ROYAL MILITARY POLICE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#33 JANUARY 20212

President: Brigadier Vivienne Buck
Chair: Bob Eggelton
Vice Chair: Bob Potts
Secretary: Stewart Leach MBE
Treasurer: Ron Campbell-Smith

Dear colleague,

I write at a time when the death toll from the Coronavirus has bounced over the 100,000 mark, a total that most of us would not have even considered possible when the whole thing kicked off a year ago. I do hope that this newsletter finds you in good health although your hair may be suffering, which is not a problem for me.

I am aware that some of you have sadly lost family and friends for one reason or another and that our current situation only adds to the sadness and frustration felt. On behalf of the Association may I offer condolences to you and your families.

The spirit of the Corps prevails and over the weeks and months I have received reports of individuals and branches that are putting themselves forward to help in this time of national crisis. Many of you have turned to finding new hobbies to occupy the time and keep the sanity at bay. I have been amazed at some budding artists and model makers while other have taken the opportunity to refurbish their gardens. Others provide a daily dose of insane jokes/funnies on various sites - one or two of you should be locked up! All I can say is stick in there, the end is in sight although some way off.

The National Secretary recently sent out a message to all Branch Secretaries but as some of you are not a member of a branch I will highlight some of the points. One of the main points was about administration and compliance with the rules and instructions relating to the Association. This is an important point which assists the smooth running of the Association, Information is disseminated via the branch secretaries and hopefully out to the members, a simple chain of command which is almost inbred in us, so please ensure that you have a good system for contacting your members - most branches do.

I am aware that a number of branches are struggling and the current restrictions have exacerbated the situation. All I can say is hang on in there, there seems to be a glimmer of hope on the horizon and in time we will get back to normal although most of my age will have forgotten what normal was. By now a number of you will have had “just a little scratch” in your upper arm, some even two and I hope that this is the way out of this mess. Some of you would have noticed how politically correct I was with the word "scratch" - it wasn’t that in my day!

Speaking of the vaccine roll out I would just like to take this opportunity to pay respects to the NHS and the band of volunteers who have made the roll out a success. I would also like to pay tribute to the servicemen and women who are out there supporting the NHS.

Just to bring you up to date on Corps and Association events. The following events have been cancelled:

The HM Tower of London Parade - February 2021

The Royal Air Force Police Snowdrop Parade - March 202

The RMPA SIB Branch Dinner - April 2021.

The Royal Military Police Annual Service at the National Memorial Arboretum - June 2021

The Provost Day at Southwick Park - July 2021

That leaves just one major planned event, the Association's Annual Reunion 21 - 23 May 2021. I write wearing two hats, as Chair and as Secretary of Depot Branch. The current situation is that there is no contact with the hotel as it is closed but it is intended to get a definitive answer as soon as possible as to the viability of holding the event. My aim is to ensure that there is no substantial financial loss to either the individuals who have booked accommodation and to the Depot Branch who have paid a sizeable deposit. None of us know when restrictions will be lifted and this creates problems with using not only the hotel but of course using Southwick Park on the Sunday. If you have booked tickets for the dinner or have paid a deposit for accommodation do not do anything at this stage. I will ensure that the best deal for all is achieved for all concerned and the hotel management are normally quite considerate and accommodating.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

16th October 2021. 253 Provost Company (V) Reunion. To be held at the Hickstead Hotel, Jobs Land, Bolney, West Sussex RH17 5NZ. For further information please contact me.

If your branch or group has a forthcoming activity which you would like publicised then let me know, but let me know in good time.

If you require further details about any event then please contact me via e-mail or telephone.

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