

**Branch meeting held Ennis Square Social club,
Wednesday 11th April 2012**

1/4b/12

The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

He requested the members to stand and a silence period was held in memory of the late s/m Peter Willis who had 'Crossed the Bar' recently after a very long illness. This was followed by the tribute to the fallen given by Billy Hendrie.

Apologies from Brenda Coaster.

Before business began, Vice President s/m Raymond Goddard, presented s/m Desmond Brown with a framed certificate of Honorary Membership of the branch, for his brother Keith who had attended the last branch meeting and made a notable donation to the branch.

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 5 items of correspondence as follows:-

- 1. The secretary. read a letter he had written on behalf of the members to Mrs Iris Willis.*
- 2. From Loftus Town Council regarding a parade to mark HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee*
- 3. From national notification of sympathy sent to Mr and Mrs Gray, Walton -on-Naze branch at the loss of their son-in-law.*
- 4. Alex Gerlis via national regarding a merchant seaman who was executed for spying during WW2.*
- 5. From national regarding the annual Merchant Navy Day parade, Tower Hill, London.*

No matters arising

4/4b/12 Treasurer's Report

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

Income to the 31st March £254, expenditure £431.10, giving the branch a balance of £1,887.89. Yorkshire Bank statement £2,019. Welfare and Remembrance Fund stands at £1,464.

The treasurer, s/m Raymond Coaster went on to thank the Ladies Section who had held a raffle in the Stockton Hotel and raised £98.70. Raymond also noted the cost of the obituary in the Evening Gazette for the late Peter Willis that came to £50. Raymond again thanked the Ladies Section for donations that had come in that night from s/ms Marjorie Goddard, Noreen Sowden and Welfare Officer Jeanette Harper. The treasurer's report was accepted; proposed s/m Ian Barnes and seconded by s/m Billy Hendrie.

5/4b/12 Branch Representative

Branch Representative s/m Billy Dobson told the meeting that he had nothing further to add regarding the delay to the 'Birger' being put back in place on the seafront. It is expected to be delayed by up to two months. Billy also stated that it had been agreed at committee that the title for the calendar for 2013 would be of the North East coast that could cover anywhere from Scarborough up as far as South Shields. He also hoped to get it into the printers as soon as was practicable.

Another item raised by Billy was, why don't we have guest speakers after the meetings to add a bit more to the association's interest. The secretary stated that we had done this in the past, with visits by the World Ship Society and the RNLI. This idea was agreed by the members.

6/4b/12 Branch Welfare Officer

S/m Jan Harper spoke about the late Peter Willis, and gave details of the funeral arrangements, and that the members were invited back to Cherry Trees after the service at the crematorium.

The secretary said that he had spoken with Iris Willis that day about having Peter's ashes scattered at sea, and that if need be he could arrange them to be done by the Redcar lifeboat.

Jan also reported that she was to visit s/m's Brian Warrior, Vilma Collins and Cec Nichols.

Jan finished her report by thanking members of the Ladies Section, s/ms Marjorie Goddard, Beryl Carling and Noreen Sowden for their support. Jan's report as met with a good round of applause.

7/4c/12 Public relations Officer

S/m Tony Whatmore had very little to report other than his usual media notifications, but he did say that the Ladies were to hold a fund raising event at the Asda store later in the year and he hoped to help them by getting an announcement in the media.

8/4c/12 Any Other Business

8.1 Football Card & 25 Club

A football card was run with thanks to s/m Tommy Graham and won by Aston Villa - s/m Jimmy Sturdy.

The 25 club was drawn, 1st prize No 25 s/m Billie Hendrie, 2nd prize, No 11 s/m Gordon Dobie.

8.2 Peter Willis

The branch members were asked to have a good turn out for Peter's funeral. The branch will lay on a bus for those with transport problems, names were taken, there will be two pick up points, Jan Harpers and Dormanstown. S/ms Cyril Kitchener and Ted Dobson presented their apologies in advance as they had other appointments to keep.

8.3 Morrisons Collection

The chairman, s/m Dave Price, reminded the members that we had the Morrisons collection coming up on the 14th April and we need to work out who will be doing what shifts as we are only allowed two collectors at each door. The secretary said he needed to know the numbers as he would have to go up to the office and sign us all in.

8.4 Branch Photograph

It was planned to have a photo taken at this meeting but due to other events it will now take place at the May branch meeting. The chairman reminded the members that everyone should be in full rig with decorations being worn and both Standards on display. The last branch photo was taken in 2007.

8.5 Combined Services

S/m Ian Barnes, our branch representative at the combined services told the meeting that a flag pole is to be erected in the Garden of Remembrance in the future.

The RBL had also asked for suggestions for hymns and short prayers for Remembrance Day, Ian had suggested Eternal Father and the secretary will suggest the seaman's 23rd Psalm. The PA system had also been talked about. The Korean Vets are moving their association from Middlesbrough to the Rugby club in Durham and talking of laying up their Standard at Staindrop next year.

8.6 Whitby Trip

The chairman asked if anyone would like a trip to Whitby, there was a good show of hands. It was to be arranged for the last Saturday in April, but because Jan Harper will be away at that date, it was agreed to put it back to the first Saturday in May. All agreed.

With no further business to hand, the chairman said that we had had a jolly good meeting and thanked very one for 'Turning To'. He also asked if every member would bring a tin of something to the next meeting to make up a basket for the Ladies to raffle off at the Smiths Dock Park event, there was to be no dog food or cat food to be included,, he also again reminded the members to turn out in full rig at the next branch meeting. He then closed the meeting at 2030 hrs.

Secretary *Dave Backworth*

Chairman *Dave Price*

Proposed ----- Secoded -----