

47 Royal Marine Commando Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Monday 8th June 2026 in the Salle des Fêtes, Port-en-Bessin

Attendance: Bob Perry (Chairman), Paddy O'Connell (Vice Chairman), Anne-Marie Nicholls (Secretary), Allen Withington (Treasurer), Geof Haywood (Events Co-ordinator), Phil Chappell, Glynis Prentis, Jill Haywood, Dave Shorrocks, Joris Panis, Jill Haywood, Lynette Bruce, Kelly Heathfield.

Apologies: Nil apologies received.

Item	Action
ITEM 1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks Bob Perry welcomed all attendees to the AGM. He asked everyone to stand and mark a short period of reflection in memory of our veterans and those who had passed during the last 12 months: Peter Phillips (founding member of the modern day 47RM Commando Association), Clive Porter (son of veteran Ken Porter) and Richard Hearne (husband of Jacqui and son in law of veteran Chuck Harris). Bob Perry thanked the committee for their tireless effort, working together to achieve the very best for the membership. He apologised for the failure to distribute the agenda. It was explained that the AGM was quite prescriptive and not the forum for general or routine issues. However, as members are geographically spread far and wide the Chairman would allow any matter to be raised if in the general interest of the membership. Bob Perry remarked that the retired standard (to be known as the Veterans' Standard) was on display in a custom made glass fronted wooden case. It would serve as a reminder that everything we do in the Association is in memory of our veterans. The case was designed and crafted by Martin Cox, son of veteran Edward (Ted) Cox. The Cousins Frame, also crafted by Martin Cox, and presented to the mayor on 7th June was also on display. A duplicate frame has been retained by the Association.	
ITEM 2 - Previous AGM Minutes The Minutes of the 2025 AGM had been circulated to the membership and published on the front page of the website. No responses had been received and attendees were therefore asked to approve the minutes as published. It was proposed by Phil Chappell and seconded by Kelly Heathfield that they be accepted as a true record. <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	Secretary

ITEM 3 - Treasurer's Report Allen Withington presented the financial accounts for calendar year 2025 (attached to these minutes) with an explanation of all transactions and balances. He emphasised the following points: Voluntary donations replaced individual subscriptions from 1st Jan 2025. The Association is no longer able to levy a subscription fee upon our members, rather a donation is made instead. Initially all donations are sent to the RMA- The Royal Marines Charity who retain the Gift Aid prior to forwarding the donation to the Association. Allen Withington reminded all members of the HMS President dinner on 11th July and to inform him if they wished to attend. It was proposed that the accounts for calendar year 2024 be accepted as a true record (these were attached to the AGM minutes and published on the front page of the website). <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u> Bob Perry thanked the Treasurer for his report and the work that he undertakes on behalf of the membership. The Association was financially very healthy. He added that there is an expenses matrix to reimburse committee members for official business but all generally fund their own expenses through personal choice.	Membership Membership
ITEM 4 - Review of Association Activities June 2025 - May 26 Anne-Marie Nicholls outlined the following events that had occurred in the last 12 months: <u>Port-en-Bessin (June)</u> 81st anniversary commemorations - joined by RMA. BBC Breakfast reported live from Gold Beach at Asnelles. Bob Perry interviewed by Paddy O'Connell. Cheque for €1,387 presented to Société Nationale de Sauvetage en Mer. Inaugural Certificates of Appreciation presented to the Mayor of Asnelles, Mayor of Tracy-sur-Mer and Madame Laurence Scoupe. 'In the Footsteps of 47 Commando' and Last Night Auction raised funds for RM Charity. <u>Fecamp (September)</u> 81st anniversary commemorations attended by Association members. <u>RMA Families Weekend CTCRM (September)</u> Lou Satorel re-appointed RMA National Standard Bearer. Geof and Jill Haywood set up and manned the 47 RM Commando Association stall. <i>(Continued...)</i>	

<u>Supersession of President Appointment (September)</u> Colonel Karl Gray RM assumed the appointment of President from Colonel Will Norcott RM. <u>Walcheren (November)</u> 81st anniversary commemorations - supported by CO and RSM 47 Cdo (RG) RM <u>November Remembrance Ceremonies</u> Bob Perry attended Eastney Ceremony with members and laid wreath at the 47 RM Cdo Memorial. Allen Withington laid a wreath at the Graspan Memorial in London. BBC R4 National Cenotaph Service, presented by Paddy O'Connell, featured a letter written by Marine Benny Pry to his sweetheart. <u>The John Forfar Clinical Study Room (November)</u> John's son's David and Colin with daughter-in-law Alison joined Bob & Shirley Perry, Paddy O'Connell along with Richard & May Scambler at the opening at the University of St Andrews. <u>Visit to Malcolm Ross (November)</u> Bob Perry called on Malcolm Ross, our generous benefactor, in Birmingham. <u>Website (November)</u> The new website went live. <u>RM Charity Annual Fundraising Event (November)</u> A second framed copy of a map carried by 47 veteran Ted Cox on D-Day raised £3k for the RM Charity. Jeep on the Beaches Memorial Trip raised £3.65k and a signed copy of the David Rowlands print a further £500. <u>Funeral of Clive Porter (February)</u> Members attended the funeral of Clive Porter, son of veteran Ken Porter, in Bristol. <u>Seurat and The Sea Exhibition (February)</u> The Mayor of Port-en-Bessin and entourage visited the VIP opening of the exhibition at the Courtauld Gallery in London. Bob Perry, Paddy O'Connell, Allen Withington and Dave Shorrock hosted. <u>Mountbatten Festival of Music (March)</u> Many members attended MFM at Royal Albert Hall - a successful weekend enjoyed by all. <i>(Continued...)</i>	
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<u>Port-en-Bessin Recce Visit (March)</u> Bob Perry & Geof Haywood met with the mayor and his team. <u>Funeral of Richard Hearn (April)</u> Members attended the funeral of Richard Hearne in Braintree, Essex. <u>Visit to Sarah Phillips (April)</u> Bob & Shirley Perry visited the widow of Peter Phillips, the son of C F Phillips and architect of the modern Association, in Coggeshall, Essex. She has loaned to Bob Perry the WW2 handwritten diaries of C F Phillips.	
ITEM 5 - Re-election of Committee Members Bob Perry informed attendees that all of the current executive committee (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Events Co-ordinator) had indicated that they were content to continue to serve in their respective roles. In addition, neither he nor the Secretary had been notified of any person wishing to be considered for any of the above appointments. Accordingly, the Chairman did not seek a vote on the re-election of the executive committee officials. Bob Perry further informed attendees that all of the co-opted committee members (Membership Co-ordinator, Despatch Editor, Webmaster, Historical Records/'Following in the Footsteps' walk and Standard Bearer) had indicated that they are content to continue to serve in their respective roles. Bob Perry explained that the membership elected the executive committee members whereas the co-opted members were selected by the executive.	Chairman Chairman
ITEM 6 - Update on Future Events <u>HMS President Dinner</u> The black-tie dinner would take place on Saturday 11th July 2026 at 6pm. Guests would include our Life President, President, Executive Officer HMS President, Christine Hagan and Martin Cox. A grant submission to the RMA for £3.6k had been approved. (Note: Dinner attendees now number 66). <u>Fécamp</u> Geof Haywood stated that the commemorations would take place between 1st-3rd September. A programme would be circulated in due course. <u>Walcheren</u> This major commemoration would take place 1st-3rd November. As usual, hotel rooms would be block booked in the Hotel de Burg in Domburg. It is likely that the RMA will operate a coach this year.	Vice Chairman/ Treasurer Secretary Events Co-Ord

ITEM 7 - Any Other Business <u>RMA</u> - Geof Haywood reassured members who were concerned that it seemed as if the RMA was taking over the Association, especially at Port-en-Bessin. He stated that he wrote the programme which they follow. Bob Perry added that he and the committee would strongly protect the unique identity of 47 RM Commando Association. <u>Membership</u> - Lisa Roberts stated that there were now 83 members registered on our webpage on the RMA website and over 100 friends on the 47 RM Commando Association FaceBook site. The main effort would now be to draw all the membership strands together into a consolidated list. <u>Communication</u> - Allen Withington reinforced the already acknowledged fact that individual communication with the membership was weak. Bob Perry added that communication is vital in any organisation; we live in a more technical age and need to keep pace with modern social media. However, there remains a place for email and many members prefer communication by this method. <u>The Standard</u> - Bob Perry informed all that the Association can trace its lineage back to 1946 when veterans kept in touch with each other. On the National RMA Standard there is a 75-year streamer recognising the length of time the RMA had been formed. He had spoken to Phil Gilby who has no objections to a 75-year streamer being added to our standard. <u>From Omaha to the Scheldt</u> - Bob Perry has had a conversation with Essie Cousins regarding a third edition of 'From Omaha to the Scheldt'. The new edition would have a different image on the front and printed on better quality paper. A print run of 100 copies would cost approximately £300 excluding design and other administrative costs. John Prentis asked the retail cost of the current book and was informed that it was £20. The largest buyer of the book was the Polderhuis Museum; we sell to the museum at cost price so we do not make any profit. No decision to proceed just yet but the committee will look at all options. <u>John Forfar Medal</u> - Following the opening of the John Forfar Clinical Study Room at the University of St Andrews, the John Forfar Medal will be awarded to the top medical student on completion of each three-year study period. The first medal will be presented in 2027. Along with the Forfar family the Association has been involved with the design of the medal. <u>HMS President Dinner</u> - Menu choices have been sent out and a Brass Ensemble from the RMA Concert Band will provide musical support. The outside decking area, with commanding views of the River Thames and Tower Bridge has been booked for pre dinner drinks. The event is heavily subsidised by the Association as a thank you to members for their ongoing support - tickets are £47 per head (the true cost is £150).	Committee Membership Co-Ord Committee Chairman Chairman Chairman Vice-Chairman/ Treasurer
ITEM 10 - Date of Next Meeting With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting. Next year's AGM would take place in Port-en-Bessin on Tuesday 8th June with a time to be determined.	Secretary

Anne-Marie Nicholls
Secretary

Enclosure:

47 RM Commando Association Financial Accounts for 1 January - 31 December 2025.

47 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO BRANCH
ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION
INCOME & EXPENDITURE

	YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2025				PREVIOUS YEAR 2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME							
Membership subscriptions					1,075.00		
Donations							
General donations		1,978.90			1,383.00		
New Standard Donation		1,170.46					
PEB Donations							
PEB Auction RMA					1,800.00		
			3,149.36			3,183.00	
Amazon		96.84			133.96		
Book Sales		229.99			124.00		
Merchandise Sales					20.00		
			326.83			277.96	
TOTAL INCOME				3,476.19			4,535.96
EXPENDITURE							
Wreaths etc		435.00			740.00		
New Standard		1,170.46					
PEB Plague		1,212.09					
SNSM		1,280.46					
Web Hosting etc		718.65			21.60		
Printing & Postage		589.75					
Room Hire		175.80			72.00		
Funeral Costs					197.10		
Stock Write - off					622.92		
Finance Charges/ SUMUP		4.25			86.00		
Other Travel		393.30					
Bank Charges		72.50					
Other		35.00					
MFM - Patels / Mayors		836.88			1,615.00		
Asnelles Bench					1,600.75		
Asnelles Wall					(2,426.70)		
Donations					1,936.00		
Expenditure			6,924.14			4,464.67	
Walcheren							
Net Travel and misc. exps		250.00			537.00		
			250.00			537.00	
PEB							
Other					2542.50		
Expenses		250.00			542.18		
			250.00			3,084.68	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE				7,424.14			8,086.35
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE				<u>- 3,947.95</u>			<u>- 3,550.39</u>

**47 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO BRANCH
ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2025

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	£	£	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS						
Painting Port-en-Bessin						
			-			-
CURRENT ASSETS						
Stock						
Prints & Cards						
Other						
Wreaths	402.00					
		402			0	
Balance at Bank		14,913.31			19,083.81	
Debtor				103.7		
		-			103.70	
Petty Cash Euros				27.31		
Sterling				48.44		
		-			75.75	
TOTAL		15,315.31			19,263.26	
CURRENT LIABILITIES						
Creditors						
		-			-	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			15,315.31			19,263.26
NET ASSETS			£ 15,315.31			£ 19,263.26
REPRESENTED BY:-						
General Reserves						
Bal. Dec. '24		19,263.26			22,813.65	
Surplus / (Deficit)		(3,947.95)			(3,550.39)	
			15,315.31			19,263.26
TOTAL FUNDS & RESERVES			£ 15,315.31			£ 19,263.26