

**Committee meeting, held Redcar RAFA club,
Wednesday 23rd February 2011.**

1.3c/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

Apologies received from s/m's Noreen Sowden and Cyril Kitchener.

2/3c/11. Correspondence.

Due to the length of the agenda and the time available, the sec. said he would only deal with two items of correspondence and leave all the rest to the next branch meeting.

- 1. From Hull IMNA, regarding the North East get together 8th June at Bridlington.*
- 2. From national regarding the appointment of s/m Jeanette (Jan) Harper as Welfare Officer.*

Matters arising.

- 1. The letter from Hull IMNA was a 10 point list regarding the time table for the day and the events taking place. The chairman told the members that he would be driving a hire bus. s/m Sugar Robinson asked if we could set off in good time, as last time we attended Bridlington, the room was almost full when we arrived and it was hard to get a seat. The chairman said we would be setting off at around 0900 hrs.*
- 2. s/m Tim Brant. National secretary, had sent information regarding s/m Jan Harper as the branch representative for the Tees MNWB committee, and that it appears that the branch have made a very good choice in Jan.*

3/3c/11. Treasurer.

The treasurer had nothing to report other than, he was dealing with his every day duties for the branch, and he added that it had been rather quite the past month.

4/3c/11. Welfare Office.

s/m Jan Harper reported on her duties as Welfare Officer and making visits to s/m's Vilma Collins, Peter Willis, Cec Nichols and a hospital visit to see Brian Warrior.

Jan reported on how these members were bearing up with their health problems, and she kept within the guidelines of confidentiality. She also told the committee that s/m Brian Warrior had now returned home. A point of interest was that Jan had not seen Brian since they were children. Brian sends his best regards to 'All Hands.'

The sec. brought up the question regarding poor eyesight. Jan said that s/m Peter Willis has poor eyesight and his wife (Iris) was getting him audio books from the library for Peter to listen to. The Sec. had spoken with Jan on this issue and told the meeting that, as a Welfare issue, the branch should endeavour to obtain audio books for the branch and start a little library for the future. The chairman said that tapes were a thing of the past and it was all CD's now. The Sec. said that we could buy a couple of CD players and lend them out to these members and always be on the lookout for audio books. All agreed.

5/3c/11. Any Other Business.

a. Sea Sunday.

The Sec. reported that he had been having a few e-mails with St Peters church with regards to Sea Sunday and that with the Rt. Rev. John Weetman going to pastures new (Selby). A Julie Watson will be conducting the service. The Sec. then told of who he would be inviting, but asked if we should invite the Air Cadets as following the very nice letter from the RAFA last year it would be good to continue this close affiliation with them. All Agreed.

b. Branch Representative (Birmingham)

s/m Billy Dobson allowed the Sec. to start off this report with regard to the last council meeting held in Birmingham, the Sec. spoke about the Charity No. that we now use and the need to have it. He went on that the way round all of this, was for the branch to send to national all the monies raised i.e. Morrisons and Flag day (after expenses), to national who will then send the money back to the branch minus 10%, it looks a long way round this item but, national must actually show their books as having this money being paid into national accounts. s/m Billy Dobson spoke on 5 items from the meeting regarding the MNABC (Merchant Navy Association Boat Club) stating that the boat club was reported in November as having no helm, but now they have a new commodore and it looked like things were moving forward again. Billy then moved onto national councillors and had asked why he had been appointed as area representative contact for Immingham when they already had three national councillors. Billy said he never really got an answer to that one. Billy quickly moved onto Seafarers Awareness Week and said that national chairman J. sail had spoken briefly on this issue. Billy would like to see the branch do something on this item involving the branch PR man to see if we could get something in the media! One thing that Billy came across strong on was the fact that the national chairman is a good man for the MNA but he talks on a lot and as was seen at the meeting, the long agenda was not covered due to a shortage of time. Much of what the chairman had spoken about had already been covered in hand-outs sent to councillors. Billy closed his report by telling the committee that he had sent his thoughts to the national Sec, who had sent them on to all concerned as Billy had received an e-mail from a councillor agreeing with what he had reported on. With regard to the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal there was no change in what is happening and it is still in the hands of our patron Lord West and the Privy Council.

c. Standing Orders & Guidelines.

The sec. told the meeting that this branch had already a set of Standing Orders in place, but during a recent sub committee meeting it had been talked about that these Standing Orders should be brought more up-to-date. The Sec. handed each member a copy of his work and asked everyone to read them and pass comment. No one had anything to bring forward except the treasurer who thought that a few words on page 2 should be altered regarding the President and Vice President. Apart from that the chairman said that the Standing Orders and Guidelines were OK and the committee voted unanimously to accept them. Each member will receive a copy at the next full branch meeting.

d. & h. Birger anchor& Redcar & Cleveland College.

This part of the minutes covers two items D&H on the agenda! s/m Billy Dobson told the meeting that the Sec. and himself had visited Egton Bridge to a metal worker

James Godbold, to see about having a plaque made for the Birger anchor. This was inline with what the members had been notified about regarding the metal book at the Eston Cenotaph. The work we require is from a drawing by s/m Con.Warriner of a boats hull, bow on, and a big Square sail.. We will also ask for a meeting with the head principal of Redcar & Cleveland College and see if the work can be done in the college workshops. Another aspect on cost was that several members raised the question about trying to get sponsorship to pay for the work, by getting our PR man to do a little media begging as we always see other branches sending out begging letters for what they want. The Sec. told the members that this branch had always paid its own way and never asked a penny of anyone but, this is one item that he will support.

e. President & Vice President.

With regard to the branch President and Vice President, the Sec. told the members that we cannot escape the fact that we are all getting old. When we gave out these positions to s/m's Capt. K. Parker and Mrs Vilma Collins, they were for life, and the Sec. will not ever allow any person say that they were getting to old for the job. Capt. Parker will always remain as branch President as will Vilma in the Vice Presidents role, but there was nothing to stop us having another Vice President to support these positions. It was asked if anyone had any ideas who we could ask to fit this position.

s/m Raymond Coaster said that an ideal candidate would be the Mayor, who was coming to the end of his term in office. He is an honorary member and we must not forget that Mrs Vilma Collins started off in the same way back in 2002. There were no objections to this proposal and the Sec. will write to Raymond Godard and ask him if he would be willing to take on a role of branch Vice President alongside of Vilma.

Ted Dobson was asked if he would like to take on the role of Vice President, after all where we are today was down to him and what he did in starting the branch. Ted thanked the members for their thought but declined the offer.

f. Remembrance Book.

Again the Sec. told the members that agreements had been broken time and time again and that it must stop and he would see that it did stop. With regard to the Remembrance Book, there had been talk outside of committee on this matter to get a satisfactory conclusion once and for all. As to the present book as it stands now the Sec. said it would remain in its present being with only branch members added and those names already entered will remain. s/m Billy Dobson spoke about having two books, one for branch members and one for anyone else who would like a seaman's name added, but, with the added bonus of asking for a donation. After a talk about between themselves the committee agreed that a donation of £10 would be asked, it was also talked about whether the book was in the right place in the museum as s/m Brian Macintyre noted that when he had been in there people came in but never ever looked at where the book was. Some members thought that the book would be better kept in St Peters church while others thought Kirkleatham museum. s/m Ian Barnes came up with the idea of why not have the book at Kirkleatham but with the 'Samtampa' Hatch board and anchor links. These thoughts will be looked into.

g. Combined Services.

s/m Ian Barnes reported on the recent combined Services meeting and that members would get onto the race course free when the Standards are on parade. Armed Forces day will be 25th June. The seafron flag pole is to remain where it is and the RBL hope that another pole can be found to go into the Garden of Remembrance. It is expected that the Korean Veterans will disband sometime in 2013.

With no further business to hand, the chairman closed the meeting at 2045 hrs.

Secretary David Buckworth

Chairman David Price