

**Committee meeting held Redcar RAFA club,
Wednesday 29th June 2011.**

1/6c/11. The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.

2/6c/11. Treasurer.

The treasure started by making a statement regarding an item he had heard about, that stated he had told ex-member B. Macintyre to put money in his pocket. The treasurer refuted this allegation and told the committee that he had brought the branch books up-to date and would leave his position as branch treasurer.

The chairman stopped mutters going around the committee and called for a vote regarding the treasurer. A vote of confidence was taken by a show of hands, and was unanimously in favour of the treasurer. Following this it was revealed that other stories were in hand regarding [B.Macintyre] involving money, and that the branch was well rid of him.

The treasurer thanked the committee for their support and continued to make his report. He stated that the Christmas Draw tickets were now with him, he had purchased several items for the branch Christmas cards, branch business cards had been completed to be handed out by the members and also a MN badge was handed over for the Rev Dr, Julie Watson (St Peters church) to wear. He also said that he had had a very nice surprise a s/m Billy Dobson had handed in £220 from the sale of calendars [2012 issue], and a further £35 from the sale of coasters.

3/6c/11. Branch Rep.

s/m Billy Dobson reported firstly about his connections through his family with the MN.

2nd. He had already reported about the national council meeting. (March)

3rd. That the branch review of the MNAs constitution was now completed and had been forwarded on the national office.

4th Billy raised concern regarding several items on the agenda of the coming national council meeting (2nd July) and a couple points of order to be raised. These are in relation to a letter from the Bristol branch regarding attendances at AGMs, and items from national vice chairman Malcolm Mathison on rules 7, 8 and 9 on age qualification for membership. Yet for all the work carried out by our branch [Dormanstown/Redcar] was not even mentioned as well as a letter of complaint sent in regarding the last national meeting.

5th Billy is working with the branch sec. on the Memoriam book and the Web Site.

6th Seafarers Awareness Week commencing 6th June regarding sea blindness should be continued with the library display, to make the general public more aware of the need for shipping.

7th Billy gave an up-date on calendar sales, and commended s/m Jan Harper [Welfare] for the sales she has already made. Also Coasters are now available with the branch badge on them.

8th Billy has been in contact with James Godbold regarding the Birger anchor plaque and it will be stored at Egton until required

9th Billys work regarding the audio library for members with poor eyesight, he reported that his cataloguing of books now totals 1,973 that includes novels, short stories and poetry covering 552 authors.

4/6c/11. Welfare Officer.

The Jan Harper reported to the committee on her visits to s/ms Peter Willis, Vilma Collins, Brian Warrior, she said that they are all doing well and send their regards to the branch.

The Welfare Officer was again thanked for her commitment to the position she holds within the branch.

5/6c/11. Any Other Business.

5.1 Branch Plaque for Reunion.

The Sec, showed around the embroidered plaque received from Hull IMNA at Bridlington. It was agreed that the branch would do likewise for the next gathering.

He reported that s/m Jack Robsons wife (Margaret) could do the writing part on the material but, we would have to go to Quick stitch to see if the MN badge could be done. It was agreed that this work would be done and the sec. will make enquires to having the work carried out.

5.2 B. Macintyre.

The sec. reported that he had notified national of the expulsion of B. Macintyre from the branch, but they said they would have to see about him being removed from the national membership list. The sec. had told national, they could do what they liked, but he was not coming back here.

5.3 Sea Sunday.

The Sec. stated that we must have the protocol correct for the coming Sea Sunday service at St Peters church and the attendance of the Worshipful Mayor and Escort of Redcar & Cleveland. The sec. will greet the Mayor on arrival and hand her over to the chairman who in turn will present her to either the President or vice President of the branch to accompany her to her seat in the church (already reserved) and stay with her to the end of the service.

5.4 Honorary Membership.

It was reported that we have several ladies who attend meetings with their husbands, The sec. thought that, to keep everything fully legal and above board, these ladies should be made honorary members. Agreed.

5.5 Merchant Navy service 4th September.

It was agreed that the pecking order for wreath laying at the Garden of Remembrance would be left to the Sec and Billy to sort out. With there being a change to the venue the sec. reported that he had sent out letters to the usual guests and so far had received several replies, but more was to be done before the service sheet was put together.

5.6 Branch Half Year Reports.

Due to the treasurer being away on holiday for the July branch meeting, it was agreed that the Half Year reports would be left over to the August branch meeting. The treasurer had been prepared to write his report up and get someone to deliver it, but the sec. thought it would be better coming from the treasurer himself so that he could answer any questions that may arise.

5.7 Conduct on branch outings.

The sec. said that he would like to remind members who attend these outings to be on their guard at all times so as not to let our standards slip. If we allow any member to get carried away and say something wrong it would affect all the members as they would never be invited back anymore.

5.8 Committee meeting venue.

Enquiries were made at the RAFA club to see if the committee could hold its meetings in the upstairs room as what was being debated could be heard by all in the room. It was agreed that we would revert back to the upstairs room so that all branch business could remain private where it belongs.

5.9 Lapsed members.

As we are now at the end of June, any member who has not paid his/her subscriptions for the year would now be wrote to and inform them that they are no longer a member of the MNA. This is in keeping with MNA rules.

5.10 Data Protection.

The sec, told the committee that he had attended Redcar Police Station that day to make enquiries regarding Data Protection and the branch Welfare Officer. The Police had given the sec. a phone number to ring at Data Protection, who in turn had stated that there was really no need to have Jan checked out and that it was up to us or not if we wanted to go ahead. When it was mentioned that we are part of a charity that, was a different thing, so, the sec. had asked the national office about this item. They in turn said they were attending a MNWB meeting and they would ask there, but it was a very good question that had been raised by the branch. This item had been brought to the secs. attention by Jan herself because she is entering peoples homes and that is seen as dealing with vulnerable people. Several questions were asked regarding this matter, and the sec. said that every year when he applies for a permit from Redcar & Cleveland council to hold a street collection. We are checked out! In answer to a question from s/m Cyril Kitchener, the sec. said he was keeping the branch legal and shutting all open doors.

5.11 Standards on Parade.

s/m Jan Harper asked if the branch had been approached by the Redcar Workingmens club about the Standards being on parade in the club on a night to be agreed . This is in connection with Help the Heroes

s/m Ian Barnes said that he had spoken with Mr Howden about this and he believes that something is being put together.

5.12 Subsistence Allowance.

The chairman said he had been steeling himself for some time to get the nerve to ask the following question. He said that when he drives the bus for the members to have a day out he thought that the present £10 subsistence paid by the branch was now inadequate in this day and age as while he is waiting for the members to turn out of whatever venue they were attending, he[chairman] was hanging about wanting his cups of tea and a meal etc.

s/m Sugar Robinson said that that was why he had asked the members to chip in £2 a head for the driver when we went to Bridlington.

Treasurer said that that was between the members but the question was about the subsistence paid by the branch.

Without any more back chat it was proposed that when the chairman drives the bus for the members days out he should receive a subsistence allowance of £25.

The chairman thanked the committee and said £20 would have been enough.

Subsistence for other matters ie members attending council meetings etc would remain at £10. All Agreed.

With no further business to hand, the chairman thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2030 hrs.

Secretary David Buckworth

Chairman David Price

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