

Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,

Wednesday 13th July 2011.

1/7b/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

The tribute to the fallen was given by Billy Hendrie.

Apologies from Raymond (Sugar) Robinson, Raymond Coaster, Cyril Kitchener and Beryl Carling.

2/7b/11. Minutes.

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

There were no matters arising.

3/7b/11. Correspondence.

There were 8 items of correspondence as follows:-

- a. from national regarding Sea Sunday and HM Government.*
- b. from national regarding a Royal Navy Presentation team.*
- c. from Lord Crathorne regarding 4th September.*
- d. from Col. R.M. Stewart regarding 4th September.*
- e. from national regarding the 'Coal Scuttle Brigade'*
- f. from national regarding St. Elmo's Fire and the BBC.*
- g. 4 pages of information from Hull IMNA regarding Bridlington.*
- h. From D, Dade, national Members secretary regarding B. Macintyre.*

Matters arising

- a. This item is in respect of an Early Day Motion on 27th June 2011 referring to Sea Sunday and Seafarers Welfare. The motion highlights Britain's proud maritime heritage and the reliance on seafarers with over 95% of the UK's imports and exports travelling by sea. The motion goes on for many more lines regarding seafarers and their lives.*
- b. This item is in relation to a Royal Navy Presentation Team who travel all over the country aiming to raise the profile, understanding and awareness of the Royal Navy.*
- c. This item from Lord Crathorne is asking the sec. to deal direct with Col, Stewart who will represent his Lordship 4th September.*
- d. from Col Stewart. Who will attend 4th September.*
- e. The BBC are looking for seamen who served in colliers carrying coal from South Wales to London during WW2 (no mention of the coal carried from the North East).*
- f. BBC 1, are doing a programme on the weather and included will be the phenomenon of St. Elmo's fire and they are looking for seamen who have seen it.*
- g. These 4 pages from Hull IMNA are a breakdown of the running costs for the reunion at Bridlington 8th June.*

- h. *This is an e-mail from D. Dade national membership secretary informing the branch sec. that MacIntyre cannot be removed from the national list until I send in a full report on his expulsion from the branch. (Has been done - 9 pages) sec. (See also AoB 8.1.)*

4/7b/11. Treasurers Statement.

Due to the branch treasurer being away on holiday at this time, he had made a statement and it was read out by the chairman as follows:-

Income to 30th June £460.75, Expenditure stood at £135, giving the branch a balance of £1,508.37. Yorkshire Bank statement £1,419.37, but the treasurer was carrying £88.50 cash in hand.

The Remembrance Fund stands at £1,742.82. The treasurers report was accepted, proposed Jan Harper, seconded Billy Hendrie.

5/7b/11. Branch Representative.

Branch Rep., Billy Dobson handed every member attending the meeting a copy of his report on the recent council meeting held in Birmingham, 2nd July. A copy of this report is entered into the Minute Book for future reference. Below is an additional report and other matters arising.

Branch Report

I've been asked to keep my report as short as possible and so I have prepared a copy of my report for all members.

It was a very good National Council meeting on 2nd July. We got through a lot of business as can be seen from my report.

Birger Anchor Plaque

I have now made contact with the Project Manager, Robert Lockwood from the main contractor for the sea front regeneration and sea wall.

I spoke to him yesterday and has told me that:

- a. *The anchor will be getting removed in 3/4 weeks time - probably by a specialist contractor and it is likely it will be stored in an area designated for it in their compound in Majuba Road. He is going to ring me when they have got a date fixed for its removal*
- b. *No date can yet be given for its return, other than saying Spring / early Summer next year. He is aware of us wanting a date to enable the engraving of our dedication plaque and he will keep us informed with respect to the date.*
- c. *I queried a flagpole for our ensign to fly at the anchor. He doesn't see a problem in the overall scheme of things and is seeing the architect next week.*
- d. *He commented on the condition of the anchor and I told him that we had been considering the possibility of it being strengthened. He added he may be able to help us out on that one.*

- e. *As far as he is aware the railings are not going back around the anchor. I told him that the general feeling from the branch is that we would like them replaced. Once again he will bring this one up with the architect next week*

Cleveland Police Band

Have confirmed change of venue with Mr Alan Chiltern, their secretary.

Calendars

We have started with 200 calendars. We have now sold 56 calendars through the branch (one member has sold 29). 20 went to the Tourist Info in Redcar (6 sold by Monday 11th), 5 to Post Office at Easington (1 sold to date)

Total known sales to date £280. Cost us £511.92. So £231.92 to go to break even - another 46 calendars.

I've done a crew list and I will be marking it off against each member as the year progresses.

6/7b/11. Welfare Officer.

Branch Welfare Officer Jan Harper spoke of her visits to s/m's who are not able to attend meetings due to their health. Jan reported that everyone was doing as well as can be expected, and thank the branch for the visits of the welfare officer and send on their best wishes to all the branch members. Jan also reported that she was to visit Mrs Warriner on the following Monday [18th] to see what help she could offer following a fall by s/m Con. Jan was once again praised for the magnificent work that she is carrying out on behalf of the branch.

7/7b/11 Public Relations Officer.

Branch public relations officer Tony Whatmore spoke about his work with the media and his contacts. Tony also thanked Jan, Keena, and Ian for turning up at the Stockton Arms for the raffle draw for the signed Middlesbrough football that raised £104.

Tony was thanked for his work and the sec. told the meeting that since Tony had taken on the roll of PR for the branch, we had never had so much publicity in the Gazette in the branches 18 year history.

8/7b/11. Any Other Business.

8.1. Football Card Draw and 25 Club Draw.

A football card was run, with thanks to Tommy Graham and won by s/m Noreen Sowden with Manchester United.

The 25 club draw was made, 1st prize No 17 s/m Tommy Graham, the 2nd prize was No 34 s/m Taff Jenkins.

8.2. Billy McGee.

The sec. raised the question of Billy McGee and his support of the branch and also him laying a wreath at Tower Hill on behalf of the branch. With costs the way they are, did the members think we could or should help Billy with his travel costs. A figure of £25 was put on the table but the members thought that the sum should be £50. On a show of hands it was unanimously agreed that that will be the sum given to Billy if he goes to London again this year.

8.3. Meeting Times.

The Sec. told the meeting that many branches within the MNA hold their meetings during the day. This of course beats the dark nights of winter and did the members think that they would like to do the same. After a short debate the members agreed that they are quite happy with our meeting times the way they are at present and do not require any change.

8.4. Brian Macintyre.

The Sec. reported on the amount of work he had had to do (one full day) putting together everything connected to Brian MacIntyre regarding his expulsion from the branch. David Dade (national member's secretary) had informed the sec. that they could not remove MacIntyre from the national register until the national council had seen all the reports and the reasons why he had been expelled from the branch. The sec. went on to tell the members that the total paper work had run into 9 pages.

8.5. Sonny Ireland.

It was reported that Sonny was an ex-Merchant seaman with a service record that included the Russian convoys in WW2. Sonny has not got any medals for his time at sea. It was agreed that more information should be gathered about Sonny and maybe Billy McGee would help.

Before closing the meeting the sec. reminded the members that the August branch meeting will include all the half year reports and also maybe presentations. The reports were due at this the June meeting but the sec. had put them back one month as the treasurer was on holiday and he thought it only right that he delivered his own report just in case someone wanted to ask any questions.

With no further business to hand the chairman thanked the members for their attendance, and closed the meeting at 2020 hrs.

Secretary Dave Backworth Chairman Dave Price

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