

Colleagues,

On the 11th May 2010 and in accordance with the NMBVA Inc Europe Constitution I was invited and co-opted, by our National Executive Committee, to become your National Chairman following the resignation of Allyn Rees. At the same time - and with the departure from office of the long-serving Fred Burden - Malcolm White was co-opted to be our National Vice Chairman and I welcome him into that post. I should say that although I may be a new name to many of you, I have been a Member of the NMBVA and the Surrey Branch since 1996.

Since taking up my appointment as Chairman, and having recently returned from a family holiday, I have been made aware of a number of issues that need addressing, amongst them the question of continued Branch Membership, openness and awareness in all that we do. The NMBVA exists for the reasons set down in our Constitution which starts with the words, "To bring together in true comradeship....." The Association is bigger than any one person or Branch. As your Chairman I intend that we operate 'open government' where all Members of the Association are made aware of the activities of their Association and have access to the records of any meetings and funds. Rapid dissemination of information, by whatever cost effective means, is vital and something we are all used to in our military experiences. Nevertheless, there is a need to structure that flow and so I have asked our Secretary, Ted Williams, to include Branch Chairmen and Secretaries, Postal North and South Coordinators in his fan-out dissemination and hope that they in turn will inform their Branch and Association Members.

My own email address: [Tex](mailto:Tex@nmbva.org) and home telephone number (01428-651784) is available to any Branch Chairman or Postal Coordinator that wishes to communicate with me on behalf of their Branch, individual Branch Members, or themselves. I have also asked the Members of our NEC to ensure rapid response to communications they may receive from Members on issues that fall within their areas of responsibility.

I am concerned to learn that a small number of Branches and individuals have taken the decision to break away from the National body for varying reasons. I hope we can, collectively, encourage a return to the fold and I am both available and anxious to discuss their concerns should they so wish.

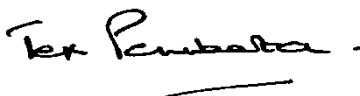
I have seen a number of exchanges with our International colleagues of the NMBVA and I will ensure we act to maintain good relations and close contact with them all.

Our Association is built upon a sound Constitution that describes our modus operandi. But nothing is ever set in concrete and if Members feel a need for change, then the Constitution makes provision to enable such change.

I will update this message slot from time to time to keep all Members informed of Association activity.

Finally, I have paid my respects to our Patron and to our Honorary President and I look forward to a successful AGM in Coventry in October.

Yours aye,

Tex Pemberton