

# Submariners Association

Recognised by the Ministry of Defence  
*Patron: Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL*  
*Vice Patron: Admiral Sir James Perowne KBE*

Chairman:

J. McMaster Esq.  
1 Blantyre Court  
Bargarran, Erskine  
Renfrewshire PA8 6BN  
Tel: (0141) 571 4094  
E-Mail;  
[chairman@submarinersassociation.co.uk](mailto:chairman@submarinersassociation.co.uk)

Hon. Treasurer:

N. Mellor Esq.  
17 St. Andrews way  
Church Aston  
Newport  
Shropshire  
TF10 9JH  
Tel: 07427159476  
E-Mail:[treasurer@submarinersassociation.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@submarinersassociation.co.uk)



President:

Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB

Honorary Chaplain to the Association:

Reverend Paul Jupp

Hon. Secretary:

I Vickers Esq.  
160 Bradshaw Meadow  
Bradshaw  
Bolton  
Lancs  
BL2 4ND  
Tel: (01204)308539

E-Mail: [secretary@submarinersassociation.co.uk](mailto:secretary@submarinersassociation.co.uk)

Vice Presidents:

R.L. Gritt Esq.  
Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB  
Cdr. R. C. Seaward OBE RN  
D. Barlow Esq.  
I. Atkinson Esq.

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## NMC Meeting held West Bromwich RNA

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Starting at 1230

### Present

Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Vice Chairman)  
Mr. Ian Vickers (National Secretary)  
Mr Nigel Mellor (National Treasurer)  
Mr Stuart Brown Esq.  
Mr. David Woolterton (National Membership)  
CPO Paul Swaby (Serving Rep)  
Mr. Brian Tate (Committee)  
Mr. David Barlow Esq. (Vice Presidents)  
Mr. Frank Powell Esq. (Committee)  
Mr. Andy Bain (Committee)  
Mr. Andy Morgan (Committee)  
Mr. Chris Freeth (Committee)  
Mr. Frank Pas (Committee)

### 1. Welcome.

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to West Bromwich.

### 2. Apologies.

Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB (President)  
Cdr. Robert. Seaward OBE (Vice President)  
Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)  
Mr. Ian Atkinson Esq. (Vice Presidents)  
Mr. Ray. L. Gritt Esq. (Vice Presidents)  
Rear Admiral Anthony. J. Whetstone CB (Vice Presidents)

### 3. Minutes of the October Zoom NMC Meeting.

All present agreed that the Minutes of the October Zoom NMC meeting were a true record.  
Proposed Mr. Brian Tate. Seconded Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE.

#### 4. Outstanding Actions from January 2018 Meeting – Action Grid

Item	Action	Action By	Status
240318-01	GDPR	SB/PS	On Going
210718-01	GDPR chase up branch permission forms	IV	On Going
210718-02	Letter to Norfolk Branch with ref. to the proposals for the MCC	JMcM/BS	Complete
210718-05	Write up the changes to Rules and Constitution for NCC as recommendations	JMcM	Complete
210718-06	Letter to Ted Hogben ref slops at MCC	IV	Complete
210718-07	Letter to National Standard Bearer	IV	Complete
191018-04	Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge	IV	On Going
120119-01	Find a replacement for our rep.at CONA	IV	On Going
120119-02	Purchase new cloves and tassels for the Standard	AM	On Going
120119-03	Get a quote for a Standard Bearer Sash	AM	On Going
120119-04	Look at the wording of clause 3 of R&C	JMcM/DB	On Going

#### 5. Correspondence

None

#### 6. Officers Reports

##### Secretary: Ian Vickers

It was a busy end to the year. Finding replacements for the Representative on the Advisory panel of Submarine Museum, when Ted Hogben died and Dave Ottley gave notice that, as a full-time carer, he could not find enough time to be a useful member of the Friends of the Submarine Museum committee. After enquiring locally with the Gosport and Portsmouth branches and later with the Dolphin Branch two replacements were found Pat McCaw has taken on Friends of the Submarine Museum, and Dave Ottley volunteered for Advisory panel of Submarine Museum, which would be within his means. The only positions to fill now is Chris Freeth's position on the CONA committee and Dave Woolterton's position as Web Manager.

Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge. I have taken an interest in this event as one of my old shipmates died trying back in the 70's. More in the report on the agenda.

Zoom. My first attempt with zoom in October and after Dave set it up I was able to conduct and record the meeting. This I think you will agree is a very useful tool and we should think about small group meetings to finalise events rather than a full NMC meeting.

Finally, I will be out in Australia on the first two weeks of February. But I will be able to carry on while out there.

The position on the CONA committee we discussed and there is possibly a volunteer locally who will attend the meetings. The secretary will chase up.

## **Treasurer Nigel Mellor**

### **Accounts Information/Report as of 12/01/2019**

For and on behalf of Nigel is preparing annual accounts for the accountant to approve, in time for conference. Honoraria Cheques to be sent out today.

Current Bank Balances are as follows: -

Business Account     £54793.59

Reunion Account     £10955.10

Blue Plaque Account   £4072.15

Slops Account         £1387.56

The Treasurer recommended that the slops account repays £300 of their outstanding loan of £800.

This will bring the loan down to £500

The treasurer stated that the Zoom meeting had not saved any money with expenses.

The committee disagreed and a discussion was had over the use of Zoom. It was felt that Zoom would be useful discussing single items like the embankment washup and to be used to replace one NMC meeting a year.

Slops Frank Pas requested permission to purchase ten blazer badges from a new source online.

After much debate Frank was permitted to find a new supplier at the best price.

## **Membership Secretary David Woolterton**

### **Membership Report for Jan 2019**

I have now been doing the job for 16 months and this will be the second time I have been responsible for collecting in the annual subscriptions.

I have asked to discuss the reports I send out as an agenda item. Document already send to NMC.

### **Standing Orders**

We are down to 50 Standing orders and I am still getting resistance from the branches in assisting getting members to cancel their SO to National and to either set up a DD if they insist, they want to pay National or to go back to paying the branch in any method the branch and the member decides is best for both of them.

At least half of all SO still do not pay us the £15 due, and only one includes any branch part of that fee. I also have a couple who are list as lapsed. Despite several attempts at getting these to cancel their SO.

Somehow if we are to resolve this, we need to come up with some solution. As it is the branches responsibility to keep track of its members and to keep Me (National) update with any changes in members details. One solution might be to make the branches pay the difference between what the member has paid National and the actual sum they should have paid, this might make them try harder if it is costing them. Another solution might be they could not be permitted to attend conference unless they can provide proof of what attempts they have made, or even a combination of both.

It is unfair of the branches to turn a blind eye and keep saying they don't pay us it's your problem.

### **Direct Debits**

2019 Subs, so far so good out of 180 DD only 4 did not get paid, These and their branches have been notified.

## Subscriptions we owe to the branches

I have a list of what we have collected so far as the branch part of members subscriptions which I will hand over to Stuart for payment once all payments are in on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. I have asked for branches to not subtract what they think this is from what they need to pay us, because 1. It maybe that a member may still pay me 2. It makes it easier to track payments when it comes to audit.

These are mainly what have been collected when collecting the DD, but there are some which were collected during the year as New members sent me their payments when they join.

## Reports

I have made some changes to both the NMC Report and the Branch Reports. I was wondering if it might be of any benefit if I sent the report, I send to the NMC also to the branches for information. I was thinking if they saw how other branches faired then they might be more likely to help with getting rid of the Standing Orders and to invite their members to use Direct Debit.

## Branches / Dolphin Members

I spoke with both Andy and Ian and interestingly made an attempt to see if we could not get some of their members to transfer to a local branch to where they live. So far this has not caused any one to move.

The reason behind this was a bit cheeky really, my own branch is low on numbers like several other small branches, so I decide to look on the Database to see if there were any other members who belonged to another branch who lived in my area.

I found one member of Dolphin Branch who did live in the next road down from where we meet. With Dolphins permission I approached this member and he was unaware of this and happily transferred to my branch. This is what got me to thinking there may be more out there who could do the same. I think we should encourage all our members to be a member of the branch which is closest to themselves. There are a lot of members of the larger branches which come from all over the country.

If we do not encourage these (members) to move (join) to a local branch to themselves, I can see that over the next 5 years we are going to lose even more branches.

Should we here at the NMC do more to promote this?

## Database

I have spent a lot of time fixing some of the inherited issues in the database, but I still have some way to go before you need to stop going into tables direct to make changes. This will be ongoing, but I am happy with the process so far.

I have also started to write a document on how to use the database and get the best out of it, but this is far from finished and is only in heading form at the moment as the detail needs to also be written.

## Replacement / Associate Membership cards

As far as I can tell there has been no discussion on what we should charge for a replacement / Associate membership Card.

I know Keith use to charge a £1 which he increased to £2 before he CTB. I have started to charge £3, but in reality, I do not think this covers what we pay for them and the postage to send them on. I would like to get agreement to make this a £5 charge. The committee agreed that £5 was a fair price.

## **Serving Rep: CPO Paul Swaby**

For those who are not fully aware I will be standing down at the AGM. My next job which I start next month isn't conducive to me attending these meetings as I am going into shift work. There should be a serving rep that can attend the meetings as much as they possibly can. We have two very good volunteer's PO Mark Butchart (HMS AUDACIOUS) and CPO Charlie Drake (HMS TRENCHANT) RASM is fully aware of their difficulties and when I had my chat with him, he asked if we could have two serving reps. with one vote between them? The reason being is you have been lucky these last three years with a rep in a desk job. The new serving reps are both on boats and could be at sea. The thinking is, if you have two reps there is a good chance at least one would be able to attend the meeting. They would still have only one vote between them.

This was discussed by the committee and it was stated that when we changed our name to the Submariners Association, we went to the serving fraternity and said we want a closer relationship. FOSM at the time said if you want a closer relationship, I want a place seat at your table. A commander was appointed and on occasions when he could not attend, he sent a deputy. So, a president had been set in the past. It is RASM's choice who sits on the committee and generally they have been very good. Paul was directed to go back to RASM and say that we agree with his choice to have two reps with one vote between them.

## **6. Wash up from the Embankment Parade. I. Mackenzie**

Security. Paul Swaby was at the gate to Temple Gardens to keep unwanted people out. While there he was able to greet the high-ranking guests. Paul thought it would be a nice touch for a serving member in uniform to be stationed at the gate in future to greet our guests.

Wreaths, total embarrassment on the day. Every other year they have be there ready to go, we had to chase around to find them as no one knew where they were. This was a problem cause by someone not turning up on the Saturday to prepare the wreaths. This will not happen again.

There were not enough VIP wreaths. In future there will be a list of wreaths we supply for the VIP's on the Saturday for however has the responsibility to preparing them for the Sunday.

Secondary VIP's. Dave Barlow is happy to continue looking after them, but it would help is when the memo goes out to the Navy, that in addition to VIP's all Commanders and above who are not in the VIP row should join the secondary VIP's and not fall in with the serving Officers. Laying of wreaths, Secondary VIP's will lay their wreaths after the VIP's and before the Branches and Navy.

Wreath bearers are to go up in pairs and hand the wreath to the designated wreath layers.

Chairs. Not enough. We are at the mercy of the council, we ask for 50 but get what we are given.

We did not have a wreath for the Cenotaph. In future Andy Morgan is responsible for ordering a wreath when the Parade Marshal sends out the memo in the summer.

## **7. Reunion 2019 plans**

There is a mistake on the application form for the AGM. It says on the Thursday and Sunday Dinner Bed and Breakfast. This should be Bed and Breakfast.

## **8. Blue Plaque progress report - Sandy Powell**

Sandy gave us a report on the problems he had with Dover Council. The full report is in ANNEX A

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## **9. National Standard Bearer and accoutrements for use on Parade. Andrew Morgan.**

The holder cloves tassels and sash are worn out and in a bad condition. The National Standard Bearer Trevor Thomas has asked in the past for replacements, but he has had nothing for over ten years. Gauntlets if used regularly will only last around two years. Cost at the moment for a good

pair is around £50 and the tassels £39. The Association is asked to fund the replacement of the gauntlets and the tassels at a cost of £89. The committee agreed to this and to get a quote for the sash/holder. When the quote is in to convene a Zoom meeting to approve the purchase.  
(120119-02) (120119-03)

#### **10. 2020 AGM/Family Weekend Venue Aztec Hotel & Spa Bristol. Iain Mackenzie**

This hotel is slightly more expensive than we are used to, prices are starting to go up. Our agent has been there and done all his bits and it will cost about £10 more than we are paying now. The only problem is that it is out of the city. If you want a city hotel you will pay a lot more. The hotel has had excellent reviews from groups that have stayed there, it is on the interchange of the M4 and M5.

The options are to go back to Blackpool or Kegworth again. We have looked at the city centre hotels and they are far more expensive. A vote was taken, and Bristol will be the 2020 venue.

#### **11. Deferred to January meeting**

##### **Change to Clause 3 of the R&C**

**David Barlow**

There was a ten minute discussion on the proposed changes and recommendations from the Zoom meeting. It was generally thought that the subject could not be resolved today. If it went to Conference as it stands, and was defeated, we would be barred for three years at looking at it again. The Committee recommend we allow the Chairman and Vice President Dave Barlow time to look at the wording as a whole and possibly bring recommendation to the Committee in a Zoom meeting (120119-04)

#### **12. Submariners Association Associate Membership C Freeth**

There are no associate members of the Submariners Association, only associate members of a Branch.

Clause 3 (c) The wording needs changing for next year

If you wish to become an associate member of the Association, you must nominate a Branch.

#### **13. NCC as per separate agenda.**

#### **14. Date of the next meeting**

**23<sup>th</sup> March Reunion NCC**

#### **Dates for meetings this year**

**23<sup>th</sup> March Reunion NCC**

**27<sup>th</sup> April West Brom RNA Club 1230**

**20<sup>th</sup> July Faslane**

#### **15. AOCB.**

##### **K4 Cheque**

The visit by the Submariners Association to the Guild Church of St Margaret's Patten's will take place as follows:

Venue: Guild Church of St Margaret's Patten's, Rood Lane, Eastcheap, London EC3 1HS;

Time: Meet in the Guild Church Cafe "Cafe Espresso" 43-45 Eastcheap, London, EC3M 1JA at 1215-30;

Service: Full Eucharist service commences at 1300 and will complete at approximately 1400;

Event: The church will be celebrating the execution of Charles 1<sup>st</sup> (executed for treason 30 Jan 1649-Memorial within Church) and the 101st anniversary of "The Battle of May Island" in which HM Submarines K4 and K17 were lost in 1918; Following the service a cheque for £500 will be presented to the Submariners Association;

Rig: Association No.1's with medals (Association Jacket, Tie & Medals).

**Donations to the funds.** Any donations to the Association should go into the Business Account.

As this is Nigel's last meeting, we would like to thank you on behalf of the NMC for the input as Secretary and Treasurer over the years. Thank you very much. Also, this is Chris's last meeting. We would like to thank Chris for all he has done on the committee over the years and for attending CONA meetings and

keeping the association informed on all the useful information that is passed around the different Navy Organisations. Again, thank you very much.

## ANNEX A

### PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM GOULD VC, RN

The elected new Mayor of Dover Town Council contacted me prior to Christmas through the Town Clerk. Unfortunately, the Town Clerk has indicated that the council are not happy to hold the ceremony on a Saturday as the Council Offices are shut down and hence it would be difficult to provide Tea & Biscuits following the ceremony. She also asked me who was printing the information of which they had previously been informed. This therefore poses a problem for the SA as that the majority of guests, including the immediate family work for a living and would find it difficult to attend the event during a week day.

On receipt of the above communication I therefore contacted the President and suggested that we should look elsewhere to hold the Blue Plaque ceremony for Gould VC and which he agreed.

Following further research, I discovered that Gould VC was only the third Jewish recipient of the VC from WWII and that the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women purchased Gould VC when it was put up for auction. I therefore contacted the Association to see if they were interested in having the Blue Plaque mounted either on or within the Jewish Museum in London where Gould VC is currently displayed. I am waiting a response.

Suggested date for the event May/June 2019.

*Stop Press: Further to above received a call today (10/01/19) from the Vice Chairman of the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's & Women Association. They are currently writing to me and I should receive a letter next week. In brief, the Association is delighted to provide permission for the Gould VC Blue Plaque to be mounted on the Jewish Museum in London. As the building is Grade II they will approach their local council for permission. They are happy to provide Tea & Biscuits following the ceremony; however, as a Saturday is the Sabbath, they would prefer the ceremony to be conducted on a Sunday and which I have agreed. They have also agreed the proposed date of May/June 2019.*

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### LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ANTHONY CECIL CHAPEL MIERS VC, DSO, RN

The Miers family are personal friends of the President and following a meeting between Miers son and R. Adm Niall Kilgour it was agreed that a Blue Plaque to LtCdr A.C.C. Miers DSO, VC, RN (later Rear Admiral) should be mounted at an appropriate place in Inverness.

I have therefore written to the Mayor (Provost) of Inverness with a request to mount a Blue Plaque to LtCdr A.C.C. Miers DSO, VC, RN at a place to be chosen by the council of Inverness.

I am currently awaiting a response.

Suggested date for the event August/September 2019.