and will ensure The REME Association survives and thrives. This is my last update until probably July as Sara and I are off on holiday in June. We are over in Germany visiting everywhere we lived and then heading down to Lake Garda just like the old days! Have a great summer.