

**Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,
Wednesday 9th November 2011**

1/11b/11

The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs. Apologies from s/m Noreen Sowden and Cyril Kitchener.

2/11b/11. Minutes

The minutes of the last branch and committee meetings were read also the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Ladies Section.

There were no matters arising from any of the minutes.

3/11b/11. Correspondence

There were items of correspondence as follows:-

- 1. A note enclosed with a 2012 diary thanking us for all the work we put in in a year.*
- 2. Correspondence from the Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) for s/m Jan Harper (Welfare)*
- 3. From Liz Chambers regarding a ceremony at Smiths Dock Park.*
- 4. From the League of Mercy*
- 5. From national regarding the MN Logo.*
- 6. Re-write of the branch constitution (see item 2 AoB).*
- 7. From national a letter from the RBL regarding the MN veterans badge.*
- 8. From national 17 pages from the last national AGM Birmingham.*
- 9. From Hull regarding the NE Coast agreement*
- 10. From national advertising the position of national Research Coordinator.*
- 11. From national regarding the MN Memorial garden, Tower Hill, London.*
- 12. From Hull a general report regarding the first NE coast re-union at Bridlington 2011.*

From the correspondence.

- 2. This correspondence was sent via the branch secretary as Jan Harper's computer was down.*
- 4. This item is for an award for members who the membership think has carried out distinguished voluntary work.*
- 7. This item is with regard to an RBL Standard Bearer who wore two veterans badges while on parade and was told it was not allowed. The Bearer was ex MN and wore his MN vets badge as well as his Armed Forces Badge. The RBL have now relented after a broadside for our national secretary and the both badges can now be worn.*
- 9. This agreement has been read by the secretary and signed and returned the document to Hull as it is in relation to funds being held by Hull (by agreement) for the annual re-union at Bridlington.*
- 11. This item came to light after Trinity House was going to allow a corporate event to take place in the sunken garden at Tower Hill. The Mayor of Tower Hamlets, had also taken up this event with Trinity House and in the end they withdrew the application.*
- 12. This report from Hull was in connection with the re-union at Bridlington earlier this year.*

There were no other matters arising from the correspondence.

4/11b/11. Treasurers Report

The treasurer s/m Raymond Coaster, gave his usual up-to-date report on branch finance as follows:-

Income to 31st October stood at £424, expenditure for the same period was £252.50, giving the branch a balance of £1,652.42. Yorkshire Bank statement £1,772.42 the difference being monies changing hands yet not taken from the account. The branch Welfare & Remembrance Fund stands at £2, 015.84. The treasurer again reminded the meeting that tickets are on sale for the branch Christmas Social. Also, should any member want to buy any more Christmas cards please let him know, as he will only print them off on demand.

The treasurers report was accepted. Proposed by s/m's Jan Harper and seconded by Raymond Robinson

5/11b/11. Branch representative

Branch Representative s/m Billy Dobson reported that he had obtained, as requested by the secretary another 16 collecting boxes. With regards to his calendar sales, he now has only 15 remaining but there are still a few out at shops etc. Billy also said that he has handed over another £140 into the branch funds, this also being from calendar sales.

Billy also reported to the members on items notified to the branch committee on the siting of the Birger anchor and that a song about the anchor would be sung at the dedication with Marske Fishermen's Choir. Billy had also spoken with our branch patron Col. Stewart regarding a visit to HMS Trincomalee in the spring of 2012, Col. Stewart has also sent his apologies as he will not be at Redcar for Remembrance Day as he is already committed to Guisborough. Also reported upon was the branch web-site that Billy does such a good job of looking after; he added that over the Christmas period he would be up-dating the site with the branch Memorial Book. Another item of interest was that the Loftus council are to keep the branch informed as to events taking place in that area.

6/11b/11. Branch Welfare officer

S/m Jan Harper reported on all of her visits to see our members who are still under the weather, as well as other visits to hospitals for some members. She was pleased that they were all doing well especially when looking round the meeting, that some of them had turned up tonight.

Jan also reported that she was now a member of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) on behalf of the MNA in this area of Teesport and that she had attended a MNWB meeting this day and how pleased she was at the manner in which she had been welcomed and the work being done by the MNWB for seamen.

7/11b/11. Branch Public Relations Officer

The branch Public Relations Officer s/m Tony Whatmore, brought the members up to date with all the items he had dealt with recently, but was some what dismayed at the Evening Gazette as they don't publish everything he sends in. He also told the meeting that he had also sent off an article to the Full Ahead on the forming of the branch Ladies Section.

8/11b/11. Ladies Section

As shown in the minutes above (2/11b/11) the branch secretary read out in full the minutes of inaugural meeting held by the Ladies on the 27th October 2011. The Ladies have selected their own secretary, chairlady and treasurer, and all the rest are called The Deckhands (This is the ladies choice not the branches). The ladies have a lot of good ideas as to what they are going to do to raise funds for the branch Welfare and Remembrance Fund and we wish them well.

9/11b/11. Any Other Business

1. Football card & 25 club draw

A football card was run with thanks to s/m Tommy Graham and won by Coventry s/m Des Brown.

The 25 club was drawn, 1st prize No. 8 s/m Cyril kitchener; 2nd prize No. 7 s/m Ian Barnes.

2. Branch Constitution Changes

The secretary told the membership that he had re-written parts of the branch constitution and added item 11 that covers the Ladies Section and changes to item 16 that cover branch finance. The branch committee have agreed the changes, and the secretary asked the members to read the constitution and notify him of any item or wording they did not agree with by the next branch meeting in December; following the December meeting, the constitution will go to the branch AGM in January to be ratified.

3. Whitby

The chairman s/m Dave Price, asked for further names of those wishing to go to Whitby on November 19th. 12 names were taken in total and the chairman gave out the times and places for pick -up on the day. The chairman also informed the meeting that this will be the last trip out of the year, and that he had tried to phone our contact in the Whitby fishermen's club to let them know we were coming but so far had been unsuccessful. The chairman also thanked the members for the recent item that said that the branch would pay part of the cost for him to go on the trip in recognition of all the work he puts in for the members organising these trips out.

4. Remembrance Weekend

S/m Ian Barnes reported on the dates and events that will take place over the coming days leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

5. Frankie Hatton

S/m Beryl Carlin told the members that Frankie Hatton (RN) had sent his thanks to the branch for taking him and his wife on the recent trip to Hull that they had both enjoyed immensely.

6. Bristol

The secretary showed round a pamphlet he had received from the Bristol branch MNA that they had done to advertise themselves and what they did as a branch. This is food for thought for us to follow on top of the small booklet the secretary said he is working on to celebrate our 20th birthday in 2013.

With no further business, the chairman thanked the very well attended meeting, and closed it down at 2020 hrs.

Secretary *Dave Buckworth* Chairman *Dave Price*

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