



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 5th August 2017
Tillington Hall Hotel, Stafford

Meeting Opened at 08:57 hrs.

Members Present:

David Neil (Chairman), Malcolm White (Vice Chairman), Ted Williams (Secretary), Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary), Dick Richardson (Treasurer), Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer), Valerie Nisbet (NEC Member & Overseas Co-ordinator), Brian Roche (NEC Member & Postal South Co-ordinator), Clive Boyles

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

Item 2 **Welcome & Report by the National Chairman Mr David W Neil**
David Neil (National Chairman). Welcome, and thank you all for traveling to this meeting. There are 29 items on the agenda, therefore it's going to be a bit of a marathon, please try not to talk over one another

I went to the reopening of the Army Museum, which was a disappointed and a complete waste of time. This will be my last meeting of the NEC as Chairman, I thank all committee members for their support, this undoubtedly been one of the best committees ever, and have made great strides forward. I wish all of you, success in the future, Thank You.

Item 3 **Apologies:** All members in attendance

Item 4 **AGM Record of decisions:** meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel on the 4th February 2017

Helpful Note from National Secretary

- a) Trip to Malaysia 68 members going
- b) Item 16 Skype Meetings, for various reason, this has not really got off the ground
- c) Item 18 The Not Forgotten Association the Association sent off cheque for £2,000 this was mainly contributions from member with the remainder from National funds.

- d) Item 19 The future of the Association, I am more than pleased to announce that Sir Garry will continue as president of the Association.
- e) Mr Don Mott informs me that the proforma we sent out regarding the Cenotaph helped him enormously and we have more members marching this year. The only problem we had was the RBL moved the dated of submitting name forward

Item 5 **Acceptance:** Proposed by Mrs. Valerie Nisbet; seconded Mrs Annie Burden the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Item 6 Matters arising, which are not on the Agenda
No Matters arising

Item 7 Treasurers Report by Mr Dick Richardson
Dick issued each member with a copy of the Revenue A/C, NEC Revenue A/C, Expenditure A/C, Branch Payments, Insurance donations, Donations to the Army Museum Assist and Liabilities. Dick went through these accounts very scrupulously. The good news we made a profit this year of £1571 as opposed to a loss last year £3926. However, when you get into the nitty-gritty Income has fallen by £2644, while expenditure has increased by £1801.56, this indicates a loss of £4,446 this does not show in the figures until you analyse the figures. Subscriptions up slightly by £1,300, this is due to late payers, not to an increase in membership. Regalia down, this is due to fewer members. Donations National Army Museum £2500, the Not Forgotten Association, members donated £1992, we decided to send £2,000.

Although we are healthy financially at the moment income is dwindling due to decrease in membership and cost are rising, therefore I believe we should consider an increase in subscription if we wish to see the association continuing

Malcom White; how much does it cost the run the association for the year? Dick; with the Keris and newsletter and other administration cost like postage insurance etc. approximately £10,000

Proposed by Mrs Annie Burden Second by Mrs Valerie Nisbet that the Treasures report be accept. Carried unanimously

Item 8

Membership Secretary Report
N E C Meeting 5th August 2017

1: Good morning Membership for the 7 months since February 2017 seems to be holding its own

Although the number of those posted upstairs can be compared to the last three years.

Though we are still getting notifications where we don't have the full detail of the dates

They passed away. My membership figures are from the February meeting to date.

We have recruited 38 but have lost 74 not including lost touch as they me come back this year.

2: Membership figures are as at.

A: Members on the database	1479
B: Paid up members	1046
C: Still to pay	434

Membership made up of

A: Associate members	45
B Honorary Members	17
C: Ordinary Members	1418

Recruitment since February 2017

A: Associate Members	1
B: Ordinary Members	15
C: Returning Members	25

A: Deceased	46
B: Resigned	30
C; Lost touch	15

As of the 29st July there were still a few branches yet to pay their subscriptions. These are:

Lincoln, Doncaster, Durham, Hull, Leicester, Mid Ulster, N Ireland Surrey, Thames Valley. There are few branches where not all members have paid their subs. Some of the members on the not paid list pay by standing order, unfortunately I cannot isolate them. We still seem to have had no joy in getting branches to come in line with the end of the financial year.

*Two postal South members who reported to Brian that they were very ill last year, Brian has been unable to contact them this year as their phones numbers are unobtainable.

Proposed by Brian Roche, seconded by Malcom White that the Membership Secretaries report is accepted unanimously

Item 9. Reorganisation of Postal Areas; Bob Roberts. We have discussed at various meeting, at the moment between Brian and I we have roughly

600 member with the demise of North Kent branch we anticipated an increase in post number and we can expect many more to join due to the lack of mobility

Reorganising the Postal Coordinators Areas

A few years ago, we rearranged the postal areas to even the workload. It was suggested then that this would probably need to be looked at again. With the disbandment of North Kent & S E London branch this would put a greater work load onto Brian.

With this in mind, I tried to get somebody to take over Scotland to no avail (no takers).

I spoke to ted and told him it would be better if we now split postal in to three. Postal North, Postal Midlands and Postal South.

I have done this by county and it worked out that each of the postal districts would be

Postal North 20, Postal Midlands 1821 and Postal South 186 plus those transferring from North Kent.

I have printed of a breakdown of numbers by county.

Because of the number of counties in Scotland it would appear to be disproportionate

For Postal North

Central
Buckinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Essex
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Rutland
Staffordshire
Shropshire
Suffolk
West Midlands
Warwickshire
Worcester
London
Avon
Bedfordshire

Postal North	
ID	County
1	Aberdeenshire
2	Angus
3	Argyll
4	Ayrshire
5	Clackmananshire
6	Dumbartonshire
7	Dumfries & Galoway2
8	East Lothian
9	East Renfresshire
10	Inverness
11	Lanarkshire4
12	Midlothian
13	Moray
14	North Lanarkshire
15	Perthshire
16	Renfrewshire
17	Rosshire
18	Roxburgshire
19	Shetland
20	South Lanarkshire
21	Stirlingshire
22	West Lothian
23	Western Isles
24	Fifeshire

Postal South		
ID	County	Number
1	Berkshire	4
2	Cornwall	12
3	Co Antrim	1
4	Devon	16
5	Dorset	14
6	East Sussex	8
7	Essex	4
8	Gurnsey	3
9	Gwent	2
10	Gwynedd	2
11	Hampshire	15
12	Hereford	28
13	Jersey	1
14	Kent	38

Please note the above is only a rough listing Bob is refining and making a fold for each postal coordinators

I did try to get a Postal member from Scotland, but to no avail Ted; If may bring the next item forward (everyone on the committee should have an official function) After discussion Clive, agreed to take over the new postal area

Item 10

Overseas Officer Mrs Valerie Nisbet

Unfortunately, in March we lost one of our Postal Members I sent condolences from the Association and past this information to Bob and Ted. Ted; Do you get PDF copies of the Keris and newsletter, yes, but I found difficulty in sending them, Mal promised to advice Valerie after the meeting? Mal brought up the fact that overseas member allocated to Branches receive next to no information. Ted, I am unaware that we have this problem, but will try and ascertain if there are still overseas members attached to branches? Valerie went over various aspects. Ted thanked Valerie for the hard work and enthusiasm. Overseas member must be looked after, and this can only be done by the overseas coordinator, form bitter experience we have learnt when Branches had oversea members they were treated like second class members. Ted, Mal could you give me a few hard copies of both the Keris and newsletter, because sometimes an overseas members request hard copies and are prepared to pay the postage.

Val: I have had an overseas member, request an entire pictorial history of the Malaya emergency and the Boneo confrontation.

Mal, this could be done, but will take time. This was discussed and agreed a research to be made and to re-agenda at next NEC meeting

David: I do have a lot of material sent to me, I shall pass on to Ted.

Mal; we should confine this to main events. There was so much going on at various levels i.e. Regimental. Battery Battalion, Squared Ships Small RAF Squadrons, Large Airfields etc, Photography was not ease and expensive in those days, with the result that a lot of action was not photographed and it will not be easy to gain access to written report

Val; I have got two members going to Malaysia and would like to join up with those going form the UK, I have informed John Measham and asked them to contact John direct

Dealing with problems, Ted, please reply and pass it on to the NEC and let the member know the action you have taken, they understand and providing they know you have taken action and trying to sort things, out they will be happy

Proposed by Clive Boyles seconded by Bob Roberts that Valerie's Report be accepted.

Ted: may add my thanks to Val for a very good report, and requested members to gather as much material as the can, and bring forward any bright ideas they may have on the above to next meeting

Item 11

Webmaster & Regalia Officer Mrs Annie Burden

Web: I have changed the layout slightly, almost completed. I still have the units to complete, I have done about half, and this is a slow progress.

Note if you get the old format up, just press the refresh icon.

Mal Brought up the subject of e-mail, whereby we can ascertain whether or not our e-mail had been received and opened by recipient There was a long technical debate, Action Annie is going to look into this and make suggestion to members

Item 12

Regalia, Mrs Annie Burden; I am trying to keep the stoke low, we only have blue ties in stoke

Blazer Badges we have run out, they are a slow-moving item, and the minimum order is 50. Ted; wears a silk embroidered badge, which has the advantage of keeping its colour when cleaned, and most of us have a similar badge embroidered, on sweater, shirts etc. therefore is it feasible to have them on Blaze type material so they can be sown onto a blazer (Ted to investigate, and if possible bring example with costing to next meeting also to contact company in the UK prepared to make wire embroidery in small numbers) Dick, comments, " I have the price of Regalia charged by the Suze Canal Veterans, we charge considerably less, due to the fact that we orders in larger quantities, and even if we didn't sell the 50, it would still be cheaper than buying in small numbers" (Cost of Suez Canal Blazer Badge £15 0 Mal; we must try to keep stock down at this period.

Ties we only have blue ties left, again slow moving and we used to have a large variety of colours, Bain Suggested that we contact to see whether they are holing a stock of regalia.

This was debated. Ted; there are a large number of companies producing badges for school uniforms, we have one in Bridgend where we can buy a blazer with our logo or we can take a blazer in and have our logo put on it (You most probably have one in your rea) Summary; Annie and Ted to file report at next meeting

Mal proposes seconded by Val Nisbet that Annie's report is accepted

Item 13

Kris Magazine, Christmas Newsletter and Inserts: Malcolm White (Editor)

Not much to say, I have had a good response of appreciation from a number of members. I shall start putting the Christmas Newsletter to gather once the AGM is over, however the sooner I get information for the letter the better

Inserts, I have had words with Ted, who believe we could save a considerable amount of money if we sent out information regarding the Blackpool trip and AGM in the Christmas Newsletter and the Kris. I will try and get the Newsletter out as soon as possible, after the AGM and the Keris by March. Although there may be a small increase in the postage this will be cheaper than using the IOW Tours postal facilities, and therefore the cost of the AGM. Ted: we get cheaper postage via the IOW than the GOP, however there is a considerable saving to be made which will hopefully reduce the cost of the AGM £8 to £10 per member. Dick mentioned that in the latest Keris there was an article "The Comus Light Infantry, written by Derek Thirtle, who died before its publication

Item 14

Proposed by Bob Roberts seconded by Ted Williams that post coordinators are issued with a paying in book, this will have a lot of advantages, security, speed up of cheques into bank, cut postage cost and ease work for National Treasurer. This was a lengthy debate Both Bob and Brain putting forward a very strongly argument on security ground, speed of operation i.e. cheques would be backed more frequently, it would also in their opinion help the National Treasurer. Dick, this would in fact slow the operation down a) I would have to wait for the Bank statement b) I would undoubtedly have to ascertain where the cheques came from, at the moment I record every cheque on receipt and examining for errors before banking.

Mal White unless we can get a consensus it's not going to work

Dick, it's not negotiable.

National Chairman, this is Dick's responsibility, and he runs this department well, and therefore I believe "If it's not Broken don't fix it)

Proposed by Ted Williams seconded by Mrs Valerie Nisbit that we leave things well alone, carried

Item 15

Proposed by Dick Richardson second by Ted Williams that the National subscription should be increased, the amount to be debated reason and argument to be put forward by Dick and Ted

Ted, could we please defer this to agenda item 28 (Review of AGM Agenda) this will save going over the same ground twice
Chairman, we will defer

Item 16
(Editor)

Keris Magazine, Christmas Newsletter and Inserts: Malcolm White

Keris

Not much to say, had good response from members to the latest

Christmas Newsletter, I shall start compiling shortly and hope to get out in November. Ted and I have discussed inserts, and the present moment the IOW sends out on our behalf information on Blackpool, AGM etc, we send out the invitations and information with

the Christmas newsletter and information on the AGM with the Keris we will try and get it out in March, this should save money in postage, there may be a small increase in postage on the magazines (Depending on weight) still this should be cheaper than through the IOW, which in turn cheaper than the GPO, Ted; we send out approximately 1,500 at £1 per envelope this is reflected in the cost of the AGM/Reunion Dinner, this should knock off between £7 to £10 per head. Mal; this may make a difference in attendance.

Dick Richardson in the last Keris there was an article by Derek Thirtle "The Comus Light Infantry) unfortunately he died before the publication, however both the Branch and his wife were very pleased. Thanks Mal, for publishing. Mal, I should like Information for the Keris 2018 by February 2018

Proposed by Mrs Valerie Nisbet Mrs Annie Burden that this report be accepted. Carried

Item 17

Proposed by Bob Roberts seconded by Ted Williams that post coordinators are issued with a paying in book, this will have a lot of advantages, security, speed up of cheques into bank, cut postage cost and ease work for National Treasurer. This was a lengthy debate Both Bob and Brain putting forward a very strongly argument on security ground, speed of operation i.e. cheques would be backed more frequent, it would also in their opinion help the National Treasurer. Dick, this would in fact slow the operation down. a) I would have to wait for the Bank statement b) I would undoubtedly have to ascertain where the cheques came from, at the moment I record every cheque on receipt and examining for errors before banking. The Present system is working well National Chairman, Mr David Neil; Dick is our treasurer and responsible, and doing a dam good job, therefore this should e left alone. Brian brought up a problem he had with on cheque, which Dick resolved

Prosed by Ted Williams second by Mal White that we keep the present system. This was carried unanimously.

Item 18

Widows of past members I believe should be encouraged to become associate members this should be advantageous to both, the widow (we had 3 at Blackpool and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves) and to the association (an increase in membership)

When I phone members regarding subscription or other matter, I sometimes are informed that the member as pass away. I gave my condolences and ask if they would like to join the association I always get No No

David, perhaps this is the wrong time to ask, and one should wait until there is an event they could attend. Dick; we invite widow of passed members to attend special events, they come and enjoy themselves, but would not join the association, most wives join the association to support their husbands. Val; we have 2 categories those who have always attended social functions and have friends, and those who only attend to support their husbands. Bob; on occasions we do get widow so impressed with what we do ask to become associated members. The debate went on.

Malcom: may I suggest that when we advertise events in the like the Blackpool Trip, Reunion dinner Keris\Newsletter etc. We add Widows of passed members are also invited, and may if they wish join the association as associated members

Proposed by Ted Williams seconded by Malcom White

Item 19

Blackpool: Ted Williams; this was highly successful this year, in order that we do not kill our success number will be capped in 2018. An increase in number would put stress on our resources, we are restricted by the size of the hotel and number of rooms, Mal; what is the number, Ted 100 we added to the booking pro-forma that any member living in the Blackpool area are invited to the Gale dinner on Wednesday 25th April 2018

Item 20

Insurance Ted although we reduced the number of Standards insured from 22 to 17, but the cost has increased, treason given by the insurance company is the government increased the tax

Dick; the insurance this year was £1875.25 we only received £190 in donations. Malcolm; It should be emphasised to Branches pay £1 per member they will not be covered. Ted: I am in negotiations with 3 other companies and I am confident we will slash the insurance cost by 50%

Item 21

Trip to Nepal January 2019 organised by Thames Valley Branch all members were issued with an information sheet

Item 22

Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Bert Godsiff (North Kent Branch) has stood down and Surrey Branch has volunteered to take responsibility (Graham Chilton) Our thanks to Graham Gilton

Item 23

Ted Williams; Awards, we have a lot of dedicated members i.e. Branch Secretaries/Treasurers, and members of the NEC, etc. who have worked hard to maintain the Association without any form of recognition therefore I believe we should reward these members (after period of time, to be discussed) with either a small inscribed shield or certificate this must be seen therefore published in the

Keris/Newsletter, Mal I believe the first award should be a certificate sent to the Branch for 7years, second award small shield ,say for 10 years presented at the AGM or sent to Branch if they are unable to attend. Bob: David Pea, Dick: to sae complication should we not go back 19 years to accommodate those who have retired. . Ted; we want to make it simple therefore I suggest that it is applies to current members going back 10 years. David it is a small tool, in - expensive shoes our appreciation ad review of Agenda by publishing it in the Keris will gave a boost to those receiving it. Valerie, the certificated should be presented at Branch level. This was debated at length. Malcom; we are looking at current members, secretaries, treasures who have done 10 years in that position being presented with Small shield and a certificate for 5 years. Mal, Shield will be presented at the AGM, if unable to attend the AGM presented to a representative failing this it will be sent to the member.

Proposed by Ted Williams, seconded by Bob Roberts

Item 24

Honorary Membership DOTO'HJ KAMAROL FAUZI BIN HJ MOHA SAID Brigadier General. Ted, Brigadier General Kamarol Said has been a good friend to the association and helped to smooth the organisation of the Malaysia trip and PJM for a number of members

Proposed by Ted Williams seconded by Mal White

Item 25

Review of AGM Agenda for 2017 (It's been done this way to save going over proposal twice) Ted please note I have put explanation to proposals so members will have a better understanding and can discuss with colleagues, before the AGM. A copy of the AGM agenda will be sent to all those attending the AGM in advance

Item 11 of AGM Agenda

Item 26

Amendment to the NMBVA Constitution Section 14c

Proposed by Mrs Anne Burden, seconded By Mr Dick Richardson

Preamble

It is felt the system of the show of hands is unfair and does not comply with the present legislation for the following reasons

- a) With the show of hands, one can be intimidated by other members
- b) A member can vote for more than one nominee
- c) The accuracy of counting
- d) It goes against present Legislation

At the time of the Election at the AGM: If the number of eligible nominations for any position is equal to the number of vacancies for that position, those nominees will be elected to those positions automatically.

If the number of nominations for a position is greater than the number of vacancies for that position, a ballot shall be conducted for that position at the AGM. Each member will be issued with a ballot paper. (Please refrain from filling it in, until all Nominees have spoken) Nominee must be present; those standing for election will withdraw from the meeting. In the order determined by the Chairman, each Nominee will be given the opportunity to give a 5-minutes presentation if they wish, and answer any questions from the floor. The Committee shall elect a Returning Officer to collect the Ballet papers after the last Nominee has spoken.

Members will vote by placing an X against the name of their preferred candidate.

Those standing for re-election may be voted on in a less formal manner and need not withdraw from the room, unless a specific request of any voting member is received.

It is further suggested that if members accept the above it will be actioned immediately this will save a lot of time later in the procedures.

Ted: went over the motion emphasising in the past ballots we have always had more votes than members in the room, we can't have a recount, intimidation, accuracy of Counting and the time factor

This was discussed at length, ted pointed out there are two motions

(a) The amendment to the constitution

(b) Date of imputation

All members of the NEC are in favour of both motions

Item 27

Communication National Secretary. The cost of postage is astronomical, and slow. For example, although we use the cheapest post possible i.e. franking to send out invitations for the AGM/Blackpool it cost more than £1,500, this cost reflects in the cost you pay, if everyone (Which I appreciate not everyone has a computer on the other had we could sent e-mails to anther members of your family on your behalf) this would knock approximately £8 of every once bill. What is even more important I should be able to send out to all member information on various social functions that we are offered from time to time.

Item 28

Motion to increase subscriptions by Mr Dick Richardson (national Treasurer)

It must be admitted that the financial prospects of the Association are very poor

To keep up the standards of the Association, we must think in terms of raising the subscriptions

Remember the only income we have is the subscription of £7, nothing else comes our way

Look at it from a personnel angle. What do I get for £7.

Assuming we have 1,000 members

@ £7 per head that = £7,000

Cost Keris £3.50

Newsletter £1.89

Insurance £2.25

Admin Support £1.20 (this was poppy wreaths, garden of remembrance and other incidentals

Expenditure per member 8.84 total 8840 debt of 1840.

The last increase as to bring Branch members into line with postal members, no one should pay more than anyone else for membership.

Most other associations pay between £17 – £20 in some cases more, RBL £21 This is once in a life time increase of £3, I hear howls of rage, you cannot buy a beer for less, you can't buy tea and a cake for less

I ask you for an increase and make the association viable again.

Dick pointed out that everything we pay for is increasing

This was debated at length; the only difficulty would be getting members to change standing orders. Dick, said he would write to everyone

Meeting closed at 1149hrs

Next meeting Saturday 3rd February 2018 at the Tillington Hall Hotel