

ROYAL NAVAL WRITERS' ASSOCIATION (RNWA) MEETING HELD THURSDAY
21st NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE GOSPORT & FAREHAM RNA CLUB AT 19:00

Present:-	Colin	Hughes		President	(CH)
	Pat	Prior	BEM QVRM	Treasurer	(PP)
	Les	Heyhoe	BCAv	Secretary	(LH)
	George	Mytom-Hart	BEM	Committee	(GMH)
	Tony	Webber		Committee	(TW)
	Lyn	Gannon		Committee	(LG)
	Dave	Kelly		Member	(DK)
	Phil 'Darby'	Allen	MBE	Member	(PA)
	Kathryn	Simmons		Member	(KS)
	Norman	Davies		Life Member	(ND)

Apologies:-	Mike	Moncur		Committee	(MM)
	'Dixie'	Dickson		Member	(DD)

The President welcomed the largest gathering of attendees for years (outside of the AGM) reiterating that meetings are not just for Committee members but for all members as well.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the 19th September were taken as read.

2. Deaths None known or reported.

3. Treasurer's Report

- i. £3,274.45 – net £2,442.14 (see ii, below).
- ii. Included in i. is the sum of 'restricted funds' held for the NMA of £832.31.
- iii. An additional payment of £175.00 had been forwarded to the Webmaster to pay for advance services up to and including the date of August 2022.
- iv. £20.00 had also been paid out to the local council for 2020 raffle registration.
- v. A payment of £10.00 had been received which was paid into the dysfunctional account which has now to be closed – action: PP December 2019.

4. Membership

- i. New Member: Norman Davies of Southsea (re-joined November 2019 with missing contributions paid in full, therefore eligible for Life Membership with immediate effect.
- ii. Life Membership (defined as 50 years of membership contributions paid – not necessarily consecutively) due for members in 2020 to the following:- Keith Williams of Waltham Abbey (March) / Richard Coupe OBE of Wellington Somerset (April) / David Turner of Altringham (May) / David Hill & Nancy Hill of Plymouth (June) / Robert Carr of Gosport (August). All will by January 2020, be receiving complimentary invitations to the RNWA Reunion Dinner 09/10/20.
- ii. 285 Members in total – 3 Honourary, 30 Life & 252 Members.
- iii. 12 Member's contributions remain outstanding from 2018 and are potentially eligible to 'lapse' in January 2020 in accordance with the RNWA Rules & Regulations 5b. & 6.
- iv. The RNWA database currently indicates that 47 member's contributions remain outstanding for 2019 but this will be cross checked in December 2019 and an update provided in January's scheduled meeting.

5. Any Other Business

- i. National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) – An update request would be forwarded by CH beginning of January 2020 and subject to a response reported and advised at the next scheduled meeting of 16th January 2020.
- ii. 132nd Reunion Dinner Friday 11th October 2019 at the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea – ‘Feedback’ (see attached pie chart for additional information’). Varying topics from individuals and their responses were discussed, ranging from name labels, entertainment, report of non-members demise, seating, sound equipment, speeches, Guests of Honour etc. which would be considered for the future. From the feedback, those who attended at the meeting endorsed and concurred with the majority who reported they were particularly pleased with the food and service, rating it either excellent or very good. A total of 96 attendees for 2019.
- iii. TW proposed a ‘Vote of Thanks’ to LH and his wife Lyn, seconded by DK, and endorsed by all those present for their organisation and liaison in ensuring a considered successful 132nd Reunion Dinner.
- iv. Following the comments and feedback of ii., all present were unanimous in agreeing to a payment of £200.00 deposit to the Royal Beach Hotel, Southsea to secure the booking at the same venue for the 133rd Reunion Dinner on Friday 9th October 2020 – Action: LH & PP.
 - a. A new menu had been obtained by LH which was approved to be served.
 - b. The wine selection per table would be one bottle of red, one white & Prosecco
 - c. RNWA members would have a subsidised meal at a cost of £35.00 per ticket and non-members & guests at £45.00 per ticket (includes a. & b. as above, port and tea/coffee).
 - d. Initially, the GOH was to remain as the 2SL (subject to confirmation of availability by 15th January 2020). Action - LH
- v. Annual General Meetings (AGMs)

This topic was discussed and reviewed separately in view of various comments and feedback received following the AGM held 11th October 2019. After much debate, discussion and opinions expressed the following was agreed (note:- in no specific order of reference):-

 - a. The AGM minutes of the previous year would be emailed to attendees at least 10 working days prior to the next AGM 09/10/20 (even though they are available to view via the RNWA’s website effective October 2019) on or before 25/09/20. Action: LH
 - b. At the same time as v.a., personnel will be requested to submit any items for discussion by 02/10/20 (a week before the AGM), following the AGM meeting under the heading of ‘Any Other Business’ (AOB - see c. below). Items & topics for proposals and discussion may be submitted throughout the year via The Chairman or Secretary. Action: LH
 - c. NO AOB will be discussed at the AGMs.
 - d. Election / Re-election of Officials – An invitation for new committee members to join will be sent at the same time as the AGM minutes (also mentioned in the preceding Newsletter and placed a month in advance via the website) and members invited to propose, second and endorse those in office who wish to remain ‘in post’. Action: LH
 - e. Treasurer’s reporting – The financial year of the RNWA was to remain as 1st January to 31st December. The ‘Income & Expenditure’ sheet (published on the website to view after audit in January) would accompany the AGM minutes. Action: PP / LH

- f. Membership – No AGM change. Enough information is regularly provided at the regular committee 2 monthly meetings and minuted (therefore available to view online) as well as being published and updated within the periodic Newsletters (again, this being placed on the website to view). An updated figure of membership as at the AGM will therefore only be provided.
- vi. CH received a letter dated the 21/11/19 from the Royal Naval Association that unfortunately it finds itself in a financially precarious position regarding its membership and premises (Gosport & Fareham), so unless drastic steps are taken then it might, in 2020, have to close? That said, the RNWA would have to relocate to a future venue for its meetings. Where and when known, updates will be provided by CH (who is a member of this RNA Branch) as to the future of our meeting location for 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 20:25.

Please note for future reference the 2020 scheduled meetings are to be held at (see vi. above) 19:00 / 7pm at The Royal Naval Association, Gosport & Fareham Branch, 66 Fareham Road, Gosport, Hants., PO13 0AG Tel: 01329 310060 (*Reminder ALL members are welcome!*):-

Always the 3rd Thursdays of the month, every 2 months commencing January:-

16th January

19th March

21st May

16th July

17th September

19th November

Note: Grand National Saturday 4th April 2020 at 17:15 / 5.15pm, so an Extra Ordinary Meeting will be held at the address of LH (112 St Vincent Road Gosport Hants. PO12 4RF) on Tuesday 31st March at 19:00 / 7pm to finalize 'Grand National Draw' Tickets.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) – Friday 9th October (Time / Location to be confirmed) at The Royal Beach Hotel, St Helen's Parade, Southsea, PO4 0RN.

Les Heyhoe B C Av

Les Heyhoe BCAv
RNWA Secretary
& Membership

25th November 2019

