Committee meeting held Redcar RAFA club, Wednesday, 25th May 2011.

1/5c/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

Apologies from s/m Noreen Sowden.

2/5c/11. Treasurer.

The treasurer reported that he was now getting sorted out with his house move. He went on to tell the committee that we had donations in towards the Birger anchor appeal. There was various money transactions for fuel etc that would be made clear in his next branch report. He also reported that he had spoken with the artiste for the coming July get together at the Citz club.

3/5c/11. Branch Representative.

The branch rep. had little to report regarding national, but he did tell the members that the calendar for 2012 had been sent to the printers and he hoped that there would be better support from the members in selling them this year.

He also reported that a lady had been in touch with him after reading the branch web-site, and he hoped that she would attend the next branch meeting and hopefully join the branch as her family had strong connections with the MN.

Another item of interest was that Billy now has an audio library of 1,973 books and 552 authors and that another branch CD player was going to be lent out to s/m Doug Blenkinsop who also suffers with poor eye sight.

With regard to the work on the plaque for the Birger anchor, Billy was in agreement with the Sec. that we should go ahead and have the work done without delay.

The committee agreed to this request. See 5.2 below regarding payment.

4/5c/11. Welfare Officer.

The Welfare Officer reported on the visits that she had made to s/m's Peter Willis, Brian Warrior and also Vilma Collins. She went on to report that s.m Cec Nichols had requested that s/m Jan Harper accompany him for his next hospital visit so that he understood fully and correctly what was being said regarding his health. Jan went on to say that Peter Willis sends his regards to everyone and also how much he is enjoying using the CD player on loan from the branch.

On a separate issue, Jan reported that the signed football from Middlesbrough FC was to go on display in the Stockton hotel and that raffle tickets will be sold in Redcar and Dormanstown for the ball. s/m Christine Hill will also help with this issue. Jan also reported that she had permission to hold a collection in the Redcar Working Men's Club on Friday 27th May and that she required someone to help he. s/m Taff Jenkins put his name forward to help. Also the treasurer, s/m Raymond Coaster has handed in a very large Teddy Bear, nicknamed James, also to help raise money, s/m Jan Harper said that she would raffle off James at the

branch get together in July. Letters of thanks will be sent out to all the establishments who help.

The Sec. told the meeting that, "It was one of the best things this branch has ever done in appointing s/m Jan Harper as Welfare Officer." All agreed.

5/5c/11. Any Other Business.

5.1 Birger anchor:

- 5.2 Monies to Pay for Plaque: The sec asked the question as to what we should do in relation to banking monies for the Birger anchor plaque. One idea was to open another bank account, but seeing as this would only be for a short period of time, the Sec. said that the branch could put the monies into his personal account and he would pay for the plaque when it was completed and the branch could repay him as the monies came in. This money being raised was a branch effort and the MNA's Charity Number was not being used, and so the Sec, said that we would not have to send the money to national for them to remove their 10%. s/m Cyril Kitchener had also told the branch that he would pay for the plaque to be made, and again the money would be paid back as and when it came in.
- 5.3 Dedication of Anchor: Another item raised by the Sec. was when to have the anchor dedicated to the Memory of Merchant Seamen who have no known grave but the sea. Another item was who to get to unveil the Plaque. The name of Mr. John Knight from the chamber of shipping was put forward as Mr Knight always supports our service of Remembrance at the anchor each September. The committee agreed and the sec. will write to Mr Knight when we have a dedication date and ask if he will be available to carry out the task.
- **5.4 Railings around the anchor:** When the anchor is removed for the refurbishment of the esplanade, the question was asked if we still required having the railings replaced around the anchor when it is returned to its new resting place. The committee agreed that it would be wise to have the railings replaced.
- **5.6 Boats parked around the Anchor:** With regards to boats being berthed around the anchor, the chairman said he knew of some of the boat owners and how to get hold of any that we don't know about.
- **5.7 Donation to St Peters church, Sea Sunday:** The treasurer reported that on Sea Sunday 2010, the branch had placed a cheque for £100 on the offertory plate. The committee agreed that the same sum would be again placed on the plate this year.
- **5.8 MNA Constitution, last 9 pages.** Due to the fact that treasurer Coaster had moved home, it would not be practical at this time to hold a sub committee meeting at his new home. The Sec. told the sub committee that they could come to his home if they wished. The sub committee agreed and the meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd June at 40 Castle Road, Redcar.
- **5.9 Morrisons Collection:** The members were made aware that only 4 members can collect at any one time in the store. The Sec. had confirmed in writing that we are attending on the agreed date of 1^{st} June and also recently he had telephoned the store to again confirm

attendance. s/m Ian Barnes has the collection boxes and stickers and the letter from the store allowing us to collect.

5.10 Bridlington Trip: The chairman spoke of the members attending the trip and also the numbers as he had been asked by a member if there were any spare seats. He also reiterated that any person putting his/her name down for any trip, will have to pay for that seat if he/she fails to attend, as it had come to his attention that a member was not attending the coming trip and was trying to sell off his seat.

Secretary Dave Buckworth	Chairman Dave Price
Proposed	Seconded