

National Conference 2018

The Royal Naval Association National Conference was held at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire on Saturday 9th June 2018. 57 Delegates attended.

The Conference was called to order and both the RNA and Irish Naval Service National Standards were marched on. The Venerable Ian Wheatley CB QHC RN, Chaplain of the Fleet, offered prayers and a silent tribute to those who had crossed the bar was observed. Vice Admiral JHS McAnally CB LVO, the National President, introduced our guests Senator Neale Richmond, who opened the Conference, and Rear Admiral Mark Mellett DSM PhD FNI, Chief of Defence, Irish Defence Forces both of whom gave informative talks about the local area and the size and mission of the Irish Navy.

Awards were presented by the President: Sword of Honour (Area with the greatest increase in numbers) to No 3 Area; Brigg's Dirk (Large Branches) to Reigate Branch; Brigg's Rose Bowl (Small Branches) to Coventry Branch; Overseas Branch (over 30) to Torrviega, Spain; Overseas Branch (under 30) Jersey and the Tasker Bowl (for the most gift aid returns) to No 9 Area.

A comprehensive reports were given on behalf of the Standing Orders and the National Council during which S/M Arthur Gutteridge was announced as the NCM of No 4 Area

The minutes of the 2017 Annual Conference were accepted with no matters arising. Proposed by Rosyth; Seconded by Monmouth.

The Treasurer S/M Ray Barraclough presented the Accounts for 2017. On completion he stood down from office, receiving a very well deserved acclamation from all.

We received an update of Project Semaphore from the GS and Mrs Sarah Clewes with the view to opening it up to other veteran organizations in the future and informing us that assistance with Ipad technical problems may be sought from Apple Shops.

There were no motions of urgency.

National Council Motions

1. To amend Article 2 of the Royal Charter by adding a clause at 11. Carried Unanimously
2. To amend Rule 2 of the Supplementary Charter by adding "and holders of the MN Vets Badge" Carried unanimously.
3. New rule to be added. "Rule 11. Sports and Social Groups" and "to advance the numbering of subsequent Rules by 1". Carried 56-1
4. "Payment of authorise expenses". Carried unanimously.

Branch Motions

1. That the 2020 Conference be held in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at a date and price to be confirmed. Carried unanimously.
2. That the National Council set up a study group to investigate the management of membership centrally. After an impassioned debate, both for and against, the motion was carried by a 35 to 21 vote.

This was not a vote to implement the change, just to set up a a study group which will need to submit a further motion in 2019

Conference Raffle

1st Prize Bloxwich Branch; 2nd M. Payne; 3rd Skegness Branch; 4th Mike Fizmordy Blackwater Branch. After the closing remarks by the NP both the Irish and British National Anthems were played and the Standards marched off.

Many delegates then took up the kind offer to visit the Irish Navy Flagship LE Eithne moored alongside in Dun Laoghaire Harbour.

On Sunday 10th June a Church Service was held in the former Naval Garrison Church which now houses the Irish Maritime Museum. The exhibits had been moved aside to accommodate a packed congregation.

Prayers were led by The Venerable Ian Wheatley. 2 National, 6 Area and 7 Branch Standards were paraded.



Gala Dinner Entertainment



Standards on Parade



Irish Navy Flagship 'LE Eithne



Packed Congregation



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