

Submariners Association

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NMC Meeting on Zoom

Saturday 19th October 2019, Starting at 1230

Present

Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)
Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Vice Chairman)
Mr Rick Elrick (Vice President)
Mr. Ian Vickers (National Secretary)
Mr. David Woolterton (National Membership)
Mr. Frank Powell. (Committee)
Mr. Andy Bain (Committee)
Mr. Ian Atkinson (Vice Presidents)
Mr. David Barlow (Vice Presidents)
Cdr. Robert Seaward OBE (Vice President)
Mr. Stuart Brown (National Treasurer)
Mr. Brian Tate (Committee)
Mr Frank Pas (committee)

- 1. Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the on-line meeting
- 2. Apologies.**

Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB (President)
Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB (Vice Presidents)
Mr Mark Smith (Committee)
Mr. Andy Morgan (Committee)
PO Mark Butchart (Serving Rep)
CPO Martin Drake (Serving Rep)

- 3. Minutes of the July NMC Meeting.**

All present agreed that the Minutes of the July NMC meeting were a true record.
Proposed Andy Bain
Seconded. Frank Pas

Proposed.

Stuart Brown to be a Trustee of the Submariner Memorial Appeal on behalf of the NMC and Submariners Association.

Proposed; Brian Tate Seconded; Iain Mackenzie
For 6 Against 0 Abstain 1

Stuart was asked to compose a memo to send around the Branches and to put it in In Depth to keep them informed of the progress of the memorial.
The NMC requested regular updates on the progress from Stuart.

(200719-06) **Northern Ireland talk.**

IV

I have been in contact with the Northern Ireland Branch and they are putting on a talk for the university in February.

- **Correspondence**

The following is a letter from the Portsmouth Branch

a. Submarine Association Annual London Embankment Memorial Remembrance Service.

In general, members attending have become frustrated that this service is no longer formerly held in front of the official stone memorial as previously undertaken some years ago.

Points of concern:

1. It is well appreciated that this official Royal Naval service has been removed from the official site and relocated within the Inner Temple Gardens to satisfy concerns held by London County Council that the service intrudes upon vehicular and cyclist access along the Embankment. Unfortunately, Submarine Association members feel that this is an unsatisfactory arrangement.
2. Whether serving Royal Naval submariners or veterans, it is strongly felt that restricting our right to hold the service within its proper location is a considerable insult to those currently serving and those that have served our country which, in short, clearly diminishes our honour.
3. Equally relative to the above point, our assembled presence in front of our memorial would equally command wider respect from the public who may be present at this singular occasion which, albeit isolated from the higher profile National Remembrance Service held at the Whitehall Cenotaph the week following, remains traditionally important.
4. Cost for hiring Temple Gardens, believed to be in the region of £5,000, is prohibitive especially considering that the Submariners Association is currently applying for charitable status. This exorbitant fee could be far better placed! (refer foot note).
5. If we are to become of charitable status, then LCC should hold this in respect by permitting 'free gangway' to hold our service at our memorial rather than having the parade being side lined out of sight.
6. Official use of the roadway would provide far better 'parade facilities' for both Submariners and accompanying Royal Marine Band presence. Equally relative to this pertinent point is the presence of dignitaries; our Royal Patron and our Admirals.
7. The police, we have found, have been highly sympathetic in providing unofficial assistance on every occasion primarily because we are Servicemen; perhaps this could be extended for the short time of the service.
8. Many of us veterans travel considerable distances and consider it an honour and a duty to uphold the 'best traditions of the Royal Navy' to attend this service.
9. On a final point, it is considered in our opinion as loyal Servicemen to Crown and

Country, somewhat unfair that LCC can appear to readily disrupt traffic or close of areas to satisfy the needs of other social groups, why not ourselves?

10. We have served many hours for our Country; then why cannot our country serve us with a clear road for just one hour?

Foot note:

Considering the age of veterans some fee should be made simply to provide nearby toilet facilities within the Temple Gardens for attendees.

Peter Goodwin.

(ex-CPOMEA(ML) HM Submarines. Portsmouth branch SA.

This has been brought up before. The official response in In Depth 58 below;

Several members have asked why we no longer hold this very important annual event at the location of the National Submarine Memorial on Victoria Embankment. There is no one single reason for this but in fact a combination of circumstances. We discussed the matter in detail with the relevant authorities in London, the Police, TfL and London Events Manager and the outcome is that it is just not feasible to have the Service as we used to do. The installation of the Cycle Superhighway immediately in front of our Memorial and all along the Victoria Embankment has reduced the width of the dual carriageway to such an extent that shutting of one side is no longer sufficient to allow traffic to flow freely. To allow us enough space would require the shutting down of at least 10 streets! This would need a lot more police to manage this situation and the cost would be £5,000 - £10 000 which we would have to pay. Totally prohibitive at the upper estimate. Another consideration is the number of people who now attend this prestigious event. Because of the new road conditions those attending would be stretched right along the Embankment to such an extent that it would be meaningless for those at the extremities. A minor point is that they have now installed an ornamental lamp post immediately in front of the monument which would make it difficult to form up and hold the service. If these were not enough to hinder us the police reminded us that security would be incredibly difficult with the now favoured tactic of terrorists to drive a vehicle directly into crowds. Imagine if you can the chaos that would cause with the VVIPs who attend our Service.

We would all like to return to the old ways but the numbers attending now would mean the men on the extremities of the parade would be out of sight and sound of the service, at least in the gardens we can parade in depth so all can see. After the service the wreaths are collected by serving submariners of all ranks, marched across to the Memorial. The police stop all traffic for the crossing. At the memorial the wreaths are placed with honour as in the old times, by the serving submariners on our behalf and those wishing to may accompany them to watch

b. The Chairman has had a request from a Mr Paul Read and a Lt Howard. They are looking for good quality photographs of VC recipients that are not hampered by copyright.

The best place will be the Imperial War Museum as they have a wonderful VC presentation and the best material available is there.

c. Letter from Midge Ure, WO2 MESM, currently serving at HMS Sultan as a Nuclear Instructor.

I am after a favour: as part of our Annual Pilgrimage to London for Remembrance Weekend, we (HMS Sultan Submariners) hope to be in the position to raise some money that we would look to donate somewhere local. Do you have any charitable ventures that would benefit from some extra money being injected into them that would benefit 'local' causes?

Our Committee has had provisional talks about various charities, none of which support Submariners or local causes, and I question the validity of such a donation. To that end, if you have any ideas please get in touch so we can chat and maybe work something out.

No we don't but we can recommend, Blue Plaque account or the Submariner Memorial Appeal.

d. Letter from the Sunderland Branch

Hope you can help; The Association has a member at the moment who lives in Teesside. He is a valuable member of the Sunderland branch, but the question was asked. Where is the Teesside standard? We were thinking, if it is available, we would like to keep it safe until more members from Teesside show up. The Sunderland branch would only be a caretaker of the standard, and act as a point of contact for enquiries within the North East for future Teesside members.

Things may have changed, and our help may not now be required but if you can give us an update on Teesside that would be great.

According to NMC records Teesside did not have a Standard, but this does not mean to say they did not have one. and thankyou to the Sunderland Branch for their offer.

e. Plymouth Branch question regarding GDPR from their Chairman Grant Fox.

The NMC have not received any new communication from the Plymouth Branch.

Officers Reports

Secretary

Things have been quiet this quarter. Over the summer I have been working with the branches on the Submarine Memorials and that is nearing completion There are numerous small plaques in churches and town halls from Ship Weeks in WW2 and I have listed some of them

AE1 &2 Memorial rededication in Barrow. I went up to Barrow for the service to represent the NMC as this was the same weekend as the Miers Blue Plaque in Inverness.

Old SOCA files from Dave Barlow. I have been going through the SOCA records and scanned all the reunion minutes. The SA records I have scanned all the conference minutes and started a spreadsheet with all the proposals and recommendations on. This will give the association a record of when and how often a subject comes up.

Treasurer

Please note the account balances for the Association as at the 11th of October 2019:

Blue Plaque Account - £3,051.15

Slops account - £2,212.01

Reunion account - £3557.65 (It is actually in credit)

SA Main account - £58,463.87

I would like to give my thanks to Ian Atkinson for the help he has given me over the last few weeks for the identifying a lot of transactions with quick books. One of the issues I have at the moment is I receive a number of cheques with no explanation as to what they are for.

Could the Secretary write to all the Branches to say that if any of their members are sending cheques through that they put a little note in with the cheque explaining what it is for.

We are still working through the reconciliation which Ian has shown me how to do. The main thing at the moment I have more in the bank than I have in quick books, but I think I know why, so we should be able to rectify that in the next few days.

I intend to start sending out a month end position as of 30st November so everybody will get a month position.

I need to work with Frank to do an audit on slops to ensure we receive the goods before we send out payments.

Frank Pass brought up the terms of payment. The treasurer suppliers would be paid on 30 days unless they give an early settlement discount.

Membership Secretary

We are doing pretty well for the membership, the numbers are on a par with the start of the year. The 2020 stickers have been sent out to the Branches, but only two Branches have replied that they have received them. Just waiting now for the Branches to start sending in the subscriptions for next year. GDPR, I have taken onboard what the Information Commissioners Office have recommended and password protected the membership spreadsheet. When it is sent out in November there will be a follow up email with the password. I dare\ say some of the branches will struggle with that, but we will wait and see what happens. If there are too many problems with that, I will contact the Branches to see which way they would like to proceed. We are not doing anything wrong by not password protecting it I am only doing it as a courtesy measure to the ICO and if it is only Plymouth that want it that way they will get it protected and send the rest out as before. I have tried to make improvements and help Branches where I can. Most Branches are doing fine but some struggle.

David is happy to stay as webmaster until we find out about the charity at the AGM.

Serving Rep

No repot submitted.

A letter will be sent from the Secretary reminding them of their duty to submit a report from the serving community.

Embankment Parade

A half hour discussion on the Embankment Parade took place. The Parade Marshal went through the program and allocated all the jobs to the NMC and serving members.

There will be a short meeting in the UJC at 1500 on Saturday to finalise everything.

Reunion for 2020

27-29th March 2020 Kegworth.

I have not had a lot of response at the moment, and I ask the National Secretary to re send the information and booking forms again to the Branch Secretaries.

I am trying to organise events for the wives on the Saturday while the conference is on. There will be a notice for the wives advising them of the options, some will be in the hotel, some may be chargeable, and the price will depend on the take up.

I arrange these venues for the association on two priorities; 1, it is a reunion for the submariners. 2, to get it as cheap as possible. If I get a city centre hotel, they can fill those hotels at the drop of a hat and don't need us, they like us, but we are not essential, so we don't have the bargaining power we do with an out of town hotel. If you want city centres, I can get them, but they will cost. If you think I am doing it wrong let me know. I would appreciate honesty with your replies, there is no point in me going and booking these out of town hotels if no one is happy.

David Woolterton inquired about photographs he could use for the website, Will there be any formal photographs as people have asked where they are? A discussion was had, and Ian Vickers volunteered to take photographs at the reunion.

Seating plan. It is a nightmare to work out. It is hard enough getting information from people let alone where they want to sit. I would love to do a seating plan but getting the information off people would be impossible.

Port has been sponsored by Andy Bain

Entertainment sponsored by Stuart Brown

Blue Plaque progress report - Sandy Powell

I am getting concerned about the Blue Plaque for Gould. I have had no response from Dover District Council. I am going to see Gould's son and see if he will compromise and go for the Jewish Museum in London.

See ANNEX A

Submariners Charity 2.37.26

The Chairman has contacted the Admiral for an update.

The Admiral has not forgotten it and he is going to process it and hopefully by the end of the month there will be the document he promised.

At the end of the July meeting in the space of fifty minute the Admiral explained everything and answered all of the questions and concerns the members had about moving on to becoming a charity. This should have been done with the paper the Executive Committee put out. Since then we have been waiting for the written explanation.

Dave Barlow said *"This is probably the biggest thing effecting the association in years. It changes the whole concept of the association; it was brought up at the conference and we are at the end of October and we have heard nothing, the Branches are getting a bit tetchy about it."*

"You did ask for feedback from branches, and several branches have through the Secretary and these have been forwarded to RASM and there has been no response so far."

The Chairman said he would will pass on our comments to RASM.

The Admiral has made the decision to write a paper and we will have to wait for that to come out.

AOCB.

None

270419-01	Over 90 badges	SB	On Going
270419-04	List of Memorials	IV	On Going
200719-01	Update the Secretaries Handbook	All	On Going
200719-03	Letter Master of the Worshipful Company	SP	On Going
201719-05	Arboretum Memorial.	Tom Herman	On Going
200719-06	Northern Ireland talk.	IV	On Going
201019-01	Teesside Standard	IV	On Going
201019-02	Charity update from the Admiral	JM	On Going
201019-03	Letter to Serving Rep's reminding them of their responsibilities	IV	On Going

Next Meetings

January 11th West Bromwich 1230

April 18th West Bromwich 1230

July 18th HMNB Clyde

ANNEX A

**GOULD & MIERS VC, RN –
BLUE PLAQUE REPORT
OCTOBER 2019 NMC MEETING**

PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM GOULD VC, RN

Further to my last report I am still awaiting confirmation from the Dover District Council as to whether or not they have approved the mounting of the Blue Plaque to Gould VC on the Town Hall which is a Grade II listed building.

This is now becoming a considerable concern to me as it is now coming up to 2 years since I commenced the process.

If I do not get any response from Dover District Council soon. I will endeavour to personally contact Gould's son and discuss with him the option of mounting the plaque at the Jewish Museum in London, and which they were previously keen to do.

Furthermore, in view of the delay and providing we are given permission for Dover, we are now looking at mounting the plaque in April/May 2020. That will give us the ability to provide advanced notice to the VIP's and in particular the Admiral of Cinque Ports, Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG, GCB, OBE, DL.

I will keep you informed.

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COMMANDER ANTHONY CECIL CAPEL MIERS VC, DSO, RN

I consider the event at Inverness to mount a Blue Plaque to Miers VC was a resounding success. I would also like to thank those members of the West of Scotland and Scottish Branches that attended. It was a good day and particularly the reception provided by the Highland Council.

The Miers VC Press Release has been forwarded to the Editor of the Navy News and also published in the latest issue of “In Depth”.

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LIEUTENANT IAN EDWARD FRASER VC, DSO, RNR

The date agreed for mounting the Blue Plaque to Fraser VC is the **22nd of February 2020 at Leasowe Golf Club, Wirral**. This is the only date available as Ian McGinn's term of office as Captain of the Golf Club finishes in March 2020.

Invitations have now been forwarded to the Fraser family, Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Leader of the Council, the Mayor and local Sea Cadet Unit.

The closest Branches that may wish to attend the Blue Plaque event are Merseyside (8 miles), Manchester (42 miles), North Staffordshire (58 miles) and Blackpool (60 miles).

I will keep you informed of progress.

