

**Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,
Monday 6th June 2011.**

1/6b/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

The tribute to the fallen was given by Billy Hendrie.

Apologies from s/m's Tony Whatmore, Keena Hill and Capt. Ken Parker.

This branch meeting was held out of date, because the branch members were going for a day out on the following Wednesday (8th June).

2/6b/11. Minutes.

The minutes of the last branch, committee and Sub committee meetings were read.

There were no matters arising.

3/6b/11. Correspondence.

There were 8 items of correspondence as follows:-

- 1. e-mail from Redcar & Cleveland council sea front manager.*
- 2. The Not forgotten association, a trip on the Tees for 4 members.*
- 3. From national regarding interviews at Tower Hill, London for the Press.*
- 4. From Redcar & Cleveland council (Mayors secretary) regarding dates for the diary.*
- 5. From national regarding the BBC and Remembrance Week.*
- 6. From Cleveland Police regarding the up-date of branch information.*
- 7. From national regarding a request for information on Military Detention.*
- 8. From national regarding the BBC program 'Coast'.*

Mattes arising from the correspondence:-

- 1. It appears that the program for the regeneration of the seafront at Redcar has changed. We were going to have the 'Birger' anchor dedicated on 31st July, but the sec. has been told that we will have to hold up until about May of 2012.*
- 2. This is a trip on the Tees for 4 members and a 2 course lunch. Raymond (Sugar) Robinson, Billy Dobson, Cyril Kitchener and David Price will attend.*
- 3. Because of changes to 1 above the sec. has had to re arrange dates for the Mayors diary on branch functions etc.*
- 5. Remembrance Week is due back on the TV screens and the BBC wants interviews with veterans regarding conflict.*
- 6. Cleveland Police are changing their way of keeping records of branches and their details and wanted an up-date.*
- 7. Information is required about detentions centres (Glasshouse) for the Military personnel who were in one or worked in one.*
- 8. The BBC program 'Coast' are doing a new series and would like to see anyone with unusual tattoos on their bodies.*

4/6b/11. Treasurers Report.

The treasurer gave his usual up-to-date report on branch finances, which stand at:-

Income to the 31st May £405, Expenditure £978, leaving the branch with a balance of £1,182.62, Yorkshire Bank state £1,861.62. The branch 'Welfare & Remembrance Fund stands at £1,298.20. The treasurer went on to explain the difference between branch and bank balances (un-cashed cheque), he also handed out business cards that he had printed for anyone seeking information regarding the branch. The report was a good one and was accepted, proposed s/m's Billy Dobson, seconded Cyril Kitchener.

5/6b/11. Branch Representative.

Billy Dobson told the meeting that he was not happy about the last council meeting and that he had sent in two reports on the new constitution but on the agenda for the coming council meeting the only remarks shown were from Bristol branch and M. Mathison. With regard to the new Plaque for the 'Birger' anchor, Billy had been in touch with James Godbold at Egton and explained the situation, and he will hold the plaque at Egton until the time it is required. Billy also made it known about the web-site and Seafarers Awareness Week, It was again put to the members that they can go to any library and use a computer to view the site as the library staff will help..

As to the audio library, Billy again told of how many books he had downloaded and the number of authors. These are being catalogued by Billy. He also spoke again about the calendars for 2012 and hoped that there would be a better take up on sales by the members. Another item Billy raised was the replacing of the 'Birger' anchor back on the seafront. Billy said this was an opportunity not to be missed and we should make a big thing of it through advertising etc.

6/6b/11. Branch Welfare Officer.

Jan Harper stood to deliver her report on her work of Welfare. She reported that she had visited s/m's Peter Willis who is holding up pretty well, Vilma Collins who is keeping cheerful, Brian Warrior who she calls a marvel and who is doing very well and Cec Nichols who is in hospital for tests. Cec's son Tony is on hand for the time being to await the tests before he goes off back to work again. Jan is also booked to see s/m Doug Blenkinsop who requires a branch audio machine and books. To end her report Jan said that all the members she had visited send their kindest regards to the branch members and thanked them for setting up the Welfare visits.

The chairman thanked Jan for her report and again praised her for what she was doing and had achieved. Jan replied that she loved doing the job and visiting the members at home to keep them informed as to what was going on in the branch.

7/6b/11. Any Other Business.

7.1 Football Card & 25 club.

A football card was run with thanks to Tommy Graham, and won by s/m Sugar Robinson with West Brom,

The 25 club was drawn, 1st prize No 15 s/m Ted Dobson, 2nd prize No. 11 s/m Gordon Dobie.

7.2 Brian Macintyre.

The sec. stood to read a letter he had sent to Brian Macintyre in which he had suspended him from the branch. The suspension came under the branch constitution item 17.7 in bringing the branches good name into disrepute with two charges of,

Speaking untruths, and passing incorrect information into the public domain regarding a branch member. Mr Macintyre was also charged with harassment of a branch member by use of an electrical instrument. Mr. Macintyre had telephoned the sec. at approximately 1230 hrs. on Saturday 28th May. He said that he was trying to make head and tail of the letter. He was again advised that he could come before a committee meeting on Wednesday 29th June. When he was told that the member in question would be attending, he said he said he would tear his cards up and would not be attending. The member in question was asked to give her version of events, to which she did do so and the branch members listened very quietly until the case was finalised. The sec. then took the case again telling the members that the member had kept the telephone messages on her answer machine and that there was more than him within the branch who had heard the messages. The meeting was asked by the chairman what punishment they wished to give, and by a show of hands Mr Macintyre was unanimously expelled from the branch, and his right to appeal was removed. The sec. will write to Mr Macintyre and inform him of the vote.

7.3 4th September.

The sec. asked the members what they would like to do regarding MN Day 3rd September and the 4th which was normally held on the seafront. The sec. outlines his idea of retaining the Police Band (as it is already booked) and hold the 4th September service in the 'Garden of Remembrance' but miss MN Day out this year. This again is due to the removal of the 'Birger' anchor from the seafront. After a debate it was agreed that we would hold MN Day on Sunday 4th September.

7.4 Flag Day.

The sec. raised this item as he wanted to remind the branch of the need to have as many members out on that day collecting. He also said that some members stayed to the end but a lot disappeared at about lunch time. Jan would man the book stall with Raymond Coaster and Billy Dobson would have his table for his calendars etc. This item was talked over with good input. The sec. told the meeting of an interesting piece of news, that the RNLi collection this year was down by a £1000.

7.5 River Tees Trip.

This item is as in item 2 in correspondence, and also item 2 in matters arising in correspondence.

7.6 Bridlington.

The chairman spoke of the coming trip to Bridlington, giving out the pick-up times for the members who are attending. He also told the members that he would stop the bus at Whitby and make a list of requirements for refreshments and phone them on to the Flask Inn so that they would be ready when the bus arrives.

7.7 Combined Services

s/m Ian Barnes gave dates for the Armed Forces Days in Redcar . 20th June raising of the flag 1030 hrs at the flag pole near the lifeboat station. 25th June a display by cadets in Redcar High Street near the Town Clock at 1030 hrs, there will also be an evening event for Help the Heroes at Eston Labour club. Sunday 26th June at Coatham Parish church a service will be held to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the RBL.

7.8 Middlesbrough Football Raffle.

There was a good input into a debate regarding where the signed football from Middlesbrough would be raffled. The ball is on display at the Stockton Hotel and the land lord will sell raffle tickets. Some wanted the draw to take place at the branch get together in the Citz club but this was thought to be to far away. It was agreed that the raffle would be left in the very capable hands of Jan Harper and Keena Hill.

Secretary Dave Buckworth Chairman Dave Price

Proposed ----- Seconded -----