

**Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,
Wednesday 8th February 2012**

1/2b/12

The chairman, s/m David Price, opened the meeting at 1925hrs.

The tribute to the fallen was given by s/m Billy Hendrie.

Apologies received from s/m's Cyril Kitchener and Raymond Goddard.

2/2b/12 Minutes

The minutes of the branch AGM and the January committee meeting were read.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3/2b/12 Correspondence

There were only 4 items of correspondence as follows:-

- 1. From Hull IMNA regarding the RBL Bridlington.*
- 2. From national regarding the Seafarers UK.*
- 3. The minutes of the national council meeting 21st January '12.*
- 4. A letter sent to s/m Cec Nichols.*

Matters arising from the correspondence.

- 1. The secretary of Hull IMNA had sent out a notification to the NE Coast branches regarding the RBL in Bridlington, who had informed Hull that there is a possibility that the RBL could be being pulled down to make way for regeneration work. Hull will keep their eye on the situation as it will affect the annual re-union.*
- 2. Any person wishing to receive the Seafarers UK 'Flagship' magazine should inform the secretary.*
- 3. The secretary read item 9.3 from the council minutes regarding an increase in MNA subscriptions in 2013. It had been suggested that the increase would be in the range of £1 to £3. Bristol branch had stated that if the subs went up to £10 they would probably pull out of the MNA.. S/m Raymond Coaster said that £1 increase would be OK and our branch would maybe cover that amount. If it went up more that that they could be problems. S/m Raymond Robinson said he would sooner pay £1 to the branch. S/m Raymond Coaster replied that since the MNA has had the Charity Status they had done pretty well out of us with their 10% that they didn't get before, and if all branches did the same he could not see why there was a need to look for more income. The Ladies Section will also see them getting more monies as they start with their fund raising The secretary was instructed to write to national and state that we would not be paying more than £1.*
- 4. 4. The secretary read a letter he had written to s/m Cec Nichols, who had demanded the attendance of the Welfare Officer to see him. The reason being is that he is not happy with the cost of his care and the possible sale of his house. Someone has been telling him that the MNA has a legal team and he wants them to sort things out. National had replied to a request for advice from the secretary and they do not have a legal team but should Cec. want help they have sent him an address to get help.*

The secretary said that this was above the Welfare Officers remit, and that Cec. has sons to sort out his complaints as the branch can't do anything that would go above their heads.

4/2b/12 Treasurer

The treasurer gave his usual up-to-date report regarding branch finances that stand as:- Income to 31st January £274.39, Expenditure for the same period stood at £289.57 giving the branch a balance of £1,774.99. Yorkshire Bank statement £1,881.89. The treasurer reported that there were cheques yet not honoured amounting to £107, and that the branch were 10p to the good. The branch Welfare and Remembrance Fund stands at £1,455. Next month this will show a change as monies will have to be moved from the Fund to the General account. The secretary said that this movement of monies was to keep us right on the balance sheet and showing donations.

The treasurers report was accepted proposed Taff Jenkins and seconded Ted Dobson.

5/2b/12 Branch Representative

Branch Rep. S/m Billy Dobson told the meeting that he had sent in written paper work and drawings to the council regarding the Birger anchor. Billy explained that the council do not want the new plaque free standing, so Billy had planned it so that it was part of the fencing. Billy also informed the meeting that coasters were always available and that now members could have them personalised.

6/2b/12 Branch Welfare Officer

Welfare Officer s/m Jan Harper told of her work with the branch members who are ill. S/m Peter Willis is still in James Cook hospital but they hope he will soon be transferred to the Redcar hospital. Jan has been doing a first-rate service for Mrs Willis by taking her to hospital to see Peter. Jan said that she had been to see Brian Warrior who was not too good, but she thought it was down to the weather. Jan also told of going to see s/m Cec. Nichols, and was also very pleased to see s/m Con Warriner at the meeting.

7/2b/12 Branch Public Relations Officer

S/m Tony Whatmore, PR, reported that he had just done his usual PR work of late, but he did go on to say that he had tried to make contact with the new branch that had started up in South Shields but so far had received no reply.

8/2b/12 Any Other Business

8.1 Football card & 25 club draws

A football card was run, with thanks to s/m Tommy Graham and won by s/m Jan Harper with Blackpool

The 25 club draw was made, 1st prize No. 31 s/m Vilma Collins, 2nd prize, No. 25 s/m John Ingram.

8.2 Whitby

The chairman took the names of those wishing to attend Whitby the following Saturday, and also gave out the times and places where the members would be picked up.

8.3 Combined Services

S/m Ian Barnes reported on the minutes he had received for the last Combined Services meeting, Ian said that it was reported that the PA system was not up to the job these days, and it had been muted by some of our members that maybe all the associations in Redcar could club together and buy a new one. There was still some doubt as to whether the big Flag Pole from the seafront was to be erected in the Garden of Remembrance, if this was the case, the branch could go back to flying the Red Ensign from the gaff as well as at the Birger anchor

on the seafront. Ian also raised some concern at recent events with the Dormanstown club wanting the branch to change our meeting due to a football match being played. S/m Raymond Robinson said it was just a one off we have changed our days before. The secretary replied that, we had at least a months notice to do that before, but we must not forget that the European football championship were played this year and we could fall foul again, plus there was also the Olympics coming up as well and the club members may want the big room to watch on the big screen.

8.4 Mr. Drury

The secretary told the members that he had been contacted by a lady who had been a carer to a former Merchant seaman who had crossed the bar and could we have the Standard present. The branch will do what it can. The person in question has no family and had been 92 years old.

8.5 TS Zetland

The TS Zetland sent their sincere thanks for all the silver cups that had been donated by s/m Raymond Robinson, they were also very pleased with the donation made by the branch.

8.6 Ladies Section

The Ladies Section are now starting their work in raising funds for the Welfare and Remembrance Fund, they are to hold a raffle in the Stockton Hotel the coming week followed by another in the Royal Standard public house the week after. The Ladies are playing a big part in the branch now.

With no further business the chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2010 hrs.

Secretary Dave Buckworth Chairman Dave Price

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