



**RECORD OF DECISIONS - NMBVA NEC MEETING**  
**Held on Saturday 22nd March 2014**  
**Tillington Hall Hotel Stafford**

**Meeting Opened at 08:52 hrs.**

**Members Present:**

David Neil (Chairman); Malcolm White (Vice Chairman); Ted Williams (Secretary); Bob Roberts (Membership Secretary); 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 ) Clive Boyles (NEC Member and Post Overseas Coordinator)

**ITEM:**

**Item 1** - **Exhortation:** Mr Ted Williams (National Secretary)

**Item 2** - Welcome by the National Chairman Mr David Neil, He thanked everyone for attending, saying it's nice to see a full team, everyone appears to be getting on together and working hard for the benefit of the Association and its members

**Item 3** - **Apologies; No apologies**

**Item 4** **Record of decisions made at last NEC Meeting held at the Tillington Hall Hotel 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**No Matters arising**

**Item 5** **National Treasurers Report including the Memorial Fund: Mr Dick Richardson**

The Treasurer handed out copies of the:-

- a) Current copy of the Revenue Account 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 14 March 2014
- b) NEC and other Administration Expenditure 1<sup>st</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- c) Memorial Fund 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- d) Statement of Funds 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013 to 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- e) Proposed Budget for 2015-2016

Dick firstly went over the revenue account pointing out that they are far better than last year, during the course of the year I have managed to get those paying by standing order to increase payment per annum from £5 to £7

Ted; We have 2 memorial funds monies transferred from capital account etc., What I would like know in round figures is the total cost of the memorial including the cost of insurance annual maintenance paid in advance,

dedication etc. the amount collected/donated so we can ascertain the figure we still have to raise to cover the complete cost

Dick the Complete cost in round figures £26,000 amount raised to date £16,000 outstanding amount £10,000 Ted; we shall have a raffle at Blackpool, and AGM in aid of the memorial fund and try to get Branches focus on collecting. National Chairman; hopefully branches are still collecting, we at Tyneside are still collecting and at the end of the day, if we can put that money back it will make it a lot easier for future events. Mal the £1 levy per year should bring it down by £1,800 a year. National Chairman we shall come back to this later, because we do have other ideas, and I believe we can put this money back within 2 years

### Budgets

This year we are within Budget Discussion took place, Dick to get the account audited for presentation at the AGM 4<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Budget 2015 -2016 for approval at the AGM in 3 October 2014

Dick; I have reduced the amount we will receive from subscriptions, because I believe unfortunately we will have lost some members by then. Mal; I think we should reduce the anticipated membership figure even further, it was agreed to reduce the anticipated number of membership figures to 1,600 under the premise that it is better to work on a lower rather than a higher income, which may take us into debt. Mal also pointed out that the anticipated figure for adverts in the "Kris" would not be achieved therefore should come out. The committee went through the rest of the figures making minor alterations

Dick to get Budget revised for NEC Meeting August and for approval by the AGM 4<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Expenses Dick; we have "Done dam well" with choice of cheaper accommodation, and NEC members donating expenditure claims back to the Association, we have achieved the lowest expenditure by the NEC ever

Treasurer: The only things that concerns me at the moment is the fact that we have our memorial Fund in the is Britannia Building Society who's Parent Company is The Co-operative Bank Plc UK with the present upheaval with this Bank should we not change Banks ? This was discussed at some length and the following points were raised. 1) Our Main Bank is the Nat West, why use 2 different Banks? 2) The committee thought we are safe because the UK Government guarantees prospection up to a certain amount if a Bank/Building Society goes under.

Chairman, I believe we are safe, but will keep an eye on developments and take action if necessary

Treasurer; the problem with changing Bank is the time and the difficulty we experienced last time with signatories

*National Secretary research after meeting: Customers have a guarantee protection up to a maximum of £85,000*

### **Item 6**

**Regalia Stock & Pricing Mrs Annie Burden:** Annie went over the stock in hand; the proposed new Ladies pendant was discussed at length, we have



This was agreed

Item 9 The Kris; Malcom White Malcom explained the difficulties he had, he explained how difficult and time consuming it was to get paid adverts for the “Kris” and suggest that perhaps someone else would like to take on this task He also explained that to save money he had only sent one copy per household i.e. were there was more than one member at the same address, he only sent one copy. However on cutting down on number we had lost the price advantage on quantity

Production Cost

Printing	Qty. 175	£1690.00
----------	----------	----------

Packing & Distribution + 2 inserts	Qty. 1682	£6007.84
---------------------------------------	-----------	----------

This does not include Wives & oversea members +1584

Malcom suggest as far as possible we send copies to overseas members by e-mail

Postage	Qty. 1,584	Approx. £750.00
VAT		Approx. £150.00

Total Cost Estimate	Approx. £3,197.84
---------------------	-------------------

Cost per copy	Approx. £1.83
---------------	---------------

Ted; in my opinion the introduction of the “Keri’s” and the annual Newsletter the best innovations introduced into the association

Proposed by David Neil seconded by Ted Williams that Malcom White is given a recorded vote of thanks for producing the Kris magazine and the annual newsletter against great odds

This was approved unanimously

Item 10 Development; NMBVA Memorial Arboretum Ted; reference item 25 last NEC meeting 16 November 2013 It was suggested and agreed to investigate further the possibility of having the pathway to the Memorial lined with plaques either in memory of someone or recording the fact that you were in Malaya/ Borneo with dates unit etc. We have been in contact with the stonemason and he suggest to keep the cost down and uniformity 1) All plaques should be of the same size 2) we should have a minim of 20 prepared for installation at the same time 3) If someone request a cross on the plaque the we put a cross between the date rather than a dash. There was a lot more detailed discussion and once the costing etc. has been negotiated the secretary will pass the information via Branch and the net to all members and it will be on the AGM agenda

Item 11 National Liaison Officer. At the last AGM Mr Ron Blain, who has done an excellent job as Liaison informed the committee he would only carry on for one more year, he has had health problems. Therefore the committee set about finding a replacement, which they have done. However Ron now informs the committee that he is going to Australia and would like to go as the NMBVA International Liaison Officer therefore would like to rescind his previous decision. This was debated at length. It was decided that the

committee had recruited another volunteer for the position who is enthusiastically preparing to take over from Ron, therefore it would be unfair on Clive to reverse the decision

Item 12 Welfare, it's getting better, but there are too many members passing on without the NEC being informed, there is another little item I have experimented with, within Bridgend Branch and it has gone down really well, I have record all members Birthday dates and when they reach a mile stone 70, 80. 90th etc we send a card from all the Branches.

Item 13 Some Branches are very good at fundraising, Hull for an example, at least they are always chasing me for collection buckets/ leaflets; etc.

Item 14 Blackpool (Spring Break) This was started last year by 2 Branches wishing to meet up in Blackpool for an unofficial reunion other members Branches decided they would like to join in. This was organised within house, and although it appeared to be successful there was room for a lot of improvement. The hotel chosen on recommendation ( The Norbreck Castle Hotel) It was far too far outside Blackpool, it was too big (We got swallowed up in it) The type of catering reminded me of the old fashioned cookhouse and apart from the Gala dinner we had nothing laid on in the way of trips. Therefore this year we called in the professionals the I W O Tours. Shirley has done us well, we are booked in the Parisienne hotel, this is a smaller hotel, which means we are the predominate group at the hotel, at the hotel this week, there is full waiter service and the hotel is only ½ mile from the centre of Blackpool, there is entertainment every night also 2 excursions laid on and a Gala Dinner with wine reception. This should be a very enjoyable week

Item 15 St Pauls. 2016 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the withdrawal of the British Army from Borneo and while we still have sufficient numbers we would mark this celebration with the rededication of the Association Memorial Plaque at St Paul's and if possible lunch at the Mansion House. Chairman went over the dedication Service, which was very moving and I suggest we stick to the same script. This was followed by Lunch in the Mansion House. Ted; may I suggest that this will most probably due to age of members, be our last big event. Therefore if we can find a reasonable priced hotel why don't we make a 3 day event of it. i.e meet in the hotel on the Wednesday night and have a Gala Dinner, Thursday morning St Paul's afternoon The Mansion House, Friday Morning visit some place of interest followed by an early evening show and disperse on the Saturday

The date agreed for Sr. Paul, was Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 This being the same date, day as the initial dedication, if we hold it any later in the year prices increase dramatically. *Since then, we have been informed by St Paul's that this is her majesties 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and she may be required to lay on a commemoration service, therefore the "St Paul's committee, moved the date to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016*

There was a very small committee formed of three to start the initial approach and negotiation and keep the NEC informed, however it is envisaged that this committee will expand in number once the ground work in done

Item 16 Solent Branch Ted Williams; You, are most probably aware, that we have now got a new Branch, based at Waterlooville and they meet at the Royal Naval Association, and a very fine club this is with plenty of tradition at the same time friendly, warm and welcoming. I have rarely dealt with a more enthusiastic friendly Branch. We have also gained a Bugler. Tony Crisp is The National Bugler to The Royal Naval Association. I congratulate Bill Chttil (Branch Chairman) and Colin Barnes (Branch Secretary), for starting the Branch up in record time

David Neil; Brian, Ted and I attended one of the Branch meeting to present them with their Branch Warrant and had the privilege to be at the dedication of their Branch Standard. They gave us a very warm reception and more than generous towards the Memorial appeal

Brain Roach: The day was very well organised, and Bill, Colin and Tony took us around the Mary Rose and HMS Victory on the Sunday morning, for which we all thank them.

Bob Roberts Membership Secretary, they have 35 members already  
With more in the pipe line

Item 17 Anniversaries 2014

- 1) 1<sup>ST</sup> June the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the Association
- 2) 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "D"
- 3) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the outbreak of World War 1

Chairman threw the discussion open; It was agreed that the "D" Day and the outbreak of World War will be covered throughout the country

Ted; I appreciate that we do not have a lot of money, but I feel due to the inevitable demise of the Association, we should mark the anniversary of the formation of the association, with either a small gathering and the Association Plaque at St Paul's, but I suggest a suggest a small service at our splendid Memorial at the Arboretum.

Mal: A small service at the Arboretum, without the hire of Chapel or Marquee's it will not cost much and it will be a day out for members  
It was agreed a service at the Memorial with Standards, would be appropriate

Item 18 Guest of Honour for 2014 Reunion Dinner Various suggestions were made, but none agreed upon. Ted; suggested that we look around for a Malaya businessman in the UK, this may have some advantages  
National we are getting nowhere, put forward that you leave this to Ted and I, and we shall report Back, This was agreed

Item 19 National Standard Bearer. David Neil: Mr Mike Weller is standing down as National Standard Bearer. I am pleased to announce that Debby Loft will take over as the National Standard Bearer and John Knowles (Tyneside Branch who is a RBL Standard Bearer) will take over the duties of the Union Flag Bearer

Item 24 We had 2 places for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Italian campaign we have now have 2 more additional places with the promise that if any other places become available I will be notified.

Item 25 Any Other Business

Aob1 Ted: I send out draft copies of minutes/agendas asking for comments etc., but I very rarely get a reply, therefore I am not even sure you have received the communication therefore acknowledgement would be appreciated

Aob2 Bob: I note that at the reception they have a number of various association shields/plaques, why can't we present them with one. Ted we could, but only if we receive good service. Mal: OK than let us anticipate a good AGM, have a shield ready, but only present if we are happy with the rooms, food, service etc.

Aob3 Clive Boyles, I took over the overseas membership paper work from Ron Blain, I have 72 Members paid up members. He went through various problems and uncertainties he was experiencing, and not sure when they were last contacted. Secretary suggested that Clive sends an e-mail to all members introducing himself and seek advice from either Bob, Dick or any other members of the NEC

Aob4 Dick Richards, regarding what Ted Said, we should always send acknowledgment between the NEC for communications received

Abo5 Clive informed the committee that he was going to Malaysia and shall be taking part in a number of parades/ceremonies. He'll is also having one of the NMBVA shields suitably inscribed and present to a General form the association. Mal requested Clive to take photos with notes i.e. names, events, dates etc for inclusion in next years "Kris"

Closing of meeting

National Chairman David Neil

I should like to thank all for coming. I am pleased with the way the committee is working as a team. Thank you for your dedication and time you devote to the association. I have never known the NEC work so smoothly, Thank you all

Meeting closed at 11:59hrs

Next Meeting 09:00hrs Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2014 same venue