

## 47 Royal Marine Commando Association

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

**Sunday 8th June 2025 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), Lisa Roberts (Membership Co-ordinator), Lou Sartorel (Standard Bearer), Phil Chappell, Richard Scrambler, May Scrambler, Jill Haywood, Shirley-Anne Perry, Joyce Stephens, Neil Stephens, Pat Roberts, Richard Hearn, Jacqui Hearn, Dave Shorrock.

Apologies: Nil apologies received.

Item	Action
<b>ITEM 1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks</b>  Bob Perry welcomed all attendees to the AGM. He asked everyone to stand and mark a short period of silence in memory of our veterans and/or any family or friends that have passed during the last 12 months.  Bob Perry remarked that his first year as chairman had been extremely busy but rewarding - this is reflected in the review of activities and also the improvements that have been made to some of the administrative functions of the Association which remains a vibrant and financially strong organisation. He felt privileged to be chairman of such a well respected and family orientated Association.  Bob Perry thanked the committee for their tireless effort, working together to achieve the very best for the membership.  The new website should be live by the end of the month; reason for the delay is due to a persistent problem with porting some of 'The Men' details and photographs from the old site to the new.  Once the new website was launched then Bob Perry hoped to introduce a short monthly 'MailChimp' newsletter with links to the new website. Despatch would continue to be produced twice a year.	Chairman     Chairman  Chairman
<b>ITEM 2 - Previous AGM Minutes</b>  The Minutes of the 2024 AGM had been circulated to the membership. No responses had been received and attendees were therefore asked to approve the minutes as published.  <u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u>	Secretary

### **ITEM 3 - Review of Association Activities June 2024 - June 2025**

Anne-Marie Nicholls outlined the following events that had occurred in the last 12 months:

#### Port-en-Bessin (June)

80th anniversary commemorations (joined by RMA and 47 Cdo (RG) RM).  
Lt Gen Sir Charlie Stickland in attendance.  
Asnelles bench & Asnelles memorial wall unveiled.  
'In the Footsteps of 47 Commando' - 400 walkers - £13k raised for RM Charity.  
Street named '47 RM Commando' at Tracy-sur-Mer.  
Last Night Auction - over £3k raised for RM Charity.  
Seamless handover of Chairman appointment at AGM.

#### Fecamp (September)

80th anniversary commemorations.  
Elizabeth Walton, daughter of Major Walton MC RM, attended for first time.  
3 x Streets/Square named '47 RM Commando/Major Walton'.

#### RMA Families Weekend CTCRM (September)

Lou Sartorel appointed RMA National Standard Bearer.

#### NHS South East Coast Ambulance Trust

#### Duchy College - Military & Protective Services Academy (October)

Bob Perry and Ken Cowdery accompanied groups conducting 'In the Footsteps of 47 Commando' march.

#### 47 Cdo (RG) RM Luncheon Devonport (October)

Twelve of our members attended.

#### Life President & President Appointments (October)

Admiral the Rt Hon Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC PC.  
Colonel Will Norcott RM - CO 47 Cdo (RG) RM.

#### Royal Marines Historical Society (October)

Ken Cowdery was presented with the RMHS Award for his work 'In the Footsteps of 47 Commando'.

#### Walcheren (November)

80th anniversary commemorations (joined by RMA and 47 Cdo (RG) RM).  
HM Ambassador, 1st Sea Lord and Maj Gen Tony Turner in attendance.  
Commando silhouette figure unveiled.  
Medal Group of Capt Roger Lloyd RM (incl Dutch Order of Bronze Lion) presented to the Polderhuis museum.  
Visit to Carmen Battery.

*(Continued...)*

<p><u>Remembrance Ceremonies (November)</u></p> <p>Allen Withington laid a wreath at Graspas Memorial in London. Pauline Harris laid a wreath at the 47 RM Commando memorial at Eastney.</p> <p><u>HMS Victory Dinner (November)</u></p> <p>Inaugural black tie annual dinner on board Nelson's Flagship. Forty members attended.</p> <p><u>RM Charity Annual Fundraising Event (November)</u></p> <p>The framed copy of a map carried on D-Day by 47 veteran Edward Cox raised £14k for the RM Charity.</p> <p><u>Kapelsche Veer (January)</u></p> <p>80th anniversary commemoration was attended by Bob and Shirley Perry along with Kelly Heathfield. Bob Perry laid the wreath on behalf of the British Embassy and delivered the Exhortation on behalf of all participating nations.</p> <p><u>Mountbatten Festival of Music (March)</u></p> <p>Stéphane and Nathalie Pitel were the Association's guests for the MFM weekend. Approx 35 members attended the concert in the Royal Albert Hall.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>ITEM 4 - Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Allen Withington presented the financial accounts for calendar year 2024 (attached to these minutes) with an explanation of all transactions and balances. He emphasised the following points:</p> <p>The accounts are very healthy. There was a deficit of £3.6k; this was mainly due to the new memorial bench at Asnelles, hosting the Mayors at the MFM and a transfer of shop stock from the balance sheet.</p> <p>It was explained that due to our Association's charitable relationship with the RMA-The Royal Marines Charity (RMA-TRMC) we are no longer able to levy a subscription fee upon our members (lately £15). Therefore the committee had unanimously decided to change the method, with immediate effect, by which members can continue to voluntarily donate to the 47 RMCA. This change will bring the Association in line with the overwhelming majority of other RMA branches that have now moved away from individual subscriptions. This change will be publicised in the next edition of Despatch and also on the new website when launched.</p> <p>It was proposed that the accounts for calendar year 2024 be accepted as a true record.</p> <p><u>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</u></p> <p>Bob Perry thanked the Treasurer for his report and the work that he undertakes on behalf of the membership.</p>	<p>Membership Co-ord  Treasurer</p> <p>All</p>





<p>Lou Sartorel added that it was military traditional that retired standards should normally be laid up in a museum, church or other place of historical significance and allowed to decay until there is nothing left - 48 RM Commando have laid up a retired standard in a church in Gravesend. Although Bob Perry was very aware of this practice he was in favour of housing the retired standard in a flag box as the Association is not particularly affiliated to any church - further discussion would be required before a final decision was made.</p> <p><u>Association Identity</u> - Pat Roberts and Joyce Stephens thought that the identity of the Association was at risk, especially during our visit to Port-en-Bessin/ Normandy, due to our closer links with the RMA. It was thought that veterans' family members were relegated 'to the back' especially at Bayeux CWGC cemetery. Phil Chappell stated that the RM Prayer was usually spoken by a veteran/family with reverence rather than read out in military fashion. Lou Sartorel also added his thoughts along the same lines as already discussed. Paddy O'Connell said that the Association was very well respected as a group and we perhaps needed to be a bit more assertive.</p>	Chairman/All
<p>Bob Perry thanked all participants for raising this issue and for their candid views. He was aware that this issue would be raised and had therefore discussed this with the committee prior to the AGM. We are perhaps victims of our own success - for many years our veterans thought that the serving and retired Corps did not appreciate their achievements in WW2. However, better liaison would take place with the RMA and 47 Cdo (Raiding Group) RM to ensure that Association families were always front and centre during all future events. He apologised that this had occurred this year and asked members to trust the committee - the unique identity of the 47RMCA will be maintained.</p>	Chairman
<p><b>ITEM 10 - Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>With no further business the Chairman closed the meeting. Next year's AGM would take place in Port-en-Bessin on Monday 8th June with a time to be determined.</p>	Secretary

Anne-Marie Nicholls  
Secretary

Enclosure:

47 RM Cdo Association Accounts for 1 January - 31 December 2024.

**47 ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO BRANCH**  
**ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

	YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024				PREVIOUS YEAR 2023		
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>							
Membership subscriptions			1,075.00			930.00	
Donations							
General donations		1,383.00			426.68		
PEB Donations					1,116.00		
PEB Auction RMA		1,800.00			210.00		
Funeral donations					535.05		
			3,183.00			2,287.73	
Amazon		133.96			69.20		
Book Sales		124.00					
Merchandise Sales		20.00					
			277.96			69.20	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>				4,535.96			3,286.93
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
Wreaths etc		740.00			710.00		
Web Hosting etc		21.60			143.71		
Despatch Printing & Postage					85.00		
Other		72.00			333.30		
Funeral Costs		197.10			195.30		
Room Hire					100.00		
Finance Charges/ SUMUP		86.00			30.00		
Stock write - off		622.92					
PEB recon.					165.00		
Fecamp					352.80		
MFM Mayors Visit		1,615.00					
Asnelles Bench		1,600.75			1,500.00		
Asnelles Wall	Donations	(2,426.70)			2,100.00		
	Expenditur	1,936.00			(2,118.50)		
			4,464.67			3,596.61	
Walcheren							
Net Travel and misc. exps		537.00					
Wreaths					44.00		
Insurance (50%)					145.50		
			537.00			189.50	
PEB							
Net trip receipts(members)					(5,502.20)		
RMA contribution					(1,834.33)		
Coach					2,065.20		
Hotel					5,810.33		
Insurance (50%)					145.50		
Other		2542.50					
Expenses		542.18				684.50	
			3,084.68				
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>				8,086.35			4,470.61
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>					- 3,550.39		- 1,183.68

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

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2023

	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>						
Painting Port-en-Bessin						
			-			-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>						
Stock				192.92		
				350.00		
				80.00		
		0			622.92	
Balance at Bank		19,083.81			22,111.92	
Debtor					51.50	
MFM 2025	103.7		103.70			
Petty Cash Euros	27.31			27.31		
Sterling	48.44					
		75.75			27.31	
<b>TOTAL</b>		19,263.26			22,813.65	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>						
Creditors						
		-			-	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		19,263.26			22,813.65	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		£ 19,263.26			£ 22,813.65	
<b>REPRESENTED BY:-</b>						
Undistributable Reserves						
(Painting)				6080.00		
T'sfer to RM				-6080.00		
			-			-
General Reserves						
Bal. Dec. '23		22,813.65		6,032.23		
Surplus / (Deficit)		(3,550.39)		(1,183.68)		
Transfer from Restricted Fund			17,965.10			
		19,263.26			22,813.65	
Restricted Fund				17,965.10		
Spend in year						
Transfer to General Reserve				(17,965.10)		
			-			-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS &amp; RESERVES</b>		£ 19,263.26			£ 22,813.65	