



## Lieutenant General Richard Wardlaw OBE

As the nation transitions into the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and faces a growing myriad of issues the Council joins me in wishing you all the very best. The uncertainty we all face underlines the importance of the continued support the Society and The Samaritan Fund provide for the dependents of Sapper officers.

As I prepare to handover the Chair to Brigadier John Clark at the AGM next month I must thank the Council and the Society's Members for enabling the delivery of so much change which has contributed to its enhancement and enrichment over the last 12 months.

Our investment portfolio managers, James Hambro & Partners, have continued to serve the Society well. A competition was run this year: six firms tendered for the role, and I am pleased to report that Hambro's came out on top and have been re-appointed.

Since the last AGM and the adoption of new Articles and Rules, an increasing number of Members have registered their long term partners illustrating how much more inclusive the Society has become. This has been reflected too through increased new Member enrolments from Troop Commanders Courses (both Regular and Reserve) and, indeed, by a number of officers approaching the ends of their Service careers.

Finally - I would once again encourage Members to support the Society through attending the AGM next month.

## Benefits Review

A review of benefits was initiated in June and is due to culminate with a decision at the October Council Meeting: the outcome will be briefed at the AGM.

## 2021 Annual General Meeting - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 1700 to 1800 hrs

This year's AGM will again be conducted via Zoom. As many Members as possible are encouraged to attend - please register your interest at [admin@reows.co.uk](mailto:admin@reows.co.uk) and registration details will be provided. Key business:

- Outcome of Benefits Review
- Election of **three** new Council Members
- Noting **two** changes to Rules of the Society
- Handover of Chair

## Switch to Direct Debit - Don't be the Last!

The migration of subscription payments via standing order to direct debit is going well, with over 70% of paying-in Members enrolled.

If you have not done so already **please set up a mandate [here](#)** and the Society will be in touch to confirm a payment schedule (**do remember to cancel your existing standing order with your bank**).

## Are you *really* still Single?

If you are married or in a long term relationship you wish to register and have **not** informed the Society you will be paying in at the incorrect rate and your dependents will not be entitled to full benefits - **do get in touch with the Society ASAP.**