

Submariners Association

Recognised by the Ministry of Defence
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Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB
Cdr. R. C. Seaward OBE RN
D. Barlow Esq.
I. Atkinson Esq.

NMC Meeting held in WO & SR Mess HMNB Clyde

Saturday 21st July 2018, Starting at 0930

Present

Cdr. R. Seaward OBE (Vice President)
Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)
Mr. Iain Mackenzie MBE (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Ian Vickers (National Secretary)
Mr Nigel Mellor (National Treasurer)
Mr. David Woolterton (National Membership)
CPO Paul Swaby (Serving Rep)
Mr. Brian Tate (Committee)
Mr. Andy Bain (Committee)
Mr. Andy Morgan (Committee)
Mr Frank Pas (committee)

1. Welcome.

The Chairman opened the meeting with a welcome to HMNB Clyde.

2. Apologies.

Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB (President)
D. Barlow Esq. (Vice Presidents)
Mr. I Atkinson Esq. (Vice Presidents)
R.L. Gritt Esq. (Vice Presidents)
Rear Admiral A. J. Whetstone CB (Vice Presidents)
Mr C Freeth Esq. (Committee)
Mr. F Powell Esq. (Committee)

3. Minutes of the April 2018 NMC Meeting.

All present agreed that the Minutes of the April 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
220417-12	Nigel Mellor/Dave Woolterton to continue investigating voting Options and electronic voting systems suitable to our needs	NM/DW	Complete
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	On Going
210718-03	Contact Jim Perks ref. Dundee	JMcM	Complete
210718-04	Contact Sandy Powell ref manpower for NI Blue Plaque	PS	Complete
210718-05	Write up the changes to Rules and Constitution for NCC as recommendations	JMcM	On Going
210718-06	Letter to Ted Hogben ref slops at MCC	IV	On Going
210718-07	Letter to National Standard Bearer	IV	On Going

5. Correspondence

Two Formal Proposals have been received Formal from Norfolk Branch;

1. Create a National Submarine Memorial at the National Arboretum (NMA), to commemorate all RN submariners, who have given their lives in the service of their country in peace and war.
2. Once it is completed, institute a National Submarine Service Memorial Event at the NMA in place of the current event in London.

The NMC discussed these proposals at great length and concluded;

This is a memorial for ALL submariners. The SA is only a small part of the whole submarine community and should not take the lead. The lead should come from RASM who has the authority to form a group which could involve members of the SA.

If the submarine community in its entirety wants to replace the memorial and wants to approach the SA, WRS and other groups support the initiative, we will consider it.

The discussion went on for 30 min and concluded with, the committee whole heartedly supporting a new memorial at the NMA, but it is outside the remit of the association.

A letter will be sent to the Norfolk Branch, explaining our thoughts on this matter.

HRH has been invited to the Embankment but no reply.

6. Officers Reports

Secretary: Ian Vickers

Nothing further to report

Treasurer Nigel Mellor

Business account	£57346.00	(£10000 ring fenced for Embankment costs)
Blue Plaque account	£5016.13	
Reunion Account	£979.60	
Slops	£810.00	

Membership Secretary David Woolterton

Membership Report for July 2018

This Report is in conjunction to the Numbers I have also sent as the NMC Membership Report.

This is a difficult one for me. 6 weeks ago, I sent an email to all lapsed members from the past two years and potential new members who did not join, to gauge why members did not want to renew their membership or want to continue with their application. I decided to take this action before I did a data cleanse on the Database to bring it in line with the Associations GDPR Data retention policy of removing some data after 12 months when members leave the Association.

It very soon became apparent that some branches are not doing a very good job, but then again this was not a huge surprise.

This was also as a follow up to the last meeting where it was discussed, how the Association can attract new and keep its members.

There were several replies from members of two branches who were surprised that their membership had lapsed because they believed they had paid. For all of these I have forwarded on to the Branch involved to sort out.

The other category was the same old excuse of 'I am unable to attend branch meetings' (this is very understandable) and I get nothing from the Association not even any updates from the Branch. On the one about New Member applications, Branches tell me they do not get any response when they try to contact these potential new members (and I am sure this is true to some extent) but there is also some Branches who do not even try. I have one Branch I will discuss in more detail who I believe will never contact any New Member when an application is sent to them.

Overall this was a good exercise as I had several thank me for the reminder that they had forgotten and still wanted to remain an Association member. These I have also been passed on to the appropriate Branches, so they can get in contact and get back onboard.

I think I will make this a general policy for me to run every April after the AGM.

There is still the problem of Branches keeping up to date membership records and the notification to National of any change. I have been asking Branches on a regular basis since I took over in August last year, nearly a year ago now.

Since we started recruiting SMQ's we have had 6 who have shown an interest and are in the process of joining.

Serving Rep: CPO Paul Swaby

Commodore Jim Perks wishes to inform the Northern Ireland Branch that he cannot be their President as he is already the President of the Scottish Branch of the submariners Association. Commodore Anstey is more than willing to take on the job if someone from Northern Ireland would contact him. Iain Mackenzie said he would contact Northern Ireland and let them know.

Commodore Jim Perks would like to know the details for Dundee and the Blue Plaque in Northern Ireland, so he can sort out the manpower sooner rather than later. It was explained that the information had been sent out, and the Chairman would contact him with regards to the Dundee service. Paul will contact Sandy Powel in regard to the Blue Plaque in Northern Ireland.

7. Embankment Parade Updates

Iain Mackenzie has the Embankment Parade well in hand. The contract for Middle Temple has been signed, and the parade will be the same as last year. There may be slight changes if HRH attends.

The Middle Temple have been asked about the bar and tea and coffee afterwards, and Iain is waiting for their reply.

The VIP's have been contacted and so far, the Chief Commoner, Treasurer of Middle Temple and Jill Molineux have said they will attend.

The wreath, an email has gone to branches and Iain is waiting for the Branches to order.

8. Review Rules and Constitution

The suggested amendments have been with the NMC for a few weeks and everyone has had enough time to read through them and make comments. Rather than going through line by line the Chairman agreed to format a proposal for the NCC.

The document was discussed by the NMC and the following additions were added; It was agreed that Vice Presidents should have a vote at NMC.

NMC members are not branch representatives. If for some reason, there is not a branch representative available, an NMC member may stand down from the NMC and take the place of the branch representatives.

Clause 3 A member may be affiliated to as many branches as he/she likes but, he/she can only be a member of one and pay subs to that branch. A member may only hold on office at the branch he/she is a member of and not an affiliated branch.

Clause 4 Take out one year, replace with; in align with our data policy.
Zoom meetings will have an agenda.

All of the above including other suggestions are subject to debate and voting at the next NCC and will be presented as Recommendations in a proper manner. The full Rules & Constitution containing the recommended changes will be distributed to all branches for their consideration in due course.

9. GDPR/SAR

The Membership Secretary had forms sent out to all Branch Secretaries and NMC members for the Association to gain OPT IN permission for their details to be displayed on the Website (This is to comply with GDPR). To date only had 20 out of 50 branches have responded at the first time of asking. After the second time this has reached 34 out of 50. This should also be an indicator as to the state of the Branch system and the communication between them and National. The Branches will again be contacted by email and then by phone. The Branches will be given a reasonable time to respond and those who have not given consent the Branch Secretaries information will be removed from the Association website.

The information the National Membership Secretary holds on individual members is; Name, membership number, postal address, phone number, email, Service number, D of B, time in service and boats served on.

If a member resigns, becomes a lapsed member or is expelled some information needs to be kept.

After two years the following information will be removed; postal address, phone number, email, and we will not contact them again unless they contact us first. We will hold only name, D of B and service record. The Policy document will be changed from one year to two years. (done on 27th July 2018)

A photograph or video consent form will be out shortly for NAMED photographs supplied for the website or publication. If the people on the photograph are not named, you do not need their consent. i.e. The reunion group photo. But if someone is named as with an award ceremony their permission must be obtained in writing and the form sent to the National Secretary for the Association records. If the person named is dead, then this does not apply. This could involve information sent to Barry Downer for In-Depth.

10. Reunion 2019 plans

The annual Reunion including the conference for 2019 will be held at the Holiday Inn Leicester over the weekend of 22 to 24 March 2019. The conference itself will be on Saturday 23 March 2019.

General

The address of the hotel is Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Circle, Leicester, LE1 5LX. The hotel is located 5 minutes' walk from the city centre and has various ale houses to suite all. The hotel has just undergone a multimillion pound refurbishment. Iain Mackenzie is still working out the cost of the weekend packages, this depends on sponsorship for drinks the raffle and other niceties over the weekend.

Slops will be in attendance and will be the sole shop for SA merchandise. If anyone wishes to sell anything they must have the permission of the committee prior to the weekend and be prepared to give a donation to the association.

Raffle. Profits from the raffle to be divided between the Association and the Submarine centre in Helensburgh.

Accommodation

A total of 45 Doubles, 26 Twins, and 44 Singles.

BOOK EARLY! All bedrooms are accessed by lifts that are well maintained.

The hotel has just undergone a multimillion pound refurbishment.

A circular with full details of the weekend will be issued shortly.

11. Blue Plaque progress report - Sandy Powell

LIEUTENANT PETER SCAWEN WATKINSON ROBERTS VC, RN

In brief the Roberts VC event on Saturday 12th May 2018 was without doubt a resounding success and is probably the most successful Submariners Association Blue Plaque Dedication event to date. Over 150 people attended and The Kings School, the hosts put on a marvellous luncheon and reception following the event.

The Association also took the opportunity whilst in Canterbury to take part in the ceremonial ringing of HMS CANTERBURY BELL which is housed in Canterbury Cathedral.

Press releases for both events have been submitted to the editor of "In Depth" for publication.

LEADING SEAMAN JAMES JOSEPH MAGENNIS VC, RN

Following a meeting in Belfast on the 25th April 18 between Davy George of the Belfast Branch, the Secretary of the Belfast RNA Ernie White and Sandy Powell we have set the date for the Blue Plaque event for Leading Seaman James Joseph Magennis VC, RN for Saturday 22nd September 2018. The Belfast Branch of the RNA has provided permission for the Association to mount the Blue Plaque on the premises and in view that the majority of people attending will be staying overnight we will be hold a Magennis Dinner.

The Belfast RNA have agreed to provide a reception for the guests following the Blue Plaque event and the Wellington Park Hotel is providing discounted room rates and a discounted dinner at £25/head. We unfortunately did not manage to obtain any funding for the dinner from the various organisations we approached.

To date I have received 49 responses, with meal choices to attend the Magennis Dinner.

If any member wishes to attend either the Blue Plaque Dedication ceremony of the Magennis Dinner they must first obtain an invitation from Sandy Powell by contacting him at 01427 810528 or oldschoolhouselea@talktalk.net ASAP.

It is imperative that those people that have received invitations forward their RSVP responses for both the Blue Plaque event and the Magennis Dinner as soon as possible to Sandy Powell.



Belfast RNA Club

I will keep you informed.

PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM GOULD VC, RN

The elected new Mayor of Dover Town Council has been in contact with me and following her installation I hope to arrange the Dedication of a Blue Plaque to Petty Officer Gould VC, RN at a date to be arranged in April 2019.

It is hoped that Dover Town Council will provide permission for the plaque to be mounted on the Town Council Offices that are immediately adjacent to the Memorial Garden.



Proposed site for Gould VC, RN Blue Plaque

I will keep you informed. Sandy Powell

12. Possible proposal from Norfolk Branch Ref. Submarine Memorial

This was covered in the correspondences.

13. Submarine Oscars event 2018

P. Swaby

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2018

Rear Admiral Submarines (RASM) will host the 2018 Submarine Oscars evening on Saturday 29 September 2018, 1800 in the Doubletree by Hilton, Glasgow.

This is an all ranks and rates event and is open to all serving submariners and their partners and families, as well as retired submariners and guests.

Dress, Black Tie for civilian guests.

Military Vs Cancer will hold a raffle during the evening with some excellent prizes.

Tickets. £25 per head; for this price, you will get a welcome drink, three course meal, table wine and coffee, live entertainment (comedian and live music).

Accommodation. A reduced rate has been agreed with the DoubleTree Hilton. The cost of a double room £160 (normal cost is £220)

For full details see the memo sent out to Branch Secretaries.

14. Face Book Page**Nigel Mellor**

The Facebook page has been resurrected and is only open to current full and life members.

A disclaimer will be put on stating; 'any views on this site are not the views of the National Committee, they are private' or words to that effect.

15. Possible options for voting.**N. Mellor/D. Woolterton**

The Chairman thanked Dave Woolterton and Nigel Mellor for putting the document together. This is for elections to the NMC only and not for other voting at MCC.

This came about because some branches thought the current system was unfair and the Committee were asked to look at alternatives. This document is a start in the process. This document is about advantages and disadvantages of the system that we can put before our members at the MCC if required.

As a concept One man one vote (1M1V) appears to be a very democratic process in theory but in practice it means that with approx. 1600 members the balance of power could be held by as few as four large branches (Gosport, Dolphin, Barrow and WOS) who would hold approx. 600 votes. The committee have had a look and at this time we wish to continue with the paper Branch system. One man one vote is not feasible at this time and we will review the situation in three years' time. If Branches have any other suggestions the Committee would welcome them. Action complete.

16. Charitable status**All**

The main aim as an association is to support the heritage of submarines. We are doing fine at the moment. We will not gain much from becoming a charity apart from a lot more work. There are other charities doing similar things within the Submarine Division and we would not add anything different. This may have to change with the Submarine Division.

17. Submarine Division**J. McMaster**

The Submarine Division Progress with this initiative is disappointingly slow at present. It's a great idea but the name is wrong and has lost its drive. It would have to be the Submariners Association of which we are the veterans of the association, others would be the serving members of the association and the families and associates would be another group. At the moment little is happening, and the next meeting is scheduled for August. Information will be promulgated when available.

18. Memorial Wall**D Barlow/P Swaby**

Nothing is happening. The wall is staying at the Museum.

19. Date of October ZOOM Meeting	Thursday 18th October 1930
Dates for meetings next year	12th January West Brom RNA Club
	23th March Reunion NCC
	27th April West Brom RNA Club
	20th July Faslane

20. AOCB.

Verification of new members It is the responsibility of branch secretaries to confirm the eligibility of Applicants. I.e. he or she complies with the Full Membership criteria as detailed in the Rules & Constitution Clause 3(a) (i, ii, iii, iv, v)

21. Cenotaph

Andrew Morgan

This year being the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1.

We hope to have as many as possible submariners on parade. A special pin will be produced for the event and presented to those who march.

Andrew Morgan is the contact/lead for the Cenotaph. Not Iain Mackenzie.
So, all enquiries to Andrew Morgan.