



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 4th February 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).
Mr Richardson; At this time we specially remember Alan Phibey of Grantham Branch who passed away last week, the funeral is on the 16th February.

Item 2 **Welcome & Report by the National Chairman Mr David W Neil**
David Neil (National Chairman). Welcome, and thank you all for traveling to the meeting on a very cold, wet and murky day

Once more it's time to take a look back at the past year and forward to the new one. There is very little to say about 2016. It has been well reviewed and debated, and to be honest, the result I perceive with surprise and pleasure, as I have, until now, heard no criticism or complaint about the main event i.e. St Pauls. I find it most gratifying for both myself and Ted, and all the members of the NEC, who were involved in those proceedings, and those who played a very important job on the day. Thanks you to all those involved. As for the future there is much to deal with as you will see on the agenda, I shall be standing down at the AGM, however more to be said later on.

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

Item 4 **AGM Record of decisions:** meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel on the 8th October 2016.

Item 5 **Acceptance:** Proposed by Mr Dick Richardson; seconded Mrs Valerie Nisbet that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Item 6 Matters Arising - Nil

Item 7 Record of decisions of NEC meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford.

Item 8 Acceptance: Proposed Mr Malcolm White; seconded by Mr Clive Boyles that the minutes be accepted as a true record.

Item 9 Matters arising:
Ted for interest please find attached Copy of Application Form for those wishing to march at the Cenotaph Parade 2017.

Item 10 International Liaison Officer:
Mr David Neil: I should like to take this opportunity to welcome our new International Liaison Officer, Mr John Measham. I do believe that John has been acquainted as to his position as a non-executive officer and is fully briefed on his range of duties. And be aware we are here to help if required.
Thank you John and welcome

John Measham: Thank you all for inviting me to your meeting.
Malaysia 2017

I started this adventure in April 2014 mainly to give members a chance to save money; I had originally contacted National to check if they were running a trip in 2017, I also checked with Ron Blain, and got a no from both. I tested the interest with my Branch, who were enthusiastic about going back to Malaysia and received a 50% interest from our members, I still have 36 of the Solent Branch going, however, our National Secretary asked if I would put this out to National which I did, and now have a total of 64 members, this is fluctuating almost daily, with members cancelling due to poor health, but balanced out with members still contacting me to go.

The purpose of the trip is 2 fold, one to take part in the 60th Independence Parade and Celebrations and two is for a holiday for those wishing to rekindle their youth.....All the appropriate authorities are aware of our intentions, including The Malaysian High Commissioner, the British Defence Adviser in KL, our Liaison Officer in Malaysia Dato' Tejuddin, The Malaysian Attaché Dato' Brig General Kamarol and our President Sir Garry Johnson. I have also contacted the President of the NMBVAA Owen Marshall and ask them if they would like to join us in KL.

Because I go to Malaysia every year I did manage to secure concessionary prices with one of the hotels and with Senior Manager with Malaysian Airlines. 2 Weeks ago I went to London for a meeting with Dato' Brig Gen Kamarol and he in arranging for us to take part in the Parade also to visit Military units while in KL. Although we are all total self-funding, however, I would like to ask the NEC if they would consider funding a Gala dinner event just before leave to return to the UK for all those members that are representing the NMBVA in Malaysia. Also would you to fund, 2 of our NMBVA shields to take with us, in the event that we are invited to a Military unit while we are there.

Shirts.

Following our march on the parade in 2007 in our blazers, I have decided to follow the Australia approach to hot humid weather and for us to wear white shirts this time with grey trouser and our own Military Beret.

John brought one of the Shirts to show us, these were very good quality, with log embroidered on cost only £10.50 maximum purchase 3 per member

Mr Mal White: what is the cost? John £1,179 this includes all transfers and tax.

Dates 28th August to 12th September 2017.

Ted: what is the cost of the Gala Dinner?

John: £16.29 per head

Ted: Addressed the Committee, I don't believe we should pay for the Gala Dinner for the following reasons:

- 1 We stressed from the beginning that this excursion should be Self-financing. This would cost National over £1,100 while £16.20 added to the present cost of trip is small fry.
- 2 Each member only pays £7 national subscriptions and out of this comes the cost of producing and posting the Keris and newsletter and also at the moment insurance for Standards and public liability.
- 3 This would set a precedence and others would be requesting money for functions.
- 4 Association Shields, I suggest that these are donated by the Association.

This was agreed unanimously.

David thanked John for a very well presented and concise report. Requesting that John keeps in contact with the National Secretary.

Item 11

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. In short we are a little down on last year, nevertheless still strong.

Acceptance: Proposed Clive Boyles; seconded Mrs Valarie Nisbet.

Item 12 Membership Secretary's Report Bob Roberts

Membership Secretary report NEC 4th February 2017

This year as it is not so long since the AGM I have made out the comings and goings on my report. The weather does not seem to have taken its toll as much this year let's hope it stays that way. Recruiting is 28 loses is 32

Association Membership	Jan 2017
A: Members on Database	1521
B: Paid up members	1410
C: In arrears	112
Membership made up of	
A: Associate members	145
B: Honorary members	18
C: Ordinary members	1358

Recruitment Since October	
A: Associate members	8
B: Ordinary members	10
C: Returning members	10

We have lost

A: Deceased	17
B: Lost touch	13
C: Resigned	3

We are endeavouring to contact branches to get them to sort out their arrears.

When a member don't pay National subscriptions after a period of time Bob places them in the lost touch file. However through members phoning Bob and Ted the following was unearthed

- a) If a member does not attend a meeting he/she are not asked for their subscriptions
- b) Some members are claiming they have paid their national subscription, but it has not been forwarded to National Treasurer, Bob spends a lot of time chasing these up, generally these are an oversight by the Branch. Ted will be contacting all branch secretaries to try and improve the system. Note some branches are very good.
- c) Postal members these are increasing, and Bob is trying to get a post coordinator to look after Postal Scotland to ease the pressure on Postal North, Bob is the National Membership Secretary and Postal North coordinator)

At this moment in time Postal South has 255 members North 301

Brian Roche, Postal coordinator South states that he keeps on getting new members and there is a limit to the number he can take care off.

Ted; if we have no success with a coordinator for Scotland, we shall have to look at the feasibility of creating another postal zone
Action to be taken By Bob and Ted with advice from Brian and Valerie

Item 13

Overseas Officer Mrs Valerie Nisbet

This has been fully handed over. I have sent e-mails to all members, unfortunately not all e-mail addresses appear correct, however I am still working on them in close liaison with Bob and Clive.

Item 14

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.

Regalia, I appreciate that at the last meeting we said I should order only green ties, however because of demand I have ordered blue, and unfortunately the minimum order is 30. The good news is the Christmas cards are slowly going.

Item 15

Kris Magazine and inserts Malcom White Editor & Vice Chairman

The estimated cost of printing 1600 copies is £1575

The estimated cost of postage and packing £1800

Total cost £3375

Ted has got some attachment, and if you have any item you feel would be of interest to members, I must have them by the end of the month.

One of the managers at the printers have set up a Facebook site for us, which is having some response. What we need now is someone to look after it. Annie volunteered, Mal said he would send name and phone number of the chap that set it up.

Item 16

Frequency of NEC Meetings. Ted; we have decreased our meetings, however due to the length of time between; there may be a topic for urgent discussion, which it would be too expensive to arrange a meeting. Therefore we should harness modern technology and have a telephone conference or use Skype. Annie and I carried out an experiment last night and found that Skype was the easiest, not only that, but some of us are already registered Annie, Mal, Clive, Valerie and I.

There was a lengthy discussion, Mal suggested that we should go ahead and have a Skype conference with existing Skype members to ascertain the viability.

Proposed by Mal, seconded by Annie that we carry out an experiment and report back.

Item 17

Reconstruction of the NEC. Ted; at the present moment the National Liaison officer is separate from the NEC, therefore we have little control and one may argue that do we need a Liaison Officer after September. Mal suggested we review this at the next meeting.

Proposed by Mal second by Brian that we review this at the next meeting. Carried

Item 18

Not Forgotten Associations.

It's coming to the time of year when Rosie, will be running The Marathon Des Sables to raise funds for the Not Forgotten Association. A Large number of our members have benefited from this Association i.e. Buckingham Palace Garden Party, Solent Boat Trip, Christmas Luncheons throughout the country, Trooping of the Colour Parade, Tennis at Wimbledon and many more events. I shall be writing to Branches to try and get sponsorship for Rosie and send it to the National Treasurer so we can present the Not Forgotten Association with a big fat cheque to show our appreciation for the amount of pleasure they have given our members.

Proposed by Dick seconded by Ted that the NMBVA start the fund with a donation of £200. Mal; I agree, but not to advertise the fact otherwise members may not be forthcoming with donations. This was approved unanimously.

Item 19

The future of the Association

David Neil (National Chairman); you will find two discussion papers in your file, I am withdrawing mine. This came up at a conversation with Sir Garry at the last AGM who asked if we were struggling with numbers, because there appeared to be less and less attending the AGM. Sir Garry takes a lot more notice than he is credited with, and I had to admit that the numbers were on the decrease. I intend retiring this year from the best committee the association as ever had, all are dedicated. Then I find out that Dick is not too well and neither is Ted, if one of these fell out would we get a replacement straight away, doubt this very much, both are experienced and dedicated and are the pinnacle, Ted has written another paper, therefore I hand you over to Ted for his version of how we stand.

Ted;

Could I politely reminded everyone that the NEC has discussed this many times, and on the last occasion it was agreed that we

not would revisit the problem until membership fell below 1,000

The discussion paper appears to be solely forecast on Branches, while the vast majority of members are Postal, and as branches decrease for a given period of time the postal membership will increase and these will still need to be serviced.

Since the last AGM we have gained 28 Members, these are returning members and new member (Bob Roberts to explain)

There are a number of Veterans Association who operate with less than a thousand members. Agreed they operating on a Post, nevertheless they still have an NEC

One of the reasons for the fall in numbers at the AGM, may be because it always held at a weekend, when members have family commitments. Therefore it may be worth looking at having the AGM mid week. I

A Trend of Membership

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Members	1851	1754	1679	1526	1521
Associate Members		124	137	140	145
Honorary Members		19	18	18	18
Ordinary Members		1611	1524	1368	1358
Members Lost					
Deceased	46	36	48	61	17
Resigned	60	57	41	42	3
Lost Touch		21	100	132	13
Members Recruited	32				
Associate		21	44	15	8
Honorary		1			
Ordinary		43	28	23	10
Returning		69	22	34	10
Difference +/-	-74	20	-95	-163	-5
		(Average loss 32.25 per year)			

This is only my view; I suggest we now go around the Table

Mal: I believe we should carry on, if we lose Dick, Ted should be able to take over for a short period until we found another treasurer. Fund wise we are OK, I don't think we will lose Dick I believe we are good for another 2 to 3 years.

Clive: Yes I agree we should keep going, if anything should happen to Dick, Gillian who is well au fait with accounts from her NHS days.

Brian: I agree we should keep going from the funding we are OK, from Dick's point of view I have a member my namesake who was heavily involved in finance etc. I have not spoken to him yet, he is still working as a consultant, but if necessary we could approach him, worth keeping in mind.

Valerie: I agree we should keep going, we had a discussion at our last meeting on this subject various ideas were put forward, one was we meet once a month on a social level and those who wanted to remain in the association would join postal. I should have a better idea what members want at our March meeting. We put several ideas to them.

Bob: I am all for keeping the association going, at the moment 1/3 of the membership are postal members and this will increase. This will have to be sorted with the postal coordinators.

Dick: I think we should keep going, but take no steps until membership falls below 900, the only concern I have is the rise in prices.

Ted: A slight diversion, I believe our subscription is cheap; every other organisation is at least £10, the RBL is £16.

Annie: I vote to keep going.

David: I sit at this table and I believe that I am the only surviving founder member and I have seen many things. What concerns me is the number of associate members we have and once the numbers reach 50% we will lose our identity of Malaya & Borneo, but that's bye the bye. If we keep going for another 3 years how many members will we have who served out there, "Not Many" and I know for a fact that there are a number of branches contemplating packing in. Taking my own branch as an example a few years ago an average attendance at a branch meeting of 41 at our last meeting which was an AGM 10.

It looks like we have more members at Blackpool this year than was at the AGM, this appears what people want. With the decline in numbers, I believe that Sir Garry is anticipating standing down. However whatever you decide to do I will support you. Mal; has Sir Garry indicated when he will stand down? Chairman; I believe this will be his last year. Mal; We appreciate that Sir Garry has been with us for so long, but it would be nice if he could stay until we found another President. David the way I perceive it he is involved in a number of other projects and he wants to start easing down.

Mal; we have obviously got to vote on which way we want to go, and do we carry on with the Kris and newsletters. Postal members and those who do not go to branch meetings look forward to receiving these publications; there was a murmur of agreement. Mal when membership drops below a thousand we should revisit.

Ted; we have already agreed that we carry on, hopefully with Sir Garry at the helm. One must remember that we have an age range within the association some members who fought in Borneo are in their early 70's. I should like to point out that Sir Garry will be 80 this year, and we shall celebrate this at the reunion dinner.

Item 20

Armed Forces Day 2017; Liverpool

Ted; Armed Forces day 2017 is in Liverpool, we do not have a Branch nearby, therefore we would have to put members in local accommodation and revamp our display. In my view it's too expensive for a nil return. Mal, I agree, perhaps next year if we have a branch in the locality we may put forward some form of representation.

Proposed by Annie second by Dick that we do not partake in Armed Forces Day this year.

Item 21

Subscription & Insurance of Stands & Public Liability.

Ted, when the annual subscription was increased to £7 some years ago to bring into line with the amount the postal members were paying, it was agreed to red circular £1 to help to pay for the new memorial. Mr Mike Smith proposed at the AGM that now it's paid for, the £1 requested from members be towards paying for the insurance of Standards and public liability. Ted pointed out that national already subsidise and he was amazed at all this fuss over £1, which will not buy a cup of tea. Ted explained that in 2006 an association had a public liability for over a million pounds, on checking branches there were only 3 branches with insurance, there was no Kris or newsletters sent out in those days and membership was higher therefore the NEC had the money and decided to insure

all Standards and branches for public liability. However, since then we have introduced the Kris Magazine and Newsletter.

At the 2012 AGM branches were requested on a voluntary basis to help to pay for the insurance, there were only a few branches contributing. At the 2015 AGM it was agreed that all branch members would contribute £1 per member towards the insurance, but not exceeding the insurance figure for their Branch. Some branches were reluctant to pay. Therefore Ted is working on another system and investigating other Insurance Company's and shall be sending out a proforma and letter to all branches within 2 weeks.

Proposed by Mal second by Bob that we re-agenda this for next meeting when we will have more information.

Item 22 Blackpool, Ted I am very pleased to inform you that this event is fully booked and we have a waiting list

Item 23 Spring Break: Ted from an event organised between 2 Branches (Tyneside & Bridgend) and then opened to all members it's been extremely successful. However do we use Blackpool for 2018 or look for another venue? This was discussed at length and it was decided to seek member's views at Blackpool.

Item 24 National Army Museum.
Ted: The Association have contributed £2,000 to the £23.75 million pounds spend in redevelopment of the Museum. The Associations name is now on the Donors Board and will be on the website. The opening is on the 16th March by invitation only. I shall pass on further information by e-mail.

Item 25 There is a New Political Party in the formation stage Called "Veterans In Action" More information on Facebook, however I have written to get more information and will pass it on by e-mail.

Any Other Business Bob Roberts; Bob reported that we have a problem branch which members are deserting over favouritism and an autocratic approach. He said this is a difficult one because branches are autonomous. Nevertheless according to the constitution. Quote " The suspension or withdrawal of the Warrant and dissolution of any existing Branch shall be at the discretion of the Committee." But this would be the very last recourse. I shall arrange a holiday in the area and attend one of their branch meetings and report back

Next Meeting 5th of August 2017

Chairman wished everyone a pleasant safe journey home.

Meeting closed at 11.54