

Submariners Association

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

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Rear Admiral A.J. Whetstone CB
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Minutes of NMC Meeting held at the West Bromwich RNA , Club Saturday 7th January 2017, Starting at 1230

Present: Mr Jim McMaster (Chairman)
Mr Iain Mackenzie MBE (Temp Vice-Chairman)
Mr Nigel Mellor (Secretary)
Mr Keith Bishop (Membership Secretary)
Mr Frank Powell (Committee)
Mr Frank Pas (Committee)
Cdr R Seaward OBE (Vice President)
Mr Rick Elrick (Vice President)

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy new Year.

2. **Apologies.**

Apologies were submitted on Behalf of Rear Admiral Niall Kilgour CB (President) Rear Admiral Tony Whetstone CB, Mr Ray Gritt, Mr David Barlow (Vice Presidents), Mr Ian Atkinson (Treasurer) Mr Paul Swaby (Serving Rep), Mr Stuart Brown, Mr Chris Freeth, Mr Brian Tate (Committee Members)

3. **Webmaster**

Due to ongoing issues over the Website, the National Webmaster had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss The Website, The Secretary had spoken to Mike by Phone, who had stated he felt the matter closed, and Declined the option to attend the Meeting. It was felt from Mikes comments he would not be carrying on as webmaster Stating Health Reasons and it was felt that by mutual consent, Mike would relinquish his post. A letter from the Secretary on behalf of the committee would be sent to Mike thanking him for his years of service to the Association and the post. A New Webmaster will be sought in the coming months.

4. Minutes of the November 2016 NMC Meeting.

As there were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting, it was proposed by Frank Powell and seconded by Frank Pas that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of that meeting. Carried Unanimously.

5. Outstanding Actions from Minutes November 2016.

The action grid was checked several actions are still ongoing and will remain on the grid until completed, a new grid will be prepared and these items carried forward together with new actions from this meeting will be added, as an appendix.

6. Correspondence including Chairman's Correspondence.

1, The chairman has today received a letter, from Rick Elrick who wishes to tender his resignation from his role as Vice-president. Jim has had a long talk with Rick regarding this matter. After this talk he Chairman fully understands why Rick has decided to step down from the role of Vice-president and with great reluctance and regret accepts the resignation. The chairman would like to formally place on record a vote of thanks to Rick for all his hard work and commitment given to the association over a great number of years, Rick will remain in contact with the Association.

2, A letter from Ian Milligan (Scotland Branch) has been received regarding matters in the November Minutes in relation to a letter received from Plymouth Branch secretary. Jim had replied to Ian informing him the letter was written from the Plymouth Branch Chairman addressed to the National Chairman, as it contained several matters relating to the NMC, this had been shared with the committee. The NMC felt that it would not be a problem providing both letters were shown and the Plymouth branch, were in agreement that the letters could be shown, to date the chairman has received no replies from either person.

3. The Chairman Informed the meeting that he had not received any formal acknowledgement from any Office Bearers of the Plymouth Branch of the letter sent to all members of the Plymouth branch in response to the letter received from their chairman.

4. A letter had been received from John Westbrook from the friends of the Submarine Museum, relating to the updates to the gardens of Remembrance, the letter has been sent to all Branches asking if they would like to donate to the updating of the gardens, it is believed several branches have made donations. It was proposed by Frank(Sandy) Powell and seconded by Keith Bishop, that the NMC send a donation of £100 to the garden updates, this was carried Unanimously. Secretary to write to John Westbrook informing him of decision.

7. Officers Reports: -

- **Secretary.** All correspondence had been circulated to branches when received. Currently updating the secretary's handbook, and if anyone has any comments on items that should be included please send them to Nigel directly.

- **Treasurer.**

- All branches receive a monthly update from the Treasurer, the last one in December shows the Balances of our accounts are currently: -

Business account	Balance at bank	£35,057.59 (£15,000 ring-fenced for Embankment parades.
Blue Plaque account	Balance at bank	6,001.16
Reunion Account	Balance at bank	£12,528.10

- The committee was informed that the accounts would shortly be sent to the Accountant who will provide a set of uncertified accounts, for sending to all branches before the NCC, a copy of the Certified accounts will be available at the NCC. Every Branch receives a monthly update which is sent electronically by the National Secretary.

- **Membership Secretary**

Membership continues to be maintained at approx. 1,800 members, we are receiving a steady flow of new applicants from serving members, who are joining a branch they feel suitable for them. Could secretaries please be aware that when receiving applications from serving members, they may not be able to respond to emails immediately, due to their current deployment.

- **Serving Rep.**

No report was submitted from the serving Rep; however, he is working with Command Warrant Officer and Iain Mackenzie to facilitate serving members attending the National Reunion.

8. **Embankment Parade Updates**

Formal planning is in the early stages, Iain MacKenzie has started co-ordinating the event, if anyone has any comments or suggestion relating to improving the event please send them Directly to Iain.

9. **Falklands Memorial Chapel Appeal.**

A brief outline was given to the meeting by Cdr Bob Seaward, on the Falklands Memorial chapel appeal. It was suggested that we could not financially support the idea of a stained-glass window as this could cost up to about £20,00. A different suggestion was put forward that we could sponsor a bench which would have a plate fitted, stating the Submariners Association wish to remember all of those who gave their lives in the conflict, or similar wording to be agreed. This would cost approx. £1,000 and this was felt a better option. Discussion took place on how we could raise this sum of money.

It was suggested that the money raised by the Raffle that had been planned to be held at the Reunion Weekend could go to assisting us in raising the sum to sponsor the bench plaque. Following this a discussion on how we could fund the rest would take place.

10. **Fully Integrated Reunion 2017 Update**

Iain Mackenzie gave an update on the reunion. There are still a few rooms remaining, Iain informed us that he had to return back those rooms not sold by 13th February, to the hotel. Secretary to send out reminder to all branches asking for members to contact Iain ASAP to secure rooms and places. Also,

included in the cost of the reunion are sandwiches and chips will be provided as snacks during Saturday afternoon, for guests who wish to partake.

11. Nominations for Posts of Vice-Chairman and NMC Members.

There are two nominations for the post of Vice-Chairman, Frank Powell (Lincoln Branch) and Iain Mackenzie (West of Scotland). Both meet the criteria for election, as having served on NMC and are currently fully paid up members. Their names will be added to the voting forms to be sent out.

There are three nominations for the role of NMC committee members, they are:

Frank Powell (Lincoln Branch) Frank Pas (Sheffield Branch) and Andrew Morgan (Wales Branch) Frank Powell and Frank Pas are seeking Re-election. All three are confirmed members and their names will be added to the Voting forms.

12. Proposals received to be put to Delegates at NCC 2017

Full details of the Proposals can be found in the draft agenda pack for NCC which will be sent out shortly.

1. Proposal - from Sunderland Branch seconded by North-East Branch, wording meets required standards and will be added to the agenda for NCC in March 17. This will need a 2/3 majority as it reflects a change in the constitution.
2. Proposal from Dolphin Branch seconded by Welsh Branch, wording meets required standards and will be added to the agenda for NCC in March 17
3. Proposal from Blackpool Branch, the wording is very confusing and it was felt that further clarification be sought from the proposing branch before this could be put forward, all the committee felt there was nobody currently on the NMC that had the necessary skill-set to deal with this matter. Chairman/Secretary to seek more information from Branch.

13. Blue Plaque progress.

A full report is presented by Frank Powell and a copy of this report can be found at appendix 2

14. Future of Subscriptions paid by Standing order, Keith/Ian

The Membership Secretary informed the meeting that we are still receiving Standing Orders from Members who are paying either £7-50 or £10-00 not the recognised rate of £15-00. When trying to contact these members, they are not traceable yet, the members seem to have lapsed their Branch Membership, all we can do at this time is apply Due Diligence in trying to contact these members.

15. Diaries updates

Diaries have been sent out to all Branches. There is currently a handover taking place between Iain Mackenzie and Brian Tate so that Brian will start working on the 2018 diaries.

16. AOCB

Keith Bishop Informed the meeting, that he is struggling with the work load for both roles of National Membership Secretary and Branch Secretary for the Dolphin Branch. He is seeking to resign from the post of Branch Secretary of Dolphin branch. As he feels he is unable to continue undertaking both Roles, He is seeking someone to take over that role. The committee thanked Keith for his openness in this matter and if there is any help he requires please let us know.

Nigel Mellor informed the meeting that since the middle of December, he and Keith have been managing the website, there are several options open to us, Keith and Nigel will keep us informed as to the progress in finding a replacement for Mike Kemp.

The Chairman Jim McMaster wanted to thank Iain Mackenzie for volunteering to take on the role of Temp Vice-Chairman until the NCC

There being no further Business the meeting was closed by the Chairman

Date and time of next meeting, will be Saturday 22nd April. At the RNA Club, West Bromwich. Starting at 12-30 Hours

Annex 1

Action grid from January meeting.

Item	Action	Action By	Status
250716-13B	Iain Mackenzie to liaise with Brian Tate over handover of responsibilities for Association diaries	IA/BT	
051116-10	Chairman to write to all branches for information on memorial events held in their areas	JM	
051116-11	Frank Pas and Ian Atkinson to produce set of accounts for slops	IA/FP	
051116-15	Chris Freeth to write short note for In-Depth promoting CONA offers	CF	
070117-3	Nigel Mellor to send letter to Mike Kemp thanking him for service	NM	
070117-6	Nigel Mellor to circulate revised Secretaries handbook for feedback	NM	
070117-12.3	Nigel Mellor to contact Blackpool Branch for further info re proposal.	NM	

Annex 2 Blue Plaque report

**WANKLYN - ROBERTS - PLACE VC, RN –
NMC REPORT
JANUARY 2017 NMC MEETING**

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MALCOLM DAVID WANKLYN VC, DSO, RN**

Please see my report for the November 2016 NMC meeting for further details.

The date for the ceremony is the 3rd June 2017 at 1400 at Knockinaam Lodge, Port Patrick, Stranraer, DG9 9AD..

Invitations have been forwarded to the Lord Lieutenant of Wigtownshire, the Provost of Dumfries and the Leader of Dumfries & Galloway Council all of which have indicated that they will attend. I have also invited Mr. Steven Lee from “Memorials to Valour.co.uk” website as I think it will add to advertising what the Association does. In addition, I have also invited the owner of the Dunskey Estate, Major Orr-Ewing (previously the Lord Lieutenant) and the original owner of Knockinaam Lodge.

Press invites have also been sent to Stranraer & Wigtown Free Press and ITV Border TV who have both accepted. Furthermore, the PR person to David Ibbotson, the owner of Knockinaam Lodge will also contact other press representatives.

A local vicar Reverend Colin Plumb has agreed to lead the Commemoration Service provided his health allows him. I believe that he is in his 80's+ so have asked him to nominate a standby Reverend in the event that he will not be able to attend.

Invitations have also been sent to the Wanklyn Family and currently there are 12 members of the family attending including his son, Ian who is incidentally a retired Naval Officer living in France. I believe they will be staying at Knockinaam Lodge.

Those members that wish to attend and if necessary should book their accommodation now as the Portpatrick area is popular with tourists and the hotels are fast being booked up.

I will keep you informed of any further progress.

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LIEUTENANT PETER SCAWEN WATKINSON ROBERTS VC, RN

In view that the “Mint Gate”, where Guye Roberts (Peter Roberts VC son) suggested to mount the Blue Plaque, is part of Canterbury Cathedral, I have written to Commodore Atherton whom is currently the Principle General to the Cathedral. I also copied the letter to the Headmaster of The Kings School.

Commodore Atherton and the Bursar of The Kings School are currently investigating the most suitable position for the Blue Plaque and one that will not involve outside authorities for permission (Local Council) and will get back to me shortly.

As soon as they have identified a suitable position for the Blue Plaque I intend visiting Canterbury Cathedral and The Kings School to view the suitability of the site. Hopefully this will be before my wife and I depart for our extended holiday on 19th Feb 17.

I will keep you informed as to progress.

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LIEUTENANT BASIL CHARLES GODFREY PLACE VC, RN *(Later Rear Admiral)*

Since my last report, I have discovered that Rear Admiral Place VC on retirement owned and managed a Leather and Tack shop in Sherborne. The shop is still trading and is situated right on the Main Street of Sherborne and would be an excellent place to mount the Blue Plaque. I have been in contact with the current owner, Mary Watts and she has confirmed that she purchased the business from Admiral Place VC.

The shop's name is "Mabers" in Cheap Street, but the property is part of Sherbourne Castle Estate which was built by Sir Walter Raleigh before he had his head chopped off. I will shortly be contacting the Estate Manager, a Mr. Beveridge with a proposal to mount the Blue Plaque to Basil Place VC on the shop in April 2018.

I have offered to keep Paul Watkins the author of "Midget Submarine Commander the Life of Godfrey Place VC" informed of progress and will probably invite him to attend the dedication of the plaque.

I will keep you informed.

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Sandy Powell