

**Branch meeting held Ennis square Social Club,
Wednesday, 10th August 2011.**

1/8b/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

The tribute to the fallen was given by Billy Hendrie.

Apologies received from s/m's T. Graham, J. Cook, E. Dobson, G. Jenkins, K. Parker.

2/8b/11 Minutes.

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

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3/8b/11. Correspondence.

There were 8 items of correspondence as Follows:-

- 1. By word of mouth from Dormanstown branch RBL regarding a trip to York.*
- 2. From national regarding parking and transport for the coming MN commemorative service Tower Hill London, 4th September.*
- 3. From national regarding the branch Web-Site.*
- 4. From national regarding The Cenotaph London .*
- 5. From Scarborough branch MNA a 'Summer Warm Up' 17th August.*
- 6. From Hull IMNA, grateful thanks for the branch Get together 20th July.*
- 7. From Redcar MP Ian Swales, unable to attend Garden of Remembrance 4th September.*
- 8. From the Redcar branch MS Society regarding their work and need for money.*

4/8b/11. Half Year Reports.

Chairman, Treasurer, Branch Representative, Welfare Officer, Branch Public Relations Officer and Secretary.

Due to holiday commitments the half year reports were one month late. The chairman gave thanks to the members and the treasurer and secretary for all the hard work they put in, and reported on the trips that the members had enjoyed over the past months.

The treasurer gave a good report on how the branches finances had stood over the past six months, he also thanked s/m's Tommy Graham and John Cook for the part they played in raising funds for the branch.

The Branch Representative gave every one a copy of his three page report on all the subjects that he has covered over the past six months as well as his brilliant branch web-site, and coming events of interest.

The Welfare Officer also gave a good report on her activities and visits to those members who are unwell, another item that she raised was that she would like to start a Ladies section within the branch to help raise capital for the welfare department, this section if gets underway will work under the umbrella of the branch.

Branch Public Relations officer is another vital cog within the branch that is getting well oiled in its work. The report was about the media outlets that are available to PR.

The sec. added to the report by telling the meeting that since the branch had been formed back in 1993, we had never had such good coverage in the media, and this was down to the work of the PR officer.

The secretary gave an account of how the branch was doing and the work carried out by himself, he touched briefly on the need to increase membership, and the unfortunate episode in having to expel one member.

Any member who wishes to read the reports of the treasurer; secretary, branch rep and welfare officer's in full, may do so by asking the secretary as all reports are kept within the minute book.

All the reports were given a round of applause.

5/8b/11. Treasurers Report.

The treasurer gave a detailed account of branch finances up to 31st July as follows:-

Income stood at £301, Expenditure at £730.49, leaving the branch with a balance of £1,078.88. Yorkshire Bank statement £1,603.88, the difference being in cheques not yet being honoured.

The branch 'Welfare and Remembrance Fund' stands at £1,676.63.

There were no matters arising from the report.

The treasurer went on to tell the members that Christmas cards are now on sale and Christmas Draw tickets are being handed out.

6/8b/11. Any Other Business.

6.1. Football Card & 25 club draw.

A football card was run with thanks to s/m Sugar Robinson and won by John Cook with Arsenal.

The 25 club was drawn, 1st prize No. 27 Secretary. 2nd prize No. 15 E. Dobson.

6.2. Presentations.

Honorary framed honorary membership presentations were made by Vice President, Cllr Raymond Goddard to Marjorie Goddard, Brenda Coaster and Eileen Hendrie.

Special achievement awards were made to branch Public Relations officer s/m Tony Whatmore for his work on behalf of the branch.

Another special achievement award was presented to Welfare Officer Jeanette Harper for her commitment to the branch and the welfare of the members who have been ill of late, another presentation was made to Jeanette (Jan) of a Merchant Navy commemorative medal along with a miniature and ribbon to be worn in memory of her late husband Harry.

S/m Jack Robson made presentations of hand made pens to the chairman, treasurer, branch rep. welfare officer and public relations officer, and sec. A previous recipient was s/m Ian Barnes. Jack presented these gifts for the work carried out by the recipients.

6.3. Scarborough.

A letter has been received informing the branch of a Summer Warm Up at Scarborough on the 17th August, 12 names were taken of those wishing to attend, the chairman again volunteered to drive the bus.

6.4. Hull.

The date for the annual Hull annual knees up will be the 12th October and the branch is looking for a good turn out for this popular event, again the chairman volunteered to drive the bus. The chairman also told the meeting that the fare for the bus would remain at £10 but warned that the branch could not keep on subsidising the cost of transport so the bus seats

must be filled to cover the cost.

6.5. 4th September.

The secretary told the members that the Merchant Navy Day event in the Garden of Remembrance was going to be a good event, and expected the garden to be full, as this year with the seafront closed the Cleveland Police band was going to relocate to the garden as well. S/m Billy Dobson had printed posters and gave each member two copies to be placed anywhere they can to advertise the event. The sec. also reported that he had spoken with a Cleveland Band official who has agreed to a site-meeting to work out where everyone will be placed, the PA system has also been booked.

6.6. Red Ensign on loan.

The sec reported that he had recently been asked to lend the funeral Red Ensign out, with the promise that it would be returned as soon as possible after the funeral, but, he had had to go asking for it to be returned. The sec. wanted confirmation as to what our stand should be on this issue.

S/m Cyril Kitchener thought that this had been sorted out three years ago. The sec said he can't remember everything. Raymond Coaster said that like the sec, he also had been asked about the loan of the flag. The cost of a 8'x4' Red Ensign like we have now is well over a £100. Raymond Coaster thought that we should charge a returnable amount of money to any funeral director wanting a loan.

Cyril Kitchener said would this apply to branch members. No, is the reply as it is natural that the Ensign will be made available for branch members. It was agreed that a deposit of £100 will be asked for to any one wanting to loan the Red Ensign, it will also have to be signed for and the deposit will be returned when the Ensign is also returned. No body wants to see an ex-Merchant seaman not have the flag on his coffin when he goes, but we must still protect ourselves.

6.7. Transport Costs.

The sec. asked for confirmation as to the transport charge made to any member who travels one way on our trips out, i.e. like s/m Billy Dobson who sometimes travels to Whitby by public transport when he is away on his business trips, and only gets the bus back home at the end of the nights entertainment. Is it right that he should pay the full fare. It was agreed that when this arises any member in this position will only pay half fare.

6.8. Flag Day.

The sec. asked for a good turn out for Flag Day, Redcar High Street, 27th August. He was also asking the members to put in some serious time as the funds are needed. The sec, was also looking to the feel good factor with the prospect of the Redcar blast furness opening soon. The members must remember that it is a long day for Raymond and Brenda Coaster and himself as not only do we finish collecting and put everything away, but we must then start to count the takings ready to go to the bank!

Other items are:-

Con Warriner spoke of his and his wife's gratitude to Jan for her work in attending to them during a recent spell of poor health and what she had done for them.

Jan said how pleased she was to see both Con and Doug Blenkinsop back at the meetings again.

The chairman spoke of the recent trip that had been enjoyed by four members of the branch,

Billy, Dave P Sugar and Cyril, where they had had a brilliant day out plus a lovely roast beef dinner on the River Tees and all paid for by the Forgotten Association. The sec. said he gets to know of these trips but they don't always apply to this area, we can't go putting our names forward for say a trip on the Manchester Canal as that applies to places like Salford and Liverpool.

With no further business the chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2045 hrs.

Secretary Dave Buckworth Chairman Dave Price

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