

**Committee meeting held Redcar RAFA club,
Wednesday 29th February 2012**

1/2c/12

The chairman opened the meeting at 1930 hrs.
Apologies from s/m Jeanette harper (Welfare Officer).

2/2c/12 Treasurer

The treasurer had little to report, except that Redcar & Cleveland council had now paid the £90 owed to the branch for calendar sales, and the treasurer had transferred it to the branch account

3/2c/12 Secretary

The secretary read through several items of correspondence that had come in, one item was with regard to the proposed increase in national subscriptions, and asked the chairman if this could be related down the agenda to Any other business. The chairman agreed.

4/2c/12 Branch Representative

S/m Billy Dobson also had little to report, he said that all the paper work sent in to the council regarding the Birger anchor had brought no feed back at this time. Billy did report that he was trying to get the 2013 calendars into the printers by the end of April, and that they could be back in time for the Ladies Section stall in Smith's Dock Park in July.

5/2c/12 Branch Welfare Officer

S/m Tony Whatmore reported that he had only carried out the normal notifications to the press.

6/2c/12 Any Other Business

6.1 Whitby 17th March

Names were taken for another trip to Whitby which would be St Patrick's Day, the list will be completed at the next branch meeting

6.2 Harrogate

This trip on 4th April was in hand with the bus already booked, and many names taken. The chairman asked the secretary if he could get the post code for the new venue. The secretary will do that and notify the Harrogate branch that we will be bringing 16 members.

6.3 Combined Services

S/m Ian Barnes reported that the Dormanstown RBL are seeking a piper for a funeral, they are also putting on a bus for the Battle of Britain day in York, Standard Bearers and their wives will travel free, others will be charged £5 with a £3 charge for children.

6.4 National Subscriptions

The secretary opened the debate by reading out the letter that he had been instructed to write to national with our branch's objection to any increase in subs. He itemised the last line of the letter that read that the branch would pay a £1 extra for subs., **But under protest.**

S/m Billy Dobson told the meeting that this had been brought up in the past, but they have not answered the question of what are they doing to raise capital.

S/m Cyril Kitchener reminded the meeting that national are receiving an increase in funding by use of the Charity Status.

S/m Ian Barnes said that if all the other branches did the same as us, they would have a reasonable income.

S/m Raymond Coaster said that national got almost £100 from this branch last year through the Charity number on Flag Day, and now that we have the Ladies Section with all their collecting boxes out they will be doing even better. Raymond also reminded the committee that the branch has an agreement with national to pay our 10% once every quarter. Raymond ended his say by stating, why don't other branches do the same as our Ladies Section and have collecting boxes around the pubs and clubs?

S/m Ian Barnes stated that if every other branch was like us, then national would do well.

The secretary took the attention of the meeting by adding that as your secretary he had to be one step ahead of the game in the interest of the members of the branch, but he could not understand why national was pushing this issue so early when nothing can be done until the AGM in October. Even then to take a vote at the AGM was not a true reflection of the whole of the MNA. He went on to remind the committee that we have not increased our costs to our members and we should be proud of that and if national subs went up by £1 he hoped that he would be able to get our treasurer to absorb that cost as well. He went on to say that we must all remember what other branches pay in branch subs, whereas here, we don't really charge our members anything.

S/m Raymond Coaster ended the debate by saying that we as a branch have sent in our views to national and by rights they should read out our letter at the coming meeting. There was a good input by all the committee members on this subject.

It is now a wait and see game!!

6.5 HMS Trincomalee

S/m Billy Dobson reported that our branch Patron Colonel Stewart keeps asking about having a trip to Hartlepool to HMS Trincomalee.

The chairman said that we have this in mind but at the moment what with trips out and coming visits to other branches etc, plus we have the Morrisons collection coming up on 14th April we have very little time spare, but he did see a window in May as the weather would be kinder; he also thought a Wednesday would be an ideal day. This was agreed.

S/m Billy Dobson also stated that there was no need for anyone with a disability to worry about getting about as access is very good.

With no more business in hand the chairman thanked the members for a good meeting and closed it at 2020 hrs.

Secretary David Buckworth Chairman David Price

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