

**ROYAL NAVAL WRITERS' ASSOCIATION (RNWA) MEETING HELD THURSDAY
21ST SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE RNA GOSPORT & FAREHAM BRANCH AT 19:00**

Present: - Colin Hughes President (CH)
Les Heyhoe BCav Secretary (LH)
Tony Webber Committee (TW)
Dave Kelly Member (DK)
George Mytom-Hart BEM Member (GMH)

Apologies: - Pat Prior BEM QVRM Treasurer (PP)
Mike Moncur Committee (MM)
David McQuitty Member (DM)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 20th July 2017 were taken as read.

2. Deaths

The following members were reported as 'Crossing the Bar'

George T. Hemmings - RIP 12th September 2017 *
Michael Colborne LVO - RIP 21st September 2017

* Funeral being held at Havant Crematorium Monday 25th September and the RNWA will be represented by CH & GMH who will be in attendance.

All present observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the above.

3. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, LH had obtained a recent bank statement dated 19 Sept.'17 @ 16:42 which showed a credit balance of £6,704.03 (the balance brought forward as at 31/07/19 was £6,319.03). LH advised that additional payments had been received during 19/09 to 21/09/19 in respect of the Reunion Dinner but they were via Bank Transfer and had yet to be confirmed. How much had been received in total for the Reunion Dinner would be reported at the next scheduled meeting.

4. Membership

It was encouraging to note that combined with the recent support and enthusiasm of Service personnel, namely DMLS at HMS RALEIGH and the Royal Naval Writers Face Book page (not the RNWA), an influx of applications for membership had been received combined with the request to attend the 130th Reunion Dinner, so new members are (in no order of preference and month joining since the last meeting): -

WO1Wtr. Lee Morgan – HMS Queen Elizabeth	CPOWtr. Mark Penfold - AFCO Cardiff
CPOWtr. David Britchard – HMS Queen Elizabeth	POWtr. David Bouskill - DMLS HMS Raleigh
William McIntosh MBE of High Overtoun	Frank Cooper MBE of Frinton-On-Sea
Mrs Jackie Watson of Stubbington	Nick Johnstone of Stubbington
Bill Paterson of Fareham	

Membership as at the date of the meeting comprised of: -

Honourary Members: 3
Life Members: 32
Members: 236
Total Membership 271

In August, CH travelled to Boulogne in France to retrospectively present the Life Membership Certificate to Geoff Luton who is in hospital and unfortunately is not in good health.

Dated the 6th September 2017, LH read out a letter from David Scott of Cromer, Norfolk, who conveyed his apologies but due to a prior commitment was unable to attend the 2017 Reunion Dinner to receive his Life Membership certificate. Arrangements by LH, GMH & PP were therefore to be made to despatch David his certificate via Royal Mail. LH to provide membership details to GMH in order for this year's life Membership certificates to be produced.

It was agreed that membership expenses relevant to the RNWA incurred by LH in the recent and forthcoming weeks e.g. July Newsletter, postage, printing, ink cartridges etc. (£289.68) could be claimed via PP and a subsequent meeting (26/09/17) was to be held between LH, CH & PP to discuss the accounts.

5. Any Other Business

i. The Revised Rules & Guidelines as agreed by the Committee had been published on the website and members informed via the July 2017 Newsletter.

ii. To-date the only feedback and comments made about i. above were received from member Pete Nicholls regarding the 'Audit Form' whereupon Pete advised that this term was no longer used and for business purposes should be replaced by 'Examination of Accounts'. The Committee has agreed and changed the rules accordingly and the form to consider his feedback. The revised RNWA Rules & Guidelines will therefore be ratified at the 2017 AGM taking place on 13th October 2017 and the website updated accordingly upon confirmation.

iii. Reunion Dinner at the UJC 13/10/17 – LH was very pleased to advise that numbers had significantly improved and had more than doubled since the last meeting and a total of 87 were now attending. This would include a number of Service personnel requested to attend in uniform to make the Guest of Honour more than welcome in the First Sea Lord's presence also in uniform ('Mess Undress with medals').

a. LH upon liaison with PP had made a refund of £60.00 to Alan & Isabel Hawkin who regrettably for personal reasons were now unable to attend the Reunion Dinner.

b. A subsequent request via email had also been received from Jim Donaldson advising that one of his guests, a Bill Howie (email 16/08/17 to JD) was unable to attend as his wife is due to have surgery. It was agreed that JD could receive a refund due to the fact that the closing date had not yet been reached and food / payment has yet to be made. Any request after the closing date of Friday 22nd September would not be considered for refund, regrettably for whatever reason.

c. Various ideas and suggestions were considered regarding the 131st Reunion Dinner in 2018 and all agreed that it would return and be held in Portsmouth subject to availability of venue and cost. A place suggested for consideration was the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth PO1 2NT (see <http://www.rnc-rayc.co.uk/>) which appears to have excellent facilities and would be a different venue from previous occasions of HMS NELSON, The Royal Maritime Club (formerly The Home Club) and Best Western Royal Beach hotel – Action LH/CH and discuss at the AGM 13/10/17.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:15.

Date of next meeting, 19:00 Thursday 16th November 2017 at RNA Gosport & Fareham Branch.

Les Heyhoe BCav
Secretary & Membership
Minutes issued 26/09/17

