

Royal Naval Association – Portland Branch

Minutes of the General Meeting held in the Conservative Club

on Wednesday 4th December 2019

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 2006. 59 members attended.

Apologies were received from 15 members.

2. Chairman's Comments

We have five prospective new members, Steven King (full) and his wife Susan (associate), Robert Belton (full) and his wife Theresa (associate) and Charlie Mitchell (full).

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November I accompanied S/M Ben Cartwright to the Interment Service of Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi GCB at Pitney, near Langport in Somerset. Two standards were paraded, the RNA National Standard and the No 4 Area Standard.

On 10<sup>th</sup> November the Branch was very well represented at the Remembrance Service at Portland Cenotaph, which was followed by 'Up Spirits' at the Con Club. Thanks to S/M Alf Larkin for acting as 'Rum Bosun.' During tot time, two glasses beautifully decorated by Tracey Baker, wife of S/M Grant Baker, were donated for auction. A grand sum of £50 was raised and donated to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November (Armistice Day), members of the Branch again held a short service at the Cenotaph. Our Standard was paraded on both occasions.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting were read and accepted, proposed by S/M Jan Isaacs and seconded by S/M Nige Rimmell, with 47 for and 12 abstentions. Matters Arising - The Chairman presented a bottle to Valerie Baldwin in lieu of her previous hospital stay. S/M Shoemith stated that with reference to the Public Liability Insurance, copies are now held by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

4. Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence

Christmas card from Bill and Margaret McMurray.

Christmas card from Kelly and Mark Ford

5. Items discussed at Committee Meeting

There were no new items.

6. Reports

- a) Ceremonial Report. Tony Seal and I attended the funeral of Les Ames. It was very well attended. Our standard was not paraded as only the RAFA standard was required. Remembrance Day, thanks to Alex and Pam and also Pete Foster.

- b) Fundraising Report. Nil

- c) Membership Secretary's Report. Renewals of membership are now being collected. We have three full members joining and two associate new members.

- d) National/Area Report. Bill Oliphant, the RNA General Secretary, will be our guest of honour at the Annual Dinner in 2021.

- e) Welfare Report. Ann Robbins and Colleen Prowse have both had second cataract operations. Barb Gould has an appointment this week with a consultant regarding her knee. Brian Hewson is continuing treatment. A card has been sent to John Jeffery. A card has been sent to Jean Ames.
- f) Treasurer's Report. incl. Public Liability Insurance). The Branch Account stands at £3612.96. The report was proposed by S/M Karen Miller and seconded by S/M Steve Skerman, and accepted with 51 for and 8 abstentions. There were no matters arising. The Public Liability Insurance cover began on 7<sup>th</sup> November and is by Military Mutual Insurance Company.
- g) Social Secretary's Report.

Xmas Social. Saturday 21st December, probably in the Manor Bar rather than the Jubilee Hall, unless we get a lot more interest. 68 on the list so far. Entertainers Gut & Steel. Cost £10.00 per person including buffet. Please pay this evening. Wrapped raffle prizes appreciated.

Annual Dinner 2020. Saturday 25th April at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square. Entertainer: Paul Laming.

Evening Social on Saturday 12th September in the Jubilee Hall, following the Number 4 Area meeting.

Away Weekend 2020. Friday 2nd to Monday 5th October at Daish's Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. Approximate cost £156.00 per person to include 3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast, return coach travel and excursions on Saturday and Sunday. Non-refundable deposits of £5.00 per person required by January meeting.

Xmas Social 2020. Saturday 19th December in the Jubilee Hall.

Annual Dinner 2021. Saturday 24th April at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square.

7. Any Other Voting Items. Nil

8. AOB

S/M Arthur Copus thanked the branch and individuals for the kind words sent to Yvonne.

S/M Ben Cartwright said that he and Josie will be making a donation to the charity chest in lieu of sending Christmas cards.

S/M Pete Shoemsmith reminded those going to the Annual Reunion Rally at Bideford next year that the balance of £125 p.p. is required at the January meeting.

9. Chairman's Closing Comments

Pam and I will be making a donation to the branch instead of sending Christmas cards. I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas.

10. The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2030.

.....Chairman

.....Hon Sec

