



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 16th August 2014
Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford

Meeting Opened at 09:00 hrs.

Members Present:

David Neil (Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary); Dick Richardson (National Treasurer) Mrs Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer) Brian Roche (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator South); Valerie Nisbet (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator North) Clive Boyles (NEC Member and Post Overseas Coordinator)

ITEM:

Item 1 Exhortation: Mr Malcom White (National Vice Chairman)

Item 2 Welcome by the National Chairman Mr David Neil, He thanked everyone for attending, saying it's nice to see a full team, everyone appears to be getting on together and working hard for the benefit of the Association and its members

Item 3 Apologies; No apologies

Item 4 Record of decisions made at last NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford 22 Mar 2014

Item 5 No Matters arising

Item 6 National Treasurers Report including the Memorial Fund: Mr Dick Richardson. Dick explained that he has not had the audited report at the date request, because the Auditor had a family problem. However it is anticipated that he would have them in the next few weeks, well in time to circulate them to members before the AGM.

- a) Revenue Account 1st July 14 to 30th Jun 14
Dick went over the figures (you all have copies) Note we have put £4,000 from the memorial back into the reserve account
- b) Assets and Liabilities
Note we have taken off and disposed of one old printer (too expensive to operate). The new memorial has been added to the Assets
- (c) Dick went through the Capital and memorial accounts
- c) Regalia Stock list taken June 2014
- f) NEC and other Administration Expenditure 1st July to 30th June 2014 Please note these cost are well down, the lowest they have ever been



- d) Dick also went over the current account

The Association is financially viable

- a) Proposed Budget for 2015-2016

There was a disagreement on how much Advert Publication money the association would anticipate receiving and a few other minor adjustments to be made. This document will have to be rewritten and agreed by the NEC before being presented to the AGM for approval. Dick also pointed out the contribution we send annually towards the Gurkhas travel expenses has not been cashed for the last 2 years therefore he has taken it out of the proposed budget. David Neil, pointed out there are other implications, therefore he will take up this up with others.

Chairman thanked Dick for a very detailed report

Item 7

Regalia Stock & Pricing: Mrs Annie Burden: Annie went over the stock in hand. Chairman produced a Ladies Brooch (also discussed) at last meeting the main discussion revolved around the design of clasp and price. This is a very nice brooch, Chairman to get a price for the ribbon. Malcom White will put all detail with photograph in the newsletter. Ted, we have some new items NMBVA table cloths, polo shirts, tee shirts, sweaters and table banners. To help to save money on postage/packaging to reduce the amount of association funds tied-up in stock, orders should be sent to Mrs Annie Burden, goods sent to the individual direct from the manufacturer, the postage will also be included in the advised price. On investigation, most manufacturers have guaranteed to have orders sent out within a week of receipt of orders, this will also enable member in the case of clothing to stipulate colour.

Annie, brought up the problem of postage, which has increased dramatically over the past year, some members are sending in old order forms, in one case dated 2000, would Mal kindly point out in the newsletter to members that only current order forms are acceptable

Annie brought up the question of publishing the Kris magazine on the internet. This was discussed at great length, and it was agreed that members pay subscription therefore it would be unfair to these member to publish it free on the internet. (Before we had the Kris, the cry was “What are we getting for our money!”), Mal suggested we could put it on the internet that it is available to paid up members. The question also came up regarding overseas members in some cases the cost of postage is greater than the annual subscription; therefore it was decided to investigate the feasibility of sending these out by PDF.

Action By Mal & Clive

Item 8 Membership Secretary: Bob Roberts

Members joining the Association has been very good this year we have: - New members 56, Returning members 64 (120). The inauguration of our new SOLENT branch has seen an influx of associated members the majority of them being wives of members, most



members of the Solent branch were members of the Southern Area. Unfortunately these figures have been offset by members being posted to pastures green and resignations

1	Membership is as follows	
	Data Base	1755
	Paid up members	1381
	In arrears'	374 = 1755
2	Membership Makeup	
	Associated members	120
	Honorary members'	18
	Ordinary Members	1617
	Total	1755
3	Since the last AGM, we have recruited	
	Associated members	19
	Honorary members	1
	Ordinary members	36
	Returned Members	64
	Total	120
4	Since last AGM we have lost	
	Deceased	33
	Lost contact	12
	Resignations	45

Note;- Because there has been so many resignations in the last 2 years (Resignations have generally been submitted when I have been chasing up subscriptions) the main reason is that they have become too ill to attend branch meetings. Therefore I should be obliged if branch secretaries would kindly contact those in arrears to ascertain why. I can the write to them and get the national secretary to send them a get well card, and they may like to transfer to postal Membership, a lot of them like to keep in contact.

Bob handed out a list of all Branches, List the number of members paid up, and numbers of members in arrears. These figures were discussed and the NEC wondered how we may help branch secretaries. The National Chairman thought that the following 3 Branches should be congratulated in having achieved a 100% paid up membership Bridgend, Pontypridd and North Yorkshire & Dales.

Summary, there may still be a certain amount of confusion over the financial year however provided a member pays the same time each year this should have ironed itself out by now, another problem is members say they have not been asked for subscriptions therefore a polite individual letter to each branch secretary may do the trick.

Action By: Bob and Ted and Valerie

Item 9 Newsletter; Malcom White

I should like to get the newsletter out at the latest end of October, beginning of November I intend devoting space to regalia so that members may who wish to can purchase items for Christmas. Therefore I would be obliged for all contributions as soon as possible, but



not later than the AGM. In the past it has not gone out until the 2nd/3rd week of December which is far too late

Action All

I would like Dick to give me feedback on what the Kris and newsletter cost, I get the estimate, but invoices are sent direct to Dick. Therefore I should like a copy of the invoices so I can see if they are matching up

Action Dick

Item 10 Review of our relationship with IOW Tours David NEIL

David Neil: this is my proposal, there are several things in the past year that have niggled me with the IOW Tours, I feel that the tail is beginning to wag the Dog, however I may have been a bit short, having had a discussion with Ted this morning. It all came about with this year's Blackpool Trip, I'll hand over to Bob

Report on Blackpool this year

Bob Roberts: This year was a lot better than last, Celia and I decided to go by train, because we were advised there was a limited amount of parking space. We were quickly checked in, however the room was very small for a double room and the wash basin was in the bedroom. We complained and were changed to a family room. There was entertainment every night and the only problem we had was one night the bar ran out of draft beer but the staff had to go upstairs to the top bar to get draft beer and to be fair to the staff when anyone asked for a beer they did not stock, they got it for the member. The Gala Dinner was far better than the previous year with a wine reception before the dinner. The food was excellent. There were 2 trips advertised one to The Lakes on the Tuesday the second advertised as a canal trip, we have been to Morecambe a number of times however we booked to go on the canal trip. On boarding the Skipper gave a spiel and we went up the canal for approximately 25 minutes came to a turning point and head back to the mariner, therefore the canal trip was less than an hour. From there we went to a cheese making factory, which all you could see was 2 guys mixing the Kerr, the shop did a brisk trade, when we got back on the coach we had haversack rations, which consisted of 2 sandwiches, a packet of crisps an apple and a bottle of water. We then went to a railway museum, from there to a garden centre, this cost us £19 each, which I don't think was worth it. Apart from that the evening entertainment was excellent Ted; the main point of discussion here is our relationship with the IOW tours. By bringing in the IOW tours the cost this year was no more than last year, but 10 times better. When you arrived you were met with a greeting a tea/coffee, biscuits and key to your room, Shirley was on hand to sort your problems and her experience came invaluable when we had 2 members taken ill. I agree the rooms were small, but the staff were pleasant and helpful and the majority of those who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. I quote from a letter I received from Les Nichol secretary Durham Branch "Dear Ted, It was a privilege



and great pleasure to meet you at our Spring Get Together at Blackpool; it was good value for money and I enjoyed the Mini Break very much.” Ted I am looking for another hotel, but the price will go up.

Bob agreed that that the food, gala dinner, entertainment and location of the hotel was excellent, his grouse was the size of the rooms.

David Neil, my complaint was the state of the rooms, they were tatty, and when I complaint to Shirley she became very irate to the point of being abusive, the place was rubbish, crap, and I think we should go back to organising events ourselves. However, I have had a discussion regarding my opinions this morning and I am not prepared to push the issue at the moment. However I shall be observing very carefully how the IOW tours performs at the years AGM and if necessary re-agenda the issue.

Item 11 Ron Blain Proposed by Ted Williams Seconded by Dick Richardson

Ron Blain stands down as International Liaison Officer this year and that the Association present Ron with a certificate of merit for a job well done and an association shield suitably inscribed

This was agreed

Action Ted/Annie

Item 12 Time Capsule Arboretum Clive Boyles MS

I believe that branches were not given sufficient time to provide items to be included into the Time Capsule and they be asked to provide a record of their members history of their part either in the Emergency or Confrontation. These items should be vetted and on an anniversary the capsule should be reopened and the item deposited. This was discussed at length.

a) It was proposed at the 2012 AGM by Mrs Pemberton and unanimously agreed that a potted copy of the Association history be put into a time Capsule (note it is the history of the Association, not of the emergency or confrontation we are trying to preserve)

b) Once sealed it would be incongruous to open in our life time

What was buried beneath the memorial in a time capsule: Memory stick containing the name of all members of the Association including all those who had passed on, resigned, and lost contact, Poems written by David Neil and potted history. In a small vault a hard copy of the potted and a selection of association regalia.

It was agreed by the majority that once a time capsule is sealed that's it.

Clive, at the 20th commemoration service, was speaking to members of the Thames Valley, and Solent Branches who were not even formed then, would have liked to have put some items in. Ted: it was agreed at the 2012 and also at the



next NEC meeting what would go into it, it was not intended that Branches put memorabilia in, PLEASE NOTE Clive you were at these meetings.

David Neil, It's a nice idea, but it would almost be sacrilege to open it now, as it been sealed and blessed

It was agreed to leave it sealed, and we have provided sufficient material Final Vote 8 for 1 against.

Item 13

Armed Forces day 2015. Ted the final decision is about to be made and I believe it will be Guilford. If it is Guilford, we should request the Surrey Branch represent the Association.

I can now confirm that Guildford has been chosen

Item 14

Blackpool 2015, 27th April to 1 May 2015

We have a choice

- a) Tiffanys Hotel (see attached). This has larger rooms than the Parisenne Full English breakfast with choice of evening meal, with entertainment nightly

2 Excursions laid on (Extra Cost see attached)

Gala Dinner (Private Room) on the Wednesday night with entertainment, in a Private Room Cost £154 per person for 4 nights five days

2nd Choice The Cliffs Hotel (DIY) Week

This is a very large hotel therefore we would not get the personal service All Meals are help yourself; they have 2 hot buffet tables (these are double-sided). The is also a central buffet bar cold food
Cost £150 pp Deposit of £50 nonreturnable followed by full payment 6 weeks before arrival Single rooms are limited, a double room for a single guest will attract a nightly supplement of £15 i.e. £60 for the four nights.

Gala Dinner can be held in the Vic Suite and this room as a hire charge of £10 pp and we will have to return to the main entertainment room, if we require entertainment after the meal.

The hotel is in walking distance of Blackpool

I recommend we use the Tiffanys Hotel at least we will have someone to meet and greet you. Shirley proved invaluable this year when we had 2 members taken ill and she sorted out most of our problems and her work towards the Gala Dinner defiantly added a celebration ambience

Item 15

Agenda for the 2014 AGN



The Chairman reminded members to get their report to him so the he can write the general report, naturally NEC members will be excepted to answer any question that concern their department.

There was a lot of discussion over proposals; the national secretary reminded everyone that if a member sends in a proposal that is seconded, that is the way it must appear on the agenda.

Item 16 St Paul's Rededication of the NMBVA Plaque and Service 50th anniversary of the ending of hostility's in Borneo Lead by National Chairman David Neil

David: We have St Pauls booked for 1100hrs Thursday 28 April 2016.

Under David's Guidance we discussed using the Dedication Service of the St. Pauls outline of the event and costing. I still have to arrange a number of meetings in the new-year.

Ted: Due to age and the number of members taking their last posting, this will probably be the last big occasion the association will hold and the last chance of us all getting together in a mood of celebration therefore I suggest we make the most of it.

Wednesday 27th April 23016

- a) All book into an hotel for the Wednesday Thursday and Friday nights
- b) Have a Gala Dinner on the Wednesday night

Thursday 28th April 2016

- a) Bus to St Paul's for service
- b) Reception at Mansion House

Friday 29th April 2016

- a) Trip down the river Thames with lunch on board
- b) Book up to see a West End Show

Saturday 30 April

Say our goodbyes and return to our homes rejuvenated.

The above programme can be modified, however well have to start booking and costing well in advance.

It will be expensive; however members have time to save up, plus the fact that the NEC will start fund raising to help to defray cost, I am certain we shall be able to subsidies members.



Cost is going to depend on numbers; therefore I have got to get some idea of how many members would be interested in this venture to ascertain whether to go ahead.

In discussion it was agreed we help members with the cost.

Item 17 Guest of Honour for Reunion Dinner

David: unfortunately those I have approached for various reasons have been unable to attend, however Ted has written to a number of dignitaries and we shall keep you informed by e-mail.

Item 18 Members Plaques along the path leading to the memorial, unfortunately due to various reasons there has been a hold up nevertheless Item Ted hopes to have news by the AGM

Item 19 Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall: I am pleased to announce that to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Association the NMBVA Standard will parade at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall this year Standard Bearer will be Mrs Debby Lofts. She will require 3 Days accommodation Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They have a rehearsal on the Friday, rehearsal on Saturday morning followed by a performance in the afternoon and a second one in the evening.

Item 20 The Not Forgotten Association, Rosie is running 3 Marathons this year, June Normandy, November New York, and December Portsmouth.

The Association have benefited greatly by members going on a variety of excursions like the tour of Italy, Buckingham Palace etc., I shall be sending a sponsorship form to branches and also announcing on the web.

I trust the NEC will launch the NMBVA collection.

Ted thanked the members of the NEC who contributed; we started the campaign with £200 from the NEC.

Any Other Business

1 Dick announced that he intends to stand down as National Treasurer at the AGM 2016

Meeting Closed at 1215hrs

The National Chairman Mr David Neil thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2014