



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Saturday 23rd October 2010

The Royal Court Hotel Coventry

Item 1 - The National Standard was paraded into the meeting by Mike Weller, the Union Flag by Debbie Lots and accepted by Malcolm White National Vice Chairman.

Item 2 - The Homage was read by the National Vice Chairman Malcolm White.

2a. Malcolm; I have a list of members who have passed on since our last AGM:

Nigel Coulter - Mid Ulster Branch

Barry Simpson - Durham Branch

Wendy Mavis Goodwife - North Kent Branch

Harry Griffiths - Nottingham Branch

David Clark - Surrey Branch

William Woods - Colchester Branch

Peter Wilson - Postal South

Ray Scaffè - Doncaster Branch

Members stood for a Moments silence.

2b. National Executive Members Present

National Chairman: Lt. Col Tex Pemberton; National Vice Chairman & Postal North Coordinator: Malcolm White; National Secretary: Ted Williams;

Membership Secretary: John McAlulay; Treasurer: Grahame Bamford;

Webmaster: Annie Burden; Committee Member and Postal South Coordinator: Brian Roche.

Item 3 - Chairman opened the meeting: Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues, good morning to you all and welcome to the AGM 2010. I have not met everyone in the room, but I assume you will know that I am Tex Pemberton your co-opted Chairman, having been co-opted by the NEC on the 11th May this year.

Item 4 - Apologies - Secretary Ted Williams: I have had an enormous number of apologies, too many to list on the minutes but I have recorded them if anyone would like a copy. There were no apologies from within the meeting.

Item 5 - Page By Page acceptances of the Minutes of the 2009 AGM: Chairman: there are 9 pages, I shall take them one at a time, and then matters arising that are not on the Agenda.

Page one Accepted

Page two Accepted

Page three John McAulay Membership Secretary challenged the accuracy of the membership figures at Item 13 of the 2009 Minutes but said he would be going over them in his report to the AGM later.

Page four Accepted

Page five Accepted

Page six Accepted

Page seven Accepted

Page eight Accepted

Page nine Accepted

Chairman: Thank you colleagues, there were no comments, nor matters arising, therefore the minutes of the 2009 AGM have been accepted.

Item 6 - Chairman's Report to the AGM: This is a very comprehensive report and therefore I ask you to bear with me. I will take questions at the end but there is no need to make notes because you will find a copy of this report at our Hotel Reception Desk from midday today and it will be on our website next week.

Secretary's note: Please find copy of the Chairman's Report attached to these Minutes. It can also be found on the Association Website at www.nmbva.co.uk

Matters Arising

- 6a. **George Reeve Grantham Branch:** Grantham Branch started last year a campaign to get a Memorial in the middle of Grantham dedicated to all those who have lost their lives since 1945. The unveiling at St Peters Hill took place last September outside the Guild Hall. Incorporated in each corner is the Elizabeth Cross. Unfortunately I did not notice on the MOD website there is a copyright in the corner, so I got a telephone call from a very irate lieutenant colonel in command of the medal department! Therefore, we have instituted in Grantham one of only a handful of memorials in this country in a public place commemorating all those who have given their lives since 1945.
- 6b. **Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire & Dales Branch:** I am very interested in the presentation, by General Sir Richard Dannatt, of the "Elizabeth Cross" to the next of kin of those who have fallen. May I ask you to use your influence to pass it on that there are many members of this association still waiting?
- 6c. **John Crossley Leicester Branch:** I am also a member of the Aden Veterans. They are running a campaign to "Bridge the Gap." In June 1960 the government stopped issuing the Aden Medal, and started issuing it again in 1964, although during 1960 to 1962 soldiers' were still being killed. Therefore may I ask you to contact the Aden Veterans association in view to approach the government to "Bridge the Gap?" There was a discussion among member regarding the dates but nevertheless there is a gap to be explored.
- 6d. **Lance Smale Postal South:** I attended a service in which a man whose brother was killed in the Korean War was presented with the Elizabeth Cross and Memorial Scroll. Therefore there is no reason why peopled killed in the conflicts we were involved in should not get the Elizabeth Cross.

- 6e. **John McAulay Membership Secretary:** What George [Reeve] said about the memorial in Grantham is great and I congratulate him. However we have somebody here today and there are four memorials built by him in the arboretum and there are memorials all over this country and in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur all built at a fraction of the cost if put out to tender. He proposed a design for the Association memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral also and this man has never had an ounce of recognition. That man is here today and his name is Maurice Humphrey. [Round of applause].
- 6f. **Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire & Dales Branch:** I go back to the Elizabeth Cross. It is from the end of the second world war, The next of kin must apply to have one presented, but unfortunately these people are unaware (a wide discussion took place).
- 6g. **Walter Sells Nottingham Branch:** I admire your effort in trying to get these medals. I was involved in the Yangtse River incident in 1949 serving on board Consort, which was standing as guard ship for the British Embassy due to the Chinese Civil War and the HMS Amethyst was due to replace us. We were fired on from a field Battery on the north bank of the river and also by small arms fire. We lost men, but have received no recognitions. All we asked for is a Yangtze bar to our General Service medal, and they cannot afford to give it.
- 6h. **Fred Hallam Nottingham Branch:** Regarding progress on the Rosette Campaign, our very own newly elected Chairman has himself asked at the Conservative Party Conference this past September, questions on the possibilities of its institution as well as to the rightful wearing of the PJM medal, both matters for which we are most grateful Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I have asked the British Defence Adviser, at the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, to test the feasibility of a rosette with the Malaysian Government.

Fred: I should just like to say Dr. Liam Fox MP and Secretary of State for Defence had previously stated as early as February 2008 and I quote "The contribution made by those who served in Malaysia should not be forgotten.....but the rules governing these issues are not to be disregarded." In a further letter of July 2009 he [Liam Fox] stated and I quote "We are looking into the whole issue of medals and have passed on your letter to Dr. Andrew Morrison.....On return to office we will re-constitute the independent Honours and Decorations Committee, re-assert its independence and conduct a review of all outstanding medal claims."

Item 7 - Vice Chairman's Report Malcolm White:

This has been a very busy eventful year; it started with me as Postal North Coordinator taking on the task of producing a magazine for our members. For some time it has been something that most members wanted, so this year the NEC (National Executive Committee) gave me the task to **Give the Members what they want**, and in May this year the Keris magazine was produced and distributed to all members on the database.

Also in May this year Allyn Rees stepped down as Chairman and Fred Burden MBE retired as Vice-Chairman due to ill health. We were very lucky to have Colonel Tex Pemberton step

into the Chairman's position. He has put new life into the NEC and brought with him a sense of direction and purpose. I took on the task as Vice Chairman until this AGM when you, the members, will have the chance [later today] to vote on **who you would like** to fill the positions on your NEC.

Most members were pleased with the Keris magazine, there were some errors, and the worst of these was the omission of the word 'Malaya' on the front cover. I also didn't include the name of our Honorary President Frank Rhodes. I must apologise for these omissions. Some of the factual information in one or two of the articles was possibly not correct, but I'm dependant on information that I am given.

The cost of Printing of the magazine worked out at 61pence per unit, we had 3500 printed and this first time we sent a copy to all members on our Database. In future a copy will only be sent to paid-up members, this will reduce the overall Keris Project cost. The packing and distribution was 59 pence per unit giving a total cost of £1.20 pence. This I feel is a fair price for what I believe is a quality magazine. The unit price quoted does not take into consideration a slight offset by sponsored adverts which brought in £220.00. Next year's forecasted Keris costings based on quotes we have received indicate that the printing cost will be 75 pence per unit based on a revised quantity of 2500 and the packing and distribution cost is forecasted at 55 pence per unit, a slight reduction, giving us a forecasted unit cost of £1.30.

As can be seen from the figures in our income and expenditure account information the total cost for this year's Keris was £3642.00. The forecast cost for next year's Keris including packing and distribution is £3250.00 less any sponsorship for adverts that we might obtain. Obtaining sponsorship in this day and age is not easy. If members can help in securing a sponsored advert it would be very welcome. Please contact me at any time for details.

Our next publication is going to be our National Newsletter in December; I have started working on the content already. The NEC is working to **Give the Members what they want** and so the Newsletter will be a vehicle of communication. It will contain reports from our National Chairman and Secretary as to the latest information on our organisation, a copy of our Audited Accounts and budget, reports on the AGM and Reunion, articles on The National Forces Day, plus future events. I have asked Branches to send me information about their Branches for inclusion and any other matters that take place between now and the Newsletter going to print will be included if possible. In order to keep costs as low as possible I am working on an A5 size publication, half the size of the Keris, it can be sent out at the standard second class postal rate.

Cheapest option of black and white Newsletter with packing and distribution is 79p per unit, or £1738.00 for 2200 units. If we went for the 4 page colour it would increase to 86p per unit [7p increase] a total projected cost of £1892.00. The cost for the Christmas Newsletter is 79p or 86p for the Newsletter and £1.30 for the Keris, so that's £2.09 or 2.16 per paid up member. It doesn't leave a lot out of the £4 annual subscription that branch members pay to the Association; however I do believe we need these publications to communicate to all our members.

The number of members that are able to attend our AGM is limited and the Newsletter will help us communicate to members that are unable to attend and show them that they are in our thoughts and that we, the NEC, are doing our best to **Give the Members what they want**.

As vice Chairman I shall support and endeavour to promote the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association whenever and wherever possible. As a member of the NEC I shall try to further the goals of our organisation. Last but not least as Editor of our publication, the Newsletter and the Keris, they are our publications and without your help in sending me articles and stories there would be no publications, so please do continue to send me your experiences, I'm always glad to hear from you.

- 7a. **John Crossley Leicester Branch:** We had a member of this organisation a few years ago, who wrote the most marvellous poems, they were fantastic, it was a decision of an AGM to get these published or at least put on paper. **Grahame Bamford:** I have got some copies of Patrick Baldwin's poems. Perhaps we should get Mrs Baldwin's permission first? **Malcolm:** I would gladly publish in our magazine.
- 7b. **Graham Evans Northern Ireland Branch:** On behalf of Northern Ireland Branch I should like to thank you for the "Keris" it was very welcomed.
- 7c. **National Chairman:** Malcolm gave you the bottom line which said that adding the two future publications together is a total of £5142.00. It is clear from your reaction this morning that you *do* want us to go ahead in the interest of better communications. The Keris will be published in May or June next year and the Newsletter prior to Christmas this year.
- 7d. **Ivan Glover Nottingham Branch:** Have you considered sending the newsletter as an attachment to an e-mail?

Chairman: Yes, we have. What you have done, is to give us, your NEC, permission to go ahead with the newsletter and the Keris Magazine. What we the NEC are going to do, now that we have your permission, is to look at the method of distribution. For example the Chairman of my own Branch is horrified to think that we would be sending the magazine and newsletter to each individual by post. He would prefer the Keris sent in bulk to the Branch Secretary, or Chairman, for distribution to Members at the Branch Meeting. He would also be happy to receive the Newsletter by email leaving him to disseminate it further, by email, or incorporate into the Branch Newsletter, where we do not have all members email addresses. Sending hard copies to each individual is the most expensive option, albeit the one that assures members do receive it. The onus is on us, your NEC, to spend wisely and reduce costs. If we can do that and have flexible distribution options that are not resource or cost intensive, yet ensure all our paid-up members receive our publications, we will do so.

COFFEE BREAK

Item 8 - National Secretary's Report Ted Williams:

I am very please to inform you that only being the scribe/post office I have the shortest report of the day. Taking over as National Secretary is a daunting task, and I am grateful to other members of the NEC for their help, in particular Grahame [Bamford] who is the longest serving member on the NEC, with a wealth of experience. I am also grateful to John [McAulay] for help with the membership. Last year we were called upon at very short notice to provide a display stand for Armed Forces Day Cardiff in what was called "Reunion of Campaigns' and I believe that Malcolm White, Brian Roche and I produced the best

display on show. This display, now in the hotel foyer, is available for Armed Forces Day next year at Edinburgh. I must tell you that the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall shook hands and spoke to everyone in the room representing our Association.

We hear quite a lot about the lack of communication with branches but I have to tell you that, I wrote last August to all Branch Secretaries seeking information to update my files. I only got one reply so I ask you to please answer letters by whatever method you like. **What I do need urgently is the detail of whether or not you have a Branch Standard, where it is stored, and the name of your Standard Bearer. This is for Insurance purposes.** You will know that Branch Standards and named bearers are insured centrally by the Association Treasurer for public liability and from this day forward, **only those that are registered with me will be covered by the Insurance policy.** This is just another cost awareness measure. The named Standard Bearer does not preclude another member from carrying the Standard.

Email Contact: Where Branch Secretaries do not have email systems, could you please nominate someone in the Branch to receive e-mails for you? The use of email communication is the easiest, cheapest and quickest way of sending information. Tell me also if you will whenever Branch members pass away so that we can take the necessary administrative action. Thank you.

Item 9 - Membership Secretary's Report John McAulay:

I should like to go back over a period of three years to explain how I arrived at the numbers on the sheet I have issued. When I took over from Fred and Annie [Burden] they were very busy with the PJM medal, therefore they had little time to devote to the membership database. Therefore my first task was to try and update the database. I sent out to every Branch an audit form; these took some time to come back. In 2008 we had 4200 on the database. At the same time we added to the database, what members had paid, and how they paid. Remember we were relying on Branch Secretaries. In 2009 we had 3271, we were still updating. This year we believe we are reasonably accurate we have 1999.

Your constitution says Page 4 section 5 Para d, if a member fails to pay their annual Subscription within 3 months of the due date they shall be deemed, by their conduct, to have resigned. Your name would then be taken off the database though we did give this some flexibility.

This year we went back to September 2008 and updated with: 148 new members since the last AGM; 136 Ordinary members; 9 Associate members; and 3 honorary members. The numbers are across 23 Active Branches and 3 Postal areas. Cardiff and Swansea are not active Branches. Association totals are:

Honorary members	16
Total Paid Ordinary members	1873
Total Paid Associate members	126
Total paid up membership at 23 rd October 2010	<u>1999</u>

The former Birmingham Branch: 93 Members on database. Three (3) members paid subs after breakaway in April 2010. Eighty five (85) will not be financial members after December 2010. The former Birmingham branch membership have been put in a "holding"

list under **B National** until the members' subscription has run out and the member put into the "Lost touch" file.

The former Leeds/Bradford branch: Five (5) members on database. Eight (8) Members paid subs after breakaway in April 2010. The remaining 47 members will not be financial members after the end of the 2010 year. The former Leeds and Bradford Branch membership has been put in a 'holding' list under '**L National**' until the members subscriptions have run out and the members put into the 'Lost Touch' file.

Cardiff Branch: There are 73 members on the database only 2 of which are financial members, the other 71 not having paid subscriptions since before August 2008. The National Secretary is writing to all Cardiff Members to ascertain their wishes.

Swansea Branch: There are 52 members of Swansea Branch on the database of which only 2 are financial members the other 50 not having paid subscriptions since before August 2008. The National Secretary is writing to all Swansea Members to ascertain their wishes.

Northern Ireland Branch: There are 101 Members on the database but just 6 are paid up Members of the Association. No payment of subscription has been received from the Branch since before August 2008. There is a new Management team who are working to restore the Branch to its former success.

Overseas Members: Ron Blain has taken over the responsibility for overseas members. He is contacting all members and has already had some success in collecting subscriptions.

Deutschland Branch: We are waiting confirmation of membership and the system of collecting subscriptions from the German Branch.

Branch	Total	Paid	Late
1 ST LINCOLNSHIRE	84	84	0
B NATIONAL	93	93	0
BRIDGEND	35	35	0
BRISTOL	33	12	21
CARDIFF	73	2	71
CARMARTHEN	19	18	1
COLCHESTER	247	244	3
DEUTSCHLAND	22	3	19
DONCASTER	75	75	0
DURHAM	72	72	0
GRANTHAM	74	74	0
HULL	18	6	12
L NATIONAL	55	55	0
LEICESTER	39	39	0
MID ULSTER	16	16	0
NORTH KENT	42	41	1
NORTH WALES	50	50	0
NORTH YORKSHIRE	45	45	0
NORTHERN IRELAND	101	6	95
NOTTINGHAM	69	62	7

OVERSEAS	88	19	69
PLYMOUTH	33	33	0
PONTYPRIDD	57	57	0
POSTAL NORTH	187	187	0
POSTAL SOUTH	273	273	0
SOUTHERN AREA	143	143	0
SURREY	86	86	0
SWANSEA	51	2	49
SWINDON	38	38	0
TYNESIDE	121	121	0

John: I am standing down at the end of this AGM, there is only one nominee to take over and that is Ian Williams, I have spoken to him, he will not be on his own, I shall help him in any way I can. We can only keep the database up to date with the help of Branch Secretaries, therefore I request that you assist Ian and keep him informed and the National Secretary of movement of members in your branches. Thank you.

- 9a. **Graham Evans Northern Ireland Branch:** We have had problem in Northern Ireland with subscription. I am sure that now we have a new committee matters will be resolved.
- 9b. **Mike Weller North Kent Branch:** I have been paying into the Branch, but it has not been appearing on the database, therefore I now pay Direct to the National Treasurer. **John** I remember our conversation, this problem as now been resolved.

Item 10 - National Treasurers Report Grahame Bamford:

The Treasurers Report in any organization is not just a snapshot to be presented at the AGM, it is a picture built up over the preceding 12 months and presented as the Income and Expenditure Account and that is what you have in front of you to-day. I don't just *believe* it to be correct, I know it is!

INCOME: New Members Fees are down on last year, (£502 from £900) but I think that is not unexpected as most of those eligible will now be Members. Subscriptions are also down (£9312 from £11104) due to the above; Branches withdrawing from the Association; and some Branches withholding subscriptions for varying reasons.

EXPENDITURE: Moving the venue for NEC Meetings to Yew Tree Lodge Hotel has resulted in lower accommodation Costs, (£1680 from £3233). Although there is a charge for Room Hire, (£740) this seems consistent with other hotels [and the new Chairman has a cunning plan that might reduce this room hire cost even further]. A new Expenditure this year is the cost of the Keris Magazine which was sent to all Members who were on the Database, and it was expected to be around this cost level. Another increase this year is the cost of auditing the Accounts, (£326 from £140). Following some member allegations received earlier in the year, the NEC decided to have the Accounts re-audited by a firm of Accountants. This has resulted in a double charge for Auditing. [The Treasurer produced a letter from Clear and Lane, Chartered Accountants of 340 Melton Road Leicester LE4 7SL, dated 18 October 201, who confirmed that 'the income and expenditure account for the year ending 31 August 2010 fairly reflects the receipts into and payments out of the Associations current and reserve bank accounts.']

Litigation reimbursements (£967) are still with us, although I don't anticipate there will be any more.

I don't propose to say any more on the Accounts, but if anyone has any questions I am willing to answer them.

Secretary's note: Please note copy of accounts are attached but are not available on our public website

10a. **Alan Jones North Wales:** Explain please Income & Expenditure Account 2009 Reunion Provision £8700.00. **Grahame:** Last year members paid to me for the AGM, whereas this year you have paid direct to Isle of White Company. So simply, that figure was being held in our account ready to pay for the 2009 AGM costs.

Proposed Budget for 2010-2011: Grahame explained line by line the proposed budget for 2010/11.

Chairman: We have to balance our revenue books so if our income is going to be around £10,000, we should not be spending more than £10,000. If you look at the proposed budget, in which we set down what we would *like to do*, you will see that with an anticipated income of around £10,000 and a proposed expenditure of £17,000, something has to give. The Chairman went through probable savings and said, "Having looked at all the figures my initial reaction was to propose an increase in subscription of £1 per year. We don't want to do that, because with the financial climate being what it is, this is not the year for increases, so we have to reduce the proposed budget so that the book *does* balances. What I would like to suggest, rather than go through the detail now, is for Members to delegate to the National Executive and put your trust in us to redraft a budget that balances, putting essentials first.

Resolved: The members agreed that the NEC should draft and redistribute a balanced budget.

Annual Review of Motor Mileage allowance: (Current rate 30p per Mile). Proposed by Grahame seconded by the National Chairman that motor mileage is frozen at 30p per mile for the FY 2010/11.

Resolved: This was agreed by a majority

10b. **Ted Pemberton Nottingham Branch:** I think the National could save money, by asking Branches to contribute toward the insurance cost of their Standard. On motor mileage allowance I think you are being rather mean. At least five years ago the Inland Revenue were paying their staff 45p per mile and also taking into consideration wear and tear, **Grahame:** We don't drive that often. **Chairman:** Thank you for your suggestion but we have just agreed to freeze motor mileage allowance for this FY. I have also made a note of your suggestion about Branches paying towards Standard insurance.

10c. **Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire & Dales Branch:** Pointed out it was at the AGM 2002, after an Association had been made bankrupt, due to an accident with an uninsured Standard, and it was discovered that only three of our Branches had insurance,

it was determined that that National Association would insure *all* the Associations Standards. I recommend that this remain the case because we [Branches] may forget to insure and it will only take one accident, with one un-insured Standard to bankrupt the Association.

- 10c. **Treasurer Grahame Bamford:** We had to pay the auditor £500 to audit our accounts, and I don't know why they take so long (31/2 weeks) they are not complicated. Perhaps it would be more efficient to get a panel of Members to audit the accounts

Chairman: Grahame has made a proposal that gives us the option to either pay an auditor £500 to audit the accounts, or appoint a panel of members to do the audit for us.. Therefore, instead of giving £500 to auditors, we budget for members expenses to assemble and audit the accounts. I should like a show of hands please. Who favours Chartered Accountants? Count = 11. Who favours a membership panel? Count = 80 plus.

Resolved: That the NEC explore the feasibility of a members panel to audit the 2010/11 accounts. **Afternote:** It was suggested by Mike Hawkins, Leicester Branch, that the law probably requires a professional audit of accounts with assets as high as the Associations. NEC will determine this issue.

- 10d. **Harry Power Tyneside Branch:** We have only just come back into the Association. I have been studying the accounts over the years, and Graham has taken a lot of criticism over the years. Since Grahame took over, the accounts are more straightforward and transparent and we should give the man some credit for what he has done. [Round of applause].

- 10e. **Ian Newton BEM Grantham Branch:** Audit by panel from the Association may I suggest that the accounts are audited by the panel for four years and every fifth year by a qualified auditor. This will ensure they are kept straight.

Presentation to Grahame Bamford: National Chairman: Grahame has been National Treasurer of our Association for 7 years and handled the task magnificently. There have been time when some may have doubted his ability, but remember what I said earlier this morning: 'You cannot please all of the members all of the time so we must aim to please most of the members most of the time.' I think Grahame has undoubtedly achieved that. Therefore, and on your behalf, I present Grahame with this certificate for Meritorious Service from the Association. Pauline has also been very loyal, allowing Grahame time off, and we have flowers for her too. Grahame thanked the Association.

LUNCH BREAK

Item 11 - Webmaster's Report Annie Burden: Access to the website is now controlled to prevent offensive remarks. It is your website and any information, locally, nationally, or international can be published on the website. We need new stories, which I know you have, they don't have to be too long. I should like to thank Surrey Branch for sending updates every three months and other Branch Secretaries for their updates. The site is updated every few months. Since the website went live on the 24th August 2003 we have had 448,809 visits an average of 172 per day, and 78 of those are fist time users. The average has been

taken over a three month period. Remember this is your website and if there is anything you would like to add that is not already there, please e-mail your suggestions to me.

Regalia: Sales are down on last year, prices have remained the same for the last seven years, however the postage cost has risen. Introduction of blazer buttons has gone down very well, but there are still not enough plates being sold. If anyone has suggestions that they think will sell well, I shall look into costings.

Item 12. - International Liaison Officers Report Ron Blain:

Since we last met in 2009, International Liaison has been busy organising the NMBVA UK visit to Adelaide in Australia to participate in the ANZAC DAY parade of 2010. The party numbers eventually settled at 16 persons, with 9-members planning to march with their Australian comrades in the NMBVAA on ANZAC DAY ~ 25th April.

The effect of the Icelandic Volcanic eruptions disrupted our plans, however the Travel agents pulled out the stops and there were finally 4[four] Veterans who marched on ANZAC Day. These were Terry Windsor, Eric Thompson, David Sleeth and Ray Wesson, the latter two members of my own Durham Branch. We have had excellent rapport with John Plenty of the NMBVA South Australia, who entertained our visiting members during their stay in Adelaide, both during and after ANZAC Day. [There will be a trip to Malaysia in 2011 and all details are on our website].

I have attempted with the co-operation of the President of the NMBVA Australia to get the Richard Webber Trophy back on track. I have had a lot of difficulty in getting responses from the NZMVA, who I believe are holding the Trophy, however despite my perseverance; I am no closer to knowing the result of the Competition in 2008, or the whereabouts of the Trophy. I am still pursuing this, as we would like to see the Competition restarting in 2011.

Using the maxim 'Give the Members what they want' I have been at service to many overseas Veterans, mainly those chasing their PJM medal. I have made enquiries on their behalf and in most cases a quick email has answered their enquiry. In tandem with my ILO duties, I have taken on the post of Postal Overseas Coordinator and in this area I have had some initial success, contacting all the 90+ members, either by email or Air-Mail. I am now receiving a steady input of funds against their National Subscriptions, which are passed to the National Treasurer at the earliest opportunity. Further to our deliberations this weekend, it is my intention to update all overseas members through our new Association-wide Newsletter, keeping them in the picture on all the NMBVA UK decisions and activities.

The 2011 trip to Malaysia is well advanced with a total of 5-10 NMBVA members planning to attend the Cenotaph functions and parade/festivities in IPOH. You have heard from the Chairman that we have co-opted a non-Executive NEC member ~ George McKie, who is resident in KL, who will undertake duties on behalf of the NMBVA UK, when we do not have visiting Officers of the Association. On 14th November this year George will be laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day service in KL organised by our British High Commission.

I will work with the National Chairman to assist in any way the 'coming together' of the fragmented Australian Malaya and Borneo Veterans Associations. It is the NMBVA UK's policy at this time to monitor their deliberations and after the NEC meeting in November, we will address the restoration of relationships with our Australian colleagues.

I have had, throughout the year, greetings from all the overseas Associations across the world and in the coming weeks, I will extend the greetings from the NMBVA UK inc. Europe, further to our deliberations here today.

I wish to thank all those who have sent me emails and letters and will also answer any queries directed to me personally regarding the PJM, with tact and efficiency.

I wish, with Conference approval, to continue in the capacity of International Liaison in the coming year and will endeavour to promote the NMBVA cause across the world. My sincere thanks to you all.

Chairman: Colleagues I get exchanges from across the world and all praise Ron for his sensitive handling and efficient performance.

12a. **John McAlulay:** Ron has also taken on the responsibility for overseas members, it's a very difficult job, because some of these have not been contacted for years, but he is working very hard and some are slowly coming back. **Ron:** I am getting very positive response; they all thought the Keris magazine was fantastic.

Chairman: Just to clarify, overseas members are those who live overseas, but by preference choose to be members of the UK Association and pay subscriptions to our Association.

Item 13 - Postal Members Report North and South Brain Roche:

This report is compiled for Postal North and South which, it is hoped, will clarify the position of Postal members within the Association. Postal members are those who, by choice, do not wish to be members of a Branch or the nearest Branch is not convenient. In 2006 it was found that a large number of members, not belonging to Branches, were not in communication with the Association. I therefore took on the task of Postal Coordinator UK South. A coordinator was also appointed for postal members in UK North but contact was never established. In June 2009, Mal White took over as Coordinator for UK North. Since 2006 I have communicated with Postal South members annually by sending each a Newsletter and a subscription reminder to which most have responded. Postal North members have received the same since 2009 from Mal.

At this time Postal North have some 345 members of which 255 are paid up and Postal South 380 of which 283 are paid up with 30 members paying their 2011 subscription in advance. The subscription income 2009/10 is: for the North £1785 and the South £2200. It must be remembered that Postal members pay £7 annually of which £3 is their communication costs, whereas Branch communication costs have to come out of Branch member's £4 subscription to the Association. Communication comes at a cost of about £350 annually for the North and about £450 for the South. The main costs are the printing of 4 page newsletters, using LaserJet printers for speed and clarity in preference to inkjet printers, and 2nd class postage. Mal and I will continue to remain in contact with our postal members but should there be a significant increase in postal members, further Coordinators would be needed.

[Chairman's afternote: The printing costs listed by Brain above will, of course, be subsumed within the budget set for the Association-wide Newsletter that has been proposed and agreed].

Item 14 - Future Events:

NEC meeting 19/20 November 2010.
NEC meeting 8th April 2011
Delegates Meeting 9th April 2011
Eden Camp 9th July 2011
Armed Forces Day Edinburgh 25th June 2011
NEC MEETING 5th August 2011
AGM 2011 – dates and venue to be confirmed.

Proposals and Recommendations:

Item 15 - To change the Association financial year:

Proposed by Grahame Bamford, Seconded by Ted Williams: A proposal to change the Financial year, currently 1st September - 31st August, to 1st July - 30th June. This should allow sufficient time to: prepare accounts; get them audited; and circulated to members before the AGM. This would mean we will have a 10-month financial year (1 September 2010 to 30 June 2011). Thereafter, it will revert to a normal 12-month accounting period.

Resolved: Vote Carried by a vast majority

Item 16 - Admissible Association Expenses and Allowances: Proposed by Brian Roche and seconded by Malcolm White that the following should be incorporated into the Constitution:

16a. Expenses for NEC Meetings: Expenses are admissible to NEC members for reasonable overnight accommodation and travel cost to a central meeting point. A second-night stay will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. NEC meetings should normally be no more than 3 annually. One should coincide with the annual delegates meeting. NEC expenses are not admissible for the AGM/Reunion

16b. Expenses for Events: Expenses for invitations to events other than the above meeting should be authorised by the National Chairman (short term notice) or the NEC (long term notice), prior to the event. Proposed visits by NEC members to NMBVA Branches should be authorised by the National chairman prior to attendance.

16c. Allowances for:

- (1) Accommodation: Actual cost of *reasonable* accommodation for the NEC member only. Where, however, the charge is at a “Room” price, that will be a permissible claim.
- (2) Motor Mileage: Currently 30 pence per mile, to be reviewed annually at the AGM.
- (3) Subsistence: Should only be admissible in unforeseen cases of necessity and at the discretion of the National Chairman.

John Crossley Leicester Branch: 16c (3) I don't think that one person should make a decision; I should like to see two people Chairman and Treasurer.

Chairman: What we have said is that if there is sufficient notice the NEC would make the decision but if it is something that needs an urgent answer, outside of a NEC meeting, then I would make the decision and subsequently inform the NEC. But I am open to members input and we can change the wording if you wish?

John McAulay: In all organisations I know, the Chairman is allowed to make a decision if it is not possible to assemble the committee.

Chairman: Remember I am countable to the auditor. We now have two proposals for 16c (3): The first (1) is for a Chairman and Treasurer to decide; the second (2) is for the Chairman to decide.

Members voted: (1) = 1 vote; (2) = 80 plus votes.

Resolved: The proposal, as written in 16a to 16c, was agreed. Inclusion in the revised Constitution will be made.

Item 17 - Editorial Amendments to the Constitution: Proposed by Tex Pemberton and seconded by Ted Williams. A number of editorial amendments were proposed as shown below [and after debate those approved are as shown in bold italics in the revised version of the Constitution dated 23 October 2010 which is on the website and available from the Association Secretary]:

- a. Page 3 para D. The statement in the last para implies that the National Secretary (alone) will consider and decide on responses by Ordinary Members, Therefore I propose that the sentence end at the word "Secretary" and the words "who shall take those views into account" be deleted. **[Resolved: Agreed]**
- b. Page 4 para 5c first line, between the words "as the" insert the word (to). **[Resolved: Agreed]**
- c. Para 5 Continue the last line, "Applicant has the right to appeal, in writing, to the National Secretary who will arrange for the appeal to be considered by the NEC." **[Resolved: Agreed]**
- d. Page 5 para I. After Regalia insert 'approved by the Association.' **[Resolved: Agreed]**
- e. Page 5 Para 6 A. Delete '.....as the committee decide' and insert 'as the Association decide.' **[Resolved: Agreed]**
- f. Page 5 Para 6 B add: 'The financial year shall be from 1st July to 30th June enabling the accounts to be audited for presentation at the AGM. An annual Budget for the following year (November to October), shall be laid before the AGM for approval. Proper accounts shall be kept and maintained either on a database, written or printed showing correctly the financial affair of the Association.' **[Resolved: Not fully agreed. The Members wished for the budget laid before the AGM each year to correspond with the new financial year, i.e. 1st July to 30th June. Therefore the 2010/11 FY which started on 1 September 2010 will be for 10 months only and end on the new date of 30th June 2011. It will also be necessary for the 2011/12 budget, which will start on the 1st July 2011, to be approved by Members prior to the next AGM, to be held in October 2011, and the**

arrangements for this Member approval will be considered at the coming NEC on 19th November 2010.]

- g. Page 7 para 9: Branch Delegates Meetings: Shall be called at the discretion of the NEC. Each Association Branch and Postal group North, South and Overseas, will be entitled to have 1(One) voting delegate who may be accompanied by a debating, but non-voting Member of the same Branch or Postal Group. Questions must come from the Branch or on behalf of a Postal Group and not from individuals. **[Resolved: Agreed]**

Item 18 - PJM Fred Burden MBE: Malaysia decided to issue the medal to all commonwealth service personnel who served from independence until the end of the Indonesian confrontation in the security of Malaysia the period 31 August 1957 to 12th August 1966 inclusive, not those who served from 1948 to 1957. This has been the cause of great agitation. I have sent out medals to many countries. They did decide at one stage to stop issuing the medal, but have now changed their minds. They did not realise how many served in Malaysia. Unfortunately I waste a lot of time phoning people up as much as six to seven time trying to arrange presentations of their medal. I have a good team working for me and of course I have got Annie. We have had over 27,000 applications. Those in the room who are waiting please see me after and I shall check my database.

Secretary's note: *Please note this is only a synopsis of what Fred said.*

Chairman Before we go to item 19 (Open Forum) We have with us today Mr David Knowles CBE who is the Treasurer General of the World Veterans Federation, I want to explore the value of our Association becoming a member of this Federation and will be meeting with David early in the New Year to discuss and consider the benefits. David, who was also at one time Chairman of the Royal British Legion, has kindly agreed to say a few words about the WVF:

David Knowles CBE: The President of the WVF, Hamid Ibranhi, sends his greeting. He is a Malaysian living in Kuala Lumpur and hopes that he might meet with Officers of the NMBVA when next he visits UK. The organisation of which I am treasurer is the largest International Veterans organisation in the world. It has 170 organisations in 93 countries and represents over 33 million veterans worldwide. It is a humanitarian, organisation, a charity and peace activities movement. The WVF maintains its consultative status with the UN since 1951, and was confirmed "Peace Messenger" in 1977. Its aim is to defend the spiritual and material interest of veterans and veterans of war and their families by all legal means, and to maintain International peace in the spirit of the charter of the UN.

David went on to relate the history and activities of the WVF. Copies of his full report are available from the Association Secretary Ted Williams.

Item 19 – Open Forum

- 19a. **Mike Weller National Standard Bearer:** In June 1994 the Association was founded and since that date I have had the original Standard in my possession. You cannot roll it up on a poll, because the padding in the centre is too thick. We have a need to have the original Standard laid up. I have two places in mind either St Paul's Cathedral or the Chapel at the National Arboretum. I took the National Standard to Australia this

year and have been invited back for Anzac day next year. I request permission to take the Nation Standard.

Chairman: Laying up of the original Standard is a good idea, the NEC will look into this. As for taking the Standard to Australia, I am informed that the insurance will cover provided we inform the insurers.

- 19b. **Graham Evans Northern Ireland Branch**: During the past few years, most people have been donating to 'Help for Heroes' and due to this the Gurkha Welfare Trust has suffered. Therefore could we make a donation?

Fred Burden MBE informed the meeting that over the years the NMBVA have given over £7,000 to the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The Secretary also pointed out that Branches also make donations to the Gurkha welfare trust, for example Bridgend Branch donates the money taken at their Christmas dinner. There is also an auction at the Gala Dinner tonight in aid of the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

- 19c. **Mike Hawkins Leicester Branch**: This is my first AGM. In the draft constitution we have just approved there is no provision of any sort for donations to be made, perhaps there should be? Nowhere in our constitution does the word Gurkha appear.

Chairman: We are not proposing a donation from our funds we are proposing a donation from a raffle and auction therefore it would not appear in our constitution. However, we could consider, at another time, a proposal to make budget provision for an annual donation and decide each year the beneficiary.

John McAulay: Mike said there is nothing in our constitution to cover donations and he is concerned. You have the right to propose that, you cannot do it now, but you could next year.

- 19d. **Mick Smith Nottingham Branch**: I propose that this meeting be known as the Reunion. If the weekend is called the annual reunion, incorporating the AGM, we may have more members coming.

- 19e. **John McAulay - A Proposed Symposium**:

What is a symposium? A symposium is a discussion on a single subject, in our case the NMBVA.

Why have a symposium? John gave a detailed summary of some of the difficulties the Association had experienced since its inception in 1994. He then went on to say, "..... if we are to improve relations with [and between] the Branches then we must provide a vehicle to bring together the Branches and the NEC to make their views, opinions, and ideas known."

"The Association is run not by the NEC who are in charge of overall control [and coordination] of the Association but the Branch Secretaries. It is they who organise the Branches without which the Association would not exist. The Secretaries generally, together with their Treasurers, see to it that the subs are collected, events are organised and members' views and grievances are given an airing. It is these

members who run the Association and are in day-to-day contact with the ordinary members that should be brought together with the NEC so that ideas and conclusions that come from the Symposium will be seen to come from the whole of the Association and not be just handed down from those who are seen as “those in charge.”

How will it work? “Prior to the Symposium branches will be encouraged to send in a paper on their ideas on any aspects of the NMBVA that they think relevant. As I have indicated above, the Symposium will be for the Branch Secretaries who will be invited to attend a two day Symposium to discuss all aspects of the NMBVA. The Symposium will start at about 1.00pm beginning with introduction by the Chairman followed by instructive talks by the Associations Officers, explaining how they carry out their work and how the Branch Secretaries may help. At this time delegates will be encouraged to ask questions and to give their point of view on how we run things. After the introduction by the National Chairman and the National Officers’, the delegates will break off into discussion groups, of about 6 each group, to discuss and formulate ideas regarding all aspect of the NMBVA. After the days work, the delegates will have the opportunity to come together, with the members of the NEC in a more relaxed social environment where, I am sure, the idea of just one Association will be reinforced. The following day the groups will once more come together to continue their discussions on their ideas. The last part of the Symposium will be the delegates coming together with the ideas and conclusion that have come out of their deliberations.”

What is hoped will come out of the Symposium? “The most important members in the Association, the Branch Secretaries, will have, for the first time, come together under the umbrella of the NMBVA. For two days they will have been discussing, debating, learning and will have been a part of making policy for the Association. I believe we can expect that their coming together with their fellow Branch Secretaries under the auspices of NMBVA will reinforce their commitment to the idea of just one Association of which they are an integral part. The promotion of not only unity but also commitment is something that this Association has been sadly lacking ever since it was formed in 1994, I am certain that the Symposium will go a long way to rectifying this situation.”

“The estimated cost of this would be £5208.”

Chairman: John has made a proposal for a symposium, the benefits of which he has described. It is a sound idea and would undoubtedly provide for better awareness, better administration, and a more cohesive organisation. The estimated cost includes Members travel and accommodation and totals £5208. Unfortunately, I fear this proposal is likely to be a casualty of the need to have a balanced revenue budget and with only £10,000 coming in and, at this moment and until we balance the revenue books, £17,000 going out, it seems it is simply not affordable, albeit it is a good idea. However, we will consider further the advantages and if they are heavily weighted we could, in the following years budget, consider the proposal as a charge to the capital asset of the Association. We could also of course ask Branches to cover the cost of their Secretaries attending with Association funds paying only for room hire and subsistence catering? We will not lose sight of the proposal.

- 19f. **Maurice Humphrey Doncaster Branch:** You are most probably going to hate me for this; we only pay £4 to national per year. Why not increase it to £5 per year? It is only a £1, everything is going up in price and this obviously effects the Association, so why not a small increase in fees?

Chairman: I did touch on that, this morning and said that we were not proposing an increase, because this is not the year to seek increase because of the climate of cuts that the public at large are facing. However most of us sitting in this room are unlikely to be effected too much by the cuts because we are pensioners. I did however say, repeatedly, that we would give the members what they want and you are proposing to increase the fee by £1 at a future date. What do other members feel I wonder?

Grahame Bamford Treasurer: I do appreciate what Maurice is saying that would give approximately £2,500 more per annum, but the proposal should be with the National Secretary 90days before the AGM, so that other members can see it before the meeting. Therefore I suggest that you put this forward as a proposal for next year's AGM.

- 19g. **Harry Power Tyneside Branch:** I believe that it is morally wrong that the voice of the majority is ignored. For whatever reason we only get a tiny minority at the AGM, therefore I ask that the NEC looks into postal Voting

Chairman: The NEC has discussed this and I understand it is an issue that is raised regularly. Postal voting could be expensive if we don't use another media such as the Newsletter or the Keris. However, we will make further considerations.

John Crossley Leicester Branch: The Aden Veterans have a newsletter, and whenever they have an important decision to make they put it in the newsletter and accept feedback from that.

Graham Evans Northern Ireland Branch: It is very expensive to get here from Northern Ireland therefore we would appreciate a postal vote.

- 19h. **John Cox Leicester Branch:** I am a member of the RAF Volunteers association. They send a delegate to the AGM, he discuss the agenda with his branch members before he goes, but according to the debate he is allowed to vote for all of them

Chairman: One letter I received suggested that we hold the Delegates meeting, which is where one can vote for the entire Branch, on the day before the AGM, and so we can consider that too.

John McAulay Membership Secretary: This is a very complicated issue, and this would have been ideal for my symposium, I suggest that this would be a good subject for a Delegates meeting.

Dennis Bowen North Yorkshire & Dales Branch: We are wasting our time the AGM is for the individuals the Delegates meeting is for Branch matters.

Item 20 - Presentations by the National Chairman and Patron: Presentation of meritorious certificates were made to: George Tullis for all his year as National Secretary. Unfortunately George and Pat could not be with us today so John Crossley Leicester Branch

will deliver the certificate and flowers for us. Presentations were also made, by our Patron, at the Gala Dinner to: Fred Burden, with flowers for Annie in recognition of the long and loyal service by Fred as Membership Secretary for 7 years; Vice Chairman for 2 years; and he has been PJM coordinator for 6 years; and to John and Gillian McAulay as he stands down from Membership Secretary after 3 years and who has been ably supported on maintaining our volatile data base by Gillian throughout.

Item 21 - Election of Honorary President: Frank Rhodes our Honorary President was elected to continue in post for a further year.

Item 22 - Election of Officers for 2010/11:

At this point the Chairman handed the meeting over to John McAulay for the election of Offices of the Association, to assume on the rising of the AGM.

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Result
Chairman	Tex Pemberton	B Timms Seconded: D Lofts	Elected
Vice Chairman	Malcolm White	J Sandilands Seconded: B Le Carpentie	Elected
Secretary	Ted Williams	David Rees Seconded: Danny Doherty	Elected
Assistant Secretary	No nomination		
Treasurer	No nomination		
Membership Secretary	Ian Williams	Grahame Bamford Seconded: Ted Williams	Elected
Webmaster	Annie Burden	C Lilley Seconded: G Reeves	Elected
NEC Committee	Brian C Roche	B Le Carpentie Seconded: J Sandilands	Elected
NEC Committee	Ray Taylor	Les Nichol Seconded: Barrie Jones	Elected
NEC Committee	Dick Richardson	George Reeve Seconded: Ian Newton BEM	Elected

Non-Executive Officers

International Liaison Officer	Ron Blain	D Sleeth Seconded: Mr Wesson	Elected
NEC Resident representative in Kuala Lumpur	George McKie	George Tullis Seconded: Tex Pemberton	Elected
Regalia Officer	Annie Burden	Also Webmaster	Appointed
Cenotaph Organising Officer	Don Mott		Appointed
Postal Coordinator North	Malcolm White	Also Vice Chairman	Appointed
Postal Coordinator South	Brian Roche	Also NEC Member	Appointed
Postal Coordinator Overseas	Ron Blain	Also ILO	Appointed

Item 23 - Association Secretary: The Secretary described the events and timings for the remainder of the weekend. He then asked for a vote about the venue for the AGM in 2011

and it was unanimous to return to the Royal Court Hotel Coventry. Members also determined to continue with the use of the Isle of Wight Company to organise the event.

Addendum: Eden Project David Rigley: On the 9th July 2011, the camp will be open from 1000hrs until 1700hrs. The Service will start at 1400hrs. There will be a short service at the Chapel in remembrance of Trevor Kershaw who organised this day for many years. I having organised this day for a few years I believe it will go well. All details will be on the website

Recovery of National Standard and union Flag.

Chairman closed the meeting at 1605 hours.

Minutes approved by Chairman on 8th November 2010.