

**Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,
Wednesday 14th March 2012**

1/4b/12

The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

Apologies from s/ms Branch Representative Billy Dobson, Brenda Coaster, Tommy Graham, and John Cook.

2/4b/12 Minutes

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

There were no matters arising

3/4b/12 Correspondence

There were 9 items of correspondence as follows.

- 1. Invite to the institution of Rachael Harrison as the new vicar of St Peters church 25th April.*
- 2. From national, HNT 'Lancastrian Service 14th June, and Richmond (Surrey) Parade 23rd September.*
- 3. From Cllr Brian Briggs notification of a charity night 29th March Skelton church.*
- 4. From national; notification of the annual Merchant Navy Day Parade 16th September.*
- 5. Request from the Harrogate MNA regarding numbers for their get together 4th April*
- 6. From Middlesbrough Borough Council regarding an Army Engagement Team Middlesbrough town Hall, 21st March*
- 7. The Not Forgotten Association invites MNA members to apply for 10 tickets to attend a garden Party at Buckingham Palace.*
- 8. Reply to a letter from the branch to national with our objection to any increase in subscriptions at national level. The secretary read the letter written to national with our objection to the increase.*
- 9. Invite from Darlington Borough Council to attend the raising of the flag to mark Armed Forces Day, 25th June.*

There were no matters arising from the correspondence

4/4b/12 Treasurers Report

The treasurer gave his usual up-to-date report on branch finance as follows: -

Income to the 29th February stood at £300, expenditure £10.30, giving the branch a balance of £2,064. Yorkshire Bank Statement £2,075, the difference being £10.30 with a cheque not yet cashed yet by national.

The Welfare and Remembrance Fund stands at £1,461.85. The treasurer had nothing further to add to his report and the report was accepted, proposed s/m Billy Hendrie, seconded by s/m Raymond (Sugar) Robinson.

5/4b/12 Welfare Officer

S/m Jeanette Harper, reported on her visit to see s/m Peter Willis who is back in hospital again but hoping to be returning home soon and sends his best wishes to 'All Hands', s/m Vilma Collins is to go into a care home soon and Jeanette will visit her when she has settled in and s/m Cec Nichols has moved to the Shore Line nursing home and has had a visit from the secretary. The report was welcomed.

The secretary said that what s/m Jeanette Harper was doing was at times way above her remit for this position and that he proposed that s/m Mrs Harper receive a mention in the minutes. The meeting agreed.

“ The branch members wish to express their gratitude and thanks to s/m Mrs Jeanette Harper who, as branch Welfare Officer, does such a most admiral and sterling job in seeing to the needs of the branch members who are suffering with ill health ”

6/4b/12 Public Relations Officer

Public Relations Officer s/m Tony Whatmore, reported that he had made the normal media notifications regarding the branch, plus he has now set up a good relationship with the Whitby Gazette and the secretary had seen a very good article in it regarding the branch, Tony ended by saying that 'Whitby know we are on our way .'

7/4b/12 Any Other Business

7.1 Football card & 25 club

A football card was run with thanks to s/m Keena Hill and won by Leeds United, s/m Raymond Coaster. The in house 25 club was drawn, 1st prize No. 31, s/m Dave Buckworth, the 2nd prize No. 6 s/m Keena Hill.

7.2 Confirm Whitby and Harrogate trips

The chairman s/m Dave Price checked off the names of those visiting Whitby and Harrogate, the Whitby times were as normal but the Harrogate pick up times will be notified later.

7.3 Branch Photograph

It was hoped to have a branch photograph taken at the April branch meeting but because s/m Billy Dobson was not at the meeting it was agreed to move the date back to May

7.4 Mrs J. Barnes

It was with great regret that the branch had learned of the passing away of Mrs J Barnes, wife of the late branch member Colin Barnes and mother of member s/m John Barnes. The funeral will be held the coming Friday, and the branch had sent a spray of flowers, The secretary asked the members for a good turn out at the funeral at All Saints Church, Dormanstown in support of s/m John Barnes.

7.5 Ladies Section and Welfare Officer's Fuel allowance

The Ladies Section recently had been very active going around the local public houses and clubs emptying branch collecting boxes that had realised £131.70 and the grand total of £360.12 for the first quarter of 2012. Expenses had to be removed from this total, and the remainder sent to national so that they could take their 10% cut. The question of expenses brought on a debate regarding the fuel allowance of s/m Mrs harper the Welfare Officer. The members agreed and voted that her fuel allowance will be increased to £50 a quarter proposed s/m Ted Dobson and seconded by s/m Jimmy Sturdy, another item of great expense these days was the cost of inks for s/m Mrs Harpers printer that had come to £153 for the year, both s/m's Ken Tratthen and Cyril Kitchener spoke of the car parking costs at James Cook Hospital and the use of public transport.

7.6 Marton Motor Club

S/m Raymond (Sugar) Robinson stated that the branch had not paid a visit to the Middlesbrough Motor club for some time, the chairman said he would look into it and see if something can be arranged.

The brother of s/m Desmond Brown, Keith, attended the meeting and at the end rose to tell the members how much he had enjoyed the night, he then went on and made a donation of

£50 to branch funds. It was agreed at the top Table that Keith should be made an Honorary member.

The chairman closed the meeting at 2030 hrs by thanking the members for their attendance and contribution to the proceedings and wished them a safe journey home.

Secretary Dave Backworth

Chairman Dave Price

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