



Newton Abbot & District Branch of the Royal Engineers Association

Minutes for Meeting Dated Sunday 26th October 2025.

Branch Officials:	Mr Mike Jepps	Branch President
	Mr Martin Rogers	Branch Chairman
	Mrs Moira Hamilton	Branch Secretary
	Mrs Sam MacCormick	Branch Treasurer
	Mr Bob Rainey	Branch Vice Chairman

Members Present: 14

Apologies received from Members – Iggy Gagola, Charlie Rainey, Maurice Lidster, Andy Naish

Meeting Opened: 11.30hrs

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed those members and partners who attended and invited those who were able, to stand and join him in giving a thought to Remembrance Day coming up on November 11th and to all those who are commemorated on this day.

This was followed by the Exhortation and a moment's silence.

2. NEW MEMBERS

No new members this month.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any comments in relation to the previous meeting Minutes.

The Minutes were then agreed as an accurate record of events.

Proposed: Mike Joyce

Seconded: Kev Davis

That the Minutes as presented be accepted.

Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST BRANCH MEETING IN September.

- Letter from David Ormsby, re transfer of Branch accounts to REA HQ
- Justice 4 Heroes had cancelled their visit to the Branch, this was after the Secretary chased confirmation of their attendance.
- Secretary had received the REA 2024 Reports

5. BRANCH TREASURERS REPORT

Opening Balance		£6,556.72
Bank Charges (Sept)		5.25
Bank Charges		4.25
Raffle at (Sep) meeting	+	£ 75.00
Tea/Coffee (Sep)	+	£ 7.93

Closing Balance	+	£6,630.15

Proposed: Mike Darke

Seconded: Brian Cocker

That the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6. WELFARE MEMBERS REPORT

Stephan Bouloux, who over this past month or so, has made a very good recovery after a very serious medical episode, which resulted in him being hospitalised. Stephan was able to attend this months Meeting and explained what happened to him. We wish him a good recovery.

Next is Trish Jepps, which is not such good news. She has made contact with the Radiology Dept at Torbay Hospital to be told that even though GP has requested an urgent scan she is on the waiting list and that has a waiting time of 7 to 8 weeks. On that time scale that means sometime in December.

Keith Tapp and Sandra are in the same state of health as last month.

Brian has made contact with Nina Knell on their behalf and Nina is going to check with the hospital first, to see if she can help in any way whatsoever. Brian will make a follow up call to Nina on Tuesday. Mike Joyce also offered support with his contacts he has within the NHS.

7. BRANCH EVENTS

- The Curry/Quiz night at the RBL on Saturday 1st November 2025. This is going ahead with a curry and Shepard's pie available for £6 a head. Numbers were collated for those wishing to attend.
- Remembrance Day Parade, Newton Abbot. Sunday 9th November 2025. The Parade will form up in Courtney Street. The Parade will depart at 10.35 promptly. Branch members can meet in Spoons beforehand for breakfast if they wish. Roger Andrews has kindly agreed to lay the Wreath.
- Plymouth Branch's, Dinner and Dance will be on Saturday 22nd November 2025. Anyone wishing to attend needs to contact Darren King, at the Plymouth Branch.
- Branch Christmas Luncheon RBL. Sunday 14th December 2025. The arrangements are going well and raffle donations have been coming in. It has been confirmed 56 members and guests are attending.

8. 2025 UPCOMING POTENTIAL EVENTS

- Newton Abbot RFC. March 2026. Chair to confirm details nearer the date.

9. CHAIRMAN'S POINTS

- Congratulations to RSM Harry Monks who has been awarded his Commission.
- SW Group changes, it has been confirmed that the SW Group amalgamation will consist of Commando (National), Newton Abbot, Plymouth, Truro & Taunton Branches, (but not Bridgewater).
- The Chair highlighted another push to get 'Friends and Family' i.e. Spouses/partners to join the REA. This will be beneficial if they wish to attend any organised REA events, whereby they will pay the lesser amount and would be entitled to continued welfare support. It was agreed that Spouses/Partners would be automatically blanket voted in and the applicant to apply online, on the REA website.
- There have been updates from the REA HQ in relation to all Branch bank accounts. To summarise, the REA announced that they wish to centralise and take over the Management of all Branch funds. This would lead to Branch's then having 'apply' to use the funds for Branch needs etc. The Branch received an e-mail from a David Ormsby highlighting their intentions. Branch members were obviously concerned

about this and very much against the HQ imposing this on Branches. This matter to be further discussed when any updates are sent.

- There was also discussion in relation to members having a list of contact telephone numbers, in case of any assistance/welfare issues. Members confirm they already had a number of members numbers themselves that they already use, but the idea was to offer contact to new members. It was suggested the Committee members numbers are e-mailed to new members as and when they join.
- The Chair reminded Members that the Branch needed to start updating and adding events to the 2026 diary.

10. PROPOSALS FROM THE FLOOR

- Roger Andrews proposed that all spouse/partners are blanket voted in to become a Member of the REA. But other family members and friends would remain being individually voted on. This was seconded by Mike Joyce

Carried.

- Moira Hamilton proposed that £30 be given from the Branch funds to purchase prizes for the upcoming Curry/quiz night. This was seconded by Kev Davis

Carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- Kev & Elaine wished to thank those who attended the Breast Cancer charity cream tea day. They managed to raise £640.00.

CLOSING ADDRESS

There being no further business, it was agreed the next Ordinary Branch Meeting will be held on Sunday 23rd November 2025.

Signed:

Martin Rogers

Mr Martin Rogers (Chairman)

Signed:

Moira Hamilton

Mrs Moira Hamilton (Secretary)

Dated: 01/11/2025