



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 16th November 2014
Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford

Meeting Opened at 09:00 hrs.

Members Present:

David Neil (Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary) Mrs Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer) Brian Roche (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator South); Valerie Nisbet (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator North)

ITEM:

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

Item 2 - **Welcome by the National Chairman**

Mr David Neil, He thanked everyone for attending, regretfully Dick Richardson National Treasurer is unable to attend due to ill health, however he has sent a comprehensive report, also Clive Boyles is unable to attend due to a family arrangements. The agenda is not too complicated and I hope we have an enjoyable, productive meeting. Before going into the meeting I should just like to quote from 2 e-mails from Sir Garry Johnson. The first one is appertaining to the newsletter, congratulations to Mal on this one "*Many thanks for a good read, and congratulations to all involved in putting it together*"

The second was an e-mail sent to me on another subject "*I thought the Reunion was excellent. The hotel, somehow, is 'friendlier' and the staff particularly pleasant, so everyone seemed to have a relaxed and enjoyable event*".

"With regard the future of the Association, I leave it to you to take the pulse of the membership and steer it how best you think fit. I shan't bother you, but you know you can always talk to me about issues and that you can rely on me for my full support, Good Luck"!

We shall now go on with the rest of the agenda

Item 3 - **APLOLOGIES**

Dick Richardson (National Treasurer due to illness) Clive Boyles (NEC Member & International Liaison Officer due to pre-arranged family event)

Item 4 Record of decisions made at last NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel 16th November 2013

(a) **Matters arising.**

Ted; Sending Items direct from manufactures to the individual members. The cost quoted by manufacture for packaging and posting makes it not feasible, I can package and post items cheaper myself This was discussed and with figures quoted my Annie Ted too try and get a better deal

Action; Ted Williams

(b) Valerie; don't think the BBC coverage of the Festival of Remembrance was very good. David Neal I agree, neither was the coverage of the march pass on the Sunday, while the Veterans were marching passed, the Reporter would start interview someone in the crowd, while those veterans sitting at home watching the TV for their contingent march passed were likely to miss them.

Item5 **National Treasurers Report Mr Dick Richardson I**

Unfortunately as already stated Dick was unable to be with us, however, he did send copies for each member of the revenue account. Under the guidance of the Secretary the NEC went through the figures and agreed that the figures added up and as this was only an interim report, we would be able to quiz the Treasurer at the next meeting therefore the NEC accepted this report. Albeit Malcom believes that it would be easier to understand if the period covered was made plainer and the word "Balance" was used when transferring totals across, and one should also read the notes again.

Item 6 **Regalia Stock & Pricing Mrs Annie Burden:** Annie went over the stock in hand; the proposed new Ladies pendant was discussed at length, we have an ideal "miniature medallion" depicting the association logo, but getting a suitable chain at an affordable price is proving difficult and to the liking of the Ladies i.e. style length etc. Also the new PJM ribbon brooch regarding the type of fastener

**Action David Neil &
Mrs Annie Burden**

Item 7 Membership Numbers; Membership Secretary Bob Roberts Bob gave a very good Introduction; Facts

Since AGM

Deceased Members 7

New Member 6

Retuned 5

Makes an additional members 4

We also have a potential of another 3 new members

Current Member 1741

Bob explained modifications that had been made to the database, bob believes this will be a lot easier to handle and more understandable

Outstanding Membership subscriptions was also discussed at length Members will be contacted and Bob will assist Valerie with Postal North 123 outstanding

Item 8 Solent Branch are planning to visit Malaya in 2017 to attend the 60th independents celebrations and are looking for a donation from the association to help to defray the cost (Ted to go over e-mail etc.) Note this is open to all members of the Association. Although we may not be able to assist monetary wise, I suggest we could help in fund raising and administration.

Ted; I have pointed out that we are not in a finical position to give a donation

However we will assist in any other way possible

Chairman: we have had a very bad experience with these in the past, and we have still got the memorial to cover plus we shall need funds for the rededication of our Plaque in St Pauls, Ted pointed out the 2005 trip was very successful organised by Ron Blain and we should have sufficient experience within the Avocation to assist Solent Branch.

Chairman, I am a bit wary about it. They will have to use a reputable company, however we have got time and will help

Item 9 **Keris Magazine & Christmas Newsletter**, possible new Editor. Malcom, I am quite happy to carry on, however it may be time for a change to get a new style, new approach etc. It was agreed unanimously that Malcom has done a first class job, and now is not the time for change and requested Malcom as Editor of both the Kris and Newsletter, this he agreed to do.

Item9a **Malcom:** possible Sponsorship for both publications. The only regular Sponsor, we have had is Shirley (IOW Tours), I have written to Airlines, Companies, Stores etc. and I never get any replies.

David Neil; He would look over the sponsors we had for the St. Pauls Plaque and See what he can do

Item 9b **Malcom;** At what point will we be able to financially continue issuing both publications, with the decline in subscriptions and the increase in predication cost especially postage. We should put this to the Treasurer ! Ted: the decline is subscriptions is not all that alarming really, Although we appear to be losing a lot of members (mainly, unfortunately to the Temple in the sky) we are still taking on a trickle of member some who resigned coming back and also a few new members. At the AGM we had paid up members 1533 pus 201 in areas = 1734 at this meeting we have 1741

The following was agreed

a) On present trend we can keep gowning for the next 2 years

- b) It would be disastrous too lose the publications
- c) We do get a lot of reaction epically to the Newsletter
- d) It was suggested to save postage to send both publications out by e-mail (PCF) Mal I have already done a survey on this 70% of members do not have a computer and those who do prefer having a hard copy. However we shall have to revisit
- e) Honorary Membership, Malcom there are quite a number on the database, they receive both publication, and yet they do not contribute, are these honorary members created by the Branches or by the NEC in accordance with the Constipation. It was agreed that,
 - 1) Branches must adhere to the constitution,
 - 2) If they have created Branch Honorary members, and they wish them to receive both publication, then it's up to the Branch either to contribute for the member or ask the member to make a donation to National The should not appear on the National database has Honorary members
 - 3) David Neil pointed out the Branch Honorary member invariably make donation. Ted; yes to the Branch not National who bear the cost of the publications David, I do want Tyneside honorary members too receive both publications, therefore at our next meeting I shall suggest that honorary or the Branch, on behalf of its honorary members make a donation to National. Ted this is going to cause a lot of problems including changes to the database etc. Malcom in retrospect this is not a good idea, and I suggest we drop it, however from now on, if a Branch makes a Honorary Branch Member, then the Branch should be responsible for making national contributions for that member and they should not appear on the National Database has a honorary member, however there must be an indication on the database indicating that the Branch is paying, not the individual member, so that the Membership Secretary chases up the Branch for subscription and not the memberThe above is proposed by Malcom White, seconded by Ted Williams agreed unanimously

9c Lost Touch Members, This was discussed at length, this could be due to a number of reasons Therefore Malcom White seconded by Bob Roberts that we ask that Annie puts the names of future lost members Members of the Website, so the NEC establishes the reason why and if necessary pay proper respects

This was carried unanimously

9d Proposed by Mr David Neil second by Mrs Valerie Nisbet that Mrs Gwen Kindleyis Granted Honorary Membership of the National Malaya and Borneo Veterans Association for the voluntary work in creating a NMBVA Ladies brooch and other assistance to the NMBVA

All agreed

10 **Progress on the Proposed Individual plaques** at the National Memorial Arboretum Ted went over the size of Plaques etc. Saying that he hopes to send all members photos and diagrams in the next few days, the whole process is taking time. However Keith Rackham will make to make a presenting to the Trustees shortly, then it has to go through the “Landscape and Memorial Committee” we should get the final approval by the end of January. No problems is envisaged, therefore to speed things up it would be advantageous if we could have a neuter of orders for plaques in by them, so work can start cost £50 per plaque, any profit will go into the memorial fund. To keep the cost down we shall lay the plaques in blocks of 20. Mal said he has had good response from the newsletter over 30 so far. Ted going back to previous discussion, this proves the value of the newsletter

11 AGM/Reunion weekend. Ted we made a few changed a few arrangement i.e. Waiter service meal with choice rather that a Carvery meal on the Friday night, which appear to gone down well and kept members together Valerie, I suggest we try and get a better room for AGM, we were stuck in the corner of the main function room, which was laid out for the night, Ted; I agree and will sort out

12 Minutes of 2014 Progress on Item 10 Feasibility of forming a Umbrella organisation to take care of Veterans who’s Associations who have folded for example “Burma Star Association”

Mr David Neil National Chairman: you have 3 Reports in you package from the secretary.
1st one from Mr J.F Farmer CBE Ex National Chairman of RBL also member of Colchester Branch

AGM Minutes item 10 Notice of Motion

I am a little confused. Did Mr Pemberton propose a notice of a Motion or a Motion. If it was a Motion, then I believe, legally it is inadmissible as it forms no part of our Constitution, it is in fact proposes the formation of a new organisation, with all the financial, legal and administrative constraints to consider. Many of the statements in the proposal are not substantiated with facts and figures As an example the Burma Star association have over 3K members and a Head Office in London. I could mention many more, I hope when you appoint a committee to study the feasibility they will have Terms of Reference to be inclusive of all the implications and consider what other Ex-

service Charities and Associations deliver to all that have served and their dependants in whatever theatre of conflict
Stay Safe, Stay Alert
J. F. Farmer CBE

Report from Mr. David Neil National Chairman

Before this meeting of the NEC, I undertook to carry out some research into the opinions of potentially interested groups. The following are the A list I approached who I thought may be interested in such an organisation.

The Korean Veterans, Scots Guards D. Day Veterans
15/19 Hussars, Burma Star Veterans, Kings Own Scottish Borders
RAFA, Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Queens Royal Hussars
Green Howards

After acquainting them with the gist of the proposition the general reaction was “who will be prepared to undertake and finance a venture of the nature, and is it necessary?”

We Have the RBL, who are an umbrella body. There is also the confederation of British Service, and Ex-Service personnel

Some of the Regimental associations thought it disrespectful to Her Majesty’s Ministers

It would only create another level of bureaucracy

Since I have begun this assessment I have received a considerable number of communications by phone, e-mail and not one of them bracket the motion. As I recall I was repeatedly approached by members after the AGM expressing their concern or disapproval of the whole concept.

Therefore it would appear there is little or no interest.
Conclusion; Too Costly; Too political and lastly not needed

Dick Richardson, It is not necessary, too costly and who would administrate it

Ted Williams, I will not repeat the above, but have taken a different approach and answered some of Ted Pemberton’s questions direct

Arboretum; I have a written undertaking by the Direct that the Arboretum will undertake to maintain any memorial that no longer has a sponsor. They cite the Dunkirk Veterans Memorial

The old Brick Plinth type memorial, while they are encouraging sponsors to replace these with a memorial made from natural material the will not destroy those who's sponsors have gone on

Pensions, These have evolved through time. The present Service man/woman start biding his/her pension up from the moment they join.

I shall send full details to anyone requiring the, but they are all on the web, having been attached to the USA, I believe too has a too rosy concept of them regarding welfare

The Veteran, I have contacted a number of these Veterans, and they are not interest, Most are still in contact with their mates and meet up on a regular bases, other have their own service/regimental associations and some have jointed other association example Tyneside Branch have two members from the Burma Star Association

This was discussed at length by the NEC It' not necessary, Secretary to daft a report for the next meeting

13 Communications within the NEC, I don't want to go into details but on 3 occasion during the last few months there has been 2 or 3 of us trying to solve the same problem, please keep me informed. Some members pass on their problems to more than one of the NEC

14 Armed Forces Day is at Guilford this year and we will be represented by Surry Branch, they have the display stands and I understand the Solent Bunch has offered to help.

15 Blackpool. Ted I am very pleased to report that we have had a very good response. And once again this is due to the newsletter, I thank Mal

16 Sara Dennis, request support from the NMBRA, she has a number of Association, she is not asking money, just that she can put our name in her profile. She has a website

17 AGM/Reunion will be held at the Tillington Hall Hotel on the Friday 2nd to Mon 6th October 2015

18 Proposed that the NMBRA accept to Songkok See below



Proposed that the NMBVA Adopts of the Songkok as the official Headgear for member or encourage them to wear it on parades This in my view this will heighten the profile of the NMBVA, and has been proven by the Mid-Ulster and Northern Ireland, Quote from Mr Graham Evans chairman of the Northern Ireland Branch “ We wear them on parade over here and everyone wants to know who we are and want to take our photo. If this is approved and we have sufficient number we could have our own deigned Songkok made . Could you imagine the impact this would have if all members were wearing the Songkok on Remembrance Sunday at Whitehall.

Ted Williams: There is no reason, why one could not wear their service or regimental bade on the Songkok

David Neil, I am not sure we have had this suggested twice before, and it fell flat

Mal Suggested that it be made available

Valerie, suggested that we could replace the gold band around the Had with the PJM ribbon

It was agreed that we would get some to Show at the AGM

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Ted handed out for information only some Leaflets on the Plaque in Westminster Abby to the Far East

There being no Further business the meeting closed at 12:00 hrs

Next NEC Meeting Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford Saturday 21st March 2015

Minutes

Approve

By _____ Date ____

D. Neil National Chairman