

	<p>too unwieldy. After discussion, in which TF demonstrated that actual costs had risen by more than 60% since the last meeting, TF proposed that the mileage rate for official travel to NEC would be raised to 40p per mile. Seconded by RS and carried unanimously with SBM and WE abstaining. Effective immediately</p> <p>c) <u>Item 14 (d) Parade Marshal</u>. SBM reported that QCS were more than happy for the Association to keep its own Parade Marshal at the Cenotaph as it prevented serving NCOs being dictated to by the Guards' RSM.</p> <p>d) <u>Item 14(g) Promotional Video</u>. SBM reported that he had tried to contact Black Cat video on a number of occasions but had no reply and therefore recommended that no further action be taken on this. Approved</p> <p>d) <u>Item 14(f) Association Trophies</u>. SBM reported that after the last meeting he had managed to procure 2 silver trophies for the Association to present to the Depot for NCO courses. One of these trophies belonged to his family and he wished to donate it to the Association. He had procured the other at a reasonable price. The cost of the second trophy together with 2 silver-mounted plinths was £188. Engraving of a high standard would be additional but he did not expect that to exceed £20 per cup. The NEC approved the expenditure. SBM proposed that the 2 cups be designated the RAF Regiment Association Telic and Herrick Trophies, Telic and Herrick being the operation names for the Corps' deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan respectively. Approved.</p> <p>After discussion as to how individuals who had been awarded the cup would be recorded, it was agreed that a book of awardees would be purchased for each trophy at a cost of up to £50 per book – approved. Additionally, a certificate would be awarded to each recipient of the Trophies,</p> <p>e) <u>Item 10 Charitable Donations</u>. Having taken the decision to split the proceeds from the AGM raffle between 2 charities (see para 2 above), the NEC had to decide its principal charity for the year. There were 2 nominations:- Combat Stress – nominated by LT Heart Foundation – nominated by BB</p> <p>Voting was Combat Stress – 13, Heart Foundation 1 The Charity Combat Stress would therefore be the Association's principal charity for the year 2008/ 2009.</p>	<p>DJ to note</p> <p>SBM to commission engraving.</p> <p>SBM to liaise with Trng Wing for award of trophies.</p> <p>DJ to procure books.</p> <p>WE through LT to contact Combat Stress</p>
<p>4. Postal Ballot</p>	<p>In the absence of MH, SBM reported that the vote on whether postal ballots or AGM votes should be the accepted means of electing National Officials had been undertaken at RAF Honington with JY and TF as the Association scrutinisers. JY reported that the results of the vote was as follows:-</p>	

	<p>Votes Cast 537 Invalid Votes <u>15</u> Valid Votes <u>522</u> For Postal Vote 292 For AGM vote 130</p> <p>Contested elections of National Officials would therefore continue to be carried out annually by postal vote. SBM thanked JY and her husband for their attendance and assistance.</p>	Noted
5. Audit Report	<p>DJ presented the report of the annual audit of the Association's accounts by Needham Chipchase Manners and Co of Richmond. The report was healthy with an opening balance (in current, deposit and savings accounts) of £51,007 and a closing balance of £53,970. Whilst most of the increase was attributable to a £2,000 gift/bequest, prudent management of the finances had offset extra expenditure on the membership cards and the Flash to be well within our forecast and actual budget income. SH proposed that the Audit be accepted and recommended to the AGM; seconded by TM. Carried unanimously</p>	DJ to prepare explanatory notes for the accounts to be presented to the AGM
6. Budget 2008 / 09 and future forecast	<p>The NEC noted the current budget and accepted that the increase in mileage rate (Para 3b above) would result in extra expenditure under the Travel heading.</p> <p>SBM presented the draft budget for 2009/10. This was presented slightly differently from previous budgets, so as to align budget headings with the accountant's treatment of expenditure (notably to include the printing and distribution of the Flash under one heading) and with more detailed cost headings to improve transparency. Note: The draft 2009/10 budget is attached at Annex A</p>	
7. Feedback on SOP's and amendments to C&R's	<p>SBM first presented the proposed amendments to the C&R's. The proposed Rule 53 amendment was accepted for presentation to the AGM but Rule 54 was further amended when the words "<i>..the Chairman declares..</i>" were changed to "<i>..the National Officials conclude..</i>". The amended amendment was proposed by JD and seconded by JS. 13 for 1 against <i>Full text is appended as note 1</i></p> <p>With regard to Rule 57, a further amendment, proposed by JY for clarification, was incorporated into the proposal and the amended amendment was proposed by WS and TF and carried unanimously.</p> <p>With regard to the updated SOP's, SBM reminded the NEC that SOP's had been adopted in June 2006 and provided a framework by which the Association could be managed with transparency and accountability and demonstrated the probity of our organisation and intention to exercise best practice. While some believed that there was not enough mention of the National</p>	WE to include amended C&Rs in AGM paperwork

	<p>Treasurer (although the SOP 3 - Financial Standing orders was almost exclusively written for the Treasurer) it soon became clear that not all delegates had the same full version of the SOP's which had been sent out in April. SBM terminated discussion on this item. FX agreed to send full copies of the SOPs to Branch Secretaries as soon as possible with further amendments, and the matter brought to the next meeting of the NEC.</p>	<p>FX to circulate full copies of the SOPs to all Branch Secretaries.</p>
<p>8. Website</p>	<p>SBM reported on the latest (June 2008) statistics for the Association's official website (www.rafregt.org.uk). It had been visited by 1234 individuals in June, with a total of 2740 visits (an average of 90 per day), with each visit accessing on average 7 pages, with the Photo gallery especially popular. The website now had direct linkage into Wikipedia. The statistics revealed that, where there was a clear link to www.rafregt.org.uk from other RAF Regiment-related sites (such as that of Glen Beavis – www.rafrement.net), a good number of “click-throughs” took place. While there was no problem with other RAF Regiment-related sites, it had to be clear that they were private sites and they had to provide a clear link to the official Association website – as demonstrated by Glen Beavis. TF agreed that his site still did not provide this distinction from the Association's site, nor a link to it, and undertook to have this changed within 3 months. JY undertook to arrange for the Cambridge Branch website to be updated since it was out of date and still headed “Association of the RAF Regiment”.</p> <p>Branches would be urged to contact Gordon Diffey about branch information. WE would publish in due course the contact details of Gordon Diffey and Glen Beavis the webmaster.</p>	<p>TF to amend his website</p> <p>JY to amend Cams Branch website</p> <p>WE to publish contact details</p>
<p>9.Trading Activities</p>	<p>WE reported that there was some concern over the provision of merchandise from the Regiment Shop. The delays between ordering and delivery were getting longer with a number of members giving specific examples. It was apparent that the present arrangement was not satisfying our members and an alternative should be looked at. The Association's own entrepreneurs probably had better contacts among suppliers anyway and were more aware of our members' requirements. WE therefore proposed that we start a pilot project to trade for ourselves, building on the experience of a number of branches, but based on the Association website. It was felt that we could start in a small way but have electronic ordering through the website. While, initially, it would not be electronic billing, this may be a possibility later. It was hoped that we could source a good supply of merchandise by the 2008 Reunion and that would include the popular Christmas cards (perhaps smaller than those of 2007). It was proposed by WE and seconded by SH that DJ/JD be given access of up to £250 from reserves to source a start up trading enterprise which would deal in RAF Regiment accessories.</p> <p>Approved unanimously</p>	<p>DJ/JD to source and procure merchandise, including Xmas cards</p>

<p>10. Vice Chair Nominations and Elections Process</p>	<p>SBM reported that, because of the time constraints, he had had to publicise the Vice Chairman’s election in the Flash – along with the voting forms. There were two candidates Jeff Stevenson and Tom Renshaw.</p> <p>The NEC agreed to form an Elections Sub-Committee (ESC) to count the votes. The NEC accepted MH’s offer to chair the ESC and be the Returning Officer. The NEC needed to nominate 2 other members to act as scrutinisers. Because of the distance involved, the NEC felt that it should approach the Norfolk and Suffolk (Felixstowe) Branches each to provide a member for this task. Approved.</p> <p>It was reiterated that only fully paid up members of the Association were allowed to vote and FX’s lists of paid up membership would be the final arbiter; Branch Secretaries should ensure that their members’ details were as up to date as possible. There were some questions from the members over the issue of serial numbers on voting slips. It was agreed that, as long as the Branch (or HQ Roll) was clearly shown on the voting form, a Branch serial number was desirable, but not essential. .</p>	<p>SBM to approach Branches.</p>
<p>11. Ceremonial Feedback and Briefing</p>	<p>a) <u>RAF Regiment Chapel Catterick 11th May 2008</u>. SBM congratulated the Catterick Branch again on their hard work in putting on the occasion. The Chapel dedication was well attended with the CG and his wife in attendance, as well as a long-standing friend of the Corps, Baroness Harris of Richmond,. The cost to the Association of £140 for the refreshments was very reasonable and, after being proposed by RS and seconded by TM, the grant was unanimously approved. DJ reported that next year’s service was scheduled for the 10th May 2009. SBM reminded the NEC that it was hoped that this could include the laying up of the National Standard of the Comrades Association and possibly other standards (see AOB). The Catterick Branch was in contact with the Parochial Church Council to obtain the necessary permissions.</p> <p>b) <u>Tower of London 18th May</u>. SBM passed on his thanks to Sam Naylor of the Uxbridge branch for a very successful event. It had been a splendid service with an excellent choir and the liquid repast in the Warders Club facilitated by our own Bob Loughlin was outstanding as ever. SBM had written to the Chaplain and the Chief Yeoman to express our thanks and had made donations to each to express our thanks. The NEC retrospectively approved the grants of £50 to the Chapel Royal and £25 to the Yeomen Warder’s Club for their charitable appeal.</p> <p>c) <u>NMA 28th June</u>. SBM again congratulated the Memorial Maintenance Team (members of the Birmingham Branch) for the preparation of the RAF Regiment Memorial Garden. The CG had commented that it looked better than ever and was a credit to the team. The NEC was also delighted with the arrangements made for 40 Trainee Gunners to be on parade who had greatly</p>	

	<p>added to the occasion.</p> <p>d) <u>Queen's Colour Presentation 11th July</u>. SBM reported on the occasion and passed on the comments of Air Cdre M S Witherow RAF (Rtd) that he had not witnessed a better parade in all his RAF service or since. There had been 754 airmen and women on parade and the event had been televised. One Association member - FS "Chick" Childs and his wife - had been presented to the Queen. Chick Childs, of the Bristol and Bath Branch, was an original Ground Gunner (and had designed of the Ground Gunners badge) and had a long and distinguished service in the Corps.</p>	
12. AGM Agenda	<p>Taken after AOB, it was agreed that the AGM agenda would be:</p> <p>Commemoration and Dedication - Chaplain Chairman's welcome - Chairman Election of Vice Chairman - MH Secretary's Report - WE Treasurer's Report - DJ NEC Report - Chairman Amendment to C&Rs - Chairman Spring/Summer Social Reunion - Chairman Diary of Events - Secretary Any Other Business (previously advised) – Chairman President's Address - President</p>	
13. AOB	<p>a) <u>National Standard</u>. SBM reported that there was a proposal from the London and SE Area that the existing National Standard of the Association be replaced. JS explained that it had been purchased in 1990/91 and was now very faded. It would cost in the region of £800 to replace it but formal quotes would have to be obtained. This cost would include the standard and the carrier and gauntlets. It was agreed that we should seek a distinctive finial on top of the pike for the National Standard (rather than the normal "spear-point" finial) and that the blue sash currently worn by the Standard Bearer should continue to designate the National Standard. In addition, we would embellish the carrier with the crossed rifles. It was proposed by JSt and seconded by JS that the cost be taken from reserves once three quotes were obtained and scrutinised by the NEC. Unanimously approved. JS reminded the NEC that the original standard had been purchased by Colin Hope (CH) and presented to the Association. CH was still a member of the organisation and he should be advised as to the NEC's decision. JS raised the subject of parading the National Standard at funerals of those airmen KIA. It was agreed that the National Standard would be acceptable at such funerals, subject to a request from the family and the availability of the Standard.</p> <p>b) <u>Future of the Association</u>. SBM reported that he had received a paper from John Foden of the Notts and Derby Branch which</p>	<p>SBM to write to CH</p>

	<p>discussed the challenges that the Association faced as an ageing organisation and proposed a number of remedies. He also reported that the Canadian Chapter had put specific work into their report on the same subject. He felt it was time for a formal study of the forward strategy for the Association and proposed the formation of a small 3-person working group – the Way Ahead Working Group (WAWG) - to address this issue and report to the NEC. The WAWG’s remit would be:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider how to develop the Association To increase membership To attract younger members To ensure the long term future of the Association <p>The WAWG would report to the NEC it was agreed that <u>voting</u> members of the NEC should not be members, though there was merit in the chair being a NEC member. After considerable discussion on the chair of the WAWG, it was proposed by TF and seconded by WE that FX (non-voting Membership Secretary) should chair the WAWG and that he should choose his own group members, to be ratified by the National Officials . FX agreed.</p> <p>Reporting date back for the report was likely to be July 2009.</p> <p>c) <u>Life Members</u>. C&R’s clearly stated that any new life members of the Association had to be approved by the NEC and then in exceptional circumstances (para 17). However, there was confusion over existing life members of previous organisation (also para 17) and whether they would be required to pay Association subscriptions. After much discussion, it was agreed that the arrangements used by Branches for renewal as at 1 April 2008 should apply in the future.</p> <p>d) <u>Al Waqi Painting</u>. A Corps painting to commemorate the battle of Al Waqi in Iraq had been commissioned. The cost was in the region of £7,500, and some £5,000 remained outstanding. However, fundraising was underway and, while the Association could make a substantial contribution, it would not be appropriate to make such a large donation as to deny other individuals, organisations and units the opportunity to be involved. It was proposed by SH and seconded by TM that £500 be donated to the painting fund and that the Association would undertake to underwrite any shortfall on the appeal. SBM would negotiate this with MH. Approved unanimously</p> <p>e) <u>2008 Reunion</u>. FR submitted a written report to the effect that we already had 189 members booked for the Reunion. His visit to the venue had seen that we would have our own dining room and entertainment with reduced prices on the drinks. The Battle of Britain Memorial would provide a splendid location for the Muster Parade. SBM announced that the CG had arranged for the new Queen’s Colour to be paraded at the muster parade. It</p>	<p>FX to nominate WAWG members to National Chairman.</p> <p>Branch Secretaries to note</p> <p>DJ to raise a cheque for £500</p> <p>SBM to liaise with MH</p>
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was also reported that the local branch of the RBL had asked permission to parade with us and this was agreed. Last year the Sussex Branch had been responsible for running the raffle and SBM asked for a volunteer branch for this year. .
The Lincolnshire Branch has confirmed that it will arrange the raffle, TM will coordinate

f) Spring/Summer Reunion. FR had made tentative arrangements to book places at a venue for a Spring Reunion in March 2009. However, while FR should be thanked for this initiative, it was agreed that time was too short to ensure its success and that the matter should be raised at the AGM Reunion and through the next edition of the Flash, for the Spring/Summer of 2010. DC would investigate possibilities.

g) Remembrance Programme. SBM reported that he had made arrangements for the Association National Standard to be paraded at the Albert Hall in the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall on 8th November. TF reported on the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Thursday 6th November and agreed to act as co-ordinator for the Association's presence at the Cenotaph on 9th November. He had been advised by the RBL that traffic and road work issues might affect the process of the parade to some extent. Tickets for the event should be through TF.

h) Membership Issues. Membership Issues. The Membership Secretary reported that he was not confident that he was getting all the information on the membership picture. We had gained 41 new members this year but he was not happy with the robustness of the data that he had. He was pursuing and designing a Universal Notification Form for Branch Secretaries that would cater for every eventuality. This form would be both an on line document and a hard-copy form. He also reported that the information we had on members was barely more than name and address. He was exploring other organisations like RAFA for the software to enable this. He will be contacting all Branch Secretaries with the data that he holds for their Branch members and asking them to confirm or update it

i) Flash and Communications. SBM reminded the meeting that while 4 editions of the Flash each year was an aspiration, we could only produce 4 Flashes a year if we received input from Branches and individual members. The level of input for the latest Flash was the lowest yet. He felt that the point must be understood by Branch Secretaries for them to put to their members. He also proposed that a "mini Flash" should be instituted in the form of emails from National Officials to Branch Secretaries for material that could not wait for the Flash

	<p>magazine, to supplement the material circulated through the Corps Parish Notices sent out by MH. Branches wishing information to be passed to the Association at large must submit it to National Officials to be published in this way. Similarly, National Officials had not been aware of the tours of the Corps Demonstration Team in the past, but this was the sort of information suitable for dissemination by this means. He urged Branch Secs to communicate with National Officials and not wait until the NEC or Area meetings</p> <p>j) <u>Canadian Chapter</u>. The Canadian Chapter had been in contact with SBM, seeking to formalise its relationship with the Association. Para 19 of the C&Rs stated that overseas Chapters should be autonomous, but should make a negotiated annual contribution. Such negotiations had not, so far, taken place. Individual members of the Association living overseas (eg Australia) contributed at the HQ Roll rate of £10 per year and it was agreed that the Canadian Chapter's negotiated annual contribution should be on the basis of £10 per member. It was agreed that SBM would contact the Canadian Chapter to this effect.</p> <p>k) <u>Rock Ape Ale</u> SBM drew members attention to the II Sqn Airborne Rock Ape Ale for Help the Heroes Fund on the Association Website</p> <p>l) <u>Alrewas</u>. BB informed the NEC that, contrary to what had been previously reported, there were at least 6 commemorative plaques at the RAF Regiment Memorial Garden and proposed that, while it was not possible to commemorate all those killed in action, it would be possible to do so for those KIA since the erection of the RAF Regiment Memorial. The Chairman agreed to investigate what could be achieved and report to the next NEC meeting.</p> <p>m) <u>Op Banner Memorial</u>. Steven Brereton Martin drew the NEC's attention to the Op Banner Memorial Service to be held in St Paul's Cathedral on 10th September 2008. This would be the subject of a miniFLASH.</p>	<p>SBM to make contact with the Canadian Chapter.</p> <p>SBM to investigate and report</p> <p>SBM to inform Branches</p>
	<p>The next meeting to be held on 17th January 2009, at RAF Waddington..</p> <p>The Chairman closed the meeting at 1645</p>	

Note 1

Present Wording

54. Resolutions not tabled as formal Agenda items shall not be voted upon unless the Chairman declares the matter of due Association importance or urgency. This does not preclude general discussion on other important or urgent Association matters.

Proposed Wording

54. Other resolutions for discussion at the General Meeting as Any Other Business must be advised to the National Secretary prior to the start of the General Meeting, but shall not be voted upon unless the *Chairman declares* the matter of due Association importance or urgency. This does not preclude general discussion on other important or urgent Association matters

Agreed Wording

54. Other resolutions for discussion at the General Meeting as Any Other Business must be advised to the National Secretary prior to the start of the General Meeting, but shall not be voted upon unless **the National Officers conclude** the matter of due Association importance or urgency. This does not preclude general discussion on other important or urgent Association matters