



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA DELEGATES MEETING
Held on 31st March 2012 at Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth.

Members Present:

NEC	Lt. Col Tex Pemberton OBE (National Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Dick Richardson (National Treasurer); Ian Williams (Membership Secretary); Brian Roche (NEC Member & Postal South) Bob Roberts (NEC Member and Postal North)
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Delegates:	<u>Bridgend:</u> Clive Boyles MSM and Gillian; <u>Bristol:</u> Peter Jones; <u>Grantham & District:</u> Terry Parkinson and Keith Seaton; <u>Hull & East Yorkshire:</u> Geoff Blanchard and Ken Simmonds; <u>Leicester Branch:</u> Alan Atkins and John Crossley; <u>North Yorkshire & Dales:</u> Ian Williams and Bob Roberts; <u>Nottingham Branch:</u> Ivan Glover and Mick Smith; <u>Pontypridd:</u> John Sandiland and Keith Barclay; <u>Surrey Branch:</u> Deborah Lofts; <u>Tyneside Branch:</u> David Neil and Valerie Nisbet.
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Homage: The Vice Chairman led Members in the Homage.

Item 1 - Welcome by the Chairman. Chairman welcomed all Delegates to the meeting and particularly those attending for the first time.

Item 2 - Apologies. Apologies had been received from: Cardiff Branch; Durham Branch; German Branch; Mid Ulster Branch; Northern Ireland Branch; North Wales Branch; North Kent/SE London Branch; Plymouth Branch; Southern Area Branch; Mike Hawkins and Annie Burden NEC Members.

Item 3 – Record of the last Delegates meeting held at Yew Lodge Hotel on 9th April 2011 and matters arising: The Record was accepted as correct and there were no matters arising.

Item 4 - Branch Delegates Submissions Received:

4.1 - Bridgend and District Clive Boyles: “The Bridgend Branch expressed its concern at the process of vote during the 2011 AGM. Normal practice would see the current officers stand down and leave the room while voting takes place. The Branch would like to ensure a clear process is laid down prior to the AGM.”

4.2 - Tyneside Branch David Neil: “Tyneside Branch express concern at the conduct of the election process at the 2011 AGM.”

4.3 - Grantham Branch Terry Parkinson: Grantham Branch thinks that all Branches who have Standards should pay a portion of the Insurance costs. The annual cost for a Branch Standard is in the region of £70. After discussion it was agreed: that Terry Parkinson will bring a Motion to the AGM suggesting either 50% of the cost; or whatever can be afforded; and all contributions to be on a voluntary basis.

ACTION: Terry Parkinson Grantham.

4.4 - Hull Branch Ken Simmonds: Hull Branch requested an update on the NMBVA Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. The Branch was happy to wait for Item 7.

The Delegates agreed that the Chairman should take the two submissions from Bridgend and Tyneside with parts of Item 5 of the Agenda dealing with needs for clarification of the Constitution as follows below:

Chairman:

- “It is true that our Constitution does not make clear provision for the process of electing Officers of the Association. Therefore I propose to take a Motion to the 2012 AGM that a new rule be incorporated into the Constitution.
- I will head the new rule ‘Election of Association Officers’ being the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer Membership Secretary, Regalia Officer and Webmaster, and three Committee Members, all of these Officers being elected annually.
- I will incorporate into this new rule existing rules 3B and 3E bringing them all together for clarity. I will propose that nominations may be made by any Member of the Association and should be signed by the Proposer, Secunder, and Nominee in accordance with rule 3E and be received by the National Secretary no later than 90 days before the AGM.
- I will further propose that at the time of the election at the AGM: Nominees must be present. Those who stand for election and are unopposed will be reappointed. Where there is more than one nominee for office they will withdraw from the meeting; return one at a time to give a 5-minute presentation and answer questions for 10 minutes then again withdraw.
- I will conclude by proposing that at the end of the process the AGM will vote in accordance with rule 10 of the Constitution and the Chairman call-in Candidates and announce the result by naming the successful nominee.”

To add further clarification to the issues raised by David Neil in a separate letter to the Chairman, suggesting that if the Proposer or Secunder of a Nominee were not present at the AGM then the Nominee should be withdrawn, the Chairman continued:

- “Rule 9B of our Constitution says we hold an AGM in October primarily to afford Members the opportunity to submit Motions for other Members

Consideration. I propose to insert into this Rule that it also affords the opportunity for Members to elect Officers to the NEC.”

- “Rule 10B of our constitution, which should be read in conjunction with 9B, enables Members to table Motions which must be with the National Secretary 90 days before the AGM. This Rule also requires the Proposer or Secunder to be present or the Motion will be withdrawn. Election of Officers is by nomination, Rule 3E, and are not considered to be Motions. Therefore it is not necessary for either the Proposer or Secunder of Nominees for election to be present though they may be required to submit written statements in support of their Nominee as in Rule 3E. If it were necessary for them to be present then the entire Association Membership would be disenfranchised from the election process and would limit very severely the choice of Candidate for Office. I will therefore bring a Motion to the AGM to clarify this Rule.”

ACTION: Chairman.

In discussion after the Chairman’s Statement on the submissions from Bridgend and Tyneside, the outcome was: Clive Boyles on behalf of Bridgend and District Branch was content to support the Chairman’s proposals in principle and will wait to see the Notices of Motion for the AGM; David Neil on behalf of Tyneside Branch expressed some reservation and wanted more time to consult with his Branch; the remainder of Delegates were content to support in principle.

Item 5 - Constitution needs further clarification and tidying up: The Chairman said that there were three further parts of the Constitution that need to be addressed:

1. Rule 2 - Aims of the Association: Mike Hawkins of the NEC, who unfortunately could not be present today whilst recovering from an operation, has suggested we need to be more specific with the wording of our aim in Rule 2B ‘To assist Members in their time of need’ so that misinterpretation should not leave us liable to ongoing financial demands for assistance. Whilst every appeal for help is carefully considered, our effort in the main is bringing assistance in the form of referral to the likes of SSAFA Field Officers; Regimental Associations; ABF; RBL; Local Authority departments and any other Agency that can assist the Member in need. Mike Hawkins will bring a Motion to the AGM for consideration.

ACTION: Mike Hawkins NEC

2. Rule 6G and Rule 13 – Dissolution of the NMBVA: Chairman said that we now have in the Constitution a catch all Rule at Rule13 and can remove the repetition from Rule 6G than only covers what we do to dispose of Funds. He will bring a Motion to the AGM to propose tidying up.

ACTION: Chairman.

3. Rule 8B Branches (and Subscription on Joining). The financial year of the Association is now 1 July to 30 June. Where a Member joins the Association part way through a year the annual subscription charge is

discounted to take the new Member to the end of the financial year. There is a need to make change to Rule 8B to revise the discount dates to come into line with the FY and the Membership Secretary will bring a Motion to the AGM to do that.

ACTION: Membership Secretary

Item 6 - Joining Application Form [and BSO]: The Membership Secretary proposed an update to the Application Form for joining the Association to bring the discounted payment dates into line with the revised financial year. This is an editorial change which was agreed, subject to Dick Richardson being identified on the form as National Treasurer. It will be brought into being and posted on our website the other side of Easter. At the same time the reintroduction of Bank Standing Orders with new Members, and with existing Members as and when we can, will take place. This will be primarily targeted at Postal Members and help to reduce the much increasing postage cost for subscription reminders. The identifying reference on bank statements will be the unique NMBVA Membership number.

ACTION: Membership Secretary.

Item 7 - Update on the NMBVA Memorial at the Arboretum:

The Chairman said he had visited the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on Thursday 29th March and held two meetings with Stonemasons whose work is recommended by the Curator of the NMA, both having examples of their work already in place in the NMA. He was accompanied at these meetings by the National Membership Secretary Ian Williams. The Chairman had used as the basis for these meetings, and the improvement project overall, a Paper he had drafted which he calls 'Options for Change' referring of course to Site 237 NMBVA. A copy of this Options draft has now been circulated to all Branches electronically and all Delegates at the meeting had a copy in hand. It will also be posted on our website and updated as the project progresses. (www.nmbva.co.uk)

The Stonemasons have been asked to cost Options 1 to 4 of the paper and at Option 5 to propose and cost their own suggestions having visited and become familiar with the site. Throughout the planning we have been guided by a NMA Guidelines Document which sets down the criteria for new or change to memorials together with standards for materials and construction. It is a quite prescriptive document but being so is a useful guide. Deviation from the 'guide' is probably possible but may not be welcomed by the NMA.

The outcome of both meetings with the Stonemasons was positive and encouraging. They will produce updated costings in the next week or so and the Options Paper can be updated with the project being progressed toward the AGM in October for selection of a preferred Option. At the AGM and in order to aid decision making a Power Point Presentation will describe each of the Options.

It is clear we must do something about our Memorial site. Long-life low-cost maintenance (possibly granite) is probably the most favoured proposal to the NMA who will indicate acceptability of our submission to the AGM. Come what may we

are going to need funds and the Chairman will send a note of 'encouragement' to Branches to look and think inwardly for a while when being generous with donations.

Mike Smith of Nottingham Branch suggested we might like to consider green granite, a jungle colour.

ACTION: Chairman.

Item 8 - Coventry Cathedral: Delegates discussed the preference for holding the annual reunion service either at Coventry Cathedral, where our original Standard is now laid up, or at the reunion hotel which has been the previous practice.

Resolved: That in 2012 the service to be held at the reunion hotel but for following years the view of the AGM will be sought.

ACTION: National Secretary.

Item 9 - Update of current FY budget: National Treasurer gave a headlines update which showed that income and expenditure in the Revenue account was very tight and that there may need to be a Motion at the AGM for an increase in subscriptions if we are to live within budget year on year. He advised Members also of the capital account balance. Information is always available from the National Treasurer but details are not published in this Record which is posted on our public access website.

Item 10 - Adoption of the Association Prayer: National Secretary produced copies of the Association Prayer which has been used at various events over the years. He will bring a Motion to the AGM for formal adoption and posting on our website.

Item 11 - Potted History: Chairman said it was intended to continue with the drafting of this brief record of the Association but the proposed potted history would be laid before the AGM to consider the content and decide. The aim will be to distribute it to Members with papers for the AGM in the 90 day rule. Two delegates were not in favour of the proposal.

Item 12 - Annual Reunion 2012: Chairman said he will be seeking a guest of honour who gave us admiral support to wear the PJM. He has a short list and will work through it. The National Secretary said that the beneficiary of the raffle at the reunion dinner this year should be ourselves and ring fenced to the cost of the NMA Memorial fund. The National Secretary is exploring, together with Isle of Wight Company, alternative options for the annual reunion in 2013, if that later becomes the wish of Members. Appropriate Motions will be brought to the AGM.

ACTION: Chairman and National Secretary.

Item 13 - NMBVA Badge: National Secretary reported that the College of Arms had advised that our badge did not meet the necessary criteria of the College and they offered to design a new badge for us. The National Secretary appealed on the grounds that we had all expended on regalia and raised a number of other reasons why the status quo should prevail. In a response from the office of the Garter

Principal King of Arms dated 10th November 2011 we were told '*I understand your position and agree that we should allow the issue to fade away.*'

Item 14 - Charity Status: NEC Member Mike Hawkins has undertaken a study into the possibility of the NMBVA becoming a Charity. His conclusion was that our Association Aims do not have charitable functions and so we do not meet the Charity Commissions criteria. After due consideration this conclusion was accepted by the NEC and further inquiries will not be taken.

Item 15 - Armed Forces Day Plymouth 30th June 2012: The National Secretary gave a brief resume of the arrangements and noted we have, so far, Standards from Grantham; Tyneside; Plymouth and the National Standard. We seek to increase this number on parade and all are encouraged to consider. There will be a major 'Veterans Village' once again and an entertaining day is promised. Chairman will be attending as will the Vice Chairman, National Secretary and other NEC workers. Plymouth Branch will be supporting the NMBVA Stand and activities.

Item 16 – Diamond Jubilee Medal: Our President wrote to the Chief of Defence Staff in relation to the award of the medal to Veterans but reports back that he has had no luck. Chairman said he will now attempt to get political support and in the meantime encourages all to sign the Petition which is on our website and alert others of the need to sign.

Item 17 - Date and Venue of next Delegates meeting: The next annual Delegates meeting is planned for 23 March 2013 at the White House Hotel Kegworth. This is a change of Venue to save costs but has been tried and tested by Delegates who are satisfied with the facilities.

Item 18 – AOB:

Mick Smith - Nottingham Branch: 2016 sees the 50th Anniversary of the end of hostilities in Malaysia and it is likely there will be a major celebration. Can we explore please the possibility of a major Delegation to Malaysia and funding opportunities?

ACTON: NEC.

David Neil – Tyneside Branch: Has written a Remembrance prayer and it may be suitable to be incorporated into the reunion service on Sunday 21st October?

ACTION: National Secretary.

The following issues are brought forward from the NEC meeting the previous day:

1. Future in-house Publications: NEC would continue to monitor the cost effectiveness of the Keris Magazine and Newsletter and give further consideration to reducing postage costs by electronic distribution. The next Keris will be out before the end of April to avoid postage increases at the end of the month.

ACTION: Vice Chairman.

2. NEC Members as Delegates: Concern had been expressed about NEC Members also being Delegates but the NEC consider it a way of cost saving. It was agreed that a declaration of Interest should be taken at the start of any meeting to ensure there was no conflict.

ACTION: National Secretary.

3. Dakota Burial: Details of the Dakota burial of colleagues who crashed in the Malayan jungle whilst on operations in 1950, the crash site being only recently discovered and remains recovered, are available on our website. An article also appears in the next Keris.
4. NEC is exploring the possibility of a more user friendly Membership card the size of a credit card that fits into a wallet or purse.

ACTION: Membership Secretary

5. PJM Cut-off: We were notified on Friday that the Malaysian High Commission will take no further applications for the PJM after the 30th September 2012 and so it is imperative that applications are submitted forthwith. Please advertise this.

Record approved by Chairman: 5 April 2012 and posted on website