

Submariners Association

Recognised by the Ministry of Defence
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Vice Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE

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Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB
Cdr. R. C. Seaward OBE RN
D. Barlow Esq.
I. Atkinson Esq.
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NMC Zoom Meeting held

Saturday 18th April 2020, Starting at 1000

Present

Mr Barrie Downer (Chairman)
Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Vice Chairman)
Mr Stuart Brown (National Treasurer)
Mr. Ian Vickers (National Secretary)
Mr. David Woolterton (National Membership)
Mr. F Powell. (Committee)
Mr. Andy Bain (Committee)
Mr Frank Pas (committee)
Mr. Andy Knox (Committee)
Mr. I Atkinson Esq. (Vice President)
D. Barlow Esq. (Vice President)
Cdr. R. Seaward OBE (Vice President)

1. Welcome.

The Chairman thanked everyone for joining this NMC Zoom meeting this morning and hoped the everybody and their families were keeping well at this difficult time.

2. Apologies.

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

3. Minutes of the 11th January 2020 Meeting.

Proposed Andy Bain
Seconded Stuart Brown

The Minutes were accepted as a true record.

These minutes and any other paperwork released by the NMC to the Submariners Association members and Branches is intended for members and should not be published to the general public.

4. Outstanding Actions from 11th January 1230_Meeting – Action Grid

270419-01	Over 90 badges	IV	On Going
201719-05	Arboretum Memorial.	Tom Herman	On Going
201019-02	Charity update from the Admiral	JM	On Going
110120-01	Picture and plaque for Mr Peter Florey	SP	Complete
110120-02	Embankment funding (industry)	SB	On Going
110120-03	Embankment funding (Navy)	JM	On Going
110120-04	Letter to branches Cameron VC	IV	Complete
110120-05	Letter to branches NI reunion	IV	Complete

a. Over 90 badges **IV** (270419-01)

Rather than a badge suggested that a Certificate would be more appropriate.

We have not got a design yet. It has been a bit chaotic recently and quite honestly, I have not even looked at it since January.

The Chairman asked how we would go about it? Would the Certificate be issued through the Branches? Who would sign it?

The Secretary said it was originally an idea from Australia that he picked up on while over there. The original idea was for a badge, but at the January meeting a Certificate was suggested and that is as far as we have got.

Ongoing

b. Arboretum Memorial. **Tom Herman/SB** (200719-05)

The Charity has been established. Stuart Brown is one of the trustees. The bank account has gone live and will be open for donations. A contest for the design is in hand and there is more information in In Depth 67. We need to ask Tom Herman for a written update.

Ongoing

c. Charity update from the Admiral **JM** (201019-02)

The new Chairman needs to liaise with the outgoing Chairman. The latest report from John Weale is at Item (9). A lot of promises were made last year regarding the Charity, things moved very quickly, the Charity idea was dropped, and the Submariners Fund came into existence (SMF fund). The Submariners Association could still become a Charity in our own right, but that decision would be up to the Membership.

Any updates on the SMF will come from Iain Mackenzie.

Complete.

d. Picture and plaque for Mr Peter Florey **SP** (110120-01)

Complete

e. Embankment Funding (Industry) **SB** (110120-02)

On hold until the country gets back to normal

The funding from BAE Systems has now run out and we need to identify new sponsors.

The Treasurer has a list of Companies to approach when the time is right.

Ongoing

f. Embankment funding (Navy) **JM** (110120-03)

On hold until the country gets back to normal

Ongoing - but Action now with BD

g. Letter to branches Cameron VC IV (110120-04)
Complete

h. Letter to branches NI reunion IV (110120-05)
Complete and cancelled

5. Correspondence

There has been very little in the way of correspondence recently, mainly because of the lockdown and the use of Zoom. I do get regular emails from a Mr Jean-Pierre Misson who has been in constant email communication for around two years regarding the recently identified wreck of HMS Urge. He has information about lost British submarines in the Mediterranean which goes against our official records. It has also upset the families of the Urge who are planning a visit to Malta for a Commemoration. Mr Misson may or may not be correct, but the Association will not get involved in this conversation and will leave it to the official Navy historians.

6. Officers Reports

Secretary's Report Ian Vickers

Just a short report as everything is in lockdown around the world. First, I would like to welcome our new Chairman, Barrie Downer and new committee member, Andy Knox and to thank Jim McMaster for his 14 years' service dedicated to the Association as Secretary then Chairman.

I, and a lot of others, have spent a lot of time cancelling or postponing events these last few weeks. The best we can hope for is to stay flexible and try and retrieve any money outlaid for events, not an easy task as so many places have shut down or are too busy to answer calls.

I have been busy with Zoom these last few weeks. A number of Branches have made inquiries about using Zoom for meetings and I am willing to help in any way I can. Zoom is very easy to use but the hardest part for us oldies is trying something different. In Manchester we have set up a weekly chat using zoom, this helps to break the boredom of this isolation and something to look forward to each week. Also, we can make sure everyone is OK. Zoom is for everyone, as long as you have a camera and the internet you can use it anywhere.

I had a short Zoom meeting with a few secretaries the other night, this was to get to know Zoom a bit better. One thing I was asked is could the secretaries get together on Zoom and pass information that way? I can't see a problem; it would be another way of keeping in contact. The only problem I can see is time zones, if you contact Australia you would have to allow for the time difference. Dave Barlow is a regular attendee of the NMC meeting from Perth WA.

Treasure's Report Stuart Brown

Overview

The Association accounts remain in a healthy condition. The Unaudited accounts for the 2019/20 Financial Year have been distributed.

At the time of publication, the situation with the Annual Reunion and National Congress remains scheduled for late August. Therefore, we do not intend to initiate any automatic refunds until such times as the Hotel informs us that they are unable to host us due to Covid 19 restrictions. In the coming month I will be implementing the annual Slops Stocktake.

Accounts status – as at 29th of February 2020

Association main account:

Balance on the account £70,624.51
Income for March 2019: £7,640.00
Expenditure for Feb 2019: £84.52

Blue plaque account:

Balance on the account: £2,508.15
Income for March 2020 - £0
Expenditure for March 2020 - £9.00

Reunion account:

Balance on the account: £16,845.65
Income for March 2020 - £3178.00
Expenditure for December 2020 - £55.00

Slops account

Balance on the account: £2,055.01
Income for March 2020 - £67.50
Expenditure for Feb 2020 - £690.04

The Slops Account needs to get a stock value so the Treasurer can reconcile the account and the remainder of the loan paid back to the main account.
Ted Hogben's shop was paid for out of the main account and will have to be transferred to the Slops account.

All Branch subscriptions from direct debit payments have been paid back to the Branches.

With the changes in Committee management the bank signatories will have to be changed at a convenient time. Signatories will be Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary who was voted as a Signatory to allow him can check on subs and direct debit payments.

Membership Secretary Report Dave Woolterton

As of 1st January, we had 1574 current members

51 new

24 re-joining

17 late payers

There were a total of 122 Lapsed, CTB (31) 15 current & 16 lapsed.

Total membership down by 44

There are still 108 new and 15 re-joining applications still sit with the Branches to process.

We have a total of 221 who pay National by direct debit.

I have sent out reminder to those who were on the Lapsed List for last year, and I hope we will get a few more people back.

At the last meeting I brought up the 37 Standing Orders to National that still exist. The people concerned and their secretaries have been contacted. An email to those Branches went out on 19th April 2020.

The NMC have discussed this before and have now agreed to lapse all those on Standing Orders who pay direct to the Association next year. If a member wishes to pay the Branch by Standing Order that is up to the Branch.

Serving Rep Report

No report.

7. Reunion 2020 plans.

I. Mackenzie

21st August that is the date we are going for. Hopefully things will be in a better situation then. I will be putting out a notice on the website and via the Secretary to ask if there is anyone else who would like to come. Only two Members have cancelled because of the change, and apart from that it is all go for August.

8. Blue Plaque progress report -

Sandy Powell

Nothing new to report. Everything on hold.

9. Submariners Fund



THE SUBMARINE FUND

A small but historic milestone was achieved on 3 Apr 20 when the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity Submarine Fund (RNRMC-SMF) Board convened its inaugural meeting (by conference call) to endorse the Fund and its key objectives:

Welfare and well-being (which includes mental health) of all Submariners (serving and veteran) and their families.

Submarine ethos, morale of all ranks of, or serving with, the Submarine Service including the provision of recreational facilities, amenities and other goods and services not provided out of public funds.

Submarine Heritage.

The launch of the RNRMC-SMF was coincident with the departure of the fourth of the seven Astute Class submarines, HMS AUDACIOUS from Barrow and her arrival in her new Base Port of HMNB Clyde on 7th April 2020.

The RNRMC-SMF represents the first occasion when the various charitable organisations from across the Submarine Community (Serving submariners, Submariners Association, We Remember Submariners, Friends of the Submarine Museum and the Perisher Club) have aligned to support the delivery of agreed objectives under the umbrella of the RNRMC. With the help and expertise of the RNRMC and members of the Submarine Community, all submariners will benefit from the shared management of the RNRMC-SMF. Members will be able to apply for grants and support from both the RNRMC and RNRMC-SMF who in turn can access additional support from other Service Charities and organisations. The Submarine Community is breaking new ground demonstrating how communities can and are helping themselves; the RNRMC-SMF may provide a model for how other specialisations and the RNRMC will evolve.

Information about grant applications and donations can be made via the RNRMC website www.RNRMC.org.uk or direct from the respective SMF Board 'organisations'. Donations, direct debits and/or bequests can be made direct to the RNRMC specifying that the donations are specifically for the Submarine Service or RNRMC-SMF.

There is no intent for the SMF to replace any of the existing organisations but rather to support and enhance their ability to deliver the agreed objectives for members and dependants of our community. The SMF Board will meet 2-3 times a year and/or as required to ensure that support and income generation is being delivered. However, while the RNRMC-SMF is in its

infancy it is important that we optimise opportunities to generate income and do not duplicate expenditure from different areas from across our community.

Minutes from the Board meeting are available from the various representatives and a Submarine Community communications plan is being developed by the staff of the Head of Fighting Arm. We believe this is an exciting period in our history as we bring our members closer together, to look after one another and honour our history, we welcome your support in ensuring the success of this endeavour.

Stay safe and well.

John Weale
Chair SMF

A Bell
CEO RNRMC

Iain Mackenzie is the Association Rep on the SMF. They held their inaugural meeting last month and the minutes were sent out and posted in In-Depth.

We have had one case for the Submarine fund, which came to Iain this week off an X craft submariner. The matter was passed on to John Weale and then to the RNRMC and an arrangement has been made for help and advice. So, the fund is up and running and Iain is keen to pass on and publish any good new stories to let our members see how any monies coming into the fund are being used for submariners.

At the moment there are two meeting a year and Iain will continue to update the Association at the NMC meetings, via In-Depth and through the Secretary.

10. Membership Applications, Processing Issues & Branch Officials Duties

The Membership Secretary and other members of the NMC have had issues in the past with some Branches concerning late payment of Annual Subscriptions, prompt processing of Membership Applications, routine updating of information on Branch Members and Branch Officials. There have also been concerns raised by one Branch around GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) and their application to and by the Submariners Association.

Following a lengthy discussion on the historic problems and it was left with the new Chairman to follow up. NMC Members were requested to pass any relevant information to the Chairman to propose a way ahead. (180420-01)

- 11. Volunteer to take over the Association diaries from Sugar Tate? (180420-02)**
Volunteer to take over from Dave Otley as Museum Trustee?
Volunteer to take over as Association Web Master

(180420-03)

Mark Smith will be approached to take over the diaries from Sugar Tate
The Secretary will advertise the other two Roles.

12. AOCB.

Harry Melling 100th birthday Harry Melling 100th birthday

Harry Melling, the oldest surviving WW2 Submarine veteran from Wigan who was mugged three years ago, reaches his 100th birthday today (18th April) Andy Knox has been busy setting up a Zoom meeting for 1400.

The Zoom meeting was reasonably successful. The care home used a mobile phone for Harry. Those attending were: Matthew Melling, his great nephew and a reporter from the British Forces Broadcasting Service from outside the care home. RAdm John Weale CB OBE (SMF), RNRMC, members of the NMC and other submariners joined via Zoom. We all sang Happy Birthday and wished him well. Andy then played the video that the Submarine School had recorded. There were a few submariners and a Royal Marine on his saxophone. They sang Happy Birthday to Harry along with a few words from the Commander of the school.

More than 600 birthday cards have been sent to Britain's oldest known submariner veteran who has celebrated his 100th Birthday in self-isolation.

Harry Melling, who served on board HMS Osiris during World War Two, received hundreds of happy birthday messages on Saturday, as well as a number of gifts. One of the Royal Navy's youngest sailors even hand-delivered a set of wooden-carved dolphins to his care home in Wigan. It follows an appeal for people to help celebrate Mr Melling's centenary while in lockdown because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Due to the measures, Mr Melling was not allowed any visitors. However, his great-nephew, Matthew Melling, managed to speak to him through the doorway of the care home.

"Being able to see him then, speak to him and see all his cards, and see all these people that care about him as well... it's overwhelming for me to know that so many people care about my uncle," Matthew told Forces News. Christine Stafford, the care home manager, said: "I've looked after Harry now for coming up to two years and it's an absolute joy. He makes us laugh every day, he's a very lovely gentleman, very warm, very caring, cares about everybody else rather than himself."

Andy Knox set up a JustGiving page on behalf of Harry and the resulting donations will be forwarded to the SMF, donations currently stand at £1250. Andy first met Harry and his family back in 2017 when he read in the media about the attack on the WW2 veteran. Andy on behalf of the serving and veteran communities visited Harry at his home in Wigan after he was discharged from hospital and the friendship has grown over the last few years. Andy ensured that funding was secured to enable Harry to attend several events within HMNB Clyde and also organised two visits to London to attend the Submariners Remembrance weekend where Harry met HRH Prince William.

Jim McMaster. The Vice Chairman had sent an email to the NMC suggesting that we invite Jim to become a Vice President. All the replies were yes for this. To confirm this a vote was taken which was carried. The new Chairman was asked to inform Jim.

We were also given the privilege of having an office in the Base which Jim took over. We would like to ask Jim if he will carry on manning the office and be our liaison with the serving community.

Following the Meeting the Chairman sent the Message below to Jim McMaster:

"Yesterday morning I attended my first NMC Meeting as Chairman – a Zoom meeting – which was interesting and appeared to go well. Several actions came in my direction out of the Meeting which I have been working through.

However, you will be interested to know that your name came up and, after a short discussion, the NMC agreed that you should be invited to be a Vice President of the Submariners Association in respect of your many years of service as firstly, National Secretary and, secondly, National Chairman.

Congratulations, and I hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and continue your support of the NMC and the Submariners Association.

Also, bearing in mind your many contacts within HM Naval Base Clyde, and the need for the Association to maintain the current close liaison with the Serving Submariner Community, the Committee decided to ask you if you could find the time to man the SA Office as required as the Submariners Association representative within the Base.

I intend, of course, to make use of the Office myself as necessary on my visits to the Base."

Jim's Reply

"I consider the invitation to become a Vice President a great honour and privilege and one that I accept with pride.

In my previous roles I have always strived to ensure the long-term sustainability of this wonderful Association and will continue to serve you and the NMC members in a similar manner. I am indeed humbled and honoured. Thank you all for this opportunity. I will of course be delighted to continue ‘manning’ the office within HM Naval Base Clyde and will gladly return when the way is clear. I agree with you that this is a very important role and we are privileged to have such a facility.”

A vote of thanks was given to Andy Knox who had set up a fund to pay for a funeral of a brother submariner.

Next Meeting

July 18th at HMNB Clyde or West Brom RNA

ACTION GRID

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201719-05	Arboretum Memorial.	SB	On Going
201019-02	Charity update from the Admiral	JM	On Going
110120-02	Embankment funding (industry)	SB	On Going
110120-03	Embankment funding (Navy)	JM	On Going
180420-01	Contact the Branches	BD	On Going
180420-02	Contact Mark Smith for taking over the Association diaries	BD	On Going
180420-03	Museum Trustee	IV	On Going