



RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING
Held on Saturday 16th November 2013
Tillington Hall Stafford

Meeting Opened at 08:53 hrs.

Members Present:

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

ITEM:

Item 1 - **Exhortation:** Mr Malcolm White (National Vice- Chairman)

Item 2 - **Welcome Address;** by the National Chairman Mr David Neil, He thanked every saying we have a reasonable agenda, and hopefully it should not take too long

Item 3 - **Apologies;** Clive Boyles who is in South Arica on holiday

Item 4 **Record of decisions of meeting held on the 3rd August 2013 at the Tillington Hall Hotel.** The committee went through the minutes,

Item 5 **Matters Arising**

Ted emphasised that he had e-mailed or sent letters to every Branch regarding Item 9, appertaining to National Subscription and read the letter out, some Branches have responded positively while most have I shall write/contact all branches again, now that I have Bob's list

Chairman, please do that, **Malcolm**; suggested that Ted indicates in his letter that only fully paid up members will get copies of publications

Action by National secretary

Item 6 **Minutes of the 2013 AGM,** The committee went over the draft copy of the minutes both committee and Chairman agreed them

Item7 **Constitution** Amended by National Secretary as agreed at the 2013 AGM to bring associated member in line with Ordinary Members

This was agree

Item 8 National Treasures Report; Dick issued all members with a cash statement and went through it line by line. Ted; The Britannia account was the old St Pauls account, which we changed the name to the Memorial account some time ago, yet you talk about the Memorial Fund and the Britannia fund. Do we have two Memorial funds?

Dick: We have the Memorial Fund in the Britannia account; we also have a memorial fund within the revenue account, because of the change in procedure of subscriptions, whereby £1 of annual subscription goes into the memorial fund. Mal: can't we just transfer the monies direct to the memorial fun? No I transfer when it becomes a substantial amount direct to the Capital Account from whence we took the money to pay for the memorial. Mal: Then some of the memorial fund could go back into the capital account? Dick: This I suggest could remain static. Ted; Thank you I now understand the reason, however could you please tell us roughly what we are still outstanding on the memorial. Dickto bring us back to the original state, about £14,000. David Neil, I had a chat with Dick prior to the meeting, we have a lot of ground to makeup. I shall try those who devoted to The St Pauls fund, various suggestions were put forward.

Ted said he would try and put out more letters of appeal, but sees very little point until the new-year, because every charity that's been created are touting for donations at this time of year, and suggest that we launch our campaign in the new-year, but start preparations now

Chairman: we are aware of the problem, we have to try and get more cash in, please keep in communication through the national secretary so we do not duplicate work, or more than one tries to squeeze money out of the same donor

Item 9 Regalia Mrs Annie Burden, nothing apart from reporting that the cost postage will be going up in April, and the items we get from Pakistan I shall have to change to my name, Christmas cards, we have to reduce in price, but they are selling slowly, I brought some with me if anyone wishes to buy some.

Item 10 National Membership Secretary Report Bob Robbers

I have 2 point I should like to discuss. At the AGM, I reported that there were 274 members who have not paid this is down to 155 partly to the fact that North Wales have now paid their subs and we have had a number of resignations and lost contacts. Mal you say that North Wales have now paid, but at what rate, did they pay at £7 per head Bob; no only £4, Mal they have only partially paid Mal, do we keep a

Record on the database of those who have only partially paid, Dick and Bob said no but we make a record. Mal this is unfair, because those who only pay £4 are being subsidised by those that pay the full rate, and are not fully paid-up members, therefore should not get any publications. Could I please have a list of all those who have only paid £4 so I can contact them, Dick said and read out a copy of letter he has sent out!

Bob also pointed out that he had sent letter with names to Branch regarding member of that branch who had not paid. One response he got was "That member does not

attend branch meetings”, therefore he assumed that they were postal members of that Branch

Ted: then we should contact them, and invite them to become National postal members

Action Secretary / Membership Secretary

He has also had members contacting him saying that they have had no contact with the association for years; Bob had taken the correct action by inviting them to pay last years and this year’s subscriptions only and suggested that they transfer to postal membership

Annie requested that all mail for Colchester Branch be direct to her. Because the Branch Secretary Graham Reeves has had a stroke and is in hospital. The committee expressed their concern and request that Annie to inform the secretary of Graham’s progress and offer the family HELP IF NEEDED.

CHAIRMAN; Secretary to write a letter to those Branches who have not paid the full amount or are in arrears with subscriptions the effect that we need their help and cooperation for the NEC to serve them

Both Postal South and North do not have a problem. Brian Roche went over the procedure that he has adopted

Bob, it would appear that the National Treasurer and I are working on a different time scale regarding payments. There was a lengthy debate and it would appear that the Treasurer is working partly on a calendar year and party on a financial Year There was a long debate on this subject

The following is what was agreed

Background; Reference NEC Meeting 8th April 2011, AGM 2011 Page 8 Motion 16
NEC meeting 22nd March 2013 Page 3 Item 7

The Agreement

- 1 The finical year if from 1st July to the 30th June
- 2 Payment between July to June are for the next final year, provided the current/ previous finical has been paid for
- 3 Everyone must pay by 30th June
- 4 The National membership secretary will record the date paid and for the period covered (some membership pay well in advance) on the database
- 5 New Members will pay in accordance to the Joining instructions
Which is

6a	Upon Joining July to December	£7.00
	Initial Joining fee	£3.00
	Total	<u>£10.00</u>
	Next payment of £7 before 30 th June	

6b	Upon Joining January to June	£3.50
	Initial Joining fee	£3.00
	To cover the next finical year	£7.00
	Total	<u>£13.50</u>

Any questions on the above please contact the national Secretary

Mal provided this procedure is followed by both the National Treasurer and National Membership Secretary, it eases the load, because monies are coming in through the year, not on mass, it is also easier to ascertain when a member has failed to pay

- 11 NMBVA Standard at the Albert Hall Ted; it was suggested that it would be nice to see the MNBVA Standard parade at the annual Remembrance Service at the Albert Hall next year. Therefore he wrote to the Royal British Legion, I have had a telephone acknowledgment to the effect that it would be put on the February agenda for their meeting, which is the planning meeting for next year's Remembrance. There were various discussions who would parade it etc. Ted suggested that we leave the nitty-gritty until our application is confirmed. The Chairman remained the committee that it has been parade at the Albert Hall twice before.
- 12 National Standard Bearer Mr Mike Weller who has been the National Standard Bearer since the inauguration of the Association informed the Chairman and Secretary that he will be standing down at the next AGM due to arthritis. Debby Loft has been the Union Standard and Standing for Mike for many years and would like the opportunity to be the National Standard Bearer, therefore we are looking for a replacement to Parade the Union Flag.
Chairman I have member John Knowles who carries the Standard for the Medical corps who is out in Thailand at the moment, and has laid a wreath for the Association at the river Kwai, I shall approach John on his return, however please look around for a replacement
- 13 Appointment of Association Vice President, I propose that Mike Weller is made Vice president for 20 year service as Standard Bearer taking our Standard to many countries and parading it sometimes at very short notice in all parts of the UK and he has also served on the NEC and always put the Association first seconded by Ted Williams who will produce a résumé on Mike for the 2014 AGM
- Action Secretary
- 15 German Branch Stared off with a Bang, they had a member with a British bank account who members paid their national subscription through, however he has departed and the Branch has found difficulties in paying national subscription and have not done so for years

On its inauguration they had a meeting place in an Army Barracks, which meant they could use the NAAFI, however with the introduction of the "Veterans Badge" they have been allowed to use the NAAFI, this took a perk away and membership decreased

They all live miles apart or should I say kilometres and with advancing age and the cost of fuel escalating it's getting harder to get members to attend, the last real meeting was in April 2011

Therefore the few left have decided to close the Branch Down

The intention to lay their Standard in the old garrison church, which is now a German church

National Secretary written procedures along with some Association poppy wreaths

Bob Wortley to become an overseas member, Bob has not paid subscriptions for year, it was suggested that we ask for just one year's subscriptions and to make a donation to the Memorial Fund, this was agreed

Ted; If I could throw an observation in at this point! Overseas members, we have difficulties in getting their subscriptions from them, it's costing money to get money with the cost of sending them the Newsletter and Keris magazine we must be losing money, therefore are they worth the effort. Mal it's nice to have overseas members, what I suggest that we send them PDF copies of both publications, if they want hard copies they shall have to pay the postage

Webmaster to delete the German Branch from Branch Directory and the "Inc. Europe" to be taken of all headed paper

The NEC and the Association send thanks to Bob Worley for starting the German Branch and for his gallant effort to keep it alive at overwhelming odds

It was agreed that "Inc. Europe" be removed from all headed paper

- 16 Blackpool Ted Blackpool was quite successful last year however I don't think the Norbreack Castle was un to standard so we have got a different hotel this year the Parisienne Hotel which is only ½ mile from the centre of Blackpool and in-conjunction with IOW Torus have also made a programme out for the week at the same cost has last year Only £134 for 4 nights 5 days Bed Breakfast and dinner with a Gala Dinner on the Wednesday night and entertainment

Mal is going to put this in the newsletter it will also be put on the web, and all members will receive an application form and programme, which you all have in front of you

- 17 The international Liaison Officer Ron Blain has indicated in his report that he intends to stand-down at the next AGM, also from his the duties do not appear to be too arduous therefore I suggest that that we request Clive to undertake these duties when he return from South Africa, this was debated and agreed

Action Clive/ Ron Blain

- 18 Honorary Membership Proposed by David Neil seconded by Ted Williams that we make the High Commissioner of Malaysia an Honorary member of the Association. David said he the High Commission had supported at a number of functions and it would be advantageous to get him on our side

This was agreed

Action Secretary

- 19 Newsletter Mal; I have had no information from Branch of fore coming events However I am putting a letter together, it will cost approximately the same as last year, although there has been a decrease in numbers of copies, this has been offset by an increase in postage with a slight increase in production

Hopefully this should be going out to members 8th/ 9th December

Action Malcolm White

- 20 PJM, we had a telephone call from a members stating that he had applied for the PJM some time ago, in frustration he had phone the Defence Advisers office at the High Commission and was informed that the stop put on the issue of the PJM in September 2012 was only a pause while they cleared the backlog. Ted has written to the Defence Adviser for clarification, to date no reply, however they do take their time To quote the High Commissioner “ Administration is not one of our strong points “
Annie, we were defiantly informed that the issue of the PJM would cease in September 2012

To be followed up by Secretary

- 21 Remembrance Parade at Cenotaph David Neil it has come to my attention that the Royal British Legion in reducing the number of tickets issued to ex-service Associations next year to facilitate the issue of tickets to youth organisations. While I have admiration for the youth movement, this is primary an ex-service parade and the numbers over these past few years has increased not decreased I am told the Korea and Canal zone Association are kicking up a fuss about it. The question is do we go along with them
This was debated at length. It was agreed that this at the moment is only hearsay and we should establish the facts firstly therefore the secretary should contact the RBL to establish their intentions

Action Secretary

- 22 Postal Areas, due to the anticipated closure of branches due to members immobility to attend Branch meetings therefore an increase in Postal Membership Chairman this is probably correct and we should bear it in mind but probably a few years down the line , change's upset members therefore I suggest that we leave this until we see some movement
Mal suggested that the two coordinators discuss this problem.
Brian, I have taken over Bristol and that is Okay, however I would find difficult if I have many.
Bob, I suggested that the secretary put out a letter to all braches that if they do have members who can no long attend meeting they draw their attention to the POSTAL membership rather than lose them altogether

- 23 Ted we have to decide on the date for the next meeting, taking that we have done away with the delegates, unless we have an urgent matter, do we need three NEC meeting per year Chairman though we do need three, Mal We need one shortly after the AGM we need one about March/April and another before the AGM to tidy everything up prior to the AGM. Brian pointed out that in the last year we have cut the cost of meetings by 2/3 therefore it is not the issue it once was.
This was agreed that we should maintain three meeting per year and the next meeting to be Saturday 22nd March 2014

Any Other Business

- 24 Bob Roberts Pointed out at the last reunion dinner the was one member/guest dressed really scurfy and unfortunately he should have been asked to leave,
Ted; we have never had this problem before and in future we shall have to have a member of the NEC on the door to prevent this in the future

25 Dick Richardson; I have a printer from Tex in the back of my car which is on the association assets and I am told by Mal its too expensive to run, therefore can I write it off and gave it to a charity shop and ask for a donation to our memorial fund, This was unanimously agreed

25 Mrs Annie Burden; Fred's daughter if possible is there any possibility that a plaque could be put up at the Arboretum in the memory of Fred

Malcolm: While our memorial was being installed I noticed that other memorial had commemorated tiles around the memorial and other had tiles along the path that led up to the memorial, speaking to the stonemason at the time he said these could be in cooperated at a later date. Yesterday while at the Arboretum with Brain and Ted we noticed that these were very prolific around the area of the Church, why don't we approach the Stonemason on ideas and costing other members may be interested in purchasing a Tile/Tablet It need not be in commemoration it could just record the fact that a person was in Malaya with such a unit the possibilities are numerous, Ted all these title/plaques were the same height to keep an even edge but differed in length according to the inscription. Ted thought this a good solution because it would not interfere with grass cutting etc.

He will write and make inquiries to the feasibilities costing's and is there a better idea

Action Secretary

26 St Pauls Cathedral: David Neil I was speaking to Tex, who has never seen the NMBVA plaque and Suggested we do this next year in commemoration of out of the Association on the 1st June 2014 30th anniversary. This was discussed at length and it was agreed there is insufficient time/funds and we need to pay off the memorial cost and accumulate more funds before we can undertake this project, but there is no reason if there is another interest we could have an informal gathering at the National Memorial to mark the anniversary of our foundation

Action David Neil

27 Armed Forces Day 2014 is to be held in Stirling. Malcolm: we have no Branch near this location it would be very costly and I am not sure would benefit we reap apart from cost we have already done one in Edinburgh. It was agreed to Skip Stirling this year as many of us are involved in our local parades

There being no other business The Chairman thanked all for attending this very fruitful and wished everyone a safe journey home

Meeting Closed at 11:17hrs