



Royal Signals Association Annual General Meeting

Saturday 12th March 2022
Victory Services Club, London



AGENDA
THE 77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, LONDON
12 MARCH 2022

ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION

Annex

1. National Standard and Minute's Silence to Remember Fallen Comrades.
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks.

ITEM 2 – 76TH MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3. To approve the minutes of the 76th RSA AGM held on 13 March 2021. A
4. Actions Arising.

ITEM 3 – HEADQUARTERS REPORTS

5. Chairman's Report. B
6. General Secretary's Report. C
7. General Secretary's Financial Report. D
8. Assistant General Secretary's Benevolence Report. E
9. Administrative Officer's Report. F
10. Corps Update.

ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

11. Corps Weekend 2022 Update. Asst Gen Sec
12. Eden Camp 2022 Update. Area 1N Rep
13. Awards and Standard Bearers Badges. Gen Sec
14. Website Update. Gen Sec
15. PD 155 Update. Gen Sec

ITEM 5 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. Any Other Business.
17. Date of the next Annual General Meeting as **Sat 18 Mar 23**.



**Royal Signals Association
Corps Headquarters Royal Signals
Blandford Camp
Dorset DT11 8RH**



Registered charity No: 284923

Telephone: 01258 48 2090 Military Network: 94371 - 2090
Fax: 01258 48 2084 Fax: 94371 - 2084
E-Mail: rsa@royalsignals.org

Reference: HQ R SIGNALS 4.5.2

See Distribution

Date: 17 March 2021

**MINUTES OF THE 76th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION
HELD BY VIDEO TELECONFERENCE ON 13 MARCH 2021**

Present:	Maj Gen D McDowall CBE Col MC Brookes ADC Col (Retd) D A Craft Col D Douglas Lt Col (Retd) S M Lockwood WO1(Corps SM) R M Scarcliff Mr K Bates Mr I Scrivin Mr R Taylor Mr T Holyoake Dr D Swift-Hook Mr R Williams Mr R Jephcote Mr M Nevill RSA Members Mrs A Thorpe	Chairman RSA Corps Col Gen Sec Corps Col Reserves Asst Gen Sec Corps SM Area 1 S Area 1 N Area 2 Area 3 Area 4 Area 5 Area Rep, Scotland Area Rep, NI Admin Offr/Membership Sec/Secretary
In attendance:	Maj Gen S P M Nesmith Col (Retd) J Knight	Master of Signals Nexus Works

Discussion and Decisions	Action
Item 1: Introduction. 1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM. He spoke about the impact of COVID 19 on the RSA Centenary events. He thanked everyone for doing a superb job under very trying conditions and hoped to get a lot more face time with the RSA community in 2021. The Chairman thanked everyone for working tirelessly through these times.	

Item 2: Minute's Silence to remember fallen Comrades 1. Following the Minute's Silence, the Chairman welcomed the Master of Signals to the meeting and invited her to say a few words. The Master reaffirmed her intent to engage with the RSA when restrictions allowed and thanked them for their unwavering support throughout the most difficult of times. She noted that Corps Weekend in 2021 would not be what anyone had hoped for but confirmed that she would do what she could to support the RSA events at the NMA and Project NOEL.	
Item 3: Minutes of the Last Meeting. 1. The minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting were unanimously agreed as an accurate record.	AO
Item 4: Matters Arising. 1. All matters from the previous minutes had either been actioned or would be addressed as part of this meeting.	
Item 5: Chairman's Report. 1. The Chairman talked about the ongoing impact of COVID 19 on the Association. 2. The Chairman went over the following developments for 2020: • New RSA Logo • The new Corps Website • RSA Standard	
Item 6: General Secretary's Report. 1. The General Secretary presented his report, covering the following points: a. The RSA National Standard. The new National Standard had now been procured, as agreed at the AGM in Mar 20. It would now be paraded at key RSA events. There had been considerable discussion as to who might be best placed to carry the standard when on parade. After discussion at the CCM it was confirmed that the Standard would be carried by a member of the RSA. The next step would be to work out the mechanics of how the Standard would be carried on parade (i.e. where it would be kept, who would be identified to carry it, how it would be transported, T&S for those identified, etc). All Branches were asked to feed in any preferences/ideas that they may have. b. The support given by the RSA community to the #100for100 challenge, which was excellent. The challenge raised nearly £75k for the Royal Signals Charity. c. 2021 Events. The Secretary then went on to highlight the planning for the 2021 events. He confirmed that everyone should continue to regularly check the website for updated details (www.royalsignals.org).	All

• Eden Camp – cancelled. • Corps London Dinner – cancelled. • Corps Weekend – RSA attendance cancelled; only 11 Sig Regt will be going ahead in line with COVID Guidelines. • NMA – hopefully going ahead as normal as restrictions should have been lifted. • Field of Remembrance and the Cenotaph Parade – hopefully going ahead as normal as restrictions should have been lifted. • Project Noel – Bookings are now open. d. The moving of the AGM and CCM. The AGM was briefed that, after detailed debate at the CCM, the RSA meetings would not be changed to align with the key RSA events, but would be left as they currently were. It was noted that a virtual link would be provided to future meetings to ensure as wide a participation as possible.	Corps Sec
Item 7: General Secretary's Financial Report General Secretary Financial Update. 1. The General Secretary highlighted the following: a. There had been a substantial reduction in the number of grants supported by the charity in 2020. This was due to the impact of the pandemic which saw a reduction of about 20% in the number of grant requests. b. Total Donations from RSA Veterans was £136,808 and £38,171 from legacies. The substantial increase in donations was due to the '#100for100' challenge. c. In line with the policy change made in Jan 20, £87,490 had been transferred to the Corps Fund to allow greater flexibility and enhanced efficiency. d. The reduction in expenditure had unfortunately been at the expense of the Centenary rather than any drive to actively reduce activity levels.	
Item 8: RSC Report 1. The Asst General Secretary then presented the RSC Welfare / Benevolence Report, covering the following points: a. 376 grants made between Jan – Dec 20. 170 were first time applicants. b. The main focus for those grants were: • Debt • Household issues • Mobility • Housing	

c. There had unfortunately been 6 in-service deaths during 2020. d. The ABF has assisted the RSC with 90 grants totaling £69,662.53.	
Item 9: Admin Officer's Report 1. The Admin Officer presented her report focusing on the following areas: a. The steep learning curve we had all gone through since the March 2020 lockdown and it was wonderful to see how everyone had come together during this testing and emotional time. b. We had lost 160 members since March 2020, some of these were because of the COVID pandemic. c. The website was live but still has a couple of teething issues as we learn how it works; some branches still required 'log ins' which the AO would chase. She confirmed that all the latest event information would be booked through the website. d. She was taking names for the Cenotaph and Field of Remembrance ballot and would be in touch once allocations had been confirmed. 2. She ended by thanking the branches for inviting her to their virtual zoom meetings and she looked forward to eventually meeting up in person again with everyone.	
Item 10: Corps Update 1. Col MC Brookes ADC introduced himself and highlighted his keenness to engage with the RSA and to developing his current role. 2. WO1 (Corps SM) Scarcliff, Corps SM, gave an excellent and very well received presentation on the current situation within the Corps and introduced three serving members, who highlighted their experiences within the Corps over the COVID year. • Sig McAuley – current phase 2 on his experiences in training. • Cpl Stephen – 3 Div Sig Regt on Warfighter in USA. • Cpl Dagnell – 216 Sig Sqn on parachuting into the Ukraine. 3. All three updates were hugely appreciated by the AGM members.	
Item 11: Website update 1. Jim Knight gave an update on the website and branch pages, he also gave some 'top tips' on how to get the best out of the site. • Keep contact details up to date. • Be interesting. • Share on social media.	All

Item 12: Approval of Capt (Retd) Mick Nevill as Area Rep for NI 1. Approved by all and welcomed as a central committee member by the General Secretary	
Item 13: AOB 1. Corps SM spoke about potentially having Royal Signals branded merchandise available shortly through an online shop with a percentage of the profits going to the RSC. 2. Andrew Locke asked whether the £200 centenary grant would be carried forward. This was confirmed by Gen Sec. 3. The AO asked for Branches to confirm that they had received their website log-in information and to confirm if a second Branch member needed admin rights to their branch site. <i>[Afternote: all log-in information that had been requested had been supplied]</i>	Corps SM All AO/All
Item 14: Date of Next Meeting 1. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The 77th Annual General Meeting would be confirmed at a later date. The meeting closed at 1207hrs.	

Original Signed

A J Thorpe for
S M Lockwood
Lt Col (Retd)
Assistant General Secretary

Annexes:

- A. Chairman's Report
- B. General Secretary's Reports
- C. RSC Welfare Report
- D. Admin Officer's Report

Distribution:

Action:

Area Representatives
Committee Members
Secretaries of Branches and Affiliated Associations

Information:

Royal Signals Website



Major General D McDowall CBE
Headquarters Royal Signals
Griffin House, Blandford Camp,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8RH



Telephone: 01258 48 2081 Military Network: 94371 2081
Fax: 01258 48 2084 Fax: 94371 2084
E-Mail: rsa@royalsignals.org

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Reference: 04-17-03

Date: 1 Mar 22

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE RSA AGM – 12 MAR 22

INTRODUCTION

1. As with last year, this report remains shorter than I would have liked, as a result of the impact of COVID-19. However, there have still been some excellent opportunities for engagement across the Association and after the welcome reduction in COVID restrictions in early August 2021, the Association has now started to get back to more normal business with many Branch and Area representatives reporting meetings and other activities now routinely taking place 'in person'.

2. The attendance seen at the Corps Memorial Service at the National Memorial Arboretum in September 2021 and the fantastic 'party atmosphere' at Project NOEL in November 2021 showed the level of support and appetite to re-engage. It was a delight to be back amongst friends and sharing the camaraderie and family atmosphere that is the *raison d'être* of our Association.

3. I remain grateful to all of you and humbled by your efforts to support our veterans in your Areas and Branches throughout another extremely difficult and testing year. However, the pressure being placed on Branch Committees remains a concern to me and we must continue to engage across the Association to encourage more to play a part. It is a key theme in our discussions at the Central Committees and we will touch on it at this AGM.

ENGAGEMENTS DURING 2020/21

4. I thought it worth highlighting for your awareness the Association related engagements that I have been able to attend over the year.

Date	Activity	Location
2021		
31 March	RSTL Board Meeting	Virtual
6 April	Loughborough AGM	Virtual
7 May	Royal Signals Corps Council	Virtual
20 August	HQ RSA Coordination Meeting	Virtual
4 September	Corps Memorial Service	NMA
26 September	Visit to Bedford Branch	Bedford
29 September	RSTL Board Meeting	Blandford
3 October	Lisbon Maru Memorial Service	NMA
14 October	RSA Central Committee Meeting	London
23 October	16ers Reunion Dinner	Harrogate
7 November	Salisbury Branch Annual Lunch	Salisbury
11 November	Field of Remembrance	London
14 November	Cenotaph Parade	London
18 November	Royal Signals Corps Council	Corsham
26-28 November	Project NOEL	Liverpool
2022		
13 January	RSTL Board	Virtual
11 March	RSA Central Committee Meeting	London

5. Clearly, from September 2021, 'in person' engagement increased and, in addition to those that I attended, the Corps HQ team have also managed to attend Branch level events on several occasions. As already alluded to, I am also aware that there have been many other events taking place throughout the Association, as we all start to get to grips with the 'new normal' of living with COVID restrictions.

GREATER ENGAGEMENT

6. I am committed to promoting camaraderie across the Association in whatever form that may take. Your Central Committee has done a fantastic job over the year of developing ideas and engaging with you all to develop a range of measures designed to promote greater engagement. Some ideas/developments to date are:

- a. **Awards.** We are looking to enhance the current 50-year and 75-year awards by bringing in awards to mark other milestones. These will be discussed at the CCM and hopefully brought to this meeting for a view on the way forward.
- b. **The RSA Website.** Some are using this excellent facility extremely well; others less so. We are therefore looking to see how we can drive more usage and make the site even more inclusive for all. Again, this will be touched on at the AGM.
- c. **Reduced Bureaucracy.** The Corps HQ team in conjunction with the CCM have looked to update PD 155 – The Rules of The Royal Signals Association – with

the aim of further reducing the administrative burden on Branches. These changes will need to be ratified at the AGM before they can be introduced.

d. **Greater Inclusion.**

(1) **Affiliations.** We will continue to engage with our Affiliations to see where greater synergies can be made between the way they do business and our branches. Lessons almost certainly can be learnt both ways.

(2) **Passage of Information.** We are aiming to publish more to the RSA website to enhance the passage of information for all. Publishing minutes of meetings and introducing virtual links to the AGM are two examples.

7. I hope these issues are familiar to you. If they are not, I would ask that you get up to speed quickly and ensure your voice is heard. It is fantastic to see the momentum that has been maintained across the Association over the last two years, but we now need to make sure that we continue to review how we do our business to ensure that we have an Association that is fit for purpose going forward. The Association belongs to you; engagement from you in its future is therefore vital.

SUMMARY

8. Looking back at the final paragraph of my report last year, I closed by saying *"I really do look forward to getting around the Branches as soon as possible, to meet and share the 'odd glass of wine' with as many members of my Corps family as possible"*. Sadly, 2021 did not quite turn out as any of us would have hoped but my commitment to the Association and my drive to support your endeavors remains just as strong. So, I look forward to hopefully making that happen this year and, importantly, to help make 2022 the year we all deserve.

Certa Cito

{Original Signed}

D McDOWALL CBE
Maj Gen
Chairman RSA



**Headquarters Royal Signals
Griffin House, Blandford Camp,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8RH**



Telephone: 01258 48 2081 Military Network: 94371 2081
Fax: 01258 48 2084 Fax: 94371 2084
E-Mail: david.craft464@mod.gov.uk

Reference: 04-17-03

All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Date: 2 Mar 22

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE 77th RSA AGM – 12 Mar 22

INTRODUCTION

1. Clearly, the last year was not the one that we had all hoped for when we met virtually at last year's AGM. The COVID restrictions continued unabated for most of the year and that clearly had an impact on all of us. My sincere thanks go out to all of you who continued to drive comradeship across the RSA at every opportunity; your efforts have made a huge difference. Thankfully, we do now finally seem to be turning a corner with the lifting of all remaining restrictions (in England at least!) on 24 Feb 22. For fear of 'tempting fate', I am hoping that this will finally allow the Corps HQ team to get out and about to catch up with the Branches and meet as many members as possible. We are planning a road trip later this year to do just that and the details will be developed with and promulgated through Area Reps once they are known.

2. I am delighted to say that there has been some excellent work from your Central Committee representatives over the year which has allowed us to develop some excellent initiatives aimed at promoting engagement across the Association and to further reduce the burden on Branches; work that was started by my predecessor. More of which in this report.

3. With that in mind, 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.

THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

4. You will all recall that we launched The Royal Signals Association website, (www.royalsignals.org) at the last AGM and this site is now well established. Whilst many Branches are using the site well and routinely posting updates, there are still far too many who don't. A recent audit of usage has been hugely disappointing with only about 50% of our Branches using the site. Most of the 50% who don't use the site have not even activated their accounts yet! As the site was developed in conjunction with Branches, I would love to find out why? This should be our vehicle to advertise what the Association is doing and to entice new members to join. The new site is easy to use and is clear to read; so, if Branches are having difficulty using it, I would love to hear about it. There has been no real feedback on the site to date.

5. I am delighted to announce that our first award to the Branch who has used their website the best over the last year will be awarded at the AGM and we will be joined by Mr Adam Duffield, our service provider, who will present a small award to the winning Branch.

POLICY DIRECTIVE 155 – THE ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION

6. PD 155 was given a slight ‘face lift’ recently to bring it up to date and to reflect some of the operating changes which had actually been introduced several years ago when the RSTL Board was created. That version is now published on our website and I am sure that you have all seen it. However, as a result of the decisions made by the CCM, I am hoping to be in a position to bring some proposed changes to the AGM for discussion. These will of course be finally debated at the CCM on 11 Mar 22 and only agreed changes will be brought to this AGM. As already alluded to, the changes are predominantly focussed on honours and awards and the reduction of bureaucracy. **Pending the CCM’s agreement, I would like to get the AGM’s approval to implement the changes** which are covered later in this report and which will be briefed to you at the meeting.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION EVENTS DURING 2022

7. As a very quick update, these are the key ‘National’ events over the next 6 months:
- a. **Eden Camp – 15 May 22.** A key RSA event which will be briefed to the AGM; so please make sure that the date is advertised as widely as possible.
 - b. **Corps Weekend – 16-19 Jun 22.** This year’s Corps Weekend will hopefully return as big as ever and will include the events which were so popular when we last ran it (welcome drinks in the WOs & Sgts Mess; Princess Royal Parade; entertainment throughout the day; etc). We will also be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Campaign with that theme running through the entire weekend but, in particular, will include a presentation on the Saturday afternoon and a lunch reception for those who fought in the war. For the first time this year, we will also be holding a 3Rs Officers’ Mess Cocktail Party and the finals of the Corps Boxing Championships on the evening of Thu 16 Jun 22. All elements are open to the retired Corps but will require booking into; so, keep checking the RSA website for further details.
 - c. **Corps Memorial - National Memorial Arboretum – 3 Sep 22.** The format for this event is well known. However, the numbers attending will likely require careful management to ensure that everyone who attends can take a full part in proceedings.
8. As ever, all information/updates will be posted on our RSA webpage (www.royalsignals.org) and those key events towards the end of the year will also be included there.

STANDARD BEARERS’ BADGES

9. As agreed at the CCM in Sep 21, the Standard Bearer’s badges are now ‘official’ and can be worn by those who wish to wear them. To be clear, these badges are not mandated to be worn but were seen as a nice way to acknowledge the fantastic contribution that our Standard Bearers make and would also allow them to be recognised when they were not actually carrying their Standard. The badges therefore remain voluntary for those who wish to wear them. The Royal Signals Standard Bearers’ Guide has been updated by The Corps’ Senior Standard Bearer, John Mumford. Your Area Reps have hopefully been engaged with you all to discuss the best way to purchase the badges. Corps HQ will meet 50% of the cost as a thank you to our Standard Bearers for their substantial contribution and there was a view that Branches would want to meet the remaining 50%. Hopefully the CCM on 11 Mar 22 will capture your views on the preferred way forward.

ROYAL SIGNALS AWARDS

10. Revising the current RSA awards has been a topic of discussion at the last few CCMs and I hope that you have all had a chance to air your views through your Area Reps. There has been some excellent work to clarify the way forward and to produce RSA awards which better reflect the contributions and length of service that many of our members have made. I am hoping that we will be

in a position to confirm the preferred way forward at the AGM so that the PD can be updated accordingly. The following amendments will be discussed at the CCM on 11 Mar 22 and, if agreed, will require confirmation at the AGM:

a. **Year Badges to reward support to the RSA:**

(1) **Definition of 'Active' Membership.** The following guidance has been developed to better articulate what is meant by 'active' membership of the Association:

Paying subscriptions and regular attendance (at least one event annually) at RSA events at Branch or National level (AGM, Eden Camp, Corps Weekend, NMA, Field of Remembrance, Cenotaph and Project NOEL)' constitutes 'active' membership.

If supported, PD 155 will be updated to reflect this.

(2) **Numbers of Awards.** The following proposal has been put forward by the CCM for ratification by the AGM:

xx. **Active Service Awards.** *The Association will formally recognize the special contributions made by members of the Corps and Association over a prolonged period. Qualification is a combination of Regular Service, Reserve Service or National Service, together with **active** membership of the Association. Gaps of inactivity between periods of service will NOT be included towards the total number of years. The following awards will be recognised:*

a. **40 years active service.** *A certificate, signed by the RSA Chairman and issued by Corps HQ, will recognise 40 years' service.*

b. **50 years active service.** *This will be recognised with the presentation of a 50-year badge and certificate from Corps HQ.*

c. **60 years active service.** *A certificate, signed by the RSA Chairman and issued by Corps HQ, will recognise 60 years' service.*

d. **70 years active service.** *This will be recognised with the presentation of a 70-year badge and certificate from Corps HQ and will replace the current 75-year badge.*

xx. *Application forms, signed by the Branch President and Chairman, will be forwarded to Association HQ for consideration by the Central Committee. Those approved shall be entitled to wear a special Association lapel badge (where applicable) and are given a certificate to commemorate their achievement.*

xx. **Awards for Spouses/Partners.** *Any awards, other than those listed within this PD, which recognises the contribution made to the RSA by spouses/partners of RSA members should rightly remain an issue for Branches to introduce and award if they wish to.*

Again, if supported, PD 155 will be updated to reflect this.

b. **Honour Badges.** The CCM felt that a clearer description of the qualifying criteria for Honour badges was required and has developed the following statement:

To qualify for a RSA HONOUR AWARD individuals should be active members who have on numerous occasions gone above and beyond the call of duty when supporting the branch or a RSA national event, examples of this could be but are not limited to:

- a. Holding an outward facing appointment within the branch such as President, Chairman, Secretary or Standard Bearer for no less than 5 years.*
- b. Organising a national level RSA event such as EDEN CAMP, Project NOEL or the Standard Bearers Competition for no less than 5 years.*
- c. Holding an inward facing appointment within the branch such as Deputy Secretary, Social Secretary, Hospital Member and Welfare Member for no less than 10 years.*

If supported, PD 155 will be updated accordingly.

INITIAL RSA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FEE

11. Currently, in accordance with the RSA rules (Section 6 refers), Branches are required to submit 50% of all money taken from the initial RSA membership registration fee to Corps HQ. The money raised through this is minimal but the administrative burden on both Branches and Corps HQ to administer it is fairly substantial. In addition, after investigation into this issue, it has become clear that some branches had previously been informed not to submit any funds raised in this way whilst others had not.

12. Our view is that any Signaller should automatically be a member of the Association and their service should be sufficient to achieve that. It is therefore proposed that the requirement to collect an initial RSA membership registration fee is scrapped with immediate effect. Assuming that the CCM agree, this will be formally brought to the AGM for ratification.

SUMMARY

13. Despite a difficult year, I have been delighted to see the continued engagement across the Association and I hope that the issues being discussed will continue to promote inclusion. I thank you all once again for your time and efforts. As the Chairman has alluded to, I am equally humbled by the time and effort that many of you give to support Signallers when they need it. Please keep doing it and please stay engaged with Corps HQ, through your Area Reps, to make sure that we can support you all as best we can.

Certa Cito

{Signed on MODNet}

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



**Headquarters Royal Signals
Griffin House, Blandford Camp,
BLANDFORD FORUM, Dorset DT11 8RH**

Telephone: 01258 48 2081 Military Network: 94371 2081
Fax: 01258 48 2084 Fax: 94371 2084
E-Mail: david.craft464@mod.gov.uk



All RSA Central Committee Members
All RSA AGM Representatives

Reference: 04-17-03

Date: 2 Mar 22

**GENERAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL UPDATE TO THE RSA CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 11/12 MARCH 2022**

INTRODUCTION

1. This short financial report has been compiled to aid wider briefings within the RSA community. As ever 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. It is probably worth reminding you all that this 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 Chairman, who is both a Trustee of the charity and the deputy Controller of the RSTL Board; your interests are, therefore, well represented.
3. There are 2 elements to the budget and these are extracts from the full RSC Outcome 2021 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 2020 which shows what we received and spent that year – purely as a comparison.
 - b. The Budget 2021 which shows what we thought we were going to receive and spend last year.
 - c. The Outcome 2021 which is what we actually spent and received last year and reflects the figures provided to our auditors.
 - d. The Budget 2022 which shows the financial targets set for this year.

The remaining columns are budget forecasts out to 2025 but these will be amended over time so they will not be covered in any detail in this report.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – BENEVOLENCE/WELFARE

5. The following points should be noted:

a. **Expenditure.**

(1) **Benevolence Grants.** The last financial year ran from 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021 and you can see that we spent **£196,779** in that period on **299** 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 yet again substantially less than historical levels and believed primarily to be the ongoing impact of the pandemic. (By way of comparison, 2019 saw the charity spend £329,910 on 474 cases and 2020 saw the charity spend £249,282 on 376 cases.) Looking forward, we have, assumed a spend of £340,000 in the 2022 budget. We are still expecting a bow-wave of requests for assistance to have built up so it is worth reiterating that ***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 2021 but we will be reviewing this amount, as I alluded to last year, with a view to possibly increasing the annual grant. This money enables the ABF to pick up various requests which the RSC might otherwise have to cover. The ABF actually gave over £80,000¹ in grants to Corps personnel in 2021 and so, yet again, our grant to them is an excellent deal. The rest of the 'expenditure entries' are, hopefully, self-explanatory.

(3) **Total Grants.** The total grant outcome for 2021 was **£245,773**, which is a reduction of circa 19% on 2020, for the reasons already mentioned.

b. **Income.**

(1) **Subscriptions.** The subscriptions from "One Day's Pay" giving remain the main direct income for our benevolence. In 2021 we received **£252,150** which, as mandated by QRs, represents 50% of a day's pay income from the serving Corps. I am delighted to report that this figure is slightly higher than was reported last year (by circa £10,000) and is a result of a substantial amount of effort invested in 'selling' the benefits of the One Day's Pay Scheme to our serving Corps. This slight swing in fortune coupled with the reduction in benevolence spend meant that there was no requirement to transfer funds from the Veterans Fund to cover the benevolence bill.

(2) **Donations.** You will see from the RSA Veterans sheet that we had an income of **£79,661** from various donations and **£1,350** from legacies throughout the year. This was substantially less than was reported last year due to the 2021 fund raising campaign raising less than the hugely successful '#100for100' fundraising campaign which raised nearly £75,000 in 2020! Our campaign last year - '#howfar' – was still a very good result, with around £25,000 being raised. Legacies were also substantially down on 2020.

(3) **Transfer to the Corps Fund.** As explained last year, the trustees have made the decision to split donations evenly between the Corps Fund and the Welfare Fund, where we can do so (i.e. where there is no specific direction with the donation to 'ring-

¹ The ABF gave grants totalling **£70,000** when the requested amount was above our threshold and almonisation was required between the service charities. A further **£15,000** was awarded towards the provision of Annuities and contributions towards Nursing Home Fees.

fence' for a specific reason). This saw the transfer of **£40,506** to the Corps Fund. This allows for greater flexibility and enhanced efficiency in running the charity but, as already stated, this does not reduce the ability to support benevolence requests which will always take priority over other spend.

6. **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 **£70,102** in 2021.

7. **Conclusion.** Our overall 2020 expenditure on welfare was **£315,875**; again, substantially less than the budget, which was produced with the expectation that the impact of COVID-19 would have reduced in 2021.

ROYAL SIGNALS ASSOCIATION – DONATION & VETERANS

8. The following should be noted:

a. **Income.** Income for 2021 was **£704,499**; up substantially on the budget forecast. This was almost entirely driven by an 'Investment Gain' of **£535,778**, which is not only double that which was received in 2020 but was over eleven times the forecasted figure. This hugely positive return continues to highlight the value of a balanced portfolio but, of course, cannot be guaranteed year on year.

b. **Expenditure.** The total expenditure in 2021 was **£81,748** and reflects the continued reduction in activity levels due to COVID. We are forecasting a more normal spend for 2022 and beyond, and I hope that we are in a position to deliver it!

CONCLUSION

9. The overall result for 2021 was **£559,026** to capital. Clearly another year which saw many 'cost drivers' cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions throughout most of the year. As with last year, our professional financial advice remains that the markets are likely to be volatile in the near term and the impact of war in Europe still has to be fully understood; which is why the trustees have continued to forecast cautious investment figures in 2022 and beyond.

{Original Signed}

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

Attachment:

1. Outcome 2021 Royal Signals Association – Welfare and Donations & Veterans.

Outcome 2021 - Draft
Welfare

	OUTCOME 2020	BUDGET 2021		OUTCOME 2021		BUDGETS 2022	2023	2024	2025
Grant Expenditure									
Benevolence Grants	249,282	360,000	1	196,779	1	340,000	345,000	350,000	355,000
Grants,etc									
Army Benevolent Fnd	35,000	35,000		35,000		35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Central Committee	6,750	7,500	2	7,250	2	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Other	650	500		-		500	500	500	500
Funeral Expenses	112	1,000		2,244		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unit - Death in Service grants	9,000	3,000		4,500		3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Welfare Grants	300,794	407,000		245,773		387,000	392,000	397,000	402,000
Income									
Corps Subscriptions									
50% of a day's pay	242,935	253,290	3	252,150	3	255,998	259,098	264,140	269,283
Veterans Fund	57,859	153,710	4	(6,377)	4	131,002	132,902	132,860	132,717
	300,794	407,000		245,773		387,000	392,000	397,000	402,000
Support Costs									
Welfare Grants Officer	38,853	40,410		39,257		40,830	41,650	42,480	43,330
General expenses	-	1,000		38		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Shared Costs	28,671	33,454		30,807		31,532	31,928	32,333	32,837
Welfare Support Costs	67,524	74,864		70,102		73,362	74,578	75,813	77,167
funded by Donations & Veterans									
Total Expenditure	368,318	481,864		315,875		460,362	466,578	472,813	479,167

NOTES

- 1** Benevolence Grants in 2020 and 2021 were unusually low due to Covid19 restrictions and problems with the communications software.
They are expected to be higher in 2022 and later budgets; no actual "cap" is enforced.
- 2**

Central Committee Grants	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Lady Haigs Poppy Factory	250	250
B'mouth War Mem.Homes	750	750
Royal Star & Garter Homes	500	1,000
Erskine Hospital	1,500	1,500
Scottish Veterans Hosp	500	750
Stoll Foundation	1,250	1,250
Veterans Aid	1,500	1,500
Army Widows' Assoc	250	250
Care for Veterans	250	-
	<u>6,750</u>	<u>7,250</u>
- 3** Standard - 50% of a day's pay, in accordance with QR 5.613a
- 4** The low level of Benevolence Grants in 2021 resulted in a surplus against the Corps 50% Subscriptions.
This alleviated the Support Costs funded by Donations and Veterans.

Outcome 2021 - Draft
Donations and Veterans

	OUTCOME 2020	BUDGET 2021		OUTCOME 2021		BUDGETS 2022	2023	2024	2025
Income									
Donations									
Life Subscriptions	30			-					
Individuals	46,757			40,886					
Branches	2,675			5,069					
Units	4,042			4,105					
Wristband & other sales	37			-					
Just Giving + web sources	83,267			29,601					
	<u>136,808</u>	<u>60,000</u>		<u>79,661</u>		<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Legacies	38,171	30,000		1,350		30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
	<u>174,979</u>	<u>90,000</u>		<u>81,011</u>		<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>
Routine Income									
Transfer to Corps Fund	(87,490)	(45,000)	1	(40,506)	1	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)
Legacies to "RSA"				5,000					
Investment Income	125,964	139,150		123,215		135,358	132,480	129,609	126,524
Invest. Gains/(Losses)	267,751	46,762		535,778		85,727	85,047	84,215	83,319
	<u>481,205</u>	<u>230,912</u>		<u>704,499</u>		<u>266,085</u>	<u>262,527</u>	<u>258,824</u>	<u>254,843</u>
Expenditure									
Reunions	143	6,000	2	1,178	2	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Centenary Review	3,273	-		-		-	-	-	-
Memorial Events	-	2,000	2	5,029	2	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Centenary Services	21,607	-		-		-	-	-	-
Branch Support	-	-		-		-	-	-	-
Centenary Branch Events	400	-		3,600		1,000	-	-	-
Friends & Relations	1,800	1,800		1,800		1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Support Costs									
RSA Secretary	28,194	32,300		23,355		32,300	33,000	33,700	34,400
Insurance	1,318	1,350		1,163		1,350	1,425	1,500	1,575
Travel & General expenses	13,339	22,000		4,547		22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Shared Costs	38,228	44,605		41,076		42,043	42,571	43,110	43,782
	<u>108,301</u>	<u>110,055</u>		<u>81,748</u>		<u>108,493</u>	<u>108,796</u>	<u>110,110</u>	<u>111,557</u>
Centenary Items	<u>25,280</u>	<u>-</u>		<u>3,600</u>		<u>1,000</u>			
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>372,903</u>	<u>120,857</u>		<u>622,751</u>		<u>157,592</u>	<u>153,731</u>	<u>148,714</u>	<u>143,286</u>
Welfare Grants	57,859	153,710		(6,377)		131,002	132,902	132,860	132,717
Welfare Support Costs	67,524	74,864		70,102		73,362	74,578	75,813	77,167
	<u>125,383</u>	<u>228,573</u>		<u>63,725</u>		<u>204,364</u>	<u>207,480</u>	<u>208,672</u>	<u>209,883</u>
Balance to/(from) Capital	<u>247,520</u>	<u>(107,716)</u>		<u>559,026</u>		<u>(46,772)</u>	<u>(53,749)</u>	<u>(59,958)</u>	<u>(66,597)</u>

NOTES

- 1 In 2020 and onwards 50% of Donation and Legacy Income will, by default, be credited to the Corps Fund.
Grants could be made from this fund to support Welfare, if needed.
- 2 Reunion and Memorial Events have widened into Corps events (no longer mostly Veterans) and so costs are now shared.
Memorials in 2021 included the new "Lisbon Maru" memorial at the NMA.



SUMMARY OF ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY BENEVOLENCE GRANTS

**BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR PERIOD
1ST JANUARY 2021 – 31ST DECEMBER 2021**



SUMMARY OF ROYAL SIGNALS CHARITY BENEVOLENCE GRANTS

TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS AWARDED

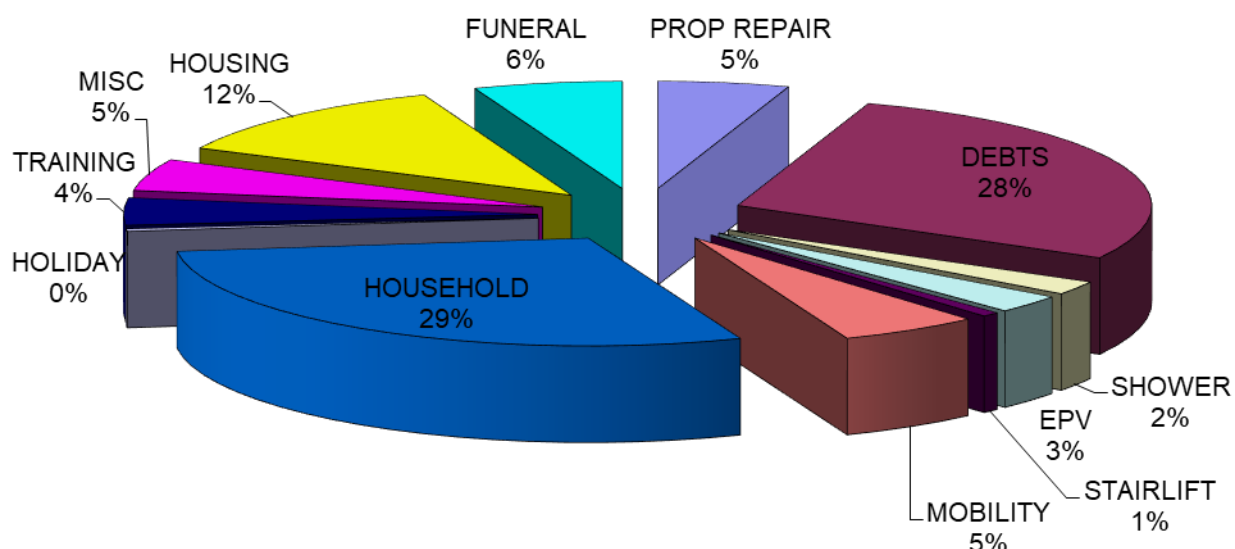
1ST JAN – 31ST DEC 2021

MONTH	Financial Outlay	Number of grants awarded	New cases	Repeat grants	Grants to those 65+	Grants to those serving	Grants to those retired
JANUARY	£12,919.44	24	7	17	4	1	23
FEBRUARY	£21,430.39	29	13	16	9	0	29
MARCH	£10,671.84	14	6	8	6	2	12
APRIL	£9,648.01	17	9	8	5	3	14
MAY	£16,779.49	24	14	10	8	5	19
JUNE	£9,142.31	16	7	9	3	2	14
JULY	£12,948.23	21	9	12	5	3	18
AUGUST	£28,134.35	39	19	20	11	3	36
SEPTEMBER	£11,912.23	27	10	17	9	4	23
OCTOBER	£30,324.60	39	19	20	14	5	34
NOVEMBER	£25,398.75	37	17	20	7	4	33
DECEMBER ¹	£10,185.79	12	9	3	4	1	11
TOTAL	£199,495.43	299	139	160	85	33	266
Comparative period 01/01/20 – 31/12/20	£253,108.13	376	170	206	121	32	344

The above figures relate to 2021 with a comparison to 2020. There were 299 grants awarded during the period 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021. 139 of these were first time applicants, including 22 serving corps personnel. A further 160 grants were awarded to people who had received assistance on previous occasions, including 11 still serving members.

¹ These figures do not include the individual Christmas gifts of £25 awarded in 2021.

BREAKDOWN OF EXPENDITURE FOR 01/01/2021 - 31/12/2021



ANNUAL & CHRISTMAS GRANTS

Each June an **Annual Grant** is made directly to the home or hospital which has a Royal Signals veteran in residence of £250 per resident up to a maximum grant of £1,500. Total for 2021 was **£7,250**.

Expenditure For 2021²

1	The Lady Haig Poppy Factory.	£250
4	Star & Garter Homes.	£1,000
3	Bournemouth War Memorial Homes.	£750
13	Erskine (Princess Louise Hospital).	£1,500
3	Scottish Veterans Residences.	£750
5	Stoll (Sir Oswald Stoll Foundation)	£1,250
26	Veterans Aid	£1,500
N/A	Widows Association	£ 250
TOTAL		£7,250

£1,950 was awarded as **78** individual **Christmas** gifts of £25 per beneficiary. In addition, 68 cards were sent to veterans/members believed to be on their own or vulnerable at Christmas.

ARMY BENEVOLENT FUND (ABF) – THE SOLDIERS CHARITY

January to December 2021 – The ABF assisted with **90** individual grants totalling **£69,662.53** when the requested amount was above our threshold and almonisation was required between the service charities. A further **£15,299.01** was awarded towards the provision of Annuities and contributions towards Nursing Home Fees on our behalf.

² £250 per resident up to a maximum of £1,500.



HEADQUARTERS ROYAL SIGNALS

Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH

Telephone: (0300) 1632365 / (01258) 482130
Military Network: (4371) 2130
E-Mail: rsa@royalsignals.org



RSA Central Committee Members
RSA Annual General Meeting Members

Reference: 04.17.01

Date: 1st March 2022

Admin Officers Report to the 77th Annual General Meeting – 12th March 2022

Introduction

1. I thought it would be best to start my report with a short introduction for those of you who I have not yet spoken to. Since moving to Blandford in 2018 I have held positions in Defence School of Communication Information Systems (DSCIS) working as a Course Administrator, and later in Central Reserve HQ in Griffin House. Prior to Blandford, I was the Community Liaison Officer for the British Forces Community serving with 1 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Battalion in Wesel, Germany. Before I commenced work with the Royal Corps of Signals, I spent most of my career working as an administrator for the Police Service of Northern Ireland. On a personal level, I married into the Corps 20 years ago and have accompanied my husband on postings around the UK and abroad, before settling in Dorset. The past 20 years have given me a wealth of Corps related knowledge and skills which I believe are key in delivering the best service I can for the Royal Signals Association, and I look forward to working with you all.

Delivery

2. It has been a very busy few months since I took up post in October. During this time, I have processed 50 new memberships and very sadly supported the loss of 90 of our members. We have been engaging with the Area Reps on a regular basis, with the initiation of discussion groups which have been extremely productive, and it has been a pleasure getting to know each one of them. I am continuing the engagement with the local branches and I hope that I have managed to capture you all. I have been updating the secretaries list as and when I receive communications with you all. This has highlighted that some of the branch information we have is not up to date. If you are not receiving any communications from the Headquarters, please send me an email with your current contact information and I will add you to our distribution list. Several branches have set up a generic email address for branch business. We highly recommend doing this as it negates the use of your personal email address, while keeping your personal information safe. An example of this could be rsablandford@gmail.com.

Information Update

3. It has come to my attention that several people have been using an email address to contact me which is no longer being monitored. Please remove this email account: rsa@r.signals.onmicrosoft.com from your contacts list and only use the email addresses at the top of this report. Additionally, with the introduction of the RSA Hub in the Corps HQ the RSA phone number has changed. Please use the following numbers:

RSA AO – 0300 1632 365 or 01258 482130

Events

4. Continuing on from the last AGM, all events are to be booked electronically via the Members Area of the website (royalsignals.org). If you have any issues with the booking process, please let me know. The main event in the calendar is Corps Weekend which takes place on the 17th to 19th June 2022. We are working hard to finalise the details and once this has been done, I will issue communications via the website. At this stage, we cannot take bookings for this event, but we hope to go live in the coming weeks.

5. Booking is currently open for the following events:

- a. Founders Day at Royal Hospital Chelsea – 9th June 2022
- b. Royal British Legion Falklands Commemoration Event at the National Memorial Arboretum (veterans of the conflict only) – 14th June 2022.
- c. Cenotaph Contingent London – 13th November 2022.

Conclusion

6. Thank you to everyone for the very warm welcome I have received since I took over post. I am thoroughly enjoying the challenge and I am looking forward to meeting as many members as I can this year, at some of the events or during the road trip Col Craft previously mentioned. As always if there is anything, I can do for you, please let me know.

Tracey Muers
Royal Signals Association
Admin Officer