

**ROYAL NAVAL WRITRS' ASSOCIATION (RNWA) MEETING THURSDAY
18th JANUARY 2017 AT THE GOSPORT & FAREHAM RNA AT 19:00**

Present: -

Colin	Hughes	President	(CH)
Les	Heyhoe BCav	Secretary	(LH)
Pat	Prior BEM QVRM	Treasurer	(PP)
Mike	Moncur	Committee	(MM)
George	Mytom-Hart BEM	Committee	(GMH)
David	McQuitty	Member	(DM)

Apologies: -

Dave	Kelly	Member	(DK)
Tony	Webber	Committee	(TW)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 16th November 2017 were taken as read (all minutes are displayed and are available via the RNWA's website); to ensure no delays on the future progress of meetings, minutes should be read prior to attending, however a paper copy will be presented and made available by LH on every occasion.

2. Deaths

i. No 'Crossing of the Bar' by members was known since the last meeting and that was a very good way to start the New Year of 2018; hopefully it would remain that way and everyone was wished good health for the coming months, especially staying clear of 'the Australian Flu'.

ii. Nancy & David Hill of Honicknowle had represented the RNWA at Treswithian Downs Crematorium on Thursday 28th December 2017 at the funeral of RNWA member Donald McGeorge (26/8/31 – 13/12/17)



3. Treasurer's Report

i. PP provided a statement of accounts as at 18th January 2018 showing a carried forward balance of £3,429.94. However, the actual balance due because of an unpresented cheque and cheques still to be cashed, means that a true figure was in fact £3,354.94

ii. On Thursday 11th January 2018, PP advised that an independent Examination of Accounts for the period 01/01/17 to 31/12/17 was completed in the presence of CH & PP by RNWA member Peter Nicolls MBE of Havant; accounting was accepted as correct and is summarised for perusal in the attached 'Examination Statement'.

4. Membership

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

Honourary Members: 3

Life Members: 31

Members: 242

Total Membership 276

- i. New members for the months of December 2017 – Keith Oliver of Clanfield and January 2018 – Gillian Orchard of Bridgwater.
- ii. In accordance with RNWA Rule 6., removal of membership as 1+ year in arrears, it was sanctioned that the following personnel's membership was lapsed effective January 2018 which will also be shown on the relevant section of the RNWA's website: Karen Dowden of Truro / Paula Moon of Chard / Linda Small of Winchester & Janice Wylie of Morton Wirral.
- iii. Mike Coombes OBE of Blackheath and Andrew Whitfield of Hamble will both become Life Members of the Association in 2018 (June & September respectively) and letters of invitation to receive their Life Certificates at the 2018 Reunion Dinner had been issued on the 10th January. Both have subsequently replied to CH confirming their intention to attend.

5. Any Other Business

- i. As per 5i. of the minutes of the 16/11/17 no further comments were received regarding the Revised Rules & Guidelines, so they were now effective and in force.
- ii. 131st Reunion Dinner 2018 – Friday 12th October. LH had approached the office of the 2SL and the appointment of a new 2SL would be announced earlier in 2018. Upon appointment, it will be made known of 2SL's availability to attend as Guest of Honour.
- iii. Arrangements were being made by LH for the article and link to be made available via the RNWA's website about the story of L/Wtr. George H Bainborough.
- iv. CH & PP had obtained the following information and details for members and their families in respect of 'Crossing The Bar':-

Funerals

White Ensigns

ARNO HQ has White Ensigns suitable for ceremonial occasions including funerals. These can be provided free (except for P & P) to ARNO members and for a nominal £10 charge to non-members subject to a refundable £50 deposit.

Committal of Ashes

Portsmouth, Devonport and Clyde Naval Bases provide this service, subject to weather conditions, on a regular basis. These are provided free of charge with the exception of casks which must also be biodegradable. A limited number of family/friends are also able to attend. Contact telephone numbers are:

Portsmouth: 0239 2723 000, Devonport: 0175 2555 427, Clyde: 0143 6674 321 x 6150

Bugler

Any veteran, who has served for 22 years or has a campaign medal, irrespective of rank, is entitled to the services of a bugler, free of charge, at their funeral. This is

subject to operational commitments/availability. Queries should be directed in the first instance to-

Page 2 of 2:

5iv. Continued ...

RM School of Music 0239 2547 553
NAVYRMBAND-HQBSRMAENGCOORD@mod.uk

Veterans Bereavement Support Services.

The Veterans Bereavement Support Service is a bespoke FREE service for families needing assistance with bereavement and support including advice on funeral care 365 days a year from their national office in Romsey. Further information is available on their website www.veteransbereavementsupport.co.uk or telephone 0238150066 (if the lines are busy, please leave a message which will be responded to asap. The office number is also diverted to their out of hours service during the week and at weekends.

The above is to be placed under a separate sub section on the RNWA's website – LH.

v. In addition to 3ii. it was decided and agreed that the RNWA Standard, Block & Gavel were to be classed as a fixed Asset, together with the RNWA Tablecloth at £10. It was the responsibility and the accountability of CH to ensure these items were under his own personal house insurance as CH was the custodian. CH advised and confirmed they were to be listed under his policy and had checked with his insurers, The RNWA 'Wtr. Lapel Pins' were not considered to be an Asset, but LH would continue to maintain a record of stock received and used.

vi. Difficulty over the past few months and the unwillingness of staff by HSBC and the unavailability to have more than one online person as a signatory, led CH & PP and the recommendation of the Examiner of Accounts to propose to the Committee a transfer of funds to a more amenable on-line bank account i.e. the changing from HSBC to Lloyds bank where they have the provision to provide the RNWA with a more suitable account. All were in favour of the moving of the RNWA's bank account from HSBC to Lloyds and was to be implemented by PP as soon as possible and set-up in place prior to mid-March; the date when most of the cheques for the year will be incoming and required to be banked in respect of payment for Grand National 2018 tickets. It is hoped to publish details of the new RNWA Sort code and Account number for online payment by members in the March newsletter.

vii. It was agreed for LH to proceed in obtaining the printing and production of the Saturday 14th April Grand National 2018 tickets, with the draw being held at the home of LH at 19:00 on Tuesday 10th April and with a closing date of Monday 9th April. Prize money was to remain as £200 for winner, £60 for runner-up, £40 3rd place and £20 for 4th place - £10 to be paid for every other horse with jockey to pass the winning post.

viii. Newsletter December 2017 – 2nd page dates of RNWA Committee meetings it should read 15th November 2018 and not 18th October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:10. Date of next meeting, *19:00 Thursday 15th March 2018* at RNA Gosport & Fareham Branch.

Happy New Year!

Les Heyhoe BCav
RNWA Secretary & Membership
20/01/2018

Page 3 of 3