

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION – PORTLAND BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB ON
WEDNESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2017

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 2000. 45 members attended.
Apologies were received from 12 members.
The Chairman presented S/M Christine Burlinson with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of all her work for the Branch.
2. CHAIRMANS REPORT
The Chairman asked members to be upstanding for a minutes silence for Terry Kinsella who crossed the bar recently.
He welcomed S/M Grant Baker to the Branch. He thanked Nige and Christine for standing in for himself and Ann during their recent absences.
Thanks to Charlie Flack and the Town Council for arranging the refurbishing of the Cenotaph.
We had a great weekend in support of the Chard Branch to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. We asked Charles H to present an engraved glass bowl to their President which was well received.
Our No4 Area Meeting even made the Navy News. We have had editors from the Echo and FPN thanking us for our contribution and quality of reporting.
Next month the main meeting will start at 2000 sharp and with no stand easy. This is to allow Alex to hold his Christmas raffle on completion of the abridged meeting. Maureen and I will not be sending greeting cards this year but will be making a donation to the Branch funds where it will probably do more good.
The Not Forgotten Society has once again offered our area places at their Christmas celebration, this time at sea in the Solent with lunch on Monday 18th December, names to him as soon as possible.
We will be mustering as usual at the Portland Cenotaph on Saturday 11th November. We will also be mustering on the following day for Remembrance Sunday and there will be up spirits in the Con Club afterwards courtesy of Alf Larkin who will be doing the honours this year.
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – were read and accepted. Proposed by S/M John Rowden seconded by S/M Les Dilley. 36 for with 9 abstentions.
4. MATTERS ARISING
S/M Shoemith asked members if they would pay for their diaries tonight.
5. SECRETARIES REMARKS & CORRESPONDENCE
Letter from Portland Town Council re Carol Service.
Letter from Portland RBL re Wreath.
History of Aircraft book donated to the Branch.
6. MATTERS ARISING
Reference the letter from Portland Royal British Legion. At last week's Committee Meeting it was proposed that the Branch donate £50 towards the cost of the wreath. This was put to the floor and carried.
7. WELFARE REPORT
8. Margaret McMurray is getting better.
Jan Evans has been in hospital.
Sue Harvey has had a nasty accident. Alan is being looked after in Blandford.
John Jeffries is in hospital.
Charles H still has eye problems.
Daphne Butler will be moving to her daughters at Bridgewater.
S/Graham White said he attended Terry Kinsella's funeral.
9. LIASON OFFICER
Nil report.
10. PRO
S/M Maureen Sherren said membership fees for 2018 can now be paid.
11. STANDARD BEARERS REPORT
S/M Cartwright said the Branch Standard was paraded at the HMS Illustrious Memorial Service. Remembrance Day Service on the 11th of November at the Cenotaph. Meet at 1045.
Remembrance Sunday 12th November at the Cenotaph. 1045 for 1100. Evening Service at St Johns Church Underhill at 1830.
12. TREASURERS REPORT
S/M Shoemith read out the Branch Account which stands at £3961-62. The report was accepted.
Proposed by S/M Bill McMurray seconded by S/M David White. 39 for with 6 abstentions. The Raffle raised £62-50 with donations of £12-50 to our Branch Charity. There were no matters arising.

13. WEBMASTERS REPORT

The Webmaster said we have had 10,600 page views, with just over 2000 users. We are starting to see a slight drop off in audience month by month, which highlights the need to keep updating website contents with fresh news. Any Ideas from members welcomed.
Project Semaphore – We have now provided Janet Evans and Joan Stevenson with Ipads which they are very happy with. Fliers giving information about Project Semaphore have been put out tonight for members to read.

14. SOCIAL REPORT

The away weekend to the Burlington Hotel, Eastbourne was most enjoyable. Thanks to shipmates, families and friends who came along for their support. Your kind comments were greatly appreciated.
Christmas Social Friday 15th December 2017 in the Jubilee Hall. Entertainer B J McCabe. Cost £10 per person including buffet. Wrapped raffle prizes appreciated. List is on the notice-board. Please pay this evening or at the December meeting.
Annual Dinner 28th April 2018 at the Masonic Hall. Victoria Square. Entertainer Paul Iaming.
Other Social Events for 2018 I have had a few emails from BH Live about shows at the BIC in the coming months but nothing much of interest. It seems like there is no group discount for the big name shows, which are £40 plus per ticket.
Sunday 18th March 2018 Frome Branch are once again hosting the Royal Marines Band Concert. The price will be £18 per head, which includes invitation to the post-concert buffet. If sufficient interest, we could perhaps hire a minibus.
Another trip to the Ageas Bowl for a 20/20 match next summer could be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Will keep a lookout for the fixture list.
Away weekend 2018. Have started planning for next year. Will probably be from Friday 5th October to Monday 8th October. Awaiting quotes for various locations. Hope to have some information at the December meeting.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting Wednesday 6th December 2017. This will start promptly at 2000hrs.

16. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2112.

Chairman

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