



AREA 2 ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Saturday 8th October 2016 at Minster Working Men's Club

Officers Present	Chairman	Colin Rickard
	Secretary	Frances Halifax
	Treasurer	Roger Ide

Committee Vic Allen, George Ashdown, Mick Cox, Alan Oliver, Stephen Shaw and Steve Susans. John Richards from Gravesend was welcomed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and opened the meeting at 11.07 hours reminding the Committee that he would not allow idle chat during the meeting and distributed notepads with instructions on the correct procedure in raising a point.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Fred Westwood.

MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING.

The minutes were distributed, read and with no matters arising were proposed by Steve Susans, seconded by Mick Cox and unanimously agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of events.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary gave detail of an event at Monkton and Minster RBL with Shep Woolley on 20th November from 13.30 hours.

She went on to remind those interested in the 2017 National Conference in Perth that the arranged five day break was going ahead and asked for a deposit at the delegates meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Royal Naval Association - Area 2
Account activity since last Area Meeting 13 Aug 2016 and
Financial Status as at 07 Oct 2016

Balance at Bank 12 Aug 2016	£3674.49
Room Hire 13 Aug	<u>100.00</u>
Balance at Bank 07 Oct 2016	<u>£3574.49</u>

Area Dues for 2016 still to be received from
Maidstone £12.30, Reigate £7.50, Sidcup £6.00
and Horley £12.00(for 2015 & 2016)

The Treasurer was concerned that four Branches have not paid their annual dues even though the Secretaries all receive the minutes with it noted. He suggested that since detail of branch membership is no longer listed, that Area 2 no charge in future as it only brings in approximately £200 when all are paid. He felt that the only big expense is the Standard Bearer's Competition and cost of four room hires/hosts.

The question of holding a raffle at each Delegates meeting was agreed and the Committee asked to donate a gift.

Mick Cox felt that National Conference cost should be remembered although there is thirteen years between each event for Area 2.

Steve Susans felt it should be discussed at the Delegates Meeting and the Treasurer agreed and felt it should be a matter for the AGM in February.

The Accounts were proposed by Stephen Shaw, Alan Oliver seconded and it was unanimously agreed that the accounts were accepted as correct.

The Treasurer introduced John Richards from Gravesend who had volunteered to take on the duties of Treasurer to allow Roger Ide to step back as needed. The Chairman thanked him for his interest and it was agreed that a change of signatories for the accounts would be completed.

WELFARE REPORT

Alan Oliver reported that there had been no members who had crossed the bar since the last meeting although Roger Ide was aware that Terry Priesly and Brian Dawes should be remembered from Chatham.

The Welfare Officer underlined the need to be informed so that he can forward a condolence or get well card in time.

He was aware of Ansom and Harry Cowell's situation although had not managed to visit.

Vic Allen felt that assistance from the RNA Benevolence, SSAFA or any association is always governed initially by the financial status of the claimant although agreed that just keeping in touch is a key factor. He went on to say that all National Council meeting start by acknowledging those members who have crossed the bar and HQ welcome all forms of news regarding RNA members.

The Welfare Officer had correspondence about the Aged Veterans Counselling Association which helps members cope with bereavement, limbless, blind, etc.

The Committee were agreed that contact with those suffering was necessary and every effort to keep in touch either by phone or visiting should be made and reported to the Welfare Officer so that he can follow it up.

The Chairman suggested that a communication system be set up so that contact can be made and thanked the Welfare Officer for his report.

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORT

The Council made the following decisions at their meeting on 10 Sept 2016

- The Council stood in silence to remember those who have 'cross the bar'.
- The Council elected S/M Ridley as National Chairman
- The Council elected S/M Stephenson as the National Vice Chairman
- The Council appointed S/M Chris Dovey as a Life Vice President of the RNA.
- The Council elected NCM to the FAC and the AMC.
- The Council expressed its warm thanks to S/M Dave Wright Sec/10 Area for his determination and help in sorting Birkenhead Club and Branch.
- The Council directed GS to invite VSC and UJC to have RNA literature.
- The Council will await uptake for buses before considering a subsidy in the 2017 budget at their Dec meeting.
- The Council approved payment from the CBSF to allow off-line branch secretaries to come on line with Project Semaphore IT.
- The Council declined the bid for £10,000 grant from Cleethorpes Club on the grounds of use and affordability.
- The Council declined the bid for a memorial bench from Atherton RNA.
- The Council approved the midyear budget review and a reduction in the budget of £4,500.
- The Council approved a change to Bye-Law 6(j) to implement NC motion 1, once formal approval from the Privy Council had been received.
- The Council approved a change to Bye Law B23 to implement branch motion 1 passed at Conference.
- The Council approved a motion for Conference 2017 to allow the nomination of Area and Conference delegates from other branches. (Currently not allowed for in the Rules).
- The Council approved a motion for Conference 2017 to allow the nomination of Associate members for Area meetings. (Currently not allowed for in the Rules).
- The Council approved the wearing of metal beret badges (not compulsory) and to review wearability for standard bearers.

Discussion followed about the sash design and that views should have been sought from all areas so that it was designed better. The case has not yet been received.

Alan Oliver felt the sash was not practical and Steve Susans said that medals need to be resited as the sash is in the way.

The question of insurance was raised and that money from each branch would be required.

Alan Oliver spoke about HQ minibus and it was felt that it was for HQ staff only.

The NC member referred to the coming Battles End events and the Woodland Trust.

The Chairman thanked the NCM for his report.

CEREMONIAL OFFICERS REPORT

Plans were already under way for the 2017 Standard Bearer's Competition and visits to possible venues were being made. The gym in Bromley was suitable and hopes of a deal for the event being discussed. The presentation could be held on the main deck of TS Narvik with a reception for those attending.

There was some concern about the third place cup which seems to be mislaid so a replacement would be bought in addition to the medal momento for the winners.

There were still tickets available for the National Seafarers Service in St Pauls Cathedral on the coming Wednesday.

The Ceremonial Officer had attended the Wildfire Parade at Sheppey and was surprised it had not been better attended by the RNA. Roger Ide was aware that there had been a difference of opinion with Sheppey RBL that has resulted in the low attendance although had heard that enough years had gone by and the differences would be forgotten for the future of the event. As the organisers get £3k from the Council, next year should be better. The Chairman was aware of the situation and hoped that RNA members would be encouraged to attend next year.

The Treasurer was concerned about the cost of badges bought for Standard Bearers and wondered if they could be bought any cheaper. Stephen Shaw agreed to approach his supplier. Steve Susans felt that, as a Standard Bearer himself, he recognized what each individual does, travel to and from events, attending funerals, etc and this is a small show of gratitude from the Branch. Vic Allen suggested asking HQ where they get theirs and see if a bulk order across the Area would reduce the cost.

The Chairman had attended an event at Mereworth Church in recognition of Charles Lucas who was awarded the first Victoria Cross and is buried in the churchyard along with three Admirals. As there were only two Standards in attendance, the Chairman suggested including the event in the Area calendar. Mick Cox agreed to include anything if he gets all the detail

The Chairman thanked Steve Susans for his report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

Detail of events remains unchanged from the last meeting and the Committee were reminded that tickets have been available from HQ for the Royal Marine Band event on Tuesday 6th December.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ❖ Roger Ide referred to the proposed Area 2 Dinner and that confirmation from Branches had been low. It was agreed that a decision be made at the Delegates meeting a possible increase in numbers as to whether it be held or not.
- ❖ The Treasurer had prepared a set of minutes to take to the Bank with the newly appointed co-opted Treasurer with the Committee's agreement for change in signatories although agreed that he would officially take over following nomination and acceptance at the AGM. This was proposed by Roger Ide, seconded by Stephen Shaw and agreed by those present.

The Bank mandate would be changed with Roger Ide and Fred Wilson being replaced by Colin Rickard and John Richards. It was hoped that papers could be handed over before the end of the year.

The Chairman asked, although unlikely, if a volunteer appears at the AGM but it was agreed that John Richards would be elected as co-opted and in office. This was proposed by Roger Ide, seconded by Steve Susans and agreed by the Committee.

Stephen Shaw, Chairman of Folkestone Ex-Services Committee spoke about November events and that charges from the Council were being questioned. A number of the Committee were aware that the local authority must do the risk assessment forms and that Public Liability Insurance forms must be obtained.

- ❖ Roger Ide reported that Medway Council Application to hold a parade in Pembroke had been stopped because they did not hold a music licence.
- ❖ The Secretary explained that she had spent over seventeen hours completing the forms with the Council and Bromley police for the coming Remembrance Day event only to be told they had to pay £380 for road closures which was withdrawn as it is the one day that the RBL do not pay any charges as dictated by the Government.

Roger Ide said that Medway police were not prepared to close roads and that a Four Wheel Drivers Club acted as marshals and completed the event at no cost.

Mick Cox reported that the Trafalgar Day parade was not going ahead and will be just a muster. Following a meeting with the Mayors office it was noted that it should be dealt with by Highways and not the Police. The Chairman said that Paddock Wood provide their own marshals to control road closures.

- ❖ Stephen Shaw explained that he currently pays for Veterans lunches and has had badges printed costing £1.50 to raise funds. He took note of those members who would sell them on.
- ❖ George Ashdown reported a very successful evening which both Paddock Wood and Maidstone members had enjoyed. The Chairman commented that with quiet music you could enjoy the food and a chat.
- ❖ Vic Allen pointed out that Sheppey had not closed, only laid up their Standard as the account at HQ had not yet been paid and the balance can be held over in case there is new interest in reopening it. This had happened when Ashford reopened and the money returned from HQ. Roger Ide confirmed that members can vote to put any residue of money to an agreed charity.
- ❖ Roger Ide was aware that Mick Withington had applied to join Chatham RNA Branch.
- ❖ Steve Susans invited members to Bromley Pirates Fish Finger Sandwich Event on Sunday 16th November in Trafalgar Block from 1900 hours with all profit going toward the RNLI.

- ❖ The Secretary then distributed the minutes from the last Delegates Meeting and asked for members views on some of the items. The Secretary was concerned that her absence and report had not been included and the Chairman asked if the Committee could remember who had agreed the minutes - Proposed by Alan Oliver, seconded by Fred Westwood. The missed name from those who had crossed the bar was Reg Barker - Margate.

The Chairman suggested there was no need for a proposer or seconder for the Welfare Report. He had also suggested that the Secretary contact Minster Working Men's Club regarding future Committee meetings which she had. He was also concerned about the Delegates meetings dates - which had since been sorted. The Chairman had not appointed Maidstone for a central Sea Service Day and had agreed branches would attend their own functions.

- ❖ The Committee were agreed that the Secretary should rewrite the minutes to include the changes as discussed.

With no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked the Committee for their input, wished them a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 13.10 hours.