

**Royal Naval Writers' Association (RNWA) - Annual General Meeting
17:30 Friday 13th October 2023 held at The Queen's Hotel Southsea**

Present:	Colin	Hughes	(CH)	-	President
	Pat	Prior BEM QVRM	(PP)	-	Vice-President & Treasurer
	Les	Heyhoe BCAv	(LH)	-	Secretary & Membership
	Tony	Mason	(TM)	-	Committee Member
	David	Spicer	(DS)	-	Committee Member
	Lyn	Gannon	(LG)	-	Committee Member
	Phil	Allen MBE	(PA)	-	Member
	Jane	Ballard	(JB)	-	Member
	Richard	Dickson	(RD)	-	Member
	Greta	Grindell	(GG)	-	Member
	Vince	Hawkins	(VH)	-	Member
	Steve	Heggie	(SH)	-	Member
	Don	McGeorge	(DM)	-	Member
	Kathryn	Simmons	(KS)	-	Member
	Jed	Stone OBE	(JS)	-	Member

Committee Member Apologies

Tony Webber (TW) Jim Donaldson (JD)

Member Apologies

David Hill (DH) Nancy Hill (NH)
David Kelly (DK) Bill Whaley (BW)
Denis Alger (DA) David Allsopp (DA)
Lester May (LM) Jim Danks (JD)
Mike Moncur (MM) Bob Milliard (BM)
Richard Coupe (RC) Andy Whitfield (AW)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM Friday 14th October 2022 were proposed by TM and seconded by DA and were taken as read with no further or additional comments by those present.

2. Treasurer's Report

PP opened by stating that the 2022 audited accounts have been available to be viewed on the RNWA's website since February 2023 in order that members could see the income and expenditure and any questions answered. To-date none received.

The 'opening balance' for 2023 was £3,870.00. In this total is included £1,506.50 and £65.00 'ring fenced' and treated as 'restrictive funds' for the Arboretum and Benches respectively.

A quick summary of this year's finances shows a profit from the Grand National Draw of £532.00

The 136th Reunion Dinner being held 13th October 2023 has resulted in an expenditure exceeding income by £562.79 which has been sufficiently covered by the profit received via the Grand National Draw plus £30.79.

Therefore, as at midday 13th October 2023 the RNWA account balance stood at £3,291.06 (less (£1,471.50 for restrictive funds) and a true reflective figure is £1,819.56 plus £500.00 that has been paid as a deposit for the 2024 Reunion Dinner.

3. Membership

Membership as of 12th October 2023 comprises of:-

- 3 Honorary Members
- 29 Life Members
- 218 Members
- 250 Total Membership**

No movement in numbers and by coincidence the same as reported at the 2022 AGM despite a record 18 new members for 2023 and this is due to lapses, resignations and deaths equaling the new members total.

- 3 Outstanding membership contributions for 2022 – i.a.w Rule 6bi. Iii lapsing in January 2024
- 16 Outstanding membership contributions due 2023 – February to December
- 59 Membership contributions due to renew in 2024
- 61 Membership contributions due to renew in 2025.

Membership as of 12th October 2023 comprises of:-

- 14 Serving Members
- 9 Male
- 5 Female

- 6% Serving Members 2023
- 83% Serving Members 1973 – 50 yr. comparison.

Everyone was again reminded by LH to ensure maximum promotion of the RNWA amongst the Writer community by whatever means.

4. Elections

LH commenced by saying that due to personal reasons and after 25 years in the dual roles as The Secretary & Membership Secretary he was resigning, and the positions were therefore vacant with the following submitting their names to fulfill the roles of:-.

Secretary	-	Lyn Gannon (LG)	Proposed by: TM	Seconded By: DS
Membership Secretary	-	Don McGeorge (DM)	Proposed by: CH	Seconded By: VH

All those in attendance were unanimous in the election of the above, together with the re-election for a further year of the existing committee in the following positions of:-

President	-	Colin Hughes	(CH)
Vice-President & Treasurer	-	Pat Prior BEM QVRM	(PP)
Committee Member	-	Tony Mason	(TM)
Committee member	-	David Spicer	(DS)
Committee Member	-	Tony Webber	(TW)
Committee Member	-	Jim Donaldson	(JD)

PA on behalf of the member attendees and all the membership, gave a 'vote of thanks' to the RNWA Committee, which was seconded by JS, and a *very special note of thanks* (seconded by RD) to LH for his past 25 years of effort and dedication to the RNWA which was greatly appreciated by everyone.

5. Crossed The Bar (2023)

CH would during his 'Reply Speech' mention those members that had 'Crossed the Bar' since the last AGM i.e.

10 th January	George	Mytom-Hart BEM	of	Fareham	Hampshire
16 th January	Ken	Baish	of	Esher	Surrey
31 st January	Richard	Lawrence	of	E. Grinsted	West Sussex
.1st May	John	Ballinger	of	Stroud	Gloucestershire
15 th August	Peter	Wead	of	Boro Green	Kent

All the above had previously been mentioned and minuted at prior Committee & Members scheduled meetings whereby a minutes silence was held prior to the meeting in their memory and annotated accordingly in the relevant section on the RNWA's website of <https://rnwa.co.uk/members/crossed-the-bar/>

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 17:55 and LH thanked everyone for their attendance, input, and support, wishing the RNWA Committee every success in going forward to maintain and continue 'the world's oldest military association'.

Next Annual General Meeting & 137th Reunion Dinner to be held Friday 11th October 2024 – time & room location & details TBA with Reunion Dinner Guest of Honour Vice Admiral Andy Kyte, Chief of Defense Logistics and Support (CDLS),



75-80 Queen St, Portsea, Portsmouth PO1 3HS

Next RNWA scheduled Committee & Members meeting: Thursday 16th November 2023 - TBA by LG.

Regards

Les Heyhoe BC Av

'Outgoing' RNWA Secretary & Membership

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17th October 2023