



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA DELEGATES MEETING
Held on 9th April 2011 at Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth.

Members Present:

NEC	Lt. Col Tex Pemberton OBE (National Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman & Postal North); Ted Williams (Secretary); Ian Williams (Membership Secretary); Dick Richardson (National Treasurer); Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer); Brian Roche (NEC Member & Postal South)
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Delegates:	<u>Bridgend:</u> Clive Boyles MSM & Gillian; <u>Colchester:</u> Annie Burden; <u>Doncaster:</u> John McAulay and Dennis Collinson; <u>Grantham & District:</u> George Reeve & Ina Newton; <u>Hull & East Yorkshire:</u> Geoff Blanchard & Ken Simmonds; <u>Leicester Branch:</u> Alan Atkins & John Crossley; <u>North Yorkshire & Dales:</u> Ian Williams, <u>Nottingham Branch:</u> Ivan Glover & Mick Smith; <u>Pontypridd:</u> Brian Roche & Malcolm White; <u>Surrey Branch:</u> Deborah Lofts; <u>Tyneside Branch:</u> Harry Power & Dave Neil
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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 said this was his first Delegates meeting since taking the Chair on 11th May 2010. He also welcomed those Members attending for the first time.

Item 2 - Apologies. Apologies had been received from: Bristol & District, Carmarthen & West Wales, North Wales Branch, Durham Branch, Germany, Mid-Ulster, Northern Ireland, North Wales, North Kent/S.E. London, Plymouth & District.

Item 3 - Notes of the last Delegates meeting held at Yew Lodge Hotel on 17th April 2010. The notes, which the Chairman described as a 'best attempt record', were approved by Delegates as a 'condensed' record. There were no matters arising.

Item 4 - Delegates:

4.1 - Bridgend and District Clive Boyles:

4.1.1. Proposed that Delegates meetings be held alternately in a North and a South location to reduce travel time and encourage improved attendance opportunity.

Resolved – That the meeting next year, 2012, which could be an all Branch Secretaries Symposium, be held at the Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth, whatever the event, but that from the 2012 those gathered will set the date and venue of each future Delegates meetings. Members were encouraged to bring proposals that had been reconnoitred and costed to each of the meetings.

4.1.2. Proposed that where a Delegation travelled a return distance of more than 100 miles to a Delegates meeting, the Branch should be reimbursed £20.

Resolved - The proposal was not carried but a counter proposal that a travel contribution be made to extremity travel to one Branch per Delegates meeting mentioning Germany, Northern Ireland, and UK extremities was agreed. **Treasurer to note.**

4.1.3. A request for an update on the Alrewas Memorial was deferred to Item 10.

4.2 - Grantham Branch George Reeve:

4.2.1. Proposed that all Branches that have Standards should pay a share of the Insurance costs. Chairman explained that the insurance cost was in the region of £1400 pa and that from the renewal date (1 May 2011) only those Standards that have been registered with the National Secretary will be covered. This could bring costs down considerably (it seems that not all Branches have Standards) and ensure value for money with the insurance policy.¹

Resolved - that George Reeve of Grantham Branch bring a Notice of Motion to the 2011 AGM. **Secretary to note the requirement for NoM.**

4.3 - 1st Lincolnshire Branch David Rigley:

4.3.1. Chairman said David Rigley had given notice that he wished to speak about the annual Eden Camp event. David did not show at this meeting but it was understood the take-up was so low this year that the event would not be viable.

Resolved - that there would be no Eden Camp event arranged for 2011.

4.4 - Tyneside Branch Harry Power:

4.4.1. A proposal that had been submitted by Tyneside Branch had been resolved locally and was withdrawn without further discussion.

Item 5 - Regalia Officer: Annie Burden advised that the cost of some items of shop stock regalia had increased due to the increase cost of VAT. This applied to just four items that are purchased from UK suppliers: ties; ladies broach; key rings; car stickers.

Resolved – that the Regalia Officer will update the shop stock list on the website; send a copy to the Editor-in-Chief of Keris for the publication about to be made; and supply an updated list to the NEC at the time of preparation of each annual budget for consideration.

Item 6 - Postal Voting - Secretary: Ted Williams was in possession of the results of returns to the proposal, contained in the December Newsletter, that there should be postal voting to enable the entire membership, not just those attending the AGM, to vote on issues of policy and procedure and also for election to the NEC. The return was disappointing in that of 2200 copies of the Newsletter distributed to Members, only 122 returns were received. Of these: 62 were in favour of postal voting; 8 were in favour but not for election of NEC Officers whom they were unlikely to know; 16 were against postal voting; 36 were in favour of giving a proxy vote to the Chairman of the Association. There was some concern that this poor result may not be representative of democracy in action. Nevertheless:

¹ Subsequent to the meeting the renewal cost of the policy from 1 May 2011 is notified as being £1614.78. Details of the Policy are being studied.

Resolved – that Harry Power, who was the proponent of this proposal at the AGM, should bring a Notice of Motion to the 2011 AGM that contains a number of options: proxy voting so that those who live long distance from Coventry should not be disenfranchised; and including a possible ‘recorded card vote’ where Branches could have a green (YES) yellow (ABSTAIN) or red (NO) vote card showing the number of paid-up members in their Branches for whom they would have a mandate to vote. The status quo, whereby only the AGM attendees can vote is also an option. The present voting regulation is contained in the Constitution at Rule 10A.

Secretary to note the requirement for NoM.

Item 7 - Postal voting the ‘Which’ way. An example by the ‘Which’ magazine of postal voting was deferred to the postal voting debate at the AGM.

Item 8 – Definition of ‘Payment Date.’ This date is deemed to mean the date by which payments should be made. After lengthy discussion at the NEC meeting the previous day two principles had emerged that would require change to the Constitution: The first was that whenever the payment is made, it is a payment in advance for the following financial year (FY). The second is that the payment date should be the first day of any FY. The 3-month rule whereby payment should be made not later than 3 months *after* the ‘Payment Date’ is not affected by these changes.

Resolved - That the treasurer will bring a Notice of Motion to the 2011 AGM to change the ‘Payment Date from 1 September to 1 July annually to coincide with the revised FY agreed at the 2010 AGM. This would be effective from 1 July 2012 and mean that subscriptions paid from 1 September 2011 will be for 10 months only.

Secretary to note the requirement for NoM.

Item 9 - Approval of Budget for 2011/12. A proposed Budget for 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, only the second produced for the Association, was tabled for consideration. This is a one-off approval by a Delegates meeting due to the fact that it starts prior to the AGM gathering. All future budgets will be approved by the full AGM. It is an accepted principle that details of NMBVA finances will not be contained on our website to which the public have access and so the detail of the budget will be available to Branches and to Postal members by other means.

Resolved – Proposed by Harry Power (Tyneside), seconded by Debby Lofts (Surrey) that the draft budget laid before the Delegates meeting be accepted as the Association budget for FY 2011/12. Carried.

Item 10 - Alrewas memorial Study. The AGM 2010 gave a mandate for the Association memorial site at Alrewas to be studied for change that was considered necessary to ensure sustainability and to raise the standard of our memorial to the high quality that exists within the Alrewas site. Chas Timms, Chairman of the Surrey Branch was invited to coordinate this study and report back to the NEC with a costed proposal containing more than one option. Doing nothing is not one of these options. Part of the memorial is in a poor state of disrepair and our reputation is at stake. Chas has reported good progress, has consulted with all Branches, and hopes to be able to report to the next meeting of the NEC which is on 5 August 2011.

Resolved - That a Notice of Motion be taken to the 2011 AGM by the National Chairman/Chairman of Surrey Branch with recommendations for the ‘refurbishment’ of the Association memorial at Alrewas.

Secretary to note the requirement for NoM.

Item 11 - A Branch Secretaries Symposium. It was proposed at the 2010 AGM to hold a Branch Secretaries Symposium to benefit the understanding and modus operandi of the Association. It is further proposed that this Symposium could be part funded by the Association as a one-off either from revenue, and if necessary from an element of capitalisation, to meet the hotel B&B room cost of up to two members per Branch delegation and a buffet lunch on the day of the Symposium. It is additionally proposed that the dates and venue will be 10 March 2012 with Delegates arriving the night before. And finally it is proposed that there could be some flexing of the agreed 2011/12 approved budget to meet costs, for example reducing the number of NEC meetings by one in the FY and replacing the Delegates annual meeting with this Symposium so that outcome would be a cost-neutral benefit to the Association.

Resolved - that there is strong support for this proposal; that it should be taken to the AGM in a joint Notice of Motion by the Chairman and John McAulay, the original proponent; that the success or otherwise of the Motion will be determined by the perceived benefits and cost; that the outline Agenda will help to persuade!

Secretary to note the requirement for NoM.

Item 12 - Message sent to MNBVA colleagues in NZ at the time of the earthquake. Chairman advised Delegates of the message he had sent to our NZ colleagues which is also on our website. He had received a warm response.

Item 13 - The Not-Forgotten Association. The Association is 90 years old and offers a number of complimentary attractive outings to events such as a Palace Reception for example. Details are received by the Chairman who notifies all Branches immediately. Branches are urged to disseminate the information quickly to their members and respond to the Chairman by the deadlines set. A member of the organising staff is embarking on a UK tour of marathons to raise funds for these complimentary events and donations can be made to her via www.justgiving.com/Rosie-Thompson1 This is a most worthy cause from which our Association benefits.

Item 14 - Armed Forces Day 2011. The national weekend of celebration is this year in Edinburgh with a three-day event from 24 to 26 June, the day itself being Saturday 25th June. All Branches are probably participating in local events but the Association will be represented by the Chairman with representatives from Tyneside Branch sponsoring our stand arrangements in Edinburgh. The Chairman has asked for Members who intend to be in Edinburgh to notify him so that he in turn can notify the organisers in Edinburgh. A notice about the arrangements and accommodation opportunities is also posted on our website at www.nmbva.co.uk

Item 15 - A potted History of the NMBVA. There is a need for a potted history and the Chairman will coordinate input from a number of named and volunteer members: George Tullis (to be approached by John Crossley Leicester Branch); George Reeve (Grantham Branch); Nick Smith (Nottingham Branch) John McAulay (Doncaster Branch).

ACTION: Chairman

Item 16 - A NMBVA Christmas or Seasons Greeting Card? A proposal for an Association card was supported by the majority and the favoured design was the plain card with Association logo and ribbon with a simple message inside with 'Seasons Greetings'

ACTION: Chairman

Item 17 - Laying-up of the original NMBVA Standard. A proposal to lay-up the original Standard of the Association was made at the 2010 AGM. Westminster Abbey and St Pauls Cathedral will not accept our Standard but Coventry Cathedral have indicated they will. We are exploring arrangements to hold a service in the Cathedral on Sunday 16th October 2011 during the

annual reunion weekend. This service would replace the usual service held in the hotel and transport to the Cathedral and return will be explored. Final details will be contained in the reunion weekend papers.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 18 - Veterans Concessionary Travel Scheme (VCTS). The VCTS is available to those in receipt of a war pension or Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. It provides free travel within London on bus, underground, DLR, tram and London over ground services. Applications should be made to 0845-331-9872.

Item 19 - Recruiting for NEC. The Chairman asked for names to fill the existing two vacancies on the NEC. John McAulay (Doncaster Branch) volunteered to return to the NEC and Chairman said he would consider and consult with the NEC in accord with the Constitution.

ACTION: Chairman

Item 20 – Annual Reunion weekend 2011. The weekend will be 14 to 17 October and the Secretary gave a summary outline which covered applications via Isle of Wight Company and on website www.nmbva.co.uk. A 'pack' will be distributed to every member who gives notice to attend the Reunion weekend which will contain: the Agenda; the audited accounts for 2010/11; papers relevant to the Agenda (such as proposed revised Constitution and Notices of Motion). Packs need to be distributed also to each Branch of the Association so that they can in turn consider the business of the AGM and advise Branch members, some of whom may be attending, albeit issues may only be raised by members on behalf of themselves, not on behalf of their Branches (Constitution 9B). 'Packs' should be with all recipients at least 60 days before the date of the AGM i.e. 16 August 2011. It is possible that the Malaysian High Commissioner will be our guest of honour; the Patron is attending; there is a possibility of some Malaysian student dancers to entertain; last year's singers are also available; and we may be laying up our original Standard at a service in Coventry Cathedral.

ACTION: Secretary

Item 21 - The former Birmingham; Leeds and Bradford; Manchester Branches. The webmaster will expunge all reference, across the website, to these former Branches. The former Branches are aware the door is open to return to the fold and the Chairman has said he will attend any of their meetings to address the gatherings if that is their wish, but the Association records need to be cleansed, albeit their existence will appear in our potted history.

Item 22 - AOB.

- a. The membership Secretary gave an outline of aspiration for the possibility of raising up to four new Branches and will seek local help as necessary.

ACTION: Membership Secretary

- b. Ivan Glover of Nottingham Branch recommended the use of bcc rather than To or Cc when sending or forwarding emails. A copy of his advisory note will be circulated and placed on the website.

ACTION: Chairman

- c. John McAulay made mention of the Merdeka Day celebrations held by the Malaysian High Commission at the Tun Abdul Razak Research Centre at Brickendonbury. The date, yet to be determined, is usually in September 1000 to 1800 and more information is available at <http://www.my-omec.com/6.html>.

Item 23 - Date of Next Meeting: Delegates Meeting or Branch Secretaries Symposium at Yew Lodge Hotel Kegworth on 9/10 March 2012.

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