



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on 10 August 2012 at Premier Inn Coventry

Members Present:

Tex Pemberton (Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Dick Richardson (Treasurer); Ian Williams (Membership Secretary); Brian Roche (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator South); Bob Roberts (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator North); Mike Hawkins NEC Member.

ITEM:

Item 1 - Exhortation: The Chairman and members paid Homage.

Item 2 - Welcome: Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting in the new location that had been selected to reduce meetings costs. He said this would be his last NEC Meeting during his 'tour' as National Chairman. He added that he would draft the Minutes of the AGM within 24 hours of the meeting being held on 20th October due to his departure on the 25th October to the Far East and Australia and would therefore ask NEC members for a rapid turnaround of the draft.

Item 3 - Apologies for unavoidable absence: Annie Burden (Webmaster and Regalia Officer).

Item 4 - Record of Decisions: The Record of the Meeting of 30th March 2012 was accepted as a true record.

Item 5 - Matters arising from 30th March 2012:

- a. Item 5a - Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal. Our President had addressed the issue of the Queens Diamond Jubilee medal with the Chief of Defence Staff but reported back that he has had no luck. Chairman raised the issue with The Rt Hon Nicholas Soames MP (Grandson of Sir Winston Churchill and former Armed Forces Minister in the last Conservative Government). He in turn, having passed it to the current AFM reported back that he had no luck in persuading the Minister to consider the award to Veterans. Chairman has since raised it with his own MP for Chichester, Andrew Tyrie MP, who has briefed the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister and a response is awaited. In the meantime, our own Champion, Maj Gen Tony Meier continues to lobby members of the Royal family and senior politicians for recognition. This is an ongoing issue.

ACTION: Chairman.

- b. Item 5b - The viability of the Swansea Branch continues to be work in progress by the National Secretary and a positive response is now required. As an aside, the NEC considered that it may be necessary, subsequently, to revise the Constitution to enable the removal of a Branch from Association records where there is no response over an agreed period (TBD). The National Secretary said he would take positive action to determine the future intentions of the Swansea Branch.

- c. Item 9 - A similar situation exists over the viability of the Germany Branch and the National Secretary will take positive action to determine the future intentions of this Branch also.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 6 - Revenue and Capital Outturn Budgets for 2011/12: NEC agreed some editorial changes to the outturn form for the Revenue account which can now be distributed in hard copy to the Branches and to those attending the AGM as part of the Reunion 'Pack' together with the Capital Account outturn which was agreed.

Item 7 – Proposed Revenue Budget for 2013.14: Some editorial changes **were** agreed by the NEC and the proposed budget can be included in the 'Pack' for Branches and those attending the AGM. As an aside, the Treasurer has prepared a variation showing how the budget would look if the AGM agreed a Notice of Motion he will be submitting that asks for an increase in subscriptions of £3 per year. NEC agreed this variation should also be included in the 'Pack.'

Item 8 - Maintenance of the Data Base: Control and Recording of Membership Information is a vital part of administrative actions and financial viability. The Vice Chairman had reviewed our present working practices and after lengthy discussion it was agreed that:

- a. **The Treasurer collects subscriptions:** from Branches; from Postal North and South Coordinators; and from individual Members who submit direct to the Treasurer by whatever means. The Treasurer does rely on Branches and Coordinators to enclose the names of subscribers and their membership numbers when submitting remittance to him by the due date each year, 1st July (or within 90 days of this due date as per Rule 5D). Though it is the responsibility of Branches and Coordinators to collect on behalf of their members, it is office incumbent on the Treasurer to prompt, where prompt is necessary.

ACTION: Treasurer.

- b. **The Membership Secretary maintains the NMBVA data base:** to conform to the state of play as informed by the Treasurers' records of subscriptions received.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

- c. As an output from the review undertaken by the Vice Chairman it was agreed that he and the Membership Secretary would jointly consider a slight revision to the data base that would facilitate sorting for use with distribution of publications.

ACTION: Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary.

Item 9 - Update on Membership Numbers: The Membership Secretary reported that as at the date of this meeting, there were 2103 Members on the Data base of which 1445 were fully paid up, the remainder being late payers but within the 3 month rule of the 'due date' of 1 July 2012. The Membership Secretary will provide a SITREP to the Chairman for his Report to the AGM and show a comparison with the time of the annual reunion in 2011.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

Item 10 - Bank Standing Oder Mandate: NEC Member Brian Roche Produced a revised mandate that he had discussed with Bank Authorities. The mandate was agreed but would be held over to be brought into use after the AGM and the decision about the level of subscription.

ACTION: Brian Roche and Treasurer.

Item 11 - Review of Distribution of NMBVA Publications: The Vice Chairman had undertaken a review with the aim of reducing publication costs by disseminating publications as attachments to email, or by bulk distribution to Branches but there were no cost savings for the latter. He reported that the main inhibitors were: the apparent low number of members that have the email facility or who use it frequently; the frequent changes that Members make to their email addresses which may well be known to local Branches and Postal Coordinators but not necessarily notified to the National database and so records rapidly become out of date. There was a mixed response from Members who were targeted in a trial email contact by the Vice Chairman. Some were happy to receive a Pdf file of the Newsletter or Keris whilst others preferred to receive the hard copy, in some case because they see them as collectors' items. If we are to try to satisfy all requirements, and reduce costs, it was agreed that the Vice Chairman should approach all Branches and Coordinators to facilitate a cost reduction process, that need not be universal, consistent with recognition of wishes and assurance that publications will reach all individual paid up Members.

ACTION: Vice Chairman.

Item 12 - Update on the NMBVA Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum: The Chairman gave a detailed briefing to the NEC following: the visit of himself and the Membership Secretary to the NMA on 29 March 2012 where they held meetings with two Stonemasons; the briefing repeated to the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012; and his activities since. The Chairman's 'Options for Change' draft Paper was disseminated to all Branches and is posted on the website. He said he has one final meeting with a Stonemason on Sunday 11th August 2012 and following that he intends to finalise his Paper for distribution to Branches; for posting on our website; and to table for a decision by the AGM on 20th October. He has already 'encouraged' Branches to divert their financial generosity this year and possibly next towards the cost of what will be our lasting Association legacy. He will address this issue to Branches again and at the Reunion weekend. Following discussion the NEC indicated that the Paper should include their unanimous recommendation to the AGM for Option 5 by HL Perfitt of a granite block, suitably etched, and two granite seats, to replace the existing Keris and Plinth.

Item 13 - Update German Branch: This is covered at Item 5 above.

Item 14 - Dates and Venues of next Meetings:

- a. The next meetings of the NEC will be at the Premier Inn Coventry on 16 November 2012 at 1300 and at the Whitehouse hotel Kegworth on 22 March 2013. The date and venue of the August 2013 meeting will be determined at the 16th November 2012 meeting.
- b. The next Delegates meeting will be at The Whitehouse hotel Kegworth on 23 March 2013 at 1000.
- c. The date and venue of the meeting of the annual Reunion in 2013 will be determined by the AGM but provisionally is the Holiday Inn at Coventry and possibly organised once again by the Isle of Wight Company.

Item 15 - Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal: This is covered at Item 5 above.

Item 16 - Shop Stock Selling Price for FY 2013/14: Not determined due to non-attendance of Regalia Officer who will make recommendation to Chairman and Treasurer and copy to Vice Chairman for publication in Keris.

ACTION: Regalia Officer.

Item 17 - Armed Forces Day 2013: AFD 2013 will be at Nottingham on 29 June.

Item 18 - Record of Decisions Delegates Meeting 31 March 2012: The Record was accepted by the NEC as a true record.

Item 19 - Matters arising from the 31st March meeting: The proposal for a new Membership card the size of a credit card to fit wallets was considered and set aside for the moment on the grounds that 400 of the current card are still held and there had been but a single request for change. The membership Secretary will retain the detail and template of the proposed new card and bring it forward when the time for change arrives.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

Item 20 - Annual Reunion 2012: NEC approved the draft Agenda for the AGM, which may now be included in the 'Pack,' and arrangements for the Reunion in general. Chairman confirmed he had invited The Rt Hon Lord Touhig of Islwn and of Glansychan PC KSS to be our Guest of Honour at the Reunion dinner by way of a 'thank you' for his wide ranging support and for pressing Government for Veterans to be permitted to wear the PJM. Lord Touhig has accepted the invitation.

Item 21 - AGM Notices of Motion: NEC considered and supported the Notices of Motion that are being tabled at the AGM in October 2012. In relation to changes to the Constitution there was debate about the proposed process for election of Officers and it is considered there may be scope for improvement of the wording of the draft Rule 14C at the AGM so that each and every officer post will be filled by the voting of Members attending the AGM irrespective of whether an officer is standing for re-election and irrespective of whether there is just one nominee. Chairman said the AGM debate will resolve the intent.

Item 22 - Nominations for Office in 2012/13: Nominations have been received by the National Secretary to fill all posts on the NEC and will be published to all Members on the Agenda which will be included in the 'Pack' for imminent distribution to all Branches and Members attending the AGM. The Agenda will be posted on our website.

Item 23 - AOB: No business raised.

Record approved by Chairman: 17th August 2012 and posted on website.