

Royal Naval Association – Portland Branch

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Conservative Club on Wednesday 4th October 2017

- The meeting was opened by the Vice Chairman at 2005. 44 members attended. Apologies were received from 17 members.

- Vice Chairman's Report

The Vice Chairman reported that his holiday to Cuba was cancelled by the holiday company following the devastation caused by the two hurricanes. He did, however, manage to get away with his wife to Jamaica instead and only arrived back yesterday morning.

The Vice Chairman did not attend the last committee meeting but went through the Chairman's report from that meeting:-

The Area Meeting was held here in the Conservative Club on Saturday 16th September. S/M Vice Chairman went to the afternoon meeting for the first time, followed by the evening Social, with his wife, which was another great evening. Thanks to the Social Secretary for organising this and David even won the rum raffle! A great day for the branch!

David Thurston is standing down as Portland Town Mayor due to ill health. Charlie Flack continues as Deputy Mayor until a vote can be taken.

Area Meeting at Saltash in January 2018 – there is possible accommodation at the China Fleet Club.

Following on from our own Area Meeting it may be possible for future presentations to be arranged at our monthly meetings by Relate, SSAFA and Scotties Little Soldiers so members can find more out about these organisations.

The Not Forgotten Association Christmas Lunch. Mick Arnold has received an invitation for a number of members to attend the NFA lunch being held at the Holiday Inn, Deane Gate Avenue, Taunton on Monday 4th December. Details with name, address, tel. number, service number and guest carer to the Chairman by 6th November at the latest. This event is free and worth applying for.

Invitation received by the Chairman regarding an Inspection Night at Portland Sea Cadets on Tuesday 10th October. As the Chairman will be away, the Vice Chairman and his wife will attend.

Alex and Pam have offered to do the Christmas raffle at the December monthly meeting once again. Many thanks.

S/M Shoemith added that the Black Ball Award was to be presented tonight. He proceeded to recall the event this week whereby S/M Alex Oswald had

caused a security alert on a family visit to HMS Victory by leaving his backpack unattended. S/M Oswald added finer details and was suitably embarrassed by the whole proceedings. Unfortunately the previous winner of this award S/M Graham White was not present to return the award so it will actually be presented at a later date.

- Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted, proposed by S/M Mickey Fox, seconded by S/M Alf Larkin with 32 for and 12 abstentions. There were no matters arising.

- Secretaries remarks and correspondence

Letter from Mick Arnold, No 4 Area Secretary

Letter from Axminster Branch

Matters arising - S/M Charles H Thompson sincerely congratulated the branch on conducting the Area Meeting.

- Welfare Report

Nil report.

- Membership Secretary and PRO's Report

A notice has been published in the Free Portland News that 2018 membership fees of £14 are due by the end of February 2018 at the latest.

- Standard Bearer's Report

Biennial Parade in Whitehall, London. Thanks were expressed to the Dorchester Branch for help with transport to the parade. S/M Ben Cartwright carried the Area Standard and S/M Dan Sherren carried the Portland Branch Standard.

- Area Report

S/M Shoesmith reported that 18 branches were represented at the meeting. S/M Councillor Charlie Flack, Deputy Town Mayor, welcomed members. It was stated that at the Area Reunion Rally at Bideford, Commodore Peter Tribe and his wife will be the honoured guests.

This year's charity chest from Bideford, £2300 was presented to Geoff Robinson of Scotties Little Soldiers, who gave a memorable account of the work of the charity. Tim Cork of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) also gave a report on the work of that charity.

Letters of thanks have been sent to Annie Lynham for the catering, and the Conservative Club for the use of the premises.

It was reported that sadly Axminster Branch is likely to close.

- National Council Report

S/M Shoesmith reported that 2018 National Conference is being held in Dublin and accommodation is being sought.

Also three RNA minibuses are now in use in different parts of the country.

- Treasurer's Report

S/M Shoesmith read out the Branch account which stands at £3893.62. The report was accepted, proposed by S/M Bill McMurray and seconded by S/M Jan Isaac with 37 for and 7 abstentions. There were no matters arising.

The Treasurer thanked those who have helped with stalls and fundraising throughout this year as this has boosted the branch funds considerably. A new charity will be nominated for next year.

The Treasurer also stated that the money raised from the Area Meeting £610 needs to be allocated to funds within the branch. He suggested £200 each to the social fund, the charity fund and the general fund. This was proposed by S/M Mickey Fox and seconded by S/M Dave Thompson with 37 for and 7 abstentions.

The raffle tonight raised £50 with £18 throwbacks.

- Webmaster's Report

Although the Webmaster was ill he reported via the Vice Chairman that project Semaphore flyers were available tonight on the tables. Two S/Ms, Janet Evans and Joan Stevenson already had their Project Semaphore ipads. Another S/M was already in the pipeline awaiting ipad delivery.

- Social Secretary's Report

Number 4 Area Meeting and the evening social on Saturday 16th September went very well and raised a great deal of money for the branch. Thanks to everyone for all their help and to all who attended.

Away Weekend to the Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne from Friday 6th to Monday 9th October. 49 members and friends going. Shearings and South West Coaches have been paid in full. Pickup times on Facebook. Thanks Rich for listing them on the website. Lunch stops en route on Friday and Monday. Day trips on Saturday and Sunday. Entertainment in hotel each evening. Bonfire procession passes the hotel on the Saturday evening. Beer festival at the Winter Garden on Friday and Saturday. Shows at Eastbourne Bandstand on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Xmas Dance. Friday 15th December in Jubilee Hall. Entertainer B J McCabe. Cost £10.00 per person. Wrapped raffle prizes appreciated. I'm pleased

to announce that Anni Lynham will be the caterer. List on the notice board.

Annual Dinner 2018. Saturday 28th April at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square.
Entertainer – Paul Laming.

Other Social Events for 2018. I have contacted bh live tickets to ask for information on group discounts for shows at the BIC in the coming months.

- Any Other Business

S/M Pete Evans said that parking will be available in the market car park for the Cenotaph Parade. The car park will close at 1215.

S/M Denis Matthews said the memorial service for those lost on HMS Illustrious will take place at 1130 on 14th October 2017 at Portland Marina. It is 69 years since the tragedy this year. Next year will see a much bigger event.

S/M Mike Beattie had informed others about the crossing the bar of Archie Davidson, an ex-armourer, who members might have known. The funeral was recently held in Newcastle.

S/M Pete Shoesmith said that deposits for the Area Reunion Rally weekend in Bideford were due tonight and most people had paid. The list closes tonight as deposits have to be forwarded to secure the places.

S/M Shoesmith also reminded members about the 2018 RNA diary list available tonight.

- The next meeting is Wednesday 1st November. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2115.