



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on 8th April 2011 at Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth.

Members Present:

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

Absent Friends: The Vice Chairman and members paid Homage.

ITEM:

Item 1 - Record of Decisions of Meeting of 19th November 2010 was accepted as a true record. Matters arising, not on Agenda of this meeting, were:

- a. Copyright: This remains work in progress but there has been no urgent requirement to raise the urgency of need.

ACTION: Chairman

- b. PJM: We are advised that from 1 May 2011 all applications are to be sent direct to the MHC, and not Fred Burden. MHC will however honour all applications currently held by Fred, in the region of 3000. Fred will be invited to update the AGM with the position that will prevail at that time and messages will be disseminated via the website so watch that space!

- c. COBSEO. There are no evidential benefits of COBSEO at this time and so membership will not be pursued.

- d. Ron Blain (Durham Branch) and Maurice Humphrey (Doncaster Branch) to be invited to raise a motion with a number of options to be taken to the AGM for an increase in annual subscriptions.

ACTION: Ron Blain, Maurice Humphrey, and Secretary

- e. Having submitted to the Secretary of State for permission to wear the PJM, there are more medal issues arising from the 2010 AGM to be followed up such as: The Rosette, or perhaps the Pingat Jasa Kidmat Berbakti for those who do not qualify for the PJM; The Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal.

ACTION: Chairman

- f. More adverts are required to provide better financial support to the production and distribution of the Keris Magazine. NEC are asked to promote opportunities.

ACTION: All NEC Members

g. Branch notes now to be included in Newsletter, not Keris.

ACTION: Editor in Chief

h. Insurance policy for Branch Standards – cost in the region of £1400 pa – to be renewed on 1 May 2011, but only for those Standards that have been registered with the Secretary. URGENT ACTION!

URGENT ACTION: Secretary

i. It is more expensive with travel and accommodation costs, to have a panel of members to audit Association Accounts and so the option will not be exercised unless an AGM determines a wish to do so. Audit will therefore continue using an accredited Auditor.

ACTION: Treasurer

Item 2 - Treasurer. A number of Treasurer issues were preceded with a debate on clarification of the 'Subscription Payment Date' and concluded with two principles: that whenever the payment of subscription is made, it is payment in advance for the next financial year (FY); and, the 'payment date' should coincide with the first day of any given FY. A Motion to amend the Constitution to incorporate these principles and to change the payment date from 1 September annually to 1 July annually will be brought to the AGM by the Treasurer. (FY is 1 July to 30 June - AGM 2010).

ACTION: Treasurer and Secretary

a. Update on current Revenue account: A small excess of income in the region of £5k but with bills to be met. Forecast of Outturn (FOO) looks promising but recent increase in postal costs and VAT could impair. An audited Account for the current FY will be included with Annual Reunion papers.

b. A Capital Account Summary, showing the entire worth of the fund, will be produced with papers for each Annual Reunion papers. The summary will include: the value of shop stock and holdings; the value of Association property; the Memorial sub-account.

c. A Register of NMBVA Association Property will list, value, and locate property which will be shown as a depreciating asset to the capital account.

ACTION: Treasurer (for 2.a.b.c)

d. A proposal at the 2010 AGM for a 'Branch Secretaries Symposium' will have budget impact and was moved for discussion to the Branch Delegates meeting on 9 April 2011.

Item3 - Shop Stock selling price. The selling price for each item will be set at the time of setting the budget. For any FY.

ACTION: Treasurer and Regalia Officer

Item 4 - Budget 2011/2012. A draft budget together with a number of flexing options was agreed for discussion at the Delegates meeting the following day. (See Record of Decisions for Delegates meeting 9 April 2011).

Item 5/6 - Maintenance of the Membership data base.

a. A rewrite of the data base is under way to 'prove' the recorded information in consultation with Branches and Postal Coordinators. Paid-up members are those

deemed to have paid since 2009. Membership Secretary will advise Branches and Postal Coordinators when members deemed not to have paid are to be removed from the national data base. The National Secretary will communicate with former members of the Cardiff and Swansea Branches to determine their membership intentions.

- b. The data base is restructuring to the Access 2010 format. Non-active, non paid-up membership is to be resolved

ACTION: Secretary and Membership Secretary

Item 7 - The passing of Frank Rhodes and future Vice Presidents. With the sad passing of Frank Rhodes, the elected President of the NMBVA, the Chairman will bring a motion to the AGM to dissolve the post of President, because we have a Patron, and evolve to Honorary Vice Presidents - provision for which already exists in the Constitution - a reward for long, loyal, and valuable contribution to the Association. This would bring the NMBVA in line with other organisations. There would be no limit to the number of VPs; their names would appear on the footer of printed stationery; they would be elected for life, not annually. There would be provision to remove anyone later deemed unsuitable for whatever reason.

ACTION: Chairman and Secretary

Item 8 - Welfare. The National Secretary - the Association Welfare Officer - said there was just one outstanding case at this time that of a member in the Tyneside area and the Chairman asked for an update brief.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 9 - The next issue of Keris. Editor-in-Chief said the next issue is nearing completion at his desk level and will go to print very soon. Chairman and Secretary will conclude a loose leaf insert to cover Annual Reunion election of Officers and Notices of Motion, and Chairman will submit an item on the submission of the PJM issue to the Secretary of State.

ACTION: Chairman and Secretary

Item 10 - The next Newsletter. Editorial responsibility will transfer to the Chairman for the December 2011 publication due to the absence overseas of the Editor in Chief but some preparation can be done by the latter. Chairman will procure 'Microsoft Publisher' for this purpose

ACTION: Editor-in-Chief and Chairman

Item 11/14 - Annual Reunion and AGM 2011. Update notes also appear on notes of Delegates meeting on 9 April 2011. In outline: Invitations are with members from Isle of Wight Company; High Commissioner of Malaysia has been invited by Chairman; there may be a possibility of combining PJM presentation; there will be entertainment at the dinner night; there may be a service for the laying-up of the original NMBVA Standard; members will be invited, through an insert in Keris, to submit nominations for NEC and motions for debate at the AGM.

Item 12 - Proposal for laying up of original NMBVA Standard. The proposal is to lay-up at Coventry Cathedral on Sunday 16 October 2011. Secretary is to make final arrangements in consultation with Coventry Cathedral and Chairman.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 13 - The German Branch. Secretary reported problems with viability of this Branch. Chairman will consult with the Branch Chairman and Secretary and discuss also the use of Paypal for transfer of subscriptions.

ACTION: Chairman

Item 15 - A potted History of the NMBVA Association. There is a need and Chairman will seek the services of 'informed' members to pull this together.

ACTION: Chairman

Item 16 - Removal of all mention of former Branches from Website. This was agreed in respect of Birmingham, Manchester, and Leeds and Bradford, albeit they would be mentioned in the potted history of the Association. These former Branches are aware the door remains open for a return to the fold.

ACTION: Webmaster

Item 17 - Association Recruiting Officer. With the resignation of Ray Taylor from the NEC due to ill health, the responsibilities of the Association Recruiting Officer (ARO) transfers to the Membership Secretary with immediate effect.

ACTION: Membership Secretary and ARO

Item 18 - Legal Adviser to the NMBVA. It was agreed that a firm of specialist legal advisers for the Armed Forces, CoffinMew, should be considered as the Legal Advisers to the Association. Costs are only incurred when advice is sought. See www.coffinmew.co.uk

Item 19 - Submission to Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs. The submission by the Chairman for permission to wear the PJM was submitted to the Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) of William Hague and is contained on the Association website at www.nmbva.co.uk with an abridged version in Keris, about to be distributed.

Item 20 - Membership of the World Veterans Federation. David Knowles the Treasurer General of the WVF briefed the AGM in October 2010. At a subsequent meeting with the National Chairman it was determined that at an annual cost for membership of £500, there was no discernible benefit to the NMBVA and so the Chairman recommended that we would not pursue membership further at this time.

Item 21 - Wooton Bassett. A reminder that repatriation through 'Royal' Wooton Bassett would cease in September and an alternative route is under consideration.

Item 22 - Registration of Branch Standards. The Association fund insures each Branch Standard and hold a liability for Bearers on parade. The policy is to be renewed on 1 May 2011 but only those Standards that have been registered with the National Secretary will be included. Each Standard Insurance currently costs in the region of £70 per.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 23 - A NMBVA Christmas or Seasons Greeting Card? A proposal for an Association card will be taken to the Delegates meeting on 9 April 2011.

ACTION: Chairman

Item 24 - Postal Voting. The result of the recent trawl of members on an AGM proposal to consider postal voting as being more democratic and the right of every Member to vote was: 122 returns from 2200 Newsletters distributed; 62 are for postal voting; 8 want postal voting but not for NEC elections; 16 are against postal voting; 36 want to give a proxy vote to the Chairman. This debate will continue at the Delegates meeting on 9 April 2011 and then be determined at the AGM in October.

Item 26 - Jobs List. A review of the jobs to do list identifies: Federation or Affiliation with International MBVA; email newsletters or Information letters; Copyright; Alrewas Memorial; Budget for 2012/13; other medal issues.

ACTION NEC Various

Item 27 - Date and Venues of Next meetings. NEC: 5 Aug 2011; 9 March 2012; 10 Aug 2012. Annual Reunion: 14-17 October 2011; 19-22 October 2012. Delegates Meeting (or Branch Secretaries Symposium) 10 March 2012.

Item 28 - Overview of Agenda for Delegates meeting 9 April 2011. Approved.

Item 29 - AOB.

- a. Commendations. Chairman informed the Committee of a number of commendations gratefully received about the performance of Association management.
- b. New Branches. Membership Secretary gave a resume of his current considerations and activity.
- c. There is a need for a Notice of Motion to the AGM to remove Assistant Secretary from the list of NEC Committee, and to unscramble the wording of Objective 3 of the Constitution to the original wording determined in October 1996.

ACTION Brian Roche and Secretary

Record approved by Chairman: 13th April 2011 and posted on website.