



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 11th August 2018
Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford

<u>Item 1</u>	Meeting opened at 09:15 hrs. by National Chairman, Mr Malcolm White. (Meeting opened late due to difficulty with recording system).
<u>Item 2</u>	Members Present: Malcolm White (Chairman), Ted Williams (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary), Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer), Valerie Nisbet (NEC Member & Overseas Co-ordinator), Brian Roche (NEC Member & Postal South Co-ordinator), Clive Boyles (NEC Member and Postal Central Co-ordinator). Mr John Measham (International Liaison Officer)
<u>Item 3</u>	Exhortation: Mr Clive Boyles MSM.
<u>Item 4</u>	Welcome and Report by the National Chairman: Mr Malcolm White Welcome to you all and thanks for attending. Mr Grahame Bamford has resigned as Vice Chairman, we wish him all the very best and hope his health improves. Dick Richardson has been gravely ill, and is still in hospital, but I am pleased to report that his condition is improving and I am sure you will all join with me and send him our best wishes. It is only due to the efforts and time of this committee that the NMBVA is able to carry on and keep our members in touch and remember our experiences in Malaya and Borneo.
<u>Item 5</u>	Apologies: Dick Richardson (Treasurer), Dick has had a major operation and is still in hospital, having had a very long and rough time. Mr Graham Bamford (Vice Chairman) resigned 2 days ago due to ill health.
<u>Item 6</u>	NEC meeting held on the 3rd February 2018 matters arising Bob Roberts: Clive, at the last meeting, requested that he be allowed to change his database and Ted said no. Ted: it was agreed some time ago, to prevent having numerous numbers of different databases, only the National Membership Secretary could change the database, and he would send out periodically amendments. However, if this is OK with you, being the National Membership Secretary, I yield, but Clive will have to email the Membership Secretary, National Treasurer and National Secretary with any alterations and can only change his copy. Ted also emphasised that all branches have their own databases, which do not agree with the National Membership Secretary's database, therefore we shall have to carry out an exercise to rectify this abnormality. This was carried
<u>Item 7</u>	Acceptance: Proposed by Mr Bob Roberts seconded Mrs Valerie Nisbet that minutes be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.

Item 8	<p>Review Item 7 NEC Minutes 3rd February 2018 before the AGM because members did not fully realise the full ramifications of the motion. Ted: at the end of the last meeting 2 members of the committee had contacted me regarding the motion. The gist of the debate was if you have 2 members living together they receive one Newsletter and one Keris between them. Annie therefore felt that this was unfair and that the increase of £3 per year, should not apply to both. Ted emphasised: a) that the vote at the AGM was an increase in subscription and there was no mention of the publications, and he believed that this was more than justified and well under the rate of inflation as most members have been paying £7 since inauguration of the association (the old age pension has increased every year, and was increased this year by over £150). National Chairman agreed with Annie. Bob: making a different rate of subscription complicates his and the National Treasurers work load. All members should be treated the same, therefore all should receive both publications. Chairman: we have 2 options: a) those living in the same house get one set of publications one member paying reduced rate of £7 the other full subscription of £10 or both pay the full subscription and receive 2 sets of publications. Bob: all other branches have accepted the status quo except Colchester. Annie: advised that the members concerned had resigned their national membership, so the proposal is withdrawn. This was not an unanimous decision, and Annie State she would pursue this motion at the AGM</p>
Item 9	<p>Chairman: Ted has put the following forward: <u>The future of The National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association.</u> All the under mentioned are suggestions and open for debate and will require reconstruction to our present mode of operation. I believe we are talking ourselves into an early demise by concentrating on one angle only i.e. branches and not taking into consideration the postal members, we have over 350 postal members. Branch members will decline due to members taking their last posting, therefore it is hoped that postal membership will increase albeit, not at the same rate as the decline. Nevertheless, it will prolong the life of the association. Many Veterans Associations are solely Postal i.e. Ex-Boys Battery R.A., REME Association, Guards Para Association, and many more. Mode of operation: their committees keep In Touch by Skype with one physical meeting per year, prior to their AGM and Reunion Dinner.</p> <p>Increase communication and decrease cost. Do away with the “Keris” and increase the newsletters to 3 a year, dates of publications to be agreed. The newsletter will be A5 (see copy of Guards Para association). Costing: printing 60p franking 41p per letter.</p> <p>We keep 3 databases, 1 complete database, 1 holding details of those on email and a third members without email. This will facilitate the speed of getting the publication out. I appreciate that some years ago we carried out a survey regarding sending out the “Keris” by e-mail, this being a full-blown glossy magazine, we are talking about a few sheets of paper, which I believe will be acceptable to members, especially if they realise this will be saving money.</p> <p>Summary of the above: Before closure of the NMBVA the NEC should look at the number of members, not individual branches, and costing.</p>

When we are forced to close the NEC shall have to arrange the laying up of the National Standard, I suggest that we try Winchester Cathedral. Once we have agreed and got consent from whichever Cathedral we are welcomed then we will have to decide; do we arrange accommodation for members, a Dinner the night before or just a get together with buffet, the laying up ceremony, what guests do we invite. There will be a lot of work and costs to work out.

Funds: a great deal will be spent on the above and at this stage we don't know how much we will have! I suggest the residual is given to The Not Forgotten Association, which have helped us out.

The above is only food for thought and once we have some sort of consent, I can start on the organisation albeit some time off.

Ted Williams
Nat. Sec. NMBVA

Thoughts on Future NMBVA Possible Prognoses.
By Malcom White National Chairmen

August 2018

Approx. Current Association Balance: £21,000.00
Average Yearly Expenditure: £12,000.00
Current Yearly income from Subs, £8,800.00
Membership, current approx., 1270

Assuming reduction in Subs due to loss of membership,

We are an Ageing Association, subsequently our numbers will exponentially decrease. Last year we lost 230 members.

Estimated membership

2019-2020 -300	Remaining 970	Subs =	£6,790.00
2020-2021- 300	Remaining 670	Subs =	£4,690.00
2021-2022 -300	Remaining 370	Subs =	£2,590.00

Some Branches will cease to be viable and close as membership decreases. Possibility of increase in Postal Membership as some members transfer from closed branches to Postal.

Large cost items such as Keris, Xmas Newsletter and Insurance need to be reassessed. Savings made by replacing Keris & Newsletter with A5 Newsletter
£5398 - £1270 = £4,128
Expenditure reduced from £12,000 to £8,000

Ability to carry on as-is with forecasted possible Income and Expenditure Possible.

Financial forecast.

2019 - 2020: Reserve - £21,000, Subs = £6,790, Total = £27,790. Exp. = £8,000 remaining £19,790

2020 - 2021: Reserve - £19,790, Subs = £4,690, Total = £20,480. Exp. = £8,000 remaining £12,480

	<p>2021 – 2022: Reserve - £12,480, Subs = £2,590, Total = £15,070. Exp. = £8,000 remaining £7,070</p> <p>At this critical financial point suggest Association becomes a Postal NMBVA with Branches running themselves and a NEC reduced to minimum; Chairman; National Secretary; Treasurer and Membership Secretary. NEC to meet just once per year, prior to AGM, Reunion weekend. Communication of NEC and Committee members otherwise to use Skype or similar. Information to members as much as possible to be with email and Association Web-site.</p> <p>With this reorganisation it may be possible to continue as a postal NMBVA for a further 2 or 3 years</p> <p><u>Possibly 2025</u></p> <p>When membership makes it financially unviable to carry on, or NEC is unable to carry out functions it must be put to members that the NMBVA is to be wound down. Prior to this point (Possibly 2021 AGM), members should be asked as to how remaining NMBVA assets should be distributed when NMBVA is wound down. Suggest remaining financial assets be allocated to “The Not Forgotten Association”. They have over the years allowed many 100’s of our members to attend many functions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mr Malcolm White, National Chairman</p> <p>Mal went over his report in detail, saying that we could reduce our expenditure considerably, there are some items that could be reassessed like the Keris, newsletter and insurance. We have made a big reduction in the insurance this year my £750. By replacing the Keris with a newsletter as Ted pointed out would make a big saving. Taking the proposed savings, we could still carry on the way we are going now for the next 3 years and still have over £10,000 in the reserve account, and then carry on for approximately the next 3 years as more or less a postal association. Then taking into consideration the cost of the ceremony of Laying up the Standard etc. and handing over the residue of our funds to the not Forgotten Association as hundreds of our members have benefited form this association.</p> <p>I have put my thoughts with Ted’s, there is no fixed strategy at the moment, I believe we have another six years, circumstances could change, so start thinking now about the future. Ted: the insurance appeared to be high this year because we paid the last years late, in fact the cost of insurance reduced this year by over £700.</p>
<p><u>Item 10</u></p>	<p>National Treasurers Report Year 2017-2018</p> <p>The Income to the Association has fallen despite the rise in subscriptions, this can be put down to, Standing Order Members who, despite a letter in last Novembers News Letter, a letter/Email last January and follow up letter each month since. I have written in excess of one hundred letters since January and still have letters to write six months on. Does no one read letters, it is frustrating, possibly 20% get answered, so I will not know until next payment is made. I thank those members that responded and sent the balance of payment.</p> <p><u>INCOME</u></p>

	<p>Having brought forward £5,813.25 from the previous years: Joining Fee`s £72.00; Subscriptions £8469.00 (down partly owing to late payment); Regalia Sales and Postage £728.64; Accommodation £257.00; Insurance (only £476.00 donated towards cost); Voluntary Donations £1,484.40 (thank you); Memorial Fund £476.00 (fund now closed). Total Income £17,533.3</p> <p>EXPENDITURE Stationary £45.76; Printing £231.85; Postage £502.95 (up by £40.00); Audit £325.00; Insurance £1875.25 (2017, £1118.53 (2018) a reduction of Over £700.00 thanks to Ted for re-negotiating); KERIS/Newsletter £5,398.10 (includes a late payment of postage £882.35 0; NEC Travel £523.80; Subsistence £32.50; Accommodation £1,439.00; Rebate £33.00; Remembrance £90.00; Contingency £89.00; Regalia £42.00; £1,000.00 transferred to reserve account. Total Expenditure £12,747.23 Leaving £4,786.07 carried forward. The Budget for 2018-2019 will show a fall in income and slight rise in expenditure over the twelve-month period, owing to the fall in numbers of members. Income £12,800.00 Expenditure £11,877.00 approx.</p> <p>CONCLUSION When all members are paying the full subscription we will hopefully show a better margin between Income and expenditure D Richardson National Treasurer National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Mal, went over the Audit report, income and expenditure account etc.</p>
<p>Item 11</p>	<p>Motion by Ted Williams: That biannually the NEC audits the NMBVA National accounts. At present we have our accounts audited by a professional, qualified accounted. This is laudable but expensive and unnecessary. We have sufficient expertise on the NEC to carry out an audit on accounts. However, to ensure strict control, they are audited by a professional accounted biannually, this should save approximately £200 per year. Mrs Valerie Nisbet informed the committee, that at her work place, they carry out this procedure. Bob Roberts, at one time he was Treasurer for another association and they carried out their own audit, and basically all members are interested in is a balance sheet. It was agreed that this had to be discussed with the National Treasurer and put before the AGM. There would be a slight changing of wording on page 5 of the constitution.</p>
<p>Item 12</p>	<p>Regalia Mrs Annie Burden Annie produced a Stock sheet of the last audit of regalia held in June, going through the sheet line by line. We had been out of stock on a number of items for some time due to the anticipated closure of the association. Ted: with the anticipated life of the association to be six years, members need to renew items and we are still gaining a small number of new members, therefore we should have a stock of the most popular items. Whatever precautions we adopt we are going to be left with some stock and at this point we can hold a closing down sale.</p>

	<p>Annie: we have had no green ties for ages, neither the association nor the Kris. Annie believes the Kris ties are the most popular, and therefore we request that she buys the minimum number of these. Cap/Pullover badges the minimum number is 50, but they are quite popular, we agreed to ordering them. Ladies Broaches, unfortunately the firm that made these has collapsed and to be taken out of the catalogue along with cuff links and Ladies pendant on PJM ribbon. Association Shield order more. Wall plates and Christmas cards are moving slowly. Bob asked if there is a chance of getting more of the magnet association badges; Mal promised to try.</p>																																																
<p>Item 13</p>	<p>NMBVA Web Site: Ted. I should like to use the web to dispense information to members. This works OK when Annie is in situ, but I have a problem when Annie is away. I have no access, Annie you have the message board. Mal sated this was rather obscure, the layout of the Website very rarely changes, therefore members are inclined to skip over it. Mal suggested that on the front page in colour and bold font we have an additional box marked BREAKING NEWS. Annie proposed the above and Valerie Nisbet seconded it. Agreed unanimously.</p>																																																
<p>Item 14</p>	<p>Membership of the Association since AGM 2017- 20TH JULY 2018</p> <table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Oct 2017 to Jul 2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A: members on the database</td> <td>1469</td> <td>1283</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B: Paid up members</td> <td>1192</td> <td>768</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C: In arrears</td> <td>277</td> <td>515</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Membership made up of</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A; Associate Members</td> <td>143</td> <td>129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B: Honour Members</td> <td>17</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C: Ordinary Members</td> <td>1309</td> <td>1137</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Recruitment since Oct 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A: Associate Members</td> <td>12</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B: Ordinary Members</td> <td>28</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C: Returning Members</td> <td>39</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">We have lost since Oct 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deceased</td> <td>48</td> <td>56</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lost Touch</td> <td>100</td> <td>144</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resigned</td> <td>42</td> <td>27</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The list of branches not paying their subscriptions by 20th July 2018 are: Doncaster; Durham; Lincolnshire; Leicester; Mid Ulster; Northern Ireland; Nottingham; Swindon and Thames Valley non-Standing Order members. Bob emphasised the lack of support from Branch Secretaries. If a branch member failed to attend branch meetings and therefore failed to pay national subscriptions, or resign they never ascertain why. I telephone every one and usually they want to remain a member of the association and they are than happy to be transferred to postal.</p> <p>Bob Roberts National Membership Secretary</p>		Oct 2017 to Jul 2018		A: members on the database	1469	1283	B: Paid up members	1192	768	C: In arrears	277	515	Membership made up of			A; Associate Members	143	129	B: Honour Members	17	17	C: Ordinary Members	1309	1137	Recruitment since Oct 2017			A: Associate Members	12	7	B: Ordinary Members	28	10	C: Returning Members	39	18	We have lost since Oct 2017			Deceased	48	56	Lost Touch	100	144	Resigned	42	27
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	<p>Ted quizzed over the recording procedures. Bob credited the member in the year paid, therefore if a member did not pay for the period 2017 to 2018, but paid late in July 2018 he was credited with the financial year 2018 – 2019, therefore the association lost one year's subscription. This is mainly down to Branches not chasing members when they have not paid.</p>
Item 15	<p>John Measham (International Liaison Officer) Mr Chairman, Committee Members, thank you for inviting me to the NEC meeting.</p> <p>Following our last trip to Malaysia in 2017 many of the members requested a return visit. I am proposing in 2019 to take our members for a return visit to Penang and Kuching in Sarawak Borneo this time, leaving out Kuala Lumpur, with much the same format as 2017, part holiday and part Veteran duties in paying our respects at Commonwealth Memorials and Cemeteries, also I would like our members to take part in the Independence Parade in Kuching. So far have 54 interested parties, most from the last trip and some in response to the advertisement on the NMBVA website.</p> <p>Last year I had a great deal of help from Brig General Kamarol the Malaysian Defence Adviser in London, who secured our place on the Independence Parade in Kuala Lumpur and had assigned the Malaysian Military to assist us while we were there. As you know we as an organisation can not turn up in another country and hold parades without their permission.</p> <p>As some of you may be aware, I have had a frustrating time organising a return trip for our members to Malaysia for 2019 with trying to obtain a response from the Malaysian Military and the Deputy Director of Proical in Sarawak, Mr Sarbini who organises the Parade in Kuching, who I had emailed at the end of May following my visit to Penang this year. While I was in Penang, I had managed to secure a discounted rate at the Flamingo Hotel also a boat trip around part of the Island ending with a BBQ. I am back there again in January and hope to arrange other events for our members should this go ahead.</p> <p>At the time of emailing Brig Genreal Kamaron's replacement was not yet in London, I emailed the Malaysian Assistant Defence Adviser Lt Col Rashidi, requesting a meeting to discuss our proposed trip, as I was in London for a few days and would have been an ideal time to meet, I had no response to my email. The only assistance I have had is from our Assistant Defence Adviser WOII Lee Arnold of our Defence Team in Kuala Lumpur. He has now written on my behalf to the Deputy Director of Sarawak Mr Sarbini details our proposal.</p> <p>At this stage I have no cost, however, I am hoping that the inclusive price will be similar to 2017 with the help from the contacts at Malaysian Airways and Hotels I have.</p> <p>I am told that Brig General Kamarol's replacement is now in London a Brig General Dato' Subari Tomo, I will give him a couple of weeks to settle in, then I will make myself known to him by email and hopefully make some headway. Until then everything is in hold.</p>

	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>We discussed Merdeka Carnival at Brickdenbury, Herefordshire. Unfortunately, since our discussion this has now been cancelled.</p>
<u>Item 16</u>	<p>Overseas Membership Valerie Nisbet.</p> <p>I have had a cheque form a member, which is in the system, I send copies of the Keris to those on e-mail some send the cost of postage to get a hard copy, what do I do about those not on e-mail. Mal: there is not many, I suggest that you send a letter to them explaining the procedure.</p>
<u>Item 17</u>	<p>Wearing of Medals, it is against the law to wear any medals or replica medals that you're not entitled to.</p> <p><i>I quote: 'while it is not an offence to own medals which have not been awarded to you, it is illegal under section 197 of the Army Act 1955 to use these medals to deceive. (This act was superseded by the Armed Forces Act November 2006). The act makes wearing any military decoration, badge, stripes or emblem without authority an offence. It is also illegal to wear a replica "as calculated to deceive", and falsely represent yourself as someone entitled to wear any such award.</i></p> <p>Only medals that have been approved by Her Majesty The Queen are allowed to be worn on the left side, commemorative or relatives medals can be worn on the right side.</p>
<u>Item 18</u>	<p>Ted: I have had a complaint that branches have been poaching paid up members from other branches. A member has the right to request a transfer to another branch for ease of travel, moved home and many other reasons. The request must come from the member; it is unethical for an Officer of another branch to cajole a member to transfer to another branch.</p>
<u>Item 19</u>	<p>A member was found to be wearing 2 campaign Medals and one bar on his post GSM which he was not entitled to (GSM with Cyprus bar, East Africa GSM clasp South Arabia). I wrote to the member concerned, he agreed over the phone that he did wear the medals, but took them down when challenged. I requested a photo copy of his discharge book, but he stated that this was lost when his house was flooded. However, he agreed that the highest rank obtained was Lance Sergeant. At the same time claimed to be a Drill Sergeant at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. On checking with the RSM at RMC who informed me that most of the Drill Sergeants were WO2's, the lowest rank would be C/Sgt. By wearing these medals, he has caused a great deal of offence to those entitled to wear them, broken the law and spirit of camaraderie within the Association. There were two schools of argument, a few requested that he be expelled from the association, however, the Chairman stated that everyone should be given a second chance. Some members are of the opinion that we cannot stop those who chose to wear them, some believed he should stand down as chairman. The Chairman said we have difficulties in getting Branch officers.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to send him a letter expressing our disappointment and expect a higher standard, and to re-establish cooperation</p>

	between branches he writes a letter of apology, with a copy to the NEC. Failure to comply will result in other action.
<u>Item 20</u>	Communications, if we are going to send newsletters why not try e-mail to save money.
<u>Item 21</u>	Chairman: I shall be going to Australia after the AGM, so Ted will be sending out the Christmas newsletter, all items for this newsletter to Ted preferably by e- mail please.
<u>Item 22</u>	Chairman: we need a replacement for Vice Chairman. Annie do we really need one, the role has little responsibility and Ted does most of the work. After discussion it was decide to put this into abeyance.
<u>Item 23</u>	Data protection Act What does GDPR mean for me? The new GDPR legislation came into force in May this year, bringing with it more rights for you as a consumer. It means that you will have more power to challenge how organisations will ask for, store, use and otherwise process your personal data. So any information that can be used to directly or indirectly identify you as an individual (your name, date of birth, IP address etc.) may constitute personal data and will be expected to be under stricter controls and protection.
<u>Item 24</u>	NMBVA Privacy Policy. Ted issued every member with a draft copy for approval. It is now on the NMBVA Web Site.
<u>Item 25</u>	Practice Skype: due to the fact that we have gone over time and members have trains, buses to catch, we will leave this. Annie, Ted and Malcolm will evaluate and send a report to all. Meeting closed at 1245.