



**RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING**  
**Held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015**  
**Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford**

Before meeting opened Mrs Cilia Roberts Presented to the National Chairman Mr David Neil a magnificent framed NMBVA Logo done in cross stich (This must of taken hours of dedication and patience) David Neil thanked Cilia for this generous gift to the NMBVA

Meeting Opened at 09:00 hrs.

**Members Present:**

David Neil (Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary) Mr Dick Richardson (National Treasurer) Mrs Annie Burden (Webmaster & Regalia Officer) Brian Roche (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator South); Valerie Nisbet (NEC Member and Postal Coordinator North)

**ITEM:**

**Item 1 -**        **Exhortation:** Mr Malcom White (National vice Chairman)

**Item 2 -**        **Welcome by the National Chairman**  
Mr David Neil, welcomed, and thanked all members for attending saying we had to get on, because Brian's car broke down on his way to the meeting, he had shown great dedication by hiring a car, but had to get the car back today  
" Well done Brian "

**Item 3 -**        **APLOLOGIES** Clive Boyle, due to a pre-booked Holiday

**Item 4**        **Record of decisions** made at last NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Item 5        **Matters arising.** Malcolm White, reference Item 9a Possible sponsorship in the way of advertisements for both publications. With the decline in number we are losing the advantage of big numbers, therefore the cost of the publicising the Kris is increasing if we are going to keep the high standard up we are going to have to generate sponsorship

This was discussed at length and members requested to send names of any likely sponsor to the Secretary

Item6

**National Treasurers Report; Mr Dick Richardson**

Dick went over the accounts line saying that the NEC are keeping administration cost well under control, however the cost of postage will be going up, therefore would Postal coordinators and membership secretary please buy stamps in advance.

**Ted;** the cost of parading the National Standard at, the festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall did not get the exposure we had hoped for so was not worth it. This was agreed, and would not put a bid in to parade our Standers at the Festival of Remembrance 2016, as previously agreed

Item7

**Regalia Report by Mrs Annie Burden;** It's a matter of ordering i.e. we are out of little button, and the minimum order has got to be 300. Annie; we have a plenty of the larger button, but members won't always buy without the smaller buttons for the sleeves. It was agreed cost is relevantly small and we would benefit by hopefully the sale of the large buttons.

Mal White proposed and seconded by Dick Richardson that we authorise Annie to go ahead with the purchase. Carried unanimously

Item 7

**Membership Secretary Report NEC Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015**

1: Since the AGM membership as gone through a sticky patch with a drop in numbers. I have been ringing round members to try and get them to rethink their membership. A lot of the members who's telephone numbers are either not recognised or disconnect. Some who have said they would send a cheque didn't.

2: membership Figures are

- |                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| (a) Paid up members   | 1670   |
| (b) Lost touch        | 84     |
| (c) Resigned          | 24     |
| (d) Deceased          | 30-34? |
| (e) New members       |        |
| (f) Associate         | 11     |
| (g) Ordinary          | 11     |
| (h) Returning Members | 3      |

Of the 84 members that were moved to lost touch 36 were overseas members, we now only have 21 overseas members left.

3: North York's and Dales branch

Unfortunately the branch had to be dissolved because they could not get a member to volunteers to take over the role of Secretary and Treasurer. All members have now been transferred to Postal North

4: Replies from branches.

I have written to all branches where there are members who have not paid their annual subscription for 2014

The NEC thanked Bob for his report, however they are very concerned over the number of "Lost touched" mainly because we are caring association and we don't know what has befallen these members, have they moved, have they gone into a home or that great Temple in the sky

Therefore we requested Annie to put their names on our website in that hope that we will get some information on them.

Item 8 **Annual Letter to Postal members regarding subscriptions;** Ted I believe this should be a standardised incorporating some basic information  
It was agreed that that Ted should send a draft letter to both Postal coordinator for approval or alteration

Item 9 **An Association Medallion** for the Association President and Vice President. Mike is going to Malaysia for the Annual Remembrance at God's Little – Batu Gajah in his capacity as the vice President of the NMBVA , he has had a number of invitations to various functions, and the Chairman and Secretary thought only fitting that he should have some Chain of Office, and also at our reunion dinner our President should also have a chain of Office . Ted showed the emblems the Nation Chairman had produced saying once the committee agreed he would get them engraved. Member thought this a good idea and after discussion. It was suggested that names of all vice Chairman go on the medallion, Ted pointed out that this was not practical, Vice was for life and we could have more than one. The following was agreed unanimously that each Vice Chairman would receive one.

Item 11 **Progress of Plaques at new memorial** Ted issued all members with copies of letters appertaining to the project, unfortunately during verbal discussion the Arboretum appeared to be in full agreement, however when the written application was submitted to the Landscape and Memorial committee, they appeared to have changed their policy.  
However I have sent in appeal stating the following :-

The plaques will not be around the memorial, but edging the pathway to the memorial

- 1) They will only add 6 1/2 " to each side of the pathway
- 2) These we believe will enhance the pathway and add interest

- 3)  
a. We will restrict the number of plaques to a row of one each side of the path  
The additional width of 13" will make it easier and safer for wheelchair/mobility scooters.  
Including the fact that the Arboretum actively markets the sale of engraved plaques around the Chapel.

The next meeting of the Landscape and Memorial Committee is on the 22 April at which I have requested NMBVA representative

- Item 12 **Guest of Honour Reunion Dinner;** National Chairman, we are not quite there yet, but I shall keep you posted.

- Item 13 **How do we see the future of the Association?** Ted, I have had a lot of members phoning to saying that they have heard rumours that the Association is folding  
The NEC discussed this at length taking into consideration trends, number etc. while we cannot predict the future, at the moment in time we cannot see the Association folding in the foreseeable future

- Item 15 **Festival Remembrance Royal Albert Hall 2016** (It was proposed that we would mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of hostilities in Borneo by Parading the NMBVA Standard at the Festival of Remembrance 2016) This is now cancelled see item 6

- Item 16 **Progress St. Paul's David Neil**, this is moving along quite nicely. There is a meeting arranged at St. Paul's at 0930 on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, and it may be that Sir Garry will join Mal, Ted and myself at this meeting, which will be followed with a meeting at the Mansion House, we see no unsurmountable problems. David, we will have a lot more information by the next meeting, there will not be so many if's and but's so we shall allow more time.  
Guest of Honour, Secretary has already send an invitation to a member of the Royal Family

- Item 17 **Umbrella Organisation**, proposed at AGM 2014 Item 10

Setting up an umbrella organisation, to take care and look after the interest of those Veterans who's Associations have folded

The above was a proposal put before the NMBVA, at the AGM 2014 by Mr Ted Pemberton and seconded by Mr M Smith, both of Nottingham Branch. It was agreed the NEC would carry out a feasibility study and report back to members

The NEC carried out this investigation under the directions of Mr David Neil the National Chairman. A thorough investigation, analyse, interview's into all aspects was made. Note this report is only a synopsis of those findings for the NEC perusal

We approached the study from 3 directions

- a) Was there an interest from other Associations, would we get assistance from them, administration cost?
- b) What did the Veterans want? Was it really necessary?
- c) To address specific points made in Ted's presentation

While we all agreed with the sentiment behind Ted's proposal, however it appears to be a flash idea, taken from a different set of circumstances.

- 1) We contacted 10 other associations The Korean Veterans, The Scots Guards D. Day Veterans Royal Artillery Association, 15/19 Hussars Kings own Yorkshire Infantry, RAFA, Kings Own Scottish Borders, Queens Royal Hussars, Green Howards, and had a chat with many more. Some of these are what I term alive i.e. the mother organisation is still in existence, therefore getting a trickle of new members, others dormant i.e. campaign orientated membership finite and getting older. The general reaction was; who is prepared to take on a venture of this nature, it will be an administration nightmare and costly. We already have the RBL, Confederation of British Service and Ex- service organisation, Veterans UK and many more. Some thought it disrespectful to Her Majesty's Ministers to suggest that they can be cajoled, Also there would be conflicted with other association's

Conclusion: Too costly, administrate nightmare, adding yet another organisation to the hundreds already existing and would most probably become a dodo in very short time

- 2) **Veterans**; Again very little interest, most will meet up with their mates, others meet friends on a regularly in the local RBL/United Service clubs their Service/Regimental Association, others have joint other association i.e. There are two members of the Burma Star association who have joint Tyneside Branch of the NMBVA

Conclusion; all are happy that both they, and their dependants area very well cared for and do not need another organisation to take care of their welfare

- 3) **Arboretum**; Mr Ted Pemberton was very concerned that memorials who no longer have a sponsor, would be neglected and in due course be destroyed. I have a written undertaking from the Director of the Arboretum, that the trustees will maintain all memorials that no longer have a sponsor, citing the Dunkirk Veterans memorial. The letter also goes on to ensure the NEC, while they are encouraging sponsors who still have the old brick plinth type memorial to rebuild them with natural materials **they will not knock down those who no longer have a sponsor.**

- 4) **British Forces Pension Scheme.** Pensions have evolved over time, today's service man/woman start to accrue their pension the day they join. While those who do not complete 22yrs do not receive their pension until they are 60, however it is inflation proof (Compounded), and there are a lot of add-ons that the individual can take on. It is rather complicated; the

scheme depends on the date of joining. Nevertheless today's pension scheme is very good and more than comparable with the US Army. It is unrealistic to pay pensions in retrospect and financially impossible. When we signed up, we signed a contract, and in my view the service man/woman are one of the best looked after groups in the country  
*PLEASE SEE ARMED FORCES PENSION SCHEME ON THE WEB*

**Conclusion;** The above answers both questions concern Ted  
While we believe the sentiment behind the proposal was great, there are organisations already in existants, and therefore not necessary

Item 18 **Blackpool Trip** is going well, see no problems, I just hope the weather is dry

The Meeting closed at 1130hrs next meeting Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August, National Chairman, we will have lot to discuss on this meeting, therefore prepare for a long hard meeting. Thank you for attending this meeting and have a safe journey home

Minutes Approved

By National Chairman.....Date.....