

# Submariners Association

Recognised by the Ministry of Defence  
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## NATIONAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE

### MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE (Unconfirmed)

**Held on zoom  
on  
Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

#### **1. WELCOME**

Welcome everyone to the Submariners Association 2021 National Council Conference and to my first Conference as your Chairman. I could apologise for there being no Conference in 2020 but, as you all know, that was the result of events which not even a Submariner could have predicted or controlled. Luckily, this year, I do not need explain the seating arrangements or give the Health and Safety Brief as you all know where the seats, the emergency exit and the muster areas are in your own homes!

However, this is the first time (and possibly the only time) that the Conference will be held via Zoom. The Secretary has spent a lot of time and effort in setting things up and I hope you will all bear with us as we work our way through the Agenda this year and that things work as expected. However, we do have two years' worth of Proposals & Recommendations to get through, so can I request that if you wish to speak you keep it brief and to the point.

The usual rule of 'No Alcohol' during the Conference still applies but, hopefully, you will all have a 'Tot' available for 'Up Spirits' at the Close.

So let us make a start with the Roll Call of the Branches.

#### **2. ROLL CALL National Management Committee:**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Rear Admiral Niall SR Kilgour CB (President)	Lord Boyce <i>KG GCB OBE DL</i> (Patron)
Mr Dave Barlow (Vice President)	Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE (Vice-Patron)

Cdr. Bob Seaward OBE (Vice President)	Rear Admiral Tony Whetstone CB (Vice President)
Mr Jim McMaster (Vice President)	Mr Rick Elrick (Vice President)
Mr Ian Atkinson (Vice President)	Mr Andrew Morgan (Committee)
Mr Barrie Downer (Chairman)	CPO Martin Drake (HMS TRENCHANT)
Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Vice Chairman & Parade Marshal)	PO Mark Butchart (HMS AUDACIOUS)
Mr Ian Vickers (Secretary)	
Mr Andy Bain (Treasurer)	
Mr David Woolterton (Membership Secretary)	
Mr (Committee)	
Mr Mark Smith (Committee)	
Mr. Andy Knox (Committee)	
Mr Sandy Powell (Committee)	
CPO Paul Swaby (committee)	
Mr. Ian Fowler (Committee)	

**Branches Represented:**

Australia	Merseyside
Barrow-in-Furness	Middlesex
Basingstoke	Morecambe Bay
Bath	Norfolk
Beds & Herts	Northern Ireland
Blackpool & Fylde	Nottingham
Cheltenham & W.M	Peterborough
Dolphin	Scottish
East Kent	Sheffield
Essex	Sunderland
Gatwick	Vectis
Gosport	Welsh
Lincoln	West of Scotland
Manchester	West Riding

Excluded

Plymouth late payment of subscriptions

3.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from the following Branches.

Birmingham	Indalo in Spain
Blyth & Wansbeck	Leicester & Rutland
Brierly Hill	Medway Towns
Bridlington	North East
Burton on Trent	North Staffs
Colchester	Poole and District
Derbyshire	Portsmouth
Dorset	Royal Berks
Exeter	South Kent
Hull	Southampton
	Sussex

#### **4. Departed Submariners Chairman**

The meeting stood to observe one-minute silence in memory of those members of the Submariners Association and indeed, all submariners who had Crossed the Bar in the preceding year. We have lost a lot of Submariners over the year and what I am going to do is ask Dave Woolterton to send me the list and I will then send it to Branches.

#### **5. President's Address.**

I would like to congratulate you for getting me into a tie. It's the first time in well over a year. I would like to congratulate Jim McMaster for considerable time as your Chairman and also to you Barrie, because you stepped in brilliantly as far as I can see. And you are in control of the mob. I am looking forward to today's discussions there are some important ones about money, submarine families and so on. Now I will sit back and enjoy a lively discussion.

#### **6. Minutes of the 2020 National Council Conference.**

You have had them for two years now and unless anyone has any problems with the 2019 minutes can I have a Proposer and Seconder.

Proposed	Northern Ireland
Seconded	Lincoln

All in agreement

#### **7. Actions from the Minutes.**

None

#### **8. Ratify new Roles;**

One new role to ratify. That of the Treasurer. As you are aware last year the Treasurer stepped down and Andy Bain jumped into the role and has managed it very well.

All in agreement that Andy Bain be confirmed in the roll of National Treasurer.

#### **9. Secretaries report: Ian Vickers**

Who would have thought 12 months ago that we would be locked down still? No socialising, reunions, memorial services and Branch meeting on zoom if at all. Zoom was new to most of us last year and most of us have adapted and used it, but not all. Last summer I suggested we have a Secretaries Zoom meeting, a chance to chat and ask questions. It started small, and mid-week with only a few branches taking part. Now we have many Branches joining in including Australia. NMC members have been invited to discuss current topics. Last month we had a practice for the Conference exploring the voting option on zoom in preparation for the proposals and recommendations.

Over 90's certificates came out this last year and I have a few more to send out after the conference. I am currently working on an addition to the Secretaries Handbook. - How to close a Branch. This will go into the Secretaries Handbook as a guide to any Branch that wants to close or merge with another Branch. There are several events in the pipeline for the latter part of the year.  
Dunoon Memorial weekend in August.  
Family weekend in August.  
Dundee Memorial in September.  
Cenotaph RNA parade in September.  
and Embankment in November. With luck I will see you at one of them.

#### **Treasurers Report; Andy Bain**

I took over the Treasurers role after the resignation of Stuart Brown mid-2020. This was in the lockdown and it was a very steep learning curve for both me and the bank as they were adjusting their working methods to minimize the requirements to go into branch. Thanks to Stuart for sending me all the bank info I needed to get

me started. After a time-consuming couple of months, I finally have access to the accounts and as signatory in August. The accounts did not get forgotten in this time as Ian Atkinson stepped in yet again and he ensured they were kept up to date. Thanks, Ian, for your backup on that.

All records are kept up to date on Quick Books, which is our accounting software. This is regularly updated, and I have been on a training session with them this last week at no expense to the Association. Our year end accounts were produced on time and every Branch has received a copy. It is true to say that 2020 was a strange year due to lock downs and COVID related restrictions and these are reflected in the accounts. Our 2020 Reunion and Conference were cancelled with many of us leaving our payments in the Association account in readiness for this year. The Embankment went ahead but on a vastly reduced scale. This has left the accounts inflated at the moment. Let us hope we get back to some sort of normality this year and we can meet again. Issues of the hand over aside I have very much enjoyed the work of the Treasurer and I thank you all for allowing me to continue to do the job.

## **Membership Secretary; David Woolterton**

### Membership Report for 2021 NCC/AGM

If it has not already been said many times, these past 12 months, have been very much different for the Association and we have all had our own difficulties and challenges to deal with, so I am not going to mention them any further.

I am not really sure what I want to say this year in my report, but I need to update you with something.

The membership always keeps me busy every year and this year has been no exception. So here are the figures for last year 2020.

At the start of the year, we opened with a membership of 1,568 and during the year we had 130 new applications made to join the Association, made up of both new and re-joining members (that's Non-Current for more than 12 months). There was a total of 114 members lapsed and out of these 28 were reinstated due to late payments. From all the applications for membership we have - which is more than the 130 we received last year as we keep them on the system for 2 years - we had 98 new members and 41 members re-joining. I am not sure why we keep these on the system for 2 years as I would expect 3 months should be enough time for branches to turn these around.

Now to the sad part - we had 49 members CTB with a further 46 non-current members, which we have on our system, which we have heard about.

When this is all added up it equates to a net gain of 6 members for the year.

Now that all the subs are in, we started this year at 1,574 members. This is always a false reading because we do not know what the full extent will be until all subs have been collected and I have processed all the branch reports. So, where do we stand today. Sadly, we have had a further **10** members CTB and **75** members lapsed (down on the 114 of last year). Of these **8** have so far been reinstated after late payments. On a positive side we have had **30** new members join and **9** re-join, but this leaves a deficit of **40** and the current membership now stands at **1,528**.

There are still **68** new member applications and **9** re-joining member applications which sit with the branches to process.

Direct Debits. I am not going to say too much about these as this is a personal choice for the member but we have at present, **298** members who pay National by Direct Debit. I have not analysed the lapsed members to see what the proportion of those might be serving members, but with the difficulties of little to no meetings this year for collecting subscriptions, might I suggest that you at least see if you can get your serving members to pay by Direct Debit to save on missed or late payments.

I am got going into this now as more will be said later, but there may be a change to how the Association will be accepting applications for membership via the Submarine Family which Commodore Jim Perks will talk about later. This is likely to boost our membership of serving members (by no means just serving folk) and those which we already have as members may have their subs changed to another method of payment - other than those we currently have. This will mean that branches will need to be more on top of processing applications to join.

Before moving on, are there any questions on what I have covered so far?

Apart from all the other stuff I have worked on as being an NMC member during the year, I have taken it upon myself to do something about the National Membership Database, which until now, I have kept to myself and only just recently notified the NMC.

Some will know and others will not. Currently the Associations National database is a Microsoft Access database where I generate all my reports which I send out throughout the year.

Although I have heavily modified it since I took over the role of Membership Secretary, the Database has for some time, not really been fit for purpose, is difficult to maintain and only one person could update any information in it.

During these past 12 months I have been working on my own project to produce a conversion program to move the data over to a SQL Server in the Cloud in a format where I could also write something where we can have multiple access.

With GDPR in the fore-front of my mind I have written a secure Windows Application where I can allow branches to have access, which will allow them to view and update their own members and branches details. This, by no way means that things cannot stay the same as they are now and I will update it when notified of changes by the branches as I currently do.

Advantages are that I have also written some stuff for the website to access the data direct for the current online Membership and CTB pages. Now when changes are made in the database and accessed by the web these changes are there automatically, without having to do anything else - which I had to do previously with the Access Database. It is my intention to extend this out to the branch pages and maybe the NMC pages which will reduce the website management overhead. This will also help with the consistency of data with it only needing to be changed in one place.

I know this is a Windows application for now, but this only needs to be a start, because now the database is in the Cloud and multi-access, the method of access can be extended to having a Web Front End with all the same security to even an iPad App in the future. These I will consider when I have moved fully to the new system and have had the time to consider further.

For the time being I will be running both systems until I am fully happy that the new system has all the functionality of the old one.

I am hoping that this will mean for the future, that I will not need to send my monthly reports any more as all the reports and up to date information on members will be at your fingertips at any time via the Application.

I still have more admin. functionality to add in, but I am happy and in a position to release this to any branch who thinks it would be beneficial for them to have access to their members information when they need it.

The Application will require the user to create an account and it will be restricted to those officers of the branch with the following role: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer & Membership Secretary. It is not restricted to how many of these 4 can have access. This is no different to who I currently send my reports to now. I also have the ability to provide full admin. access to all data as directed by the NMC.

If any branch would like to have further information on this then please do contact me outside of this meeting. I will be sending general notification about this in my April report to the branches.

So that just about concludes my report for 2021. Happy to take questions, but if not then please do continue to stay safe and let us hope for a better 2021 and beyond.

Ian Jopling (Gatwick)

GDPR is a concern. Do we need to appoint a data Security Officer? And do we have to register with the Commissioner for Data Security?

Dave Woolterton.

No, we don't. For the past 2-3 years I have had constant conversations with the ICO and it was brought up a couple of years ago about me, sending out the spreadsheets and PDF reports to the Branches. One Branch complained that we were breaking GDPR but we were not. The information this APP will give will be for the Branch and only their information, they will not have access to other Branches. It is no different to what I do at the moment but it gives us more flexibility to access information and keep it updated.

Ian Fowler (Blackpool)

David asked me to trial this a couple of weeks ago. It an extremely easy system to use, is user friendly and will be helpful to the Branch Secretaries.

## **10. Proposals & Recommendations.**

The Chairman read out the motion and relevant information.

## **11 Proposals**

### **Proposal 1**

Northern Ireland Branch

Seconded Scottish Branch

At Conference, all proposals will be straightforward vote of:- Yes/No/ Abstain

Ian Jopling (Gatwick)

I must admit I am a little confused by this Proposal. The Proposal itself says all Proposals be a straightforward vote of:- Yes/No/ Abstain. Well, that is the system we are using today. The Proposal does not actually say; all Delegates will vote in accordance with instructions from their Branch. Merely vote Yes/No/ Abstain. I believe in the last speaker what's the point in having this meeting when it can be done remotely?

Dave Woolterton (Basingstoke)

I agree with both previous speakers. We have Conference for one reason and one reason only to debate. The difficulty is, when Branches discuss the Proposals at Branch, they are looking at it from their prospective and their point of view. They are not hearing the views of other Branches to make a fully informed decision.

Sandy Powel (Lincoln)

Lincoln Branch believe there is a bit more than Yes/No/ Abstain. We support the change of the Delegate to Representative. We are happy with that and we support the reduced time for debate. We do not support voting just Yes/No/ Abstain.

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>Votes Cast</b>
15 - 57.7%	11 - 42.3%	1	26

**This did not reach the requires 2/3 66%  
Proposal FAILED**

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**Proposal 2**

**Australia Branch**

**Seconded Basingstoke**

The Australia Branch propose that the Rules and Constitution and Management Committee Standing Orders Issue 6 dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be amended as follows:

Clause 9 (h) (iv)

Insert a new sub para (b) to read:

**As long as the originals have been posted and in exceptional circumstances as agreed by the NMC by *Email no later than one week before the date of the National Council Annual Conference or***

Renumber the exiting sub paragraphs (b) and (c) to (c) and (d) respectively.

Richard Drain (Australia)

The proposal will bring us up to date and emails are acceptable way of doing business.

Dave Woolterton (Basingstoke)

Originally, when Australia made this proposal it was for overseas Branches. But any Branch can have an exceptional circumstance that could cause delay in getting it in the post. I agreed to Second this if it was changed to **any Branch**. Any Branch could have an exceptional circumstance but must be agreed by the NMC.

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
26 - 100%	0	1	26

**Proposal CARRIED**

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### **Proposal 3**

#### **Norfolk Branch SA Proposal**

#### **Seconded Wales**

To amend Clause 6.c of the Rules and Constitution.

Tom Herman (Norfolk) Proposer

We think this is all about fairness and giving everybody a voice. The SA prides itself on being democratic on the Branch based structure being the way to deliver that. We are all getting older, so why should a Branch be excluded because they can't find a person able to travel to the conference. We are all here today, none of us have travel and we have great representation. NMC say that costs are covered, but it is only true for those attending the Conference only. Those traveling from further afield it is impossible to come for just one day, just during the day, and there are extra costs in the overnight accommodation. The pandemic has shown us new ways of working and I think we need to recognise times are changing and we could do better. I think the current system can be made better and fairer.

Steve Bellis (Wales) Seconder

We agree with that. The proxy vote would be a useful thing to have. It is difficult to get people to these Conferences in some cases. A Zoom call is possibly the way to go here. Having a conference is great, you get a chance to debate and meet people but where this is not possible a proxy vote is a good idea.

Chris Freeth (Bath)

We wish to encourage people to attend the Conference and we think it is vital that people attend in person. However, we fully understand the problem of getting Delegates to attend due to the timing and the distance from it, and it is not always viable. However, today's tech. we feel we should be moving forward and why can't we have a virtual rep as they have done in Parliament. But we understand you are not allowed to change Proposals and that is how our Branch feels.

Garry Newman (Vectis)

We would fully support this. Our Branch is small and only three people drive. Also being on an island it adds a considerable amount of time to our travel. This is why we have not sent Delegates to Conference for a long time. (2006 last time) So, we would fully support this, it would enable us to take part as we have today.

Dave Woolterton (Basingstoke)

How many Branches do have we – 50. How many here - 28 when all could join without travel?

Sam Morrow (West of Scotland)

I fully agree with Chris. Surely in the modern day and age, you could still hold the meeting at the venue and what you have is a big screen with the Branches that can't make it Zoomed in, so all can take part in the meeting.

Steve Thorpe (Gosport)

We are actually investigating that in the Gosport Branch and trying to put a big screen up at our meeting because we have members around the Country. If we succeed in it, we may be able to help in the future.

Ian Jopling (Gatwick)

I know in Zoom you can set up groups and the polling system can be used in that group only. That may be a way forward, creating a group after the roll call, then restricting the polling to that group.

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
19 - 70.4%	8 - 29.6%	0	27

**Proposal CARRIED. More than 2/3 majority**

### **Proposal 4**

#### **Barrow Branch**

#### **Seconded Morecambe Bay Branch**

## BARROW IN FURNESS BRANCH PROPOSAL FOR NCC 2020

The Barrow in Furness Branch, makes the following Proposal:

Dave Smith (Barrow)

It was felt by the Branch that there should be control of the finances of the Association to make sure that we agree how our money is spent and distributed. Although we appreciate there are some smaller amounts that should go through the NMC the larger sums the preferred option is for the Association as a whole have a chance to make a contribution to how the money should be spent.

Mark Lister (Morecombe Bay)

I agree entirely with Dave Smith and the proposal. It seems ludicrous that there are no financial controls at the moment in the constitution, and as we agree for the £2,000 going as a seeding fund for the Memorial, it is a laudable course. We second this proposal.

Denis Rawle (Sottish)

We fully support this proposal on the basis the with £88,000 in the kitty and no one seems to know what is going to be done with the money. Yes, we accept there should be controls over that money now.

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

FOR:	AGAINST:	ABSTENTIONS:	VOTES CAST
18 - 66.7%	9 - 33.3%	0	27

Proposal **CARRIED**

### **Proposal 5**

#### **Scottish Branch**

#### **Seconded Northern Ireland**

The Scottish Branch propose that Mr Ron Rietveld, a Dutch Submariner who is an Associate member of our branch be granted a dispensation to become a full member of the Submarines Association.

Denis Rawle (Sottish)

I find it a bit discourteous what the NMC have said just quoting the constitution. We have a member, who is a full member in every principle, other than being recognised by the Association. Here is an opportunity for this Association to move forward, to embrace this situation so this man can be full recognised by the organisation.

John Erskine (Northern Ireland)

We have known Ron for many, many, years. Regardless of Rules and Constitution there should be some method that an exemption certificate can be issued. The RNA have issued exemption certificates of merit to non-RN personal who have been working in Branches. We feel that the amount of work that Ron has put in both with the West of Scotland Branch and the Scottish Branch should deserve the necessary recognition, after all we are supposed to be buddies in boats.

Chris Freeth (Bath)

We oppose this because it could open a flood gate. It will set a precedent then. We fully appreciate the work this man has done for the Branches. There are probably lots of other certain members around helping other Branches. The rules are quite clear, unless he served on a RN submarine, he cannot be a member. We feel that if this is carried it will open it up to others.

Steve Thorpe (Gosport)

We support this proposal, we think there should be some sort of exemption certificate. We have an American that is a member who is proactive, and I do not think it will open floodgates. I cannot imagine there are lots of people from other Nationalities around the country. We think it should be done by a case-by-case basis, as long as there is reasonable justification for it be put forward.

Ian Joling (Gatwick)

The feeling for the Gatwick Branch is that there should be a mechanism to allow this to happen. But, not by this way where individuals are recommended to National Conference each year. Rather there should be a different proposal that establishes a mechanism to recognise people of this type.

Brian Turns (Sunderland)

We are in favour with the proposal. Basically, Ron is one of our major contacts when I have difficulties. Ron should be made a full member on the work he does. I believe there were international submariners in SOCA. We believe we need to look at the Constitution and realign it to modern times. Sunderland believe Ron should be a full member on the amount of work he does for the Association.

Andy Bain (Dolphin)

Our views is, take all the personalities out and it is basically as Chris just said, maybe we need to look at the Constitution behind and put a mechanism in place that allows us to look at individuals.

Denis Rawle (Sottish)

Here is an opportunity for one individual to be now engulfed fully into the organisation, and how many do we get of this nature being put forward. So, on the basis of that you have the opportunity this year to endorse this proposal.

<b>FOR:</b> 8 - 32%	<b>AGAINST:</b> 17 - 68%	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b> 2	<b>VOTES CAST</b> 25
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**Proposal FAILED**

### **Proposal 6**

**Proposed by: Gosport Branch      Seconded by: Plymouth Branch**

The Gosport Branch propose that Clause 5(d) of the Rules & Constitution Issue 6 be amended as follows:

Proposal withdrawn.

Steve Thorp (Gosport)

Gosport wish to retract the proposal however I would like to highlight the subject and request the committee investigate a fairer proportionate voting system.

### **Proposal 7**

**Proposed by: Sunderland Branch      Seconded by: Gosport Branch**

We propose that a nominal sum of £150.00 should be donated from national funds to each branch for this year only. This would help in the running of each branch during COVID 19.

Brian Turns (Sunderland)

What it is, with our funds diminished this last year and a half it would be a goodwill gesture from National to be seen to give a bit back from the sub's our members have paid.

Branches have had to buy wreaths etc., set up Zoom, and honour charities they are associated with. We think it would be a good thing for the National to be giving a little something back.

Steve Thorpe (Gosport)

Yes, it is a small sum but it does pay for some expenses.

Denis Rawle (Sottish)

I fully support the proposal on the basis of we have far too much money in the kitty and each Branch should get a little bit back.

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
7 - 25.9%	20 - 74.1%	0	27

**Proposal FAILED**

### **Recommendation 1**

**Withdrawn**

### **Recommendation 2**

The NMC recommend reducing the age of Life membership of the Association from 90 to 85

This would incur a cost to the Association of around £1500 – based on the current Membership levels.

Proposed	Davis Woolterton (Basingstoke)
Seconded	Steve Thorp (Gosport)

David Woolterton (Basingstoke)

We are always looking at ways of reducing costs and reducing fees for our membership. One of the ways we can do that is reduce the age for life members. From 90 to 85. We have a lot of Branches who lapse members who are elderly, because these members do not attend meetings or unable to travel etc. These are our members and they are for us to look after. That is why I wish to reduce the Life Membership age.

Steve Thorpe (Gosport)

To add. A lot of our older people are going to be members for a long time, so, give something back for the community. If they wish they could pay a voluntary contribution.

Denis Rawle (Sottish)

One thing you are not considering, everyone is living longer for a start. One minute we are saying we can't afford this or that but, here we are saying reduce the age so they can come in free.

Peter Ford (Essex)

They will still have to pay to their local Branch which helps the viability of that branch so, in some respects by not paying National they are getting some financial assistance.

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
25 – 92.6%	2 – 7.4%	0	27

**Recommendation CARRIED**

### **Recommendation 3**

Clause 8 (b) Dissolution

(a) The Association shall not be dissolved except with the consent of not less than a majority equal to five-sixths of the Full Members taking part in a ballot arranged for that purpose.

(b) Should dissolution occur, all residual National Funds of the Association shall be transferred to the **Submarine Fund (SMF) as administered by the Royal Navy Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC).**

Proposed	Tom Herman (Norfolk)
Seconded	Dave Woolterton (Basingstoke)

Tom Herman (Norfolk)

It is a good idea. It will be called the Submarine Family Fund (SFF)

Dave Woolterton (Basingstoke)

This will help overseas members who do not have access to SAFFA through RNBT

**NOTE – If turned into a Proposal will require a 2/3rds Majority as will be a change to the Rs & Cs**

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
24 – 100%	0	2	24

**Recommendation CARRIED**

Gents, the following items are grammatical changes and in no way alter the processes or function of the paragraphs in which they sit. We need only inform the membership that the grammar has been altered to reflect the new situation of title changes.

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#### **Recommendation 4**

National Management Committee Standing Orders

add – “**The National Management Committee shall nominate one full member of the Association as the Submariners Association representative on the committee of the Submarine Family Working Group.**”

This at the moment is a temporary working position and it does not need to be included in the R&C’s. Depending on how this shapes up, then in the future, there may be several changes we will need to put to the members to move this relationship forward.

Changes to be made to the wording of R & C

**Clause 4 (h)** The amount and collection of Branch subscriptions are matters for the internal organisation of each branch. However, the National Membership Secretary needs to be informed of branch subscriptions **to enable the issue of refunds** to branches when necessary. This would occur if a member included branch funds in **their** Direct Debit.

**Clause 5 (b) iii** The Honorary Vice President (if any) who shall be, **COSM** providing that the **COSM** is a Member and has accepted an invitation from the National Management Committee to take that office during their term as COSM.

**Clause 5 (d)** Branch delegates on the National Council shall each have one vote at meetings of the National Council. If a member of the NMC’s branch does not have a delegate on the council, then the NMC member may take that role and vote on behalf of **their** branch.

No other member of the National Council shall have a vote.

The Chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote if an equal number of votes are cast for and against a resolution. (Where a simple majority vote is required.)

**Clause 9 (i)** One additional member of the National Management Committee shall be nominated by COSM to represent the views of the submarine branch of the Royal Navy. The nominee shall be a Full Member of The Association and the nomination shall be for an initial period of three years but may be subject to re-nomination for a further term.

**Clause 9 (n) iii** advise the National Management Committee of the state of the accounts of the National Funds of The Association at each of its meetings and shall produce **the** accounts, bank passbook and statement to the National Management Committee on demand and to the National Council at the Annual Conference, and

**Clause 11(f)** The National Management Committee shall nominate one Full Member of the Association as the Submariners Association representative on the **Submarine Advisory Group (SAG) to the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN)**

Proposer Ian Jopling (Gatwick)

Seconder Andy Bain (Dolphin)

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>VOTES CAST</b>
24 – 100%	0	2	24

**Recommendation CARRIED**

**11 Appoint a Branch to propose the 2021 Reunion Toast** “To the Submarine Service” By Rota - MEDWAY TOWNS have confirmed that they will propose this Toast.

**12 Election of Officers.**

**Vice Chairman – Mr Iain Mackenzie**

Iain has been doing a sterling job for the last few years and has confirmed he is happy to carry on and, as there is only one Candidate there is no vote needed.

**Committee vacancies** - 2 Candidates therefore a vote is not required.

There were two vacancies last year. Andy Bain became the Treasurer and Frank Pas resigned. We had two volunteers already there - Paul Swaby and Ian Fowler and they are now members of the NMC.

**13 Tom Herman – Arboretum Memorial**

Sent separately.

**14 Commodore Perks**

**Overview on the submarine service**

Sent separately.

**15 President Niall Kilgour**

That was a really interesting 2 ½ hours of very articulate conversation, and quite far reaching.

I really enjoyed Jim Perks roundup of the service and the way it is going. My views on all the proposals was that you were actually brilliant at coming to the right conclusions. I think. When it comes to identity, I think the NMC will have to look at that very carefully. I am a great believer in the Submarine Family, but I would also underpin the Branches and their structures. Don't let that element get confused. I think it is an exciting future. I think we need to be really careful on the money side and making sure it is going to work long term. I am hugely grateful for Jim Perks for his initiative for this. I am much looking forward to a gathering in August, where we can at last share a glass of wine together.

Thank you very much for your time today. The NMC will have a lot to get its teeth into now to establish core elements and write them into issue. Tom Herman spoke very nicely about his fund raising. All in all it has to me been a very good 2 ½ hours and we need to say thank you to all those who have helped us in bringing this family together and I wish you all well.

**16 Chairman Barrie Downer**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed today – to the Branch Delegates for engaging in the debate and addressing and explaining their Branch view, to Tom Herman for his update on the Funding, Plans and Timescales for the new Submariners Memorial, to Commodore Perks for covering the Submarine Flotilla activities during these recent difficult times and for briefing us on the current status of the Submarine Family and the Submarine Fund and, especially, to our President Niall Kilgour for his kind and wise words to us all.

Regarding the Submarine Family proposals these represent a very big challenge for the Submariners Association – probably the biggest challenge since the change from SOCA to the SA. There are still a number of matters about the SMF which need to be clarified including detail of the Funding and Membership arrangements and the relationships between the component parts of the Family. Your NMC are still not sure why ‘Memorandums of Understanding’ (MOUs) between the members of the Family need to be established at this stage, preferring instead a system that puts money into the Submarine Fund by, say, an agreed annual contribution rather than boosting ‘partners’ funds by covering subscriptions - formerly collected in house. This is sound, boosts the Funds and lets the ‘Partners’ maintain their autonomy. We must make sure we get this right and your NMC will be meeting again as necessary to consider the way ahead for the Association and we will come back to the Membership with details in due course. After all it is your Association!

In the meantime, I think it is time to shut the meeting with a tot.

**17. Shut the meeting. President**