



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on 27th January 2012 at Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth.

Members Present:

Tex Pemberton (Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Dick Richardson (Treasurer); Ian Williams (Membership Secretary); Brian Roche (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator South); Bob Roberts (Postal Coordinator North); Mike Hawkins (NEC Member); Annie Burden (Webmaster and Regalia Officer).

ITEM:

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

Item 2 - Welcome: Chairman welcomed new Members to the NEC elected at the AGM in October 2011: Bob Roberts who has subsequently taken over as Coordinator Postal North; and Mike Hawkins.

Item 3 – Apologies, unavoidable absence: Malcolm White (Vice Chairman).

Item 4 - Record of Decisions: The Record of the Meeting of 5th August 2011 was accepted as a true record.

Item 5 - Matters arising from 5 August 2011 meeting that are not on Agenda:

- a. Item 9 - It is understood that a renewed Notice of Motion is likely to be brought to the 2012 AGM that Branches should contribute to the cost of the Branch annual Standards Insurance. This Motion was withdrawn prior to the AGM last year by the Proposer from Grantham Branch, he not being able to attend.

ACTION: Secretary to note for AGM Agenda.

- b. Item 24 - The German Branch viability. Secretary will attempt to get a response from the management Team of the Germany Branch to determine viability and if not successful will make direct contact with all registered members of the Branch to identify future intentions and wishes.

ACTION: Secretary.

- c. Item 24 - Federation or Affiliation with our International Colleagues remains work in progress.

ACTION: Chairman

Item 6 - Actions and issues arising from the Minutes of the 2011 AGM:

- a. Item 6d - Work on the NMBVA 'Potted' History will continue to arrive at a draft to be laid before the 2012 AGM.¹

ACTION: Chairman and Secretary.

- b. Item 10 - Chairman visited Alrewas on 26th January 2012 and discussed the NMBVA site with the Custodian of the Arboretum. Chairman will prepare an 'Options' paper, building on the 'Timms Report' for discussion and tuning at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012 and will report findings of proposed meetings with two Stonemason contractors on 29th March 2012. The outcomes will be reported to the 2012 AGM as a Notice of Motion.

ACTION: Chairman.

- c. Item 23 - There is apparent conflict of views about the process for election of NMBVA Association Officers. It is agreed that the Constitution needs further clarity and a revision to the Constitution will be drafted as a Notice of Motion for the AGM with a first look at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012.

ACTION: Vice Chairman.

- d. Item 25 - The Chairman and all NEC Members extended a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his organisation of the annual reunion weekend.

Item 7 - Matters arising from the 2011 AGM Minutes that are not on the Agenda of this meeting: There were no further matters arising.

Item 8 – Representation at meetings: After discussion it was unanimously agreed that unless any Member wishes to propose changes to the present rules in the Constitution, the AGM should remain as the forum for individual representation only, with collective Branch representations, not individual, at Delegates meetings.²

ACTION: Secretary to note.

Item 9 - Joining Application Form: The joining application form is to be revised to come into line with the new 'payment date' reflecting the consequently revised incremental cost at the date of joining.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

Item 10 - Use of Standard Headed Paper: The Chairman reminded all NEC Members of the need to use the Association standard headed paper for communication that has been revised to rename Patron to President. The Vice Chairman will assist with a template if necessary.

ACTION: All NEC Members.

Item 11 - Coventry Cathedral: After discussion it was agreed to raise the suggestion of an annual or alternative year's service at the Cathedral at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012.

ACTION: Secretary.

¹ 'Potted' - A historical account put into a short and easily assimilable form (Concise Oxford).

² NMBVA Constitution - 15 October 2011 - Rule 9A and 9B.

Item 12 - Adoption of Association Prayer: Our adopted Chaplain, The Reverend David Osborne, has been using a prayer that may have been used at the memorial stone service in St Pauls Cathedral. A proposal to adopt the prayer and its suitability for multiple denominations will be taken to the 2012 Delegates meeting and AGM.

ACTION: Secretary with NMBVA Padre.

Item 13 - Annual Reunion and AGM 2012:

- a. Secretary to confirm that the IoW calling note has gone to **all** NMBVA members and not just those who attended in 2011. It was noted that the cost for the 2012 Reunion, compared to 2011, was just £1 more pp for the Gala dinner; £1 more pp for the one night package; £2 more pp for the two night package; £3 more pp for the three night package.

ACTION: Secretary.

- b. Chairman will discuss with our President an appropriate Guest of Honour for the Reunion dinner in 2012.

ACTION: Chairman.

- c. The beneficiary of the Reunion dinner raffle in October 2012 will be determined by Members at the AGM.

ACTION: Secretary to note for AGM Agenda.

Item 14 - Budget: Treasurer presented the current FY running account and expenses which were accepted as accurate save for editorial changes to be made to the dates of the Armed Forces Day and Delegates meeting 2012.

ACTION: Treasurer.

Item 15 – Charity Status: Mike Hawkins, together with the Secretary, will continue to explore the possibility of Charity Status for the Association taking cognisance of: hidden liabilities; benefits for and against; Indemnity insurance; Incorporation³; process and rules for application to the Charity Commissioners, with a target to prepare a bulleted brief to speak to at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012.

ACTION: Mike Hawkins and Secretary.

Item 16 - Potted History: This issue was covered at Item 6 above. Work continues and the proposed content will be discussed at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012. Some concern has been expressed at the continuance of this task but the end product will be drafted and laid before the AGM for final approval and to eliminate concerns.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 17 - Armed Forces Day 2012: This year the AFD is in Plymouth on 30th June 2012. Plymouth Branch is to be invited to Sponsor our Association representation. Chairman will attend as will some working members of the NEC.

ACTION: Secretary.

³ Incorporation: take in or include as part of a whole; constitute (an organisation) as a legal corporation (Concise Oxford)

Item 18 - Review of Constitution: The on-going review of the Constitution and 'tidying up' continues and to date, proposals for rules 6G; 8B; 9B; and 10 will be drafted for consideration at the AGM. Some discussion may be included in the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012. All individual members do of course have the right to propose Motions to the AGM

ACTION: All NEC.

Item 19 - Postal Coordinators: Bob Roberts has taken over as Postal North Coordinator and at the date of this meeting has 230 members listed. Postal South (Brian Roche) has 326 members. Both Coordinators will continue to make contact with members to improve the volume of email contacts for rapid dissemination of information.

ACTION: Coordinators North and South.

Item 20 - NMBVA Logo: The College of Arms, on behalf of the Garter King of Arms, has recently advised that the Royal Crown on our NMBVA Logo is not acceptable as we are not part of the Armed Forces; we are not an official Government body; and we do not have a Royal Charter. Secondly, impaling the union flag with the flag of Malaysia requires Home Office approval and permission from the Government of Malaysia. Subsequent to our appeal against these findings, the College have agreed that they will allow the issue to 'fade away' with the Association. Notice will be included in the Delegates meeting of 31 March 2012.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 21 - Group Tours to Malaysia: It was agreed that exploration of travel with Malaysian travel operators was unable to improve on the travel arrangements made by our International Liaison Officer, Ron Blain, which are shown on our website.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 22 - Future Publications: In the absence of the Editor-in-Chief (Vice Chairman) this item was suspended to the next meeting.

Item 23 - Invitations and Agenda for Delegates Meeting: The closing date for Agenda Items from Branches is 18th February and the Agenda will be distributed immediately after this.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 24 - Future Locations for Delegates Meetings: At the 2011 Delegates meeting it was suggested that we explore alternative and possibly cheaper options for this meeting and it was agreed that Delegations would come to this coming meeting on the 31st March 2012 with recce and costed options. Secretary will remind Delegations in his calling notice.

ACTION: Secretary.

Item 25 - Annual Reunion 2011: It was agreed that the quality of the main course at the Reunion dinner was not good and not hot; Lunch on the AGM day was poorly organised and members were confused about the arrangements. Notwithstanding these two issues we should explore alternative venues in the Coventry area for 2013 and beyond to determine if a better venue and cost can be found. In the meantime we will bring the shortcomings of the 2011 experience to the attention of the event organiser and through her to the hotel.

ACTION: Secretary with loW Company.

Item 26 - Any Other Business:

- a. **NMBVA Legal Representative:** At the NEC meeting on 8 April 2011 at Item 18 it was agreed by the NEC that a firm of specialist legal advisers for the Armed Forces, CoffinMew - who are up to date familiar with historical issues and workings - should be 'considered' as the legal advisers to the Association. This Item was brought forward to the AGM at para 10 of the Chairman's Report to the 2011 meeting. No comments were raised and consequently adoption of CoffinMew is a matter of record. Subsequently, a Member has advised and produced a copy of a letter dated 20th October 2003, signed by the then National Secretary, appointing 'Oldham Marsh Page Flavell' of 19 High Street Melton Mowbray as an Association Legal Representative, an organisation that has acted for NMBVA previously. After discussion it was agreed that we should: not disturb the arrangement previously made with Oldham Marsh Page Flavell; record this background; accept that we have two appointed legal representatives with differing skills, no retainer is required for either; and when future legal advice is required, task whichever the Association Management of the time considers is best suited to the issue in hand.
- b. **Petition for Diamond Jubilee medal:** **The Chairman said there exists** a Petition in favour of awarding a medal to Veterans. Details are contained on the campaign website at www.medalcampaign.com. Chairman said we have a two-star Member of NMBVA actively pursuing a plan for Veterans to have the medal at no cost to the government or taxpayer and he (Chairman) will be raising the visibility of this in support of the campaign.

ACTION: Chairman.

- c. **Christmas card from Malaysia Director General of Veteran Affairs:** Chairman received a card and the DG asked that his best wishes be passed to all Members of NMBVA. Chairman reciprocated the greeting from all at NMBVA.
- d. **NMBVA Seasons Greetings card:** Regalia Officer reported that due to late advertising, sales of the new Association card had not been high. Regalia Officer will produce stocks at the Delegates meeting on 31st March 2012.

ACTION: Regalia Officer.

- e. **Donation to Not-Forgotten Association:** Noted that a very grateful 'thank you' had been received from the Association for our contribution of £500 agreed at the AGM and collected at the Reunion dinner raffle. This contributed to recent fund-raising by the Not-Forgotten Association that collected £15,000.
- f. **International Colleagues Visit to UK:** The Tasmanian State President of the MBVA is to visit UK in April/May. Chairman has asked him for his itinerary and will subsequently seek offers to entertain and invite him, and his wife, to meetings and events in England Scotland and Wales.

ACTION: Chairman.

- g. **Work in progress:** The Chairman listed the following as work in progress but in no specific order of priority:
1. A number of medal issues other than the PJM - Chairman.
 2. The German Branch viability - Secretary.
 3. NMBVA potted history - Chairman and Secretary
 4. Armed Forces Day in Plymouth in 2012 - Secretary.
 5. Charity Status for NMBVA and Gift Aiding of subscriptions? - Mike Hawkins and Secretary.
 6. Federation or Affiliation with International NMBVA - Chairman.

ACTION: As shown.

- h. **Membership Update:** The Membership Secretary reported that as at the date of the meeting the situation was: Members on data base 2276; since AGM in October 30 new Members and two Associate Members. 'Cleansing' of the data base continues.
- i. **Regalia Postage:** Regalia Officer gave notice that the postage rise due in April will cause a review of the cost of our regalia postage and packing. Regalia Officer will keep this under review and advise accordingly.

ACTION: Regalia Officer.

- j. **Swansea Branch:** Secretary gave notice that he was pursuing the viability of the Branch and residual Members.

ACTION: Secretary.

- k. **Honorary Membership:** North Wales Branch has proposed the following to be an Honorary Member. He has been supportive of the Branch from the date it was formed: Roger Green, Hyfrydle, 2 Afon Wen, Pontfadog, Llangollen, LL20 7AP. The proposal was agreed.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

- l. **Date and Venues of future meetings:** NEC: 30 March 2012 Kegworth; 10 Aug 2012 and date TBD Nov 2012 at a venue TBD. Delegates Meeting 31st March 2012 Kegworth; Annual Reunion: 19-22 October 2012 Royal Court Hotel Coventry.

Record approved by Chairman: 5th February 2012 and posted on website.