

Submariners Association

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NMC Meeting held West Bromwich RNA

Saturday 27th April 2019, Starting at 1230

Present

Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)
Cdr. R. Seaward OBE (Vice President)
Mr Rick Elrick (Vice President)
Mr. Ian Vickers (National Secretary)
Mr Stewart Brown (National Treasurer)
Mr. David Woolterton (National Membership)
CPO Martin Drake (Serving Rep)
Mr. Brian Tate (Committee)
Mr. F Powell. (Committee)
Mr. Andy Bain (Committee)
Mr. Andy Morgan (Committee)
Mr Mark Smith (Committee)

1. Welcome.

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

The Chairman welcomed some new faces, Mark Smith and Martin Drake and Mark Buchart cannot be here today as he has duty. It is nice to welcome back Rick Elrick and thank you all for coming.

The Chairman briefed the new member on the confidentiality of the meeting. Nothing to be passed outside the meeting. The Chairman explained the need for confidentiality. This allowed members to express their feelings freely and openly on any matter without the fear of it being relayed to others and perhaps misrepresented or taken out of context. Accurate Minutes of the meeting would be published.

2. Apologies.

Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB (President)
Mr. I Atkinson Esq. (Vice Presidents)
R.L. Gritt Esq. (Vice Presidents)

now waiting for them to come back with quotes. By July we should have the three quotes which will be brought to the next meeting. Battle honours, North Sea, Mediterranean, Far East and North Atlantic. Crest at the top in gold.

120119-04 Look at the wording of clause 3 of R&C

Complete

The placing of the following addition to Rules and Constitution was brought up at the Conference.

Clause 3 – Membership

(b) (i) **The Patron's Commendation**, principally for national work and strictly limited to preserve its status as a very special award.

(ii) **The President's Certificate of Appreciation**, for branch Officers who have done more than normal duty such as extremely long service in a key post and subsequent retirement.

The committee looked into the placing of these awards and as there was no better place in the Rules and Constitution to leave them where they are

5. Correspondence

The Secretary has received donations £213 from the funeral of Sheila Syrett. Wife of Arthur Syrett a submariner from Stoke on Trent who Crossed the Bar some years ago.

A letter from Bob Seaward. The Helensburgh Outdoor Museum in Colquhoun Square, the K13 plinth requesting for funding.

You will be aware that the West of Scotland branch has been successful in achieving the Kyle and Bute Council approval for the construction of a submarine artefact for permanent display in the Helensburgh Outdoor Museum in Colquhoun Square. We have designed a model representing the K13 accident in January 1917 in the Gareloch to remind both the Helensburgh residence and the visitors to the town of the links with the submarines and submariners which has existed for over 100 years. The Kyle and Bute Council will fund 50% of the construction and the rest will come from the Submarine Family. The West of Scotland branch has raised £1500 to date from sales of K13 pins designed and commissioned by us. I have approached the RSAM Fund for £1000 and I am now seeking a National contribution of £500 through the NMC. This letter is to formalise the funding request through the NMC.

Bob Seaward

This has been in the planning for about a year. David Dunbar a graphic artist from the Heritage Centre has done the design work. This will be cast in bronze. Bob then went on to describe the plinth and gave us the history behind the project. When complete it will look very professional.

SEE PHOTO's ANNEX B

This was debated by the NMC, the question of maintenance we brought up, this will be looked after by the West of Scotland branch.

Proposal of a donation of £500 to the fund.

Proposed by Andrew Morgan and seconded by Sandy Powel

10 for 0 against

Proposal carried

From the Colchester Branch

We at the Colchester branch will be celebrating 100 years of the Shotley Submariners Memorial on the 26th June 2019. The Royal Naval Training Establishment, H.M.S. "Ganges" was based at Shotley from 1905 until 1976. As a result, an area (called the Naval Reservation) was set aside in Shotley (St. Mary) Churchyard for navy burials. There are 201 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-

1918 war here (8 of which are unidentified) and 34 of the 1939-1945 war (2 of which are unidentified Royal Navy Seaman and 2 of which are Merchant Navy seamen from the S.S. Skagerak). In addition, there are 13 German burials of the 1914-18 war, 1 of which is unidentified. Besides burials, the plot also contains the "Submarine Enclosure," with a memorial to the officers and men of H.M. Submarines and the graves of many, particularly from "C 16," "E 4" and "E 41." We have previously requested support from the association both myself and others have contacted you with no response. I feel so passionate about the memorial receiving a suitable centenary I thought I would try again to contact you requesting a representative or support from the committee. Therefore, could you please contact our President Richard Channon accordingly.

There are several "Ganges Boys" on the NMC who received this information with interest. Sandy Powel, Ian Vickers and Andy Morgan will represent the NMC at this event. The National Standard will be paraded, and a wreath laid. Sandy Powel will organise the wreath.

Plymouth

There have been several emails from an ex member of the Plymouth Branch to the Chairman and Membership Secretary. The content of the e-mails was nothing more than totally inaccurate and untrue statements which just don't deserve to be published. The Membership Secretary has also had difficulties with the branch over late payments and membership details. Hopefully with a member of the NMC now from Plymouth communications will improve.

My name is Nick, I'm the Assistant manager at Circo, a cocktail bar in Bath.

My colleague Seb. and I are looking to organise an event on Black Tot Day (31 July) sponsored by Pussers rum, and I was hoping you guys would get involved.

The idea is to invite Naval veterans to the bar for a tot of Pussers and share some stories about their time in the military with our team.

We might potentially be able to help with transport, or if it isn't feasible for the veterans to travel to us we could come to a location near you

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Nick Greene

Secretary to send to local Branches.

Leslie Barlow wishes to find the recipe from Pussers bread and butter pudding.

The committee recommend the internet as all Pussers recipes can be found there.

A thankyou to those who attended the Rev Mike Chapman funeral. Lincoln Branch are to be congratulated for taking an interest and attending. And, for those who attended the St. Margret Pattens service in London.

6. Officers Reports

Secretary: Ian Vickers

Oardatious rowers offer of a table at the Greenwich Painted Hall has had no response from the branches, so, I will cancel the table.

Rules and Constitution issue 6 one problem with the changes. Where to place The Patrons Commendation and Certificate of Appreciation? This was debated today, and they will stay in clause 3 (b)

I have started a list of Submarine Memorials, when I have as much information as possible down on a spreadsheet, I will send it out to the NMC and Branches for their input.

I have taken on the job as rep for CONA from Chris Freeth.

The Australia Branch asked me about producing a badge for those who reach 90. They stop paying subs at 90 and a small pin badge to recognise their achievement. The Committee talked this over, and as we have around 100 life members, we were talking about ordering 500 to be cost effective. Stuart Brown said he would investigate it.

Treasurer Stuart Brown

Current Bank Balances are as follows: -

Business Account £ 67,259.74

Reunion Account £654.65

Blue Plaque Account £4072.15

Slops Account £2009.53

I have received a number of calls from the National Standard Bearer chasing his expenses. These were sent to Nigel who could not make head or tail of them, so, they were sent back to Trevor. Trevor said he had not received them. These expenses go back to 2017 and the receipts are now missing. The total claimed was over £1000. Trevor Had not filled in the forms correctly, 2 or 3 events to a form rather than a form for each event.

The Chairman asked how many events Trevor had attended? The Parade Marshal should authorise the events the Standard is paraded at. It is stated that you cannot accumulate expenses.

Stuart will speak to Iain Mackenzie Parade Marshal and then make a decision

To finish off the technicalities of the handover, we are almost there, the on-line banking is in the process of being setup for me to be able to access it, Ian Atkinson is supporting me at the moment, if we need to make a payment on-line he is doing that for me,

Slops. Ted Hogben's slops have been purchased and incorporated into ours.

Membership Secretary David Woolterton

Membership report went out last Friday.

Emails have been sent to all Lapsed members and those who did not join, in an attempt to jog memory's and to see if we can get their reasons for not wanting to continue membership of the Association. This again was successful with about 15 renewing their membership.

Serving Rep:

As it is the first time at the NMC meeting for the new Serving Rep there was nothing to report.

The Chairman briefed Martin on his duties as RASM's rep. at the meetings.

7. Reunion 2019

Everything went to plan except for the late start of the dinner and four members of the Hull Branch who could not find seats. A table we added to one of the legs and Iain went to find them. They were not in the bar and had gone into town. Due to them leaving the hotel there was nothing more that

could be done, and they therefor forfeit any refund. The Hotel had provided seating and it we their choice not to attend.

Named place settings. Some people have asked why we don't have named place settings for the dinner. This would be extremely difficult and time consuming, it is hard enough getting peoples to order food let alone who they want to sit with.

Service was slow at the Saturday evening dinner, only one till in use at the bar, no spa centre.

A vote of thanks to Iain Mackenzie was organised the weekend.

8. Blue Plaque progress report - Sandy Powell

National Standard will be paraded and possibly the Queens Colours.

See ANMEX A

9. 2020 AGM/Family Weekend

Kegworth Best Western Hotel. Ewe Tree lodge. The general thought was that we were moving the weekend around the country. What were the additional costs at Bristol? Was it just the IT. Or were there other expenses? The Chairman will find out what happened. Next year we are looking to put on coaches for the ladies during the conference as there is nothing to do around the hotel.

10. AOCB

Arboretum Memorial The appeal team is coming together and would like to schedule a face to face meeting to agree a plan of action. The NMC have been asked for a rep. and Stuart Brown the National Treasurer to be on the board. They will meet in London at venue to be arranged at 1430 2nd July. After the initial meeting most of the work will be done by email of VTC. They are asking three organisations for seed corn funding: RASM fund, WRS and the SA. £2000 from each will give them funds to create the initial artwork, 'pitch' document and digital platform for them to build on. For the time being the money to be retained in your account but available for us to draw on via Stuart the National Treasurer.

This was discussed at length and no decision can be made until more information is available.

A vote was taken to be put aside for the seed fund of £2000 **10 for 0 against**

Submariners Charity

No update as yet. The committee spent time talking about it but a there has not been any information passed down to the NMC yet.

Next years Diaries are with the printers and the price will be the same as this year.

Branches will receive them at cost Postage paid.

Silver Bomber pins for those who have done 10 patrols. Discussions are ongoing on how to get them to qualifying members.

SubDiv new letters. The last one on the website is February No5, can the secretary have any outstanding ones to send to the Branches.

Date of the next meeting **20th July** **Faslane**

There will be cabins available for the next meeting in Faslane.

ANMEX A

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

PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM GOULD VC, RN

The arranging and management of the Gould VC Blue Plaque is proving more difficult than I imagined.

Whilst the Jewish Ex-Servicemen & Women Association were very keen to mount the Blue Plaque in London on the Jewish Museum, the Gould family were not and requested that I approach Dover Council again as the family had strong ties with Dover.

I therefore approached the Dover District Council (vice previously the Dover Town Council) and received a most enthusiastic approach to the idea.

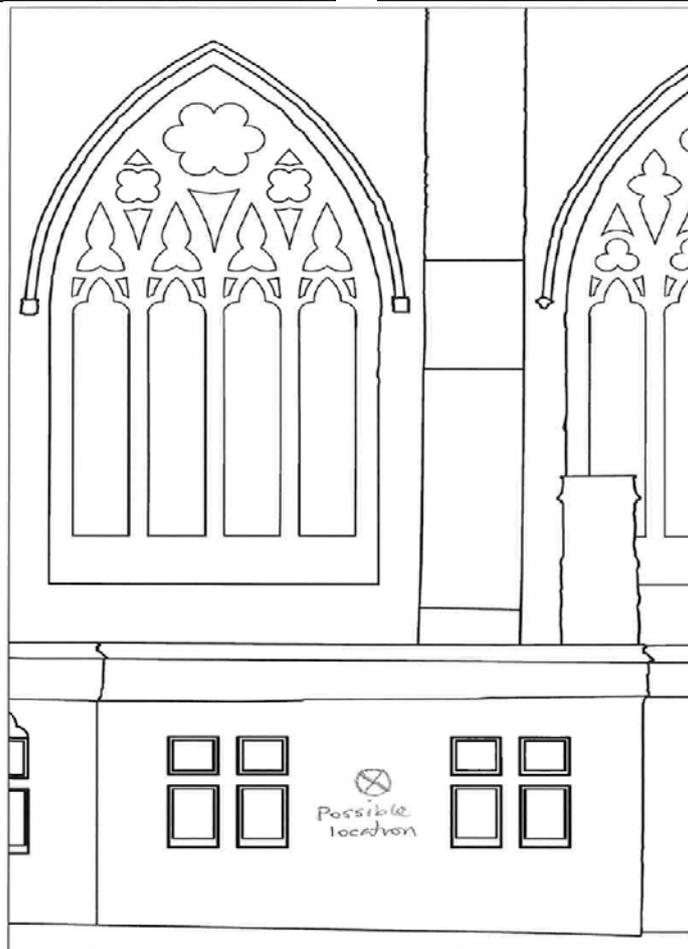
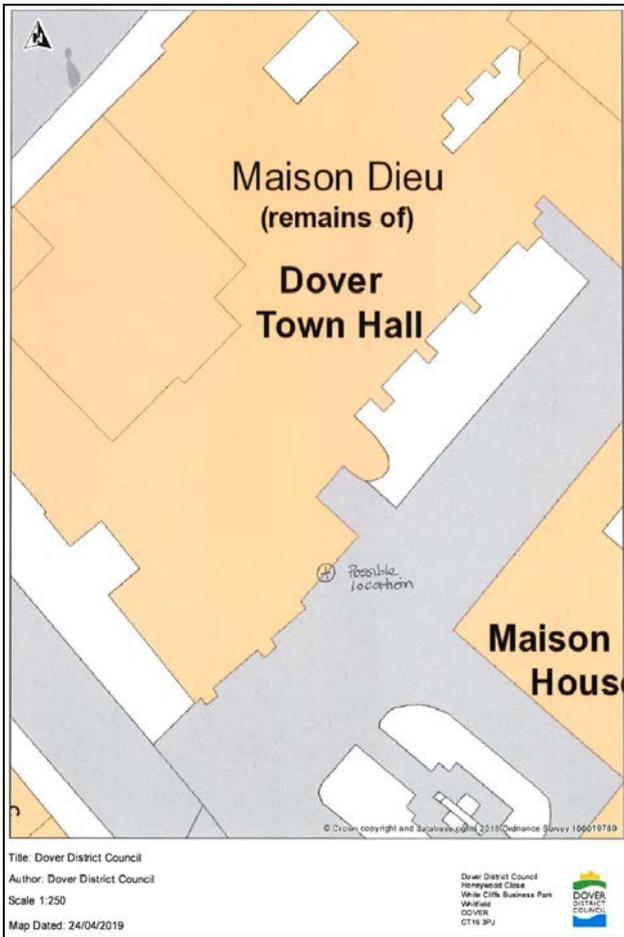
My contact, the Director of the Dover Museum is currently in the process of gaining permission to mount the Blue Plaque to Gould VC on the Town Hall which is a Grade I listed building. I consider this a most appropriate place to mount the plaque to Gould VC as he was given the Freedom of Dover at this building and it is opposite the Memorial Garden.

Attached are some pictures of the proposed site for Gould VC Blue Plaque.

If the process of approving the mounting of the plaque is delayed by any amount of time, which will not give the VIP's adequate notification, I will most probably request that we mount the plaque to Gould VC in Spring 2020.

I will keep you informed.

Possible location of Gould VC plaque:



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LIEUTENANT COMMANDER ANTHONY CECIL CHAPEL MIERS VC, DSO, RN

I and Rick Elrick travelled to Inverness and attended a meeting with the Provost of Inverness and her staff on the 1st April 2019.

I am pleased to report that Rick Elrick and I had a very productive and proactive meeting with the Provost, Dep Provost and Civil Facilities Manager at the Town House, Inverness. The provost and the team were very enthusiastic and receptive to our request to mount a Blue Plaque (BP) to Miers VC, DSO* in Inverness.

The date for the event was agreed to be **14th September 2019** and the BP will be mounted on the railings at the entrance to the Inverness Cemetery where Miers is buried.

Following the ceremony a reception will be held in the great hall at the Town House (a very historic building) in Inverness and I believe they will be providing a bit more than just “Tea & Biscuits”. They have also suggested that a piper be invited to play at the ceremony and they will be arranging the photography and the press.

Our President should note that the Provost has requested that he attends in uniform as the Lord Lieutenant will also be wearing uniform. Of other interest is that the Provost also holds the title “Admiral of Murray Firth”.

The Miers Family have agreed that the mounting of the plaque on the railings at the entrance to the cemetery, where Miers VC, DSO* is buried would be most appropriate.

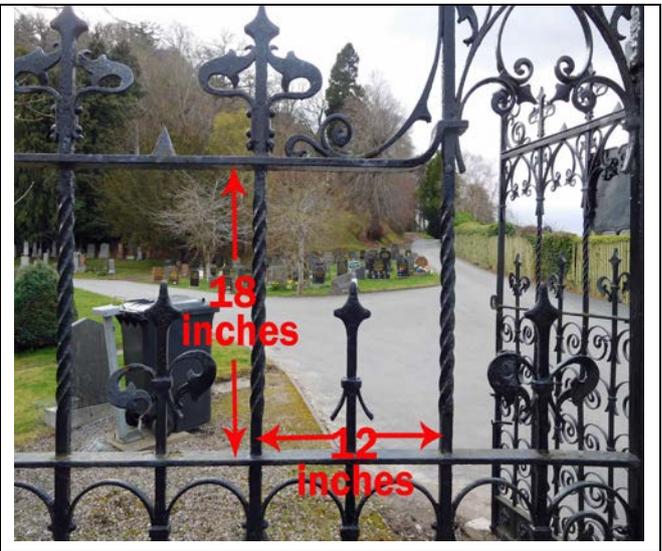
Furthermore, in view that the plaque is being mounted on the railings of the cemetery it will need to be firmly fixed so that it cannot be removed by vandals. I have been in contact with the manufacturer and our chairman to discuss the fixing arrangement which will incur an additional cost (tbc).

I have currently invited the Lord Lieutenant of Inverness, the Sheriff Principal, Inverness Sea Cadets, Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce and the Provost of Inverness. The closest Branches that may wish to attend are Scottish (128 miles) and West of Scotland (146 miles).

Rick and I stayed in the Premier Inn West in Inverness which also has a Beefeater restaurant attached and is close to the cemetery and about 15 minutes drive from the Town House and would be suitable for guests to use.

Will keep you informed of progress.





ANNEX B

PHOTO's K13 plinth





H.M. Submarine K13 flooded and sank in the Gareloch on her final test dive prior to acceptance into service. Built at the Fairfield Yard in Govan, she carried both dockyard engineers and Royal Navy personnel. 32 lives were lost and they were laid to rest at Faslane Cemetery beside the K13 Memorial. There are memorials to K13 at Elder Park, Govan and at Carlingford, New South Wales. The 48 survivors were rescued after 67 hours using techniques developed on site. The Submariners Association is proud to sponsor this exhibit.