



RECORD OF DECISIONS
NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Sunday 14 August 2016
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), Brian Roche (NEC Member & Postal South Co-ordinator).

ITEM: The National Chairman Mr David Neil opened the meeting at 0857

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

Item 2 **Welcome by the National Chairman**

David Neil, National Chairman. Welcome, and thank you all for coming. Before we get into the meeting I have a message to pass on to you from our President General Sir Garry Johnson regarding Gala Dinner, St Paul's and the Mansion House.

"I was delighted to see those members on the NEC who actually attended the event put so much good work into the project, I felt very proud to be President of the NMBVA, and more so on this occasion."

Item 3 **Apologies:** Clive Boyles (NEC Member & Overseas Postal Co-ordinator). The committee expressed concern over the number of meetings Clive has missed, we only have 3 meetings a year and they are at approximately the same time every year. Mal stated unless one participates in meetings and is dedicated to the Association there is no point in being on the committee. This was endorsed by the committee. Chairman Mr David Neil, we only have 3 meetings per year if a member misses more than one, with the exception of illness or bereavement, then he/she should consider their position on the NEC. Mr Neil requested the National Secretary write to Clive a letter in this vein.

Item 4 **Record of decisions** made at NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel on 2nd April 2016

Item 5 Proposed by Malcolm White seconded by Valerie Nisbet that the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

Item 6 Matters arising.

Mr David Neil, Reference item 8: Annie please confirm that you are getting photos of the St Paul's coasters taken, Annie: this is in hand.

Mr Mal White: is the Website up and running now; Ted: this is on the agenda, but we will cover it now, Annie explained the difficulties she has had, what she needs now is an up-to-date list of all membership. The website will be fully functional by the AGM.

Mr David Neil, Item 11 Overseas Membership, Ted: this is on the agenda

Item 7

Item 6 on the agenda St Paul's Wash-up.

Dick Richardson: This was a very successful and pleasant 3 days kept well within budget. There was an upper limit of £13,000. It cost the association £6,137.29 thanks to members of the NEC who did the negotiations. David Neil stated that we had done more for less on this occasion than the last and he has not, which is most unusual, received any complaints and this is thanks to all members of the NEC. He thanked Valerie and Clive for showing guests to their seats and Annie for the laying of the wreath etc. Ted: David Neil and I went to London and presented NMBVA shield's suitably inscribed to Mr Paul Double (City Remembrance) who provided the buffet, wine and beer at the Mansion House, Adam Route who orchestrated us getting the Mansion House free of Charge, also Mrs Jane Laws of St Paul's. I should also like to say a word of thanks to Valerie Nisbet who did a first class job with Clive Boyles in getting people seated in the Cathedral.

Mal White: it is about the only event I have been to where I never heard any derogatory remarks, everybody appeared to have enjoyed it. We must also pay thanks to the Ghurkhas and Shirley Winn and her team from the IOWT.

Presentation Mugs. We have some over which will be on sale at the AGM and if any member wishes to purchase them then please contact Ted.

Item 8

Frequency of NEC meetings.

Ted: with modern Technology we could cut one NEC meeting out. There was a discussion where it was agreed that we keep the one at the beginning of August. After a lengthy debate Brian Roche Proposed that we hold one at the beginning of February and the second at the beginning of August seconded by Dick Richardson.

Vote, 6 for 2, against. Carried, therefore the next NEC meeting will be 4th February full details later.

Item 9

From Previous Meeting item 11 Overseas Membership

Ted and Dick produced a lot of information from Clive. Dick: we have 5 on standing order which are current, I have written to 13 suggesting to them that they set up a standing order with instruction how to achieve this. I also included in this letter Clive's e-mail address, telephone number and home address (since the meeting Dick and Clive have had some positive replies (Bob: 11 have paid). Chairman: a separate overseas Postal Officer did not exist in the past, the International Liaison Officer dealt with both. The committee went over the historical operations. It was decided that we would reverse back to the International Liaison Officer taking responsibility for the overseas membership as well. The person selected would have to be computer competent. To this

end we asked Mrs Valerie Nisbet if she would prepare to take up this position, Valerie agreed.

Proposed by Mr Mal White seconded by Mr Bob Roberts that Valerie Nisbet be appointed international Liaison Officer to include the responsibility of overseas membership.

Vote: agreed unanimously.

Item 10

National Treasurers Report (Dick Richardson)

Looking at the revenue a/c Income slightly up, from previous year due to the fact we transferred some monies in from the reserve a/c.

Subscriptions slightly down due to late payments. Regalia slightly up.

Nepal appeal fund this is now closed, the association made it up to £3,000 and presented it to the Ghurkha Welfare Trust. Dick: I feel that having transferred the St Paul's account into the reserve account there is no justification in keeping the memorial account going. Therefore I shall put it to the AGM that we close the memorial a/c. Dick went through the remainder of the account.

Please see Pro-forma issued for more detail.

Dick went through the remainder of the accounts, which were very well presented.

David Neil pointed out that the cost of the St Paul's event was well down on the previous one.

The expenditure for the NEC was again well down and Dick produced a list of expenditure for the NEC for the last 5 years, which you see that the NEC have been very frugal and cut expenditure by over 50%.

Dick also went over the Audit Report.

It was suggested that we make a basic summary on one sheet of paper, Ted stated this on the Assets and Liability account.

Chairman thanked Dick for an excellent presentation.

Ted also pointed out that we have never had a more detailed accounts than we have now.

Item 11

Regalia Stock etc. Mrs Annie Burden

a) Ties - on the books we advertise 11 different ties some are now out of stock, do the committee agree that we sale what we have and if we have to purchase more we stick to the Association Green tie, which is the more popular? The committee agreed.

b) Christmas Cards are going slowly, I shall bring some to the AGM, and we sold 20 packets last year.

c) Note the firm that makes the Ladies Brooches, Key Rings and Cufflinks has gone out of business therefore once these have gone there will be no more.

Chairman thanked Annie for her report.

Item 12 Membership Secretary's Report Bob Roberts

Membership Secretary Report NEC Meeting 14th August 2016

1: As I could not attend the NEC meeting in April due to ill health, I would just like to say that the figures given in my last report were the figures from last year's AGM. In January 2016 I transferred all outstanding arrears to the lost touch file. I then wrote to all the branch secretaries with a list of their members who had not paid their subscriptions for 2015-2016. I have waited this long to see if there was a reaction to the forthcoming rededication at ST Pauls and the 50th anniversary journal. The response was mediocre. The outcome of this reflected in my current report.

2: Association membership as at 11/08/2016

	October 2015	August 2016
A: Members on the Database	1679	1547
B: Paid up members	1504	1198
C: IN arrears	175	349

Membership Made up of

A: Associate Members	137	138
B: Honorary Members	18	18
C: Ordinary Members	1349	1393

Since Last AGM we have recruited

A: Associate Members	44	5
B: Honorary Members	Nil	Nil
C: Ordinary Members	28	16
D: Returning Members	22	25

We have lost

A: Deceased	48	42
B: Lost Touch	100	112
C: Resigned	41	31

3: The 110 members who did not pay their subs have been transferred to the lost touch file I will bring the back on to the database if and when they pay their subs. On the 5th July I ran an outstanding subs query which showed that 560 members still had not paid their subscriptions for 2016/2017. At the moment there are 444 members who still owe their subs including some branches. Also there are some branches where only part subs have been paid. I have a list of these with me. The branches yet to pay are 1st Lincoln, Durham, Leicester, North Wales, and Nottingham. As far as Postal North is concerned I have either rang or written to the 120 members who were on the list. Some of those on the list are Standing Order payers but I can not isolate them. I have received a number of cheques from Postal North Members. There is one member who I tried to contact only to find out that he had passed away last year. His wife was so impressed with the magazines and journal that she wants to remain with the NMBVA. I have made her an associate member. She is one of the members who sent me a cheque. Branch secretaries should be doing the same, as was mentioned at the AGM.

4: Suggestion Change of Postal Areas

A couple of years ago it was agreed to move the North/South postal boundaries.

Malcolm did mention the fact that we may have to look into these again. I have been looking into revamping the postal section again. I would like to suggest that we open a Scottish In Postal North there are 70 members living in Scotland. This would leave Postal North with 223 members, Postal South with 266 members. I can if it is agreeable to move the North/South boundaries again this would increase Postal North by 55 members but add on the Overseas members currently 28 depending on the response from letters sent out by Dick.

Ted; there is a lot of merit in the above suggestion, could we please have more detail for next meeting

Ted: is concerned over late payment etc. and suggested that Dick, Bob and Ted get together to try and make the process run smother.

Item 13 Bob Roberts suggested that we have an assistant National Secretary and Treasury arguing that they are both key members of the association and if anything should happen to either we would be in the dark and therefore proposed they both have assistance for the sake of continuity.

Mal: It would be very difficult and time consuming for to keep an assistant up to speed

Ted: This is not practical, we all live too far apart. It's been tried before, however I do have a daily conversation with the National Chairman.

Dave; Ted and I have discussed this many times and believe we are operating the most practical solution. However The National Treasurer position is somewhat different. Dick has already informed us that he keeps everything on disk; therefore, he could send an updated copy to his assistance every moth. We have someone with a suitable background who we shall approach.

Conclusion: National Secretary keeps the National Chairman up to date, National Treasurer keeps all information on disk making a duplicate, sending to a member to be nominated, every month.

Item14 Journal and Newsletter Malcolm White
Christmas Newsletter, I aim to get out by the end of November, it will appear in its normal format.

Kris by the end of March. We had the commemorative journal this year, which due to weight and size cost a lot to send out, but due to the fact we had no production cost it worked our cheaper than normal. We do have a number of copies of the journal spare therefore if any member wants an additional copy it will cost them £10 this is including cost of postage. Mal pointed out that the cost of producing the Kris next year will be going up. Bob: some of the returned copies (mainly due to the change of address), I have found their new address and re-send them. I normally send out a copy of the Kris to new members and returning members. The short answer yes, but remember their limited.

The committee have sent their Thanks to Tony Talbot.

Item15 Progress National Army Museum
To date only 5 Branches have sent a donation and 8 individuals.

Mal: could I recommend that Ted sends out to all Branches that the Association backs this project. Have already done so, however he plans to send out another memo in which he shall cite this again.

Dick: May I suggest that at the AGM the raffle collection at the reunion dinner is donated to the National Army Museum appeal. Ted: already on the agenda.

Item 16

Association Piper

Proposed By David Neil seconded by Mrs Valerie Nisbet that Mr Thomas Jones is made the Official Association Piper, and when requested to play at an official NMBVA function is assisted with expenses by the Association.

David Neil; Tom played at The Gala Dinning in London, St. Paul's and the Mansion House and certainly added that special touch to all 3 events. He has all the necessary regalia and has won many awards and I am sure he will be an asset to the Association. He is a young lad who is still studying therefore would need his expenses covering.

Carried Unanimously

Item 17

Branch Insurance

All Branches I have spoken to are in favour, except for Thames Valley who do not have a Standard and hold their Meetings and Social functions in a Golf Club who are fully covered for public Liability. Mid-Ulster Branch who hold their meeting in the RBL club and are fully covered. There was a lengthy discussion and Ted pointed out this was a great benefit to branches especially to the smaller ones who cannot afford insurance. However Ted is having a document drawn up that a Branch that does not contribute to the insurance will not be able to pass any liabilities the may accrue to the National body of the association.

Item 18

Cenotaph Remembrance Parade

Due to the amount of information the RBL now request before a veteran is allowed to take part in the parade, Ted is making a pro-forma to be sent to all members at the begin of the year to help Don through the bureaucratic nightmare.

Item 19

AGM Agenda

The Committee went over the agenda produced by the National Secretary. Secretary request that all members adhere to the agenda, confusion as been caused by members going off on a tangent.

There being no other business meeting close at 11:32

Next Meeting Saturday 4th February 2017