



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 1st August 2015
Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford

Meeting Opened at 09:46 hrs.

Members Present:

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

ITEM:

Item 1 - **Exhortation:** Mr Malcom White (National vice Chairman)

Item 2 - **Welcome by the National Chairman**
David Neil National Chairman. Welcome, and thank you all for coming, it's nice to see a good turnout. We are starting slightly early, but this is too the good. As it was said at the end of the last NEC meeting, we have a lot of decision to make at this meeting, due to the events have a coming up next year, and it's essential that we gave it our best shot. It will most probably be the last major function the Association will hold, this does not imply the association is finishing

Item 3 - **APLOLOGIES;** From Mr Brian Roche, unfortunately Brian had a minor stroke, a few weeks ago, Brian has fully recovered, but has been instructed by his doctor to take it easy for the next few weeks. I am sure; along with me we all send Brian our best wishes for a speedy and full recovery

Item 4 **Record of decisions** made at NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel on 21st March 2015

Item 5 Proposed By Annie Burden seconded By Bob Roberts that the minutes be accepted as a correct record

Item 6 **Matters arising.** No Matters arising

Item 7

National Treasurers Report; Mr Dick Richardson

Dick went over the accounts line by line, saying that the NEC are keeping administration cost well under control, and we made a profit year 2014/15. The cost of Remembrance day went down, because the annual cheque we send to the Gurhkas has not been cashed for the last 2 years, therefore I have stopped it. We had no cost for AFD this year, because we had a Branch in the area (In past years we have had to import members and accommodate them. The Association have had the lowest administration cost ever

Questions: Mal: looking at the figures we are at the point that we are spending more money than we are getting in. Our only means of revenue is subscriptions. Therefore we either have to cut expenditure or increase subscriptions?

Some suggestions put forward

- 1) Do we need 2 Publications per year, Why not keep the "Kris" and revered to sending out a flyer before Christmas, this could be done with a combination of Flyers and E-mails
- 2) Do we need 3 NEC meetings per year
- 3) Insurance, do we pass it back to Branch's, there is a snag, not all Branches can afford public liability, can we ensure they take out an insurance and if they have a disaster will this not bounce back to the NEC.
- 4) Getting a block booking is cheaper than getting individual Branches and I believe we should have a scheme to assist Branch's

There are a lot more ideas than can be adopted
To be discussed at the next NEC meeting

Item 8

Progress report; on the plaques at the new memorial. We are still fighting this battle, however the RBL are adamant that no memorial sponsor can make any changes to their memorial without the permission of the Arboretum management albeit they bend their own rules. However we are still fighting on. Chairman; this is bureaucracy gone mad and suggest the secretary contacts person of influence and if need be the public press.

Item 9

Newsletter 2015 Mal White

Mal went through the proposed content of the newsletter, saying depending on the next NEC meetings we may well drop it.

- Item 10 Commemorative Journal; Chairman, I was approached by Tony Talbot when I was organising the Plaque in St Paul's, if he could produce a commemorative journal for the occasion, which turned out to be very good His father was in the army and he went to school in Malaya and still has a great interest in Malaysia, he was able to get a number of distinguished persons to contribute articles to the Journal.
- Mal; Tony produced an excellent journal for the association in 2005, he has stressed that this is going to be our journal I am liaising very closely with Tony. Therefore if you have any article you would wish to be put in the journal please pass them to me, I won't guarantee they will be included, this will depend on quality, suitability, and the amount of material we receive. This journal will not be out until late July therefore is it worth publishing the Kris in 2016. Ted; Tony said he would produce the journal free, however we will still be left with the distribution cost etc. therefore I suggest that we use the saving from the Kris to cover this expense, remembering it is going to be bigger and heavier than the Kris, therefore more expensive to distribute. (This was agreed)
- Chairman: The idea of Mal producing the material to a professional editor will save Mal a lot of problems, Mal did point out that the cost of distributing the Kris is slightly more than producing it
- Mal; if possible I should like to cover the three services and complete spectrum of both the Emergency and Confrontation, however at this stage I do not know what Tony has got in mind, nevertheless I shall keep the NEC informed
- Item 11 Regalia Stock etc. Annie, good news the plates are gradually diminishing we only have a 138 left, we did start with 800, Buttons we are still waiting for some more to come in (Annie, issued a list of Stock)
- The Christmas cards are going slowly.
- There was a discussion on the New Ladies Brooch, which is selling very well, however, these are being made as required, therefore little layout in advance.
- Ted; Annie appears to run a very tight efficient department and from conversation with members it is more than appreciated and proposed a vote of thanks seconded by Bob Roberts for her hard work and dedication to the Association, Agreed unanimously

Item 12

Membership Secretary Report
NEC Meeting 1 Aug 2015

1: Over the winter we have seen the weather take its toll on our members. In my last report the number of members been posted upstairs was 34. With the return of the good weather I have better news to report as can be seen in the figures. Recruiting has been good, we are now recruiting grandchildren.

2: membership Figures as at the 1st August 2015

(a) Paid up members	1476
(b) Lost touch	84
(c) Resigned	36
(d) Deceased	42
(e) New members	
(f) Associate	18 (Note 2 Of these are grandchildren of a full member
(g) Ordinary	44
(h) Returning Members	18

2: We still have 278 members still to pay their subs for 2016/17. Branch Secretary to chase up (mainly 2 Branches)

3: In the past I have had to go through the database to determine membership figures. With returning members. I use their original number which made it difficult to work out the exact figures. I have now started to add 'R' after their number this is for my use only.

Tyneside Branch: Have a problem the Membership Secretary, who collects subscriptions from members then pays the Treasurer has caused a problem in the Branch, he walked out of the Branch without leaving any records therefore the Branch Secretary and Treasurer do not know who has paid subscriptions, and if indeed all monies have been handed over to the treasurer. It suggested that the National Secretary should write him a letter copies to Branch Chairman and Secretary

Item 13

Overseas Membership: Clive Boyles MSM Clive feels he is out on a limb he has sent out he has sent out 74 letters have only had 9 replies were Dick, Bob and Brian are in one another pockets i.e. they know who is on direct debit, who sends payment direct to the national treasurer He gets no information, so he is sending out letters to people who have already paid, Ted to supply and keep Clive up-to-date with data base, and Dick, will supply Clive with those on direct debit

Clive also pointed out that John Measham of Solet Branch has volunteered to take over the responsibility of International Liaison Officer; Ted this is already in hand

Item 14 Standard letter to Postal Members when requesting subscriptions

Ted: May I suggest that both Postal co-ordinator South and North they send out a Standard letter when requesting annual subscriptions this should also be an informative. This could be written ready for sending well in advance Last year there was difficulties in getting letters out on time. We said that we would have them out by February and we were struggling to get them out in March. One can start witting them now, put in an envelope and post them in January (Bob has already produced a letter)

Item 15 Amendment to the Constitution

To reflect the wording on the joining application
This will be on the AGM agenda

National Chairman When a member joins the association is there anyway of checking the information, it's been abundantly clear that the largest Regiment in the British Army is the SAS Ted, am not sure, however the information on the application is generally correct, it's the stories they come up with later

We explore this and see what we can find out

Item 16 Guest of Honour Annual Reunion Dinner
Lt. Col Robert Bruce OBE (Gurkha Welfare Trust)

Item 17
Review the AGM agenda

The Chairman went over the AGM agenda in particular The Feasibly Study, regarding Ted Pemberton proposal to set up an umbrella Association to look after veterans whose association had folded

Item 18 Chairman went over the minutes of the 2014 AGM Minutes

Item 19 Reports, Apart from the National Treasurer all NEC members report are to be given to the National Chairman who will make a report- for the entire NEC, this will save time and prevent repeated statement being made



Item 20 Chairman before we go back to the gender, I should like to present Annie with this Sash that can be worn on ceremonial occasions, it was present to my wife by the Burma Star Association. If you sew our log on it will be very appropriate
Chairman had another surprise up his sleeve for debate, but will be revealed at a later date.

Item 21 St Paul's Commemorative Mug

David and I decided that on leaving the Mansion House. That it would be nice if we gave those attending a small memento of the occasion, it would have to be affordable. We thought of a special order of service, but we are already producing one and to make a special one would be expensive and would be shoved in a draw and rarely if ever seen, therefore we came up with the idea of a mug. We have had 2 made for your thoughts. These will be put in a box, with the NMBVA Logo on it, and there will be a small certificate inside stating this is ? of 500 a limited addition, these will be given to VIP,s and Paid up members who attended, they will not be issued to members guests unless they would like to purchase one Mal, suggested that on the back we add in red "To Commemorate conflicts 1948-1966" bob, most of my members wives are associated member do they get 2. Ted, yes the emphases on "Paid up member". The following questions were put forward

Transportation Mugs will be transported to the hotel the day before, David and Ted will be there to box and label mugs. They will be transported to the Mansion House the evening before

How do we distinguish easily who gets a mug?

Different coloured ticket will be issued. There will be 2 issued One for VIP.s and one for paid up members,

Tickets Will be numbered and not transferable

David, Dick and Ted will be attending a meeting at the Mansion House in November.

Seating VIP's & members will have their seat marked

There will be a detailed instructions/guidance written and we will have

Another NEC meeting March/April

There will be wheelchair access to both the Cathedral and Mansion House, however we must have advance notices so we have carers available

Costing's, Ted, we have rough figures, but anticipate financial help. Therefore all we need from the Treasurer at the moment is we could spend without breaking the bank Dick; £16,000.

Small buses will be laid on to take people from the Cathedral to the Mansion House (Shirley has this in hand)

Again this will be written into Instructions/ Guidance

Mal, Can I clarify the £299 will cover everything Ted; less for the Dinner and Theatre

David emphasize that the cost is cheap for London, Ted; the only drawback is the single supplement

Gala Dinner Dress, a long debate and it was decided that this was an NMBVA Dinner therefore dress would be blazers and medals, the National Standard and Union Flag would be paraded.

At St Paul's it is hoped that we will have a Gurkha Guard of Honour

David, There are a lot going on at the moment

Clive, Can we not issued out the mugs at the dinner, Ted; remember that we will have members who will not be attending the Dinner but will be attending the Cathedral and Mansion House

Mal, Can you clarify who is paying for what. Ted, The Association is paying for the Cathedral, Mansion House and buffet Members pay for the Hotel, Gala Dinner and transport. Mal how about VIP, Ted you will find that we receive more in donations and kind than they cost

Ted IOW will be sending out Booking application and Programme, next week

Invitations, cards are being printed by Bridgend Prison, Mal. Can they print them small to slip into pockets? Ted we will use the attached size for VIP,s but make smaller once for members

Item 22 General Sir Garry Johnson, Chairman, NEC and Gurhks will need to get to the Mansion House, along with Standards quickly to greet our guests

Guide line on protocol will be snt out later

Date of meeting in December is difficult due to Christmas functions, The date will be 4th/5th December

David, I thank you all for your support and it would be unfair to single out any one. When I was Charmin last time I thought I had a good committee them, I have been well blessed with this one

Meeting closed 14:37

Date of next meeting 4th/5th December

Minutes Approved

By National Chairman.....Date.....