

Submariners Association

Recognised by the Ministry of Defence
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NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE (Unconfirmed)

Held in the
Imperial Hotel, Blackpool On

Saturday 23rd April 2016

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Conference, then gave a safety talk with particular reference to emergency exits and reminded those assembled of the 'No Alcohol' rule for the Conference and they were requested to remove any drinks that might be present. He then reminded those attending that only one delegate per Branch was permitted to sit in the front sections of the seating arrangements and that all the Observers should be located in the rear sections. He then advised the Observers that they were not permitted to take part in the debate but had a useful role in assisting their delegates to accurately report back to their branches what went on during Conference. The Chairman then requested the delegates to make themselves known and following a count by the Tellers a total of 33 Delegates were found to be in attendance. Prior to the Roll Call the Chairman took the opportunity to inform the assembled that the rules for debate would be explained at the appropriate time, however a Delegate wishing to speak should raise their hand and when asked to stand should clearly state their name and Branch for the benefit of the National Secretary who was recording the proceedings.

ROLL CALL National Management Committee:

Present	Absent
Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE (President)	Mr Ray Gritt (Vice President)
Rear Admiral Niall SR Kilgour CB (President elect)	Rear Admiral Tony Whetstone CB (Vice President)
Cmdr. Bob Seaward OBE (Vice President)	Mr Frank Pas (Committee)
Mr Rick Elrick (Vice President)	Mr Andrew Jeffrey (Committee)
Mr Dave Barlow (Vice President)	
Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)	
Mr John Wood (Vice Chairman)	
Mr Nigel Mellor (Secretary)	
Mr Ian Atkinson (Treasurer)	
Mr Keith Bishop (Membership Secretary)	
Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Committee & Parade Marshal)	
Mr Chris Freeth (Committee)	
Mr Stuart Brown (Committee)	
Mr Frank Powell (Committee)	

Branches Represented:

Australia (proxy)	Medway Towns
Barrow-in-Furness	Morecambe Bay
Bath	New Zealand (proxy)
Birmingham	North East
Blackpool & Fylde	North Staffs
Blyth & Wansbeck	Northern Ireland
Brierley Hill	Nottingham
Dolphin	Plymouth
Dorset	Portsmouth
East Kent	Scottish
Eastern States(proxy)	Sheffield
Essex	Sunderland
Exeter	Wales
Gosport	West of Scotland
Hull	West Riding
Leicester & Rutland	Beds & Herts (non-voting delegate)
Lincoln	
Manchester	

Total number of Branches represented = 33

Mr Ian Atkinson (National Treasurer) confirmed that all who attended were in date with their annual subscriptions.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following members of the NMC:

Rear Admiral Tony Whetstone CB, Mr Ray Gritt, (Vice Presidents) and Mr Frank Pas and Mr Andrew Jeffrey (Committee members)

Apologies were received from the following branches (16):

Basingstoke	Middlesex
Beds and Herts	Peterborough
Bridlington	Poole and district
Cheltenham	Royal Berkshire
Colchester	South Kent
Derbyshire	Southampton
Gatwick	Sussex
Indalo	Vectis

Five branches did not have the courtesy to respond. These Branches are: Shropshire, Teesside, Merseyside, Burton. And Taunton

3. DEPARTED SUBMARINERS

The meeting stood to observe one-minute silence in memory of those members of the Association and indeed all submariners who had Crossed the Bar in the preceding years.

4. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President's Address to The SA Conference 23rd April 2016

Vice Presidents, Chairman, Members of the NMC, Delegates, Fellow Submariners,

Good morning it is lovely to see you all on this glorious day. Let's see if we can speed through this morning and get out on the beach in our bather! I'm sure all of you would like to thank Iain Mackenzie and his team, I know Dave Barlow helped out a lot this time, it's a great hotel, great food and I think everyone is happy with the situation.

I would also like to thank Stuart Brown of the NMC because Stuart is very generously helping to meet the costs of the port and wine at the meal this evening. Thank you very much Stuart.

Just before I go on to the main part of my address let's just wish Ray Gritt a speedy recovery. Ray has been ill lately but is now back home so hopefully that will help in the process of recovery.

I would like to thank all on the NMC for all that you have done and will have more to say about them later in my talk. Right now I just want to say how pleased I am to see Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour here today - no broken legs and looking fit and well! So welcome Niall to the SA although I am not quite sure when the official hand-over comes into force but I'm sure Jim will tell us!

Niall's and my careers have intertwined over many years. Not just in Submarines! I was captain of the 6th Fleet Squadron when I handed it over to Niall back in about 1994 and of course he was FOSM after me with just Bob Stevens in between us. Those of you with long memories will recall the Niall came and spoke at the dinner in 'Drake when he was FOSM and it was at that point you all came up to me and said "You've got to get him as your relief!" What we didn't realise at that time is that he was going off to do a proper job when he left the Navy!

It was 14 years ago in March 2002 when Tony Whetstone passed the baton to me at the Nautical Club in Birmingham and much has changed over the years since then. I'm not going to go through it all now but if you remember then it was "men only" Reunions, then we had the dreaded split dinners, then we had the rising wall in the Adelphi Hotel, we tried all sorts of thing like having two Reunions a year. I think we have now come to a really good conclusion. Having a mixed Reunion tying it in with the Conference seems to be working well and we have a good number of Delegates here today. Not just Delegates but in fact a great number of people and a good hotel. The other thing I am quite proud about during my Presidency is introducing the Presidents Certificate of Appreciation. Every person I have given it to has died!!! Except Roy James! It's a small token but I hope my successor will carry on with that. I have always gone to the presentations and the branches make a massive effort to make the recipient feel good and worthy. So if you do think you know someone who deserves the award keep sending the names into the Chairman and each one will be discussed by the Vice Presidents Committee and the NMC.

What is the SA about? What is it that we do? Here we are - the Submariners Association - why do we all do this? What's our aim? There are three things I want to pick out;

1 - **At Branch Level:** Branch level is really the heart of the SA. You look after the submariners in your area and as they get older I hope you continue to look after them even when they stop coming regularly to your meetings. I know that in my branch, Leicester, widows are still looked after when our members have passed on and I think that community spirit, people not left to die lonely, is vital. Branch level is so very very important. The single most important thing we do!

2 - **The Embankment Parade:** In the 14 years that I have been President this has gone from almost tottering on its last legs to over 400 people attending! It has really gone from strength to strength and we even had Prince William there last year! I really do commend it to you. Take it back to your branches, if you are not a branch which normally attends, please give it a go. It is really a good parade now. Prince William was so good this November, we had the 94-year-old, wheelchair-bound, widow of the captain of the Submarine Untamed (he is still resting within his submarine at the bottom of the Clyde) and Prince William went down on his haunches and spoke to her eye-to-eye for about five minutes. That is just worth a million dollars!! That woman is going to go to her grave knowing that someone from very high authority really appreciated the sacrifice she made all those years ago. I DO think the Embankment Parade is very important, Sadly, Boris Johnston doesn't!! He has put his retched bicycle track right in front of our Memorial! So it is virtually impossible for us to hold our Service in front of our Memorial now. Luckily our Patron, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce is a member of Middle Temple and they have a large grassy courtyard surrounded by buildings with a natural spot to place our drum-head alter and lay our wreaths. It is literally right across the road from our Memorial. So that will continue! I have to say that Jim and his team including John Wood negotiated an amazingly good deal with Middle Temple. If I tell you that it was at least 1/3 of the normal charge that will give you an idea of how much they knocked the price down. It is a cost but I think it is a vital part of what we do and I really get quite moved when the names of the 167 submarines lost are read out. There is a BUT.....

Branches ceding from the Association leaving the National Association and renaming their branch something else, Submariners UK or such. That's fine for them but that will stop us doing the Embankment Parade because we won't have the money, we won't have the people and we won't have the organization. So please, if your branch is one for ceding from the Union, that's fine, their better off but the community of Submariners is considerably worse off. So please do try and nip that one in the bud if it is starting in your branch. If you do cede then we might as well pack up and go home and that would be a shame after all these years.

3 - **Reunions:** this is the third thing that we do and it is another thing that will collapse if people just leave the Association. Reunions are vitally important. So many people enjoying themselves, meeting old mates and having a great time. If too many people leave the Association, we will no longer have the ability to organize such events. So please let's keep the Association together otherwise we will lose the one thing we all enjoy.

I have one more BLEAT! I hope it is none of you but you can take it back to your branch. I HATE the use of Social Media to impugn the members of the NMC and they are doing it anonymously which I think is despicable! If you have a problem - air it openly with your name at the bottom of it! There has been some stuff on Face Book saying the NMC are running away with all the money, making themselves rich etc. Let me tell you, for the 14 years I have been your President I have very rarely asked for expenses, it has cost me a lot of time and money over the period which I have thoroughly enjoyed and wanted to do. But it doesn't encourage you to do it when there are idiots putting that sort of thing about, impugning my character and Jim's character and Nigel's character. It is disgraceful and it's just not right. So if you know who it is please do all you can to stop them because I just think that it is awful. I know it's the way the country is going and I just find it awful. We even have the Prime Minister putting out his tax return!! But that is not us! The crème de la crème of the country. Please bring it to an end.

End of bleat!!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 14 years as your President and I'm sure Admiral Kilgour will as well. You are a great bunch and we have had such fun over the years. I was just wondering if we could get the Bruges ferry thing going again! And we have not been to Ireland for a wee while so there are lots of things we can do to cheer ourselves up!!

I hope you have a good Conference, be polite to each other, don't use swear words, don't resort to personal abuse and no fisticuffs!!

Thank you all very much.

6. **MINUTES OF THE 2015 NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

The Chairman commented that the Minutes from the 2015 NCC were long and as customary he would ask that we do not go through them item by item, if this was acceptable could someone Propose them to be an accurate account of the meeting

A Delegate interrupted and stated: he felt these were not a true record of the meeting, in that a statement from the Merseyside delegate raised the question "did the proposed increase apply to overseas members?", the Chairman had stated that it was good point, and that the NMC will get back to you. Therefore, it is not a true record.

Chairman -we are getting back to you, a Recommendation from the NMC before you today is that this matter be addressed.

At this point Mr Bowyer (New Zealand Branch Proxy) asked that the member who had raised the question please stand again and introduce himself and his branch.

The gent stood and identified himself as Mr Pitkeithly-Plymouth branch.

The Chairman asked if this addressed the matter and the Plymouth rep stated " partly". The delegates were then asked if there was a Proposer and Seconder for these Minutes

Proposed by John Erskine – Northern Ireland Branch.

Seconded by Les Catlin – Gosport Branch

The Chairman then asked for a show of hands to confirm that the Minutes are a true and accurate record of the 2014 National Council Conference.

FOR: 30 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 3

Motion Carried The Minutes of the NCC 2015 are now CONFIRMED.

7. **ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

There were two actions from the 2015 Minutes.

A) To increase the subs, as agreed at the conference, please note that the NMC raised the issue and it was debated, please note the NMC did not vote on this but took the flack for it.

B) To ratify Keith Bishop in the post of National Membership Secretary, this has also been done.

8. The post of National Secretary

To ratify Nigel Mellor in the post of national secretary, the chairman explained the background to this matter and Nigel was asked to leave the room whilst the matter was debated.

Following a brief discussion during which Paul Ellis (Nottingham Branch) commented that the time taken by the Secretary to issue Obituary notices to all branches sometimes took too long. It was agreed that Keith Bishop would ensure that this was corrected in future.

The motion was Proposed by: Andy Kirk-East Kent-Branch

Seconded by: John Erskine Northern Ireland Branch that Nigel Mellor be ratified in the post of National Secretary

FOR: 33 AGAINST: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

It was at this point that the Chairman established that there were in fact only 33 voting delegates present, and that a member was sitting in the wrong place in spite of all the instructions at the start of the meeting!

9. OFFICERS REPORTS

Secretary

Firstly, gents, I must send the National Web Master's apologies for no slides at this year's conference. He has at short notice had to visit his mother who is not very well, and I am sure you will all join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

Thank you all for accepting me into this post, I will hopefully continue to provide the information we all need as we go through the year. I must apologize if some of the information you receive is felt not necessary, I filter most information however some branches may feel it not applicable, please feel free to delete, I am available to answer questions if required and can be contacted by phone or email. And finally thanks to Ian Vickers (Manchester Branch) for providing the recording equipment for this meeting.

Questions for secretary

Roy Dixon Eastern States Australia Proxy- can I assume that Nigel will be assisted in the minute taking by Joan Fraser.

Chairman- it is with some regret that Joan has dropped off the radar, as since we have moved venues for meetings she has not been able to attend. She is available if required for complicated minutes.

Treasurer.

Good morning gents, when I took over as National Treasurer, this was what the accounts looked like, (Ian held one piece of A4 paper) a brief description was given and delegates accepted and agreed the report with very few questions and NO COMPLAINTS. The accounts were audited by association members at no cost to the association. And I went home as quite a happy bunny. Now it looks like this - a six-page report. And it broke down everything.

Ian noticed a hand raised from one of the delegates and asked if he could wait until he had finished his speech and then ask any questions, Ian looked at the chair for guidance.

The Chairman asked the delegate what he wanted to say.

He identified himself as Mr. Pitkeithly-Plymouth branch- and stated "point of order Mr Chairman the Rules and Constitution, namely clause 9 para 9 item 4 state that he should arrange for an independent audit of his accounts immediately after the end of the financial year, and shall provide a certified statement of the accounts for all branches no later than 4 weeks before the National Council Conference i.e. today. 4 weeks we only got these today, that leaves the membership no time to look through these.

Ian responded with the following statement- In January when I complete the reports this same report goes out to all branches and it states it is the un-audited and the audited report will be presented at conference. That has happened every single year, I have been Treasurer, your branch should have received these, can you let me know if your branch did receive them Mr. Pitkeithly said No he believed not

Treasurer - you should have received that in January, I send that out to all branches so that all branches can discuss the accounts, prior to attending Conference and at Conference they get the audited accounts. our accounts are not audited, a set of audited accounts from an independent accounts firm would cost several thousand pounds because the subs are the way they are we cannot afford that. Now to be particularly correct our accounts are not audited an audit from an accountancy firm would cost several thousand pounds, and because our subs are what they are we cannot afford that. So what we get from an accountant is a set of certified accounts, which is certified by an accountant. This comes from all the figures, bills receipts and information I provide to the accountant.

Now that happened up till this year and because of all the flack that has happened this year, I have sent the accounts over to an accountant the financial statement you have is the one that has come from the accountant.

The complaints about the "Subs" Increase continue unabated, despite the fact that it was agreed with a healthy majority at last year's conference. I want therefore to re-iterate some previous facts. The last subs increase was an

increase of £5-00(100%) and the reason for this was that we were going to be burdened with expenses beyond our control (Embankment charges by the City of London and the policing costs for traffic Control) the increase was agreed with a good majority of delegates. Later in the year we were informed that the threatened increases were NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.

The NMC in light of this information, and acting in the best interests of the association made (in my Opinion) a wrong decision by reducing the subs to £7-50. for those who like percentages, this reduced the increase from 100% to 50%. If the subs had remained at £10-00 the latest increase to £15-00(which, by the way was very necessary as we were losing money, running at a loss, if we did not have a £4,000 donation from a charity we would run at a loss.) would again, for those who like percentages be 50% rather than the 100%. This should be food for thought gentlemen.

Moving on, I have endeavoured to provide more detailed information, and this has been achieved by, firstly purchasing a commercial book-keeping package, which the Membership Secretary and myself have spent a great deal of time setting up and adapting for use by the Association.

- Year on year more detailed information has been produced and a balance sheet and profit/loss account replaced the former income/expenditure account
- Along with this increase in information came more queries lodged about the accounts, most of them directed towards NMC expenses
- Unfortunately, a minority of members/Branches took to social media websites to lodge attacks and accusations on both the NMC and the Treasurer. These accusations varied from mismanagement of funds to free loading of the hierarchy, and demands for individual details of NMC expenses.
- Since last conference these spurious claims have led me to take the following action during the year--
 1. Open letter to the membership
 2. Producing a monthly report of financial affairs.
 3. Producing a breakdown of committee member's individual expenses for each meeting (demanded by a branch who have yet to acknowledge receipt)
 4. To get the accounts checked and verified by a certified firm of accountants
 5. Please note a copy of the accounts duly certified by a certified firm of accountants has been made available to every branch delegate, who is present today, along with a full breakdown of individual NMC expenses for every meeting attended during the year.
 6. New bank account opened to separate conference/reunion costs from main bank account.

The accounts 2016 document supplied is broke down as follows

Page 2 refers to "Unaudited Accounts" a full audit would cost several thousand pounds and has various legalities attached which do not apply in our case. When we state that our accounts have been audited we should be saying---- "These accounts have been checked and certified from all account information supplied by the Treasurer"

Page three and six are the accountant's certification of the accounts.

The profit and loss accounts pages 10-14 are

1. All three accounts together
2. Main business account
3. Blue plaque account
4. Submariners reunion account.

These accounts have been produced from all receipts/outgoings and information provided to the accountancy firm by myself as Association Treasurer and have been certified as shown in the document of which each delegate should have a copy. I will pick out relevant points for explanation if necessary and answer any questions at the end of my report. You should note that an accountant has to comply with various legal rules and regulations. In order to produce certified accounts. And you should also note this provides LESS information than I provided in previous years!

During the presentation the Plymouth delegate asked a number of questions, not necessarily at the correct time, these were answered by the top table. (at this stage a full transcript is not available) it has been reduced to a precis. A point was made in relation to the rules and constitution, about the wording of audited and unaudited accounts, it was believed a change of wording was required and this could be done, all delegates were asked if there was anyone against the change of wording, there was no delegate against this and it will be listed as an action,

Action for when the next change of rules takes place.to change the wording from un-audited and audited accounts to not-certified and certified accounts.

I have to say that I have never had to produce such detailed accounts as has been produced this year and previously, and had hoped that they would prevent further demands for what I consider as unnecessary information. I have therefore reached the conclusion after seeing some of this year's proposals, that there is a lack of confidence in my accounts, and am resigning forthwith.

With the chairman's permission I shall hope to be responding to the Merseyside proposal at the appropriate time.

This concludes my annual report for 2015

Ian Atkinson.

National Treasurer

PMN_ following a vote of appreciation and a chat from the president, chairman and a lot of assembled members Ian has withdrawn his resignation and WILL CONTINUE IN THE POST OF NATIONAL TREASURER.

Membership Secretary-

Keith Bishop gave a breakdown of last year's members and the total is 1,944 as at 31st December 2015 this is made up

133 new members

26 re-joining the association.

41 crossed the bar

122 lapsed members

20 resigned

Whilst it would appear a lot of lapsed members this is mainly from serving members who joined and then get posted to sea and we lose track of them for a time.

One question, which is more of a statement, Ian Vickers (Manchester Branch) in that a member of the Manchester branch has recently turned 100, he has formed a new club, aptly called the 100 club, to which he is the only member at this time, but hopes for more to join

10-Proposals and recommendations for conference.

Before proceeding the Chairman outlined the rules for the debate as follows:

The Chairman will read the Motion and then invite the proposing Branch to confirm that he has a Seconder for the Proposal and will then ask the Proposer to make his Proposal, following which he will invite the Seconder to make his contribution to the Proposal. He will then open the Debate to the Delegates. A Delegate wishing to speak should raise his hand and wait to be called to speak; each Delegate may speak only once and the Chairman has the right to curtail a speaker if he is going on too long or if he is being repetitive. When all Delegates who wish to have spoken, the Proposer will be asked to conclude the Debate and then a vote will be taken. In the event of a tie the Chairman has the casting vote in accordance with Clause 5(d) of the Rules and Constitution.

Are there any questions from the floor before we proceed?

Proposal 1

Proposed by: Sunderland Branch Seconded by: North-East branch.

We propose that a member of the Association may apply for a suspension/waiver of the annual subscription due to the criteria agreed by the NCC; the Membership Secretary be empowered to waive said subscription for the annum in question, such waiver to be reviewed at a later date.

Background Information

Members that may be considered for the suspension/waiver of subscriptions may include

- World War 2 Veterans
- Members that find themselves unemployed
- Members of an age where they are unable to pay and are in full-time Care.
- Members that find themselves down on their luck.

Applications should be passed to the National Membership Secretary via the Branch Secretary on individuals wishing to become beneficiaries. As we feel it would be wrong for a member to leave the association only because of their inability to pay subscriptions that annum.

Note: In addition to the Background Information given above it may be helpful if the following points are taken into consideration before making a decision as to whether to support this proposal or not.

The criteria in the first instance WWII Veterans is a simple matter to determine and is unambiguous.

Unemployed? What if this is due to Voluntary Redundancy which usually comes with a sizable financial settlement?

What about retirement is that different?

I have a family member who is in permanent care and has more money in the bank than I have. I know this to be a fact because I am his Guardian!

Down on his luck? What exactly does that mean?

Who and how would we means test the applicants for this waiver?

Is this really a practical and workable Proposal?

The Chairman then asked the proposer to speak,

Brian Turns- (Sunderland branch)- Gave precis of the proposal and the reasoning behind this and sought the conferences comments and decision.

Secoder Craig weir (North east Branch) – Reiterated the proposal and wanted to put the emphasis on the main word MAY approach National.

The Chairman then opened the Debate by asking, “Did anyone wish to comment on this Proposal?”

Bill Payne (Essex Branch)- Stated that his branch was in a bit of a quandary about the proposal in general they agreed about WW2 veterans, but were unclear about the levels of disadvantage

Brian Tate (West of Scotland) They think that to implement and monitor this at national level would be impossible, the criteria is easily interpretable such as our WW2 veterans and believes it should stay at branch level this would give more confidentiality in such matters. He explained how the West of Scotland branch deal with these such matters.

John Erskine (Northern Ireland) They had discussed at depth the matter and they have a couple of WW2 veterans who have stated that just because they served in the Second World War did not want to have their subs paid, they suggested that a branch could make this person an Honorary member and leave it at branch level to deal.

Pat Langdon (Exeter Branch) We have discussed this matter and agreed unanimously agreed we would not support this motion. Main reason we feel it could be dealt with at branch level.

Mark Pugh (West Riding Branch) we have discussed this matter and also suggested honorary membership at branch level and may want to discuss this issue later at national level.

Proposer-Brian Turns in closing stated he has welcomed the debate and felt this proposal was more of a matter for smaller Branches

Chairman: Obviously everyone who had wished to speak had now spoken so they would now put the Proposal to the vote. He reminded the Delegates that because it had no impact on the Rules and Constitution it could be carried on a simple majority vote.

FOR: 9 AGAINST: 23 ABSTENTIONS: 1 Motion Failed

Proposal No.2

Proposed by: Barrow Branch

Secoded by: Morecambe bay Branch

We propose that the NMC should ensure that the total costs of the Submarine Memorial Parade and associated activities is limited to 40 % of the current year’s subscriptions.

Background Information

This we feel this would require the NMC to fully account for the Submarine Memorial Parade cost and any associated expenses such that they are clearly identified for the membership to peruse.

It should also mean that should the costs rise the NMC would be required to seek alternative means of funding the event.

Note: The full cost of the Service of Remembrance is documented in the Association Accounts (as are all expenses incurred) and is available for all to peruse and scrutinise. This has always been the case.

The chairman then asked the proposer to speak,

Alan Hosking's (Barrow Branch) Gave a precis on why the branch were putting this proposal together and went through several facts already covered in the financial statements.

Seconder Craig Fairbrother (Morecambe Bay Branch) gave a short statement about the proposal and seconded what has been said.

The Chairman then opened the Debate by asking, "Did anyone wish to comment on this Proposal?"

Les Catlin (Gosport Branch) we have discussed this at our branch meetings and can't see what help a ceiling will be to the accountability of the event.

Bruce Bodio (Bath Branch). We at our branch have discussed this and feel there should be no ceiling set

Pat Langdon (Exeter Branch) we also have discussed this at length, no ceiling, but believe we could seek external help, but believe the committee is probably doing this already.

Brian Turns (Sunderland Branch) asked if it was feasible to restart the National Raffle, Chairman gave response, that it was costing money hence the reason for stopping.

Brian Tate (West of Scotland) feels it is completely unworkable and feels it cannot guarantee the costings, we must not let it take away anything from the occasion

John Erskine (Northern Ireland) stated why appoint the members of the NMC, to do this and why should we tie their hands, and feet together, nothing should stop the Act of Remembrance in November.

Michael Pitkeithly (Plymouth) asked if the MOD did contribute anything towards the event. Chairman explained that the Royal Marine band, the cost of all the serving Submariners is met by MOD and no cost to the Association.

Alan Hosking's (Barrow Branch) gave a closing summary of this proposal.

Chairman: Obviously everyone who had wished to speak had now spoken so they would now put the Proposal to the vote. He reminded the Delegates that because it had no impact on the Rules and Constitution it could be carried on a simple majority vote.

FOR: 9 AGAINST: 23 ABSTENTIONS: 1 Motion Failed

Proposal No.3

Proposed by: Merseyside Branch

Seconded by: Plymouth Branch

It is proposed that the NMC (Treasurer) makes available, within one month of the NCC meeting, a breakdown of the NMC Expenditure to the members of the Association. This should be a comprehensive and detailed account and should show increases in expenditure from the previous year i.e. train fares, hotel costs etc.

Background Information

Due to no Delegate from the Proposing branch present at the Conference, the proposal was unable to progress

Proposal No.4

Proposed by: Plymouth Branch

Seconded by: Merseyside Branch

It is proposed that the existing system of One Branch one vote, be changed to and replaced with One Member One Vote. In doing so we believe this would ensure that a fair and democratic result being achieved in all future Ballots held by the association

Background Information

Due to no Seconder present the proposal was unable to progress.

Proposal No.5

Proposed by: Dolphin Branch

Seconded by: Medway towns Branch

The Dolphin branch proposes that an additional paragraph, 5(f) (a) be added to Clause 5 (f) of the Rules & Constitution;

Existing Clause 5(f): The cost of all National Council Conference meetings, and National Council members' approved travel expenses shall be a charge against the funds of the Association.

Proposed addition: 5(f)(a) Where the Conference and a Reunion are held at the same place and time, travel expenses of National Council members who are attending the Reunion cannot be a charge against the funds of the Association.

Background Information

The major conference expense is travel expenses for council members and last year was over £2,000.

It is unreasonable for the Association to pay travelling expenses for council members who will be attending the reunion anyway.

The Chairman then asked the proposer to speak,

Keith Willifer (Dolphin Branch) spoke about the proposal and gave a brief precis into why the branch had suggested this Proposal.

Secunder- Charlie Pilbeam (Medway Towns Branch) the branch has asked me to second this proposal.

The Chairman then opened the Debate by asking, "Did anyone wish to comment on this Proposal?".

John Erskine (Northern Ireland Branch) agreed with proposal and felt it would be unfair if a group of people travelled to the weekend and one could claim his travel expenses for attending this 2-hour meeting, whilst the rest of his group could not claim.

Les Catlin (Gosport Branch) felt that the inducement of having the travel expenses paid for a branch to send a delegate may appeal, but not all branches take up this as we can see by the numbers present.

Brian Tate (West of Scotland Branch), believes we must ensure the safeguard of the delegates that attend the conference.

David Heap (Dorset Branch) As travel expenses rise dependant on the venue of the conference more people may claim, and they are entitled to do so

Chairman: Obviously everyone who had wished to speak had now spoken so they would now put the Proposal to the vote. He reminded the Delegates that because it had impact on the Rules and Constitution it would need a two-thirds majority. To be carried

FOR: 22 AGAINST: 9 ABSTENTIONS 0 with 33 members present this achieved a 2/3 majority and was passed

Action: - The rules and constitution will be amended accordingly

The Chairman again read out the rules of Debate as they are different for a Recommendation. The difference being that a Proposer may amend the wording of the Recommendation as long as it still reflected the intent of the original Recommendation. When the final wording is agreed Delegates must first vote on the final Recommendation and make it a Proposal prior to debating.

We are voting to turn this Recommendation into a Proposal

Recommendation

The National Management Committee will recommend:

"Members of the Association who are permanently non-UK residents should pay a reduced Annual Subscription. The amount recommended is 1/3 of the in -place Subscription, and that the Submariners Association Rules & Constitution, Clause 4, be amended to accurately reflect this decision."

Background Information After representations from our overseas branches and detailed discussions within the NMC, it is believed that this reduction in annual subscriptions is appropriate. It is within the remit of delegates to change the recommended level of payment should they wish to do so, within the Rules of Debate.

Do we have a branch that will propose this?

Les Catlin (Gosport Branch) proposed this

Roy Dixon (Eastern States of Australia Branch Proxy) seconded this

John Erskine (Northern Ireland Branch) asked for an amendment to the wording due to a technicality over the term United Kingdom, and it was agreed that the change to the recommendation should now read "**Members of the Association that permanently reside outside the British Isles should pay a reduced annual subscription**". A vote was taken to turn this Recommendation into a Proposal that can be debated took place

FOR: 29 AGAINST: 3 ABSTENTIONS 0

This proposal will now be debated following the rules of debate.

Les Catlin (Gosport Branch) Proposer said that it was quite reasonable to agree this amount and was only right and proper.

Roy Dixon (Eastern States of Australia Branch) stated the Branch felt it a serious matter and almost to a man they had suggested that they would leave the association, if this proposal was not passed.

The Chairman then opened the Debate by asking, "Did anyone wish to comment on this Proposal?"

Baz Bodio (Bath Branch) stated that his Branch felt that everybody should pay the same dues.

John Horton (Lincoln Branch) stated that the Branch was unable to support this proposal as they felt it was somewhat unfair that the cost of living is lower in Spain, and that travel expenses for some Spanish members could be cheaper than a UK member.

Andy Kirk (East Kent) feels that this proposal should not be accepted as all members should pay the same fee.

Ron Gordon (Western Australia) Disagrees with previous speaker about costs and agrees it should be 1/3 of the UK members price.

Bill Rayner (Essex Branch) the overseas branches should pay the same fee as uk, as they still have the umbrella of the Association.

Andrew Morgan (Wales) some consideration should be given to the fact that some overseas Branches have to not only pay our membership fee, but have to pay the Australian submarine assoc fees, so they have to pay double dues, we support this proposal.

Baz Bowyer (New Zealand Branch Proxy) if someone from New Zealand branch wished to attend the Conference only. Would the Association be willing to pay his air fare claim?

Chairman's response. That would have to be an issue that would need clarification if that occurs.

Keith Bishop the Membership Secretary, gave an update to branch members not including Indalo Spain,
Western Australia 38
Eastern states 50
New Zealand 19

Chairman: Obviously everyone who had wished to speak had now spoken so they would now put the Proposal to the vote. He reminded the Delegates that because it had impact on the Rules and Constitution it would need a two-thirds majority. To be carried

FOR: 26 AGAINST: 6 ABSTENTIONS 0 with 33 members present this achieved a 2/3 majority and was passed

Action- Rules and constitution to be amended to show change

11- **APPOINT A BRANCH TO PROPOSE THE 2017 REUNION TOAST** “To the Submarine service “ by rota this will be the Exeter Branch.

Pat Langdon (Exeter Branch) responded on behalf of the Branch they would be delighted to accept. To clarify, this year should have been Espania Levanta, but as they have closed as a Branch of the association, Essex branch, next on list were asked at relatively short notice. Many thanks to Essex for stepping up to do this

12- ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

National Vice Chairman

There are two Nominations for the position of National Vice Chairman as follows:

Edward (Ted) Hogben , Medway Towns Branch	26 Votes
Frank, Powell , Lincoln Branch	22 Votes

Therefore, Ted Hogben is duly elected as National Vice-Chairman of the Association.

Chairman at this point offered the thanks of the association to John Wood who has served as National Vice-Chairman. John has worked quietly behind the scenes and provided a valuable contribution to the Association many thanks John.

National Management Committee (NMC) Members

There are four applicants for two positions on the NMC.

The applicants are:

Mark Butchart,	Barrow-in-Furness Branch-	21 votes
ChrisFreeth,	Bath Branch	26 votes
Andrew Morgan,	Welsh Branch	22 Votes
BrianTate,	West of Scotland Branch	24 Votes

Therefore, Chris Freeth is re-elected and Brian Tate elected to serve as members of the national Management committee Many thanks to the four candidates who put themselves forward and welcome to the NMC Chris and Brian.

13 A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT.

Sir James spoke as the outgoing President and thanked everyone for a great conference, and it was a healthy debate , I now give you your New President - Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour. Admiral Kilgour thanked Sir James,

14. SHUT THE MEETING

The Chairman had a few words to say.
Thank you for attending the Conference this year.

Thanks to all Delegates for the manner in which you have conducted yourselves and the Observers for their decorum. It was a real pleasure to Chair this meeting

This marks the end of my fourth year as your Chairman. I will do all that I can to ensure that I live up to your expectations. Thank you.

I would like to thank everyone for the encouragement and support I have received during the last 12 months. Not least of all Bob Seaward whose experience and knowledge I have sought on so many occasions. It would be impossible to name you all - you all contributed to a good year.

I thank the NMC, not forgetting the President and Vice Presidents for their support and loyalty - even during the darker moments!!

Thanks to the Vice Presidents, and the NMC for their assistance with the Conference.

Thanks to Iain Mackenzie and Dave Barlow for finding this hotel and negotiation such a good deal on our behalf

I would like to thank those behind the scenes who do so much for the Association.

Trevor Thomas has been our National Standard Bearer for some years now. His knowledge and experience of parade etiquette has been invaluable to the other less experienced branch Standard Bearers. I would like to thank Trevor for all that he does being ever present whenever required.

Mike Kemp for his work with our Web Site.

Ted Hogben for representing us at the Submarine Museum Trustees meetings and keeping us in the picture with any and all developments in that sphere.

Dave Ottley our representative on the Friends of the Museum group.

Now before we all head off for Tot Time there is one more person I have to thank and that is Sir James Perowne. He took on the role of President in 2002 for 5 years and now 14 years later he is stepping down. Throughout his time as President he has worked tirelessly and always discreetly to ensure the Association's future sustainability. He never seeks the spotlight and yet he is always involved in our endeavors. He has been a very firm and steady hand on the tiller as we have negotiated some stormy waters in the time he has held the post. We will all have plenty opportunity this weekend to show him our appreciation and thank him in the traditional manner. So before we make a run for the Tot queue I would like to present on behalf of the NMC this small token of our appreciation for everything he has done for us.

(The Chairman at this point presented Sir James with an engraved decanter and glasses)

PMN at the reunion dinner sir James was presented with a silver Tantalus, from all of the Branches of the Association.

Tot Time is scheduled to follow on completion of this NCC so there is only one think left for me to do.....

This meeting is now CLOSED - Have a great weekend.