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**ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION**

# The Royal Naval Association



## 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting

# Minutes

Station Hotel Perth

Saturday 3 JUNE 2017

Charity Number 266982

## Present

Shipmate Vice Admiral J H S McAnally CB LVO	National President and Chair of Annual Conference
Shipmate Commodore M Slawson OBE RN	Deputy National President
Shipmate K Ridley	National Chairman, NCM 6
Shipmate P Stephenson	National Vice Chairman, NCM 12
Shipmate I Hunter	Chairman, Standing Orders Committee
Shipmate R Barraclough MSM	National Honorary Treasurer
Shipmate M Kieran	National Ceremonial Adviser
Shipmate S Caulfield	National Events Co-ordinator
Shipmate R Lock MBE	Vice President/National Welfare Adviser
NCM representing	Areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11, Scotland

## In attendance

The Ven Ian Wheatley CB QHC	Chaplain of the Fleet
Captain Paul Quinn OBE RN	General Secretary
Mr Kevin Cornelius	Accountant
Lt Cdr A Christie RN	Deputy General Secretary
Lt Cdr N Huxtable RN	Assistant General Secretary
Mrs M Bainbridge	Financial Controller
S/M S Clewes	Projects Officer
S/M Alan McGrath	Branch Support Officer (North), Volunteer
S/M S Watson	Central Office Volunteer
Mr Lyndon Ford	Sound Engineer

## Conference Delegates 2017

### Shipmates

<b>Ashford</b>	Alan Oliver	<b>Maidstone</b>	Steven Champion
<b>Atherton</b>	Peter Wilkie	<b>Maldon</b>	Brenda Ascott
<b>Aylesbury</b>	Glen Beck	<b>Mansfield</b>	Glyn Johns
<b>B'Ham Central</b>	George Barbrook	<b>March</b>	Carol Gowing
<b>Belfast</b>	Alex ferguson	<b>Margate</b>	Michael Cox
<b>Bletchley</b>	David Corrigan	<b>Monmouth</b>	John Clarke
<b>Bracknell</b>	Anthony Bodrell	<b>Newton Aycliffe</b>	Gwen Bailey
<b>Bridlington</b>	John L'Amie	<b>Oswestry</b>	Mike Evans
<b>Bridport</b>	Jane Barraclough	<b>Paddock Wood</b>	Colin Rickard
<b>Bromley</b>	Steve Susans	<b>Perth</b>	Alister Stirton
<b>Cardigan</b>	terrence Storr	<b>Peterborough</b>	John Lallyette
<b>Chatham</b>	Dennis Potter	<b>Plymouth</b>	Arthur Guttridge
<b>Christchurch</b>	Dennis Morris	<b>Portland</b>	Peter Shoosmith
<b>Dagenham</b>	Leslie Rudd	<b>R L Spa</b>	Alan Fletcher
<b>Deal</b>	David Fagg	<b>Rayleigh</b>	Jim Hammond

<b>Dorchester</b>	Robert Wilkins	<b>Rhonda</b>	Graham Warner
<b>Dublin</b>	Nigel Brislane	<b>Rosyth</b>	Bernard McPhilla
<b>East Antrim</b>	Robert Loughran	<b>Royston</b>	Graham Perry
<b>Edinburgh</b>	Ian Irvine	<b>Scarborough</b>	Shaun Brosnan
<b>Folkestone</b>	Stephen Shaw	<b>Shrewsbury</b>	Leslie Watkins
<b>Forth valley</b>	Andy McDonald	<b>Sittingbourne</b>	D Allen
<b>Frome</b>	Mike Lawton	<b>Skipton</b>	Chris Pattinson
<b>Glasgow</b>	Brian Mackenzie	<b>South Bristol</b>	Norman Low
<b>Gosport</b>	Val Gleave	<b>Spalding</b>	Terry Day
<b>Gravesend</b>	John Richards	<b>Spennymoor</b>	Christopher Lewarne
<b>Greenford</b>	Ann Foley	<b>St Helens</b>	Lillian Howard
<b>Hartlepool</b>	Pete Reddick	<b>St Neots</b>	Maureen Ridley
<b>Hereford</b>	Nigel Trigg	<b>Sunderland</b>	David Staines
<b>Huddersfield</b>	Graham Horner	<b>Tenbury wells</b>	Janet Hoggett
<b>Huntingdon</b>	Bill Small	<b>Trafford</b>	Alan Brock
<b>Inverness</b>	Allan Green	<b>Tyne</b>	David Phipps
<b>Leighton</b>	Ken Brown	<b>Warwick</b>	David Butler
<b>Letchworth</b>	Gus Gudgeon	<b>Waterlooville</b>	Michael Broderick
<b>Liskeard</b>	Gordon Strudwick	<b>West Lothian</b>	Natalie Cutler
<b>Llandudno</b>	Ian Lovatt	<b>Weymouth</b>	James Patterson
<b>Londonderry</b>	Robert Buchanan	<b>Witterings</b>	Stewart Maclean
<b>Luton</b>	Terry Hennessey	<b>Worthing</b>	Tony Avery
<b>Lydd</b>	Fred Westwood	<b>York</b>	Derek Eggleton

Note:

1. A full sound recording is available of Conference, it is held in Central Office for historical archive purposes. Copies may be obtained by Areas and Branches if required.
2. Transcripts of the main speeches are available from Central Office.

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
<b>Annual General Meeting</b>		
1	March on	The National Standard was marched on.
2	Opening Prayers	<p>The Conference opening prayers were said by Ven Ian Wheatley QHC, the Chaplain of the Fleet.</p> <p>He reminded the Conference of 100 years of the WRNS this year and the loss of WRNS at sea and the living memorial of HMS WREN in 1942</p> 
3	Tribute	All present, at the invitation of the National President (NP), stood to remember Shipmates who have crossed the bar.
4	Opening Remarks	The National President welcomed all to Conference and congratulated the Scottish Area on staging the Conference. He also congratulated the DNP on getting to Conference after an Odyssey of a journey which involved 3 aircraft.
5	Greetings	<p>The General Secretary read out the following Patronal and Fraternal greetings from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Her Majesty the Queen</li> <li>• President of the Royal British Legion</li> <li>• Secretary General, Royal Air Forces Association</li> <li>• Chair, Association of WRENS</li> <li>• CEO Royal Marines Association.</li> <li>• CEO RNRMC</li> </ul> 
6	Opening of Conference  Provost	<p>The National President welcomed the Provost of the City of Perth, Cllr Dennis Malloy. Cllr Malloy opened the Conference, his key messages were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome to Perth and hoped we would meet old friends and have a good blether.</li> <li>• He hoped we would enjoy the good restaurants, beautiful country.</li> <li>• Come back when Perth is the City of Culture in 2021!</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Malloy was thanked for his kind words by NP.</p> <p>NP then presented him with a present.</p> 
Cont	Keynote	The NP then welcomed RearAdmiral John Weale OBE, Flag Officer Scotland

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
	Speech	<p>and Northern Ireland/Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Submarines).</p> <p>RAdm Weale addressed conference, his key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A warm welcome to Scotland where a third of the RN is based.</li> <li>• He spoke warmly of the work tha the RNA does with Phase 1 and 2 trainees and Project Semaphore.</li> <li>• The RN is the only service with a serving 2* in Scotland, which is important in dealing with the Scottish Parliament.</li> <li>• There is a lot of change going on in the Navy, which also gives opportunity.</li> <li>• In the last year on one occasion we had 30 Ships and submarines at sea with 8,000 sailors and RM deployed on 20 operations. But we need more Ships.</li> <li>• HMS OCEAN has been the Flagship in the Med/Gulf took over from the USN as TG for the Middle East, a big trust by the USA.</li> <li>• The RM are now deploying to Norway for winter training – and going back to their core tasks after 10 years in Iraq/Afghanistan.</li> <li>• We now just seen the 350<sup>th</sup> SSBN patrol, with 2019 seeing the 50<sup>th</sup> year of continuous at-sea deterrence.</li> <li>• The Gulf remains difficult and challenging with coalition warships being attacked. HMS DARING has spent 39 days in Defence watches and escort duties in the Bab al-Mandab straights.</li> <li>• The Type 45 power and propulsion issues are taking time and effort to fix, but improvements have been made. They bring a ballistic missile defence capability and the Sampson Radar is superb.</li> <li>• HMS Queen Elizabeth sails shortly and will bring a massive capability, and a new way of generating a carrier group of 2x45, 2x23, 1 SSN, plus tankers as needed. The F35 Sea Lightening is very advanced with ship/AC integrations issues next to address.</li> <li>• The RN will be cutting steel for the Type 26 with 8 ships to be ordered at 8,000 tons each.</li> <li>• Steel has already been cut for HMS Dreadnought at 18,000 tons.</li> <li>• Managing manpower is challenging, with the RN having a need to engage with the younger generation. The issue will be to find a work-life balance.</li> </ul> <p>His final thought was that we are about to raise the largest ensign ever seen.</p> <p>NP thanked RAdm Weale for his passionate and well delivered sppech and made a small presentation to him of some naval rum!</p>  

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
7	Adoption of Standing Orders	<p>The Chair of the SOC then briefed that there were no changes to Standing Orders as circulated at the Agenda</p> <p><b>To approve Standing Orders as amended</b></p> <p><b>Proposed: Warwick Seconded: Royston</b></p> <p><b>Passed unanimously</b></p>
8	NP address	<p>The NP then addressed Conference. Key points of his speech are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to the Scottish Area for organising conference and the hotel arrangements and the RNA tartan.</li> <li>• He thanked Mike Hesketh for his service as NCM and NVCh, WO Steve Cass for his time as WONS and service on the NC. He welcomed the new WONS WO1 Nick Strickland. Also a thank you to Steve Caulfield standing down as NCM10 and Dave Ambrose as NCM5.</li> <li>• He paid tribute to Cdre Barry Leighton an ex-GS who crossed the bar in Dec 16 and other S/M who have followed him.</li> <li>• He reported his delight at the progress of Project Semaphore bringing digitally isolated naval veterans on-line; with 200+ deployed. The fitting of Pembroke House a particular highlight.</li> <li>• He challenged all branches to proactively find 3 candidates each to benefit from this innovative project.</li> <li>• He noted the grant of £171,000 for 3 minibuses fitted with a wheelchair lift (suitable for mobility scooters too). All 3 buses will be at the Biennial Parade. The only cost would be for fuel and cleaning.</li> <li>• He took the Conference through progress in the delivery of the Strategy, such as trade marking the RNA logo; the branch secretary and treasurer's guides, branch support officer and others.</li> <li>• He mentioned the move of RNA investments to RNRMC on a 'Custodian Basis', with lower costs and hopefully better income.</li> <li>• CONA continues to do well with 70 members and encouraged branches to use the CONA Travel Service.</li> </ul> <p>He finished with:</p> <p><i>There is a real sense of energy and progress on exciting and important projects. You have a great story to tell your local community– so let me invite you to go out and recruit. There is only so much that Central Office and the National Council can do to grow the RNA – in the end we rely on Shipmates to ask people to join. The General Secretary is delighted to pay for an advert in a local paper to help you get the message out. Why not get all your new members to the Biennial Parade this September?</i></p> 

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		<p>Questions were invited:</p> <p><b>York</b> asked that a draft advert be sent out to Branches.</p>				
9	NP awards	<p>The NP awards for recruiting were made:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 454 1005 656"> Sword of Honour  Briggs Dirk  Brigg's Rose Bowl  Tasker Bowl  Overseas Certificate for smaller branches  Overseas Certificate for larger branches </td> <td data-bbox="1129 454 1385 656"> <b>3 Area</b>  <b>Newton Abbot</b>  <b>City of Edinburgh</b>  <b>6 Area</b>  <b>Torrevieja</b>  <b>Riyadh</b> </td> </tr> </table>	Sword of Honour Briggs Dirk Brigg's Rose Bowl Tasker Bowl Overseas Certificate for smaller branches Overseas Certificate for larger branches	<b>3 Area</b> <b>Newton Abbot</b> <b>City of Edinburgh</b> <b>6 Area</b> <b>Torrevieja</b> <b>Riyadh</b>		
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10	Standing Orders Committee Report	<p>The Chair of the Standing Orders Committee, S/M I Hunter briefed Conference on the procedures and Standing Orders.</p> <p>Three SOC members were ill and unavailable for Conference, so the Scottish Area stewards will help out.</p> <p>He noted 65 delegates present; this was revised to 69 later, when some minor procedural issues were resolved with CO staff.</p> <p>Motions had been placed on the Agenda, the SOC had redrafted for clarification where required both for National Council and Branch motions, with the concurrence of branches.</p> <p>He noted that there were 4 motions effecting the Rules, but that NC Motion 4 had been withdrawn. There were 3 Branch motions.</p> <p>Proposer gets 5 minutes, those against and for 3 minutes and the Proposer has a right of reply.</p> <p>He announced the result of elections for NCM/DNCM and SOC as follows:</p> <p>Results of elections:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="555 1599 624 1626"><b>NCM</b></td> <td data-bbox="1034 1599 1126 1626"><b>DNCM</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="454 1632 1018 1933"> 2 Allen  5 Hammond (on stand down of NCM)  6 Ridley  7 Williams  8 Godwin  9 Crawford  10 Wright  11 McQueen  Scot Irvine </td> <td data-bbox="1034 1632 1257 1933"> Cox  election required  No nomination  Warner  No nomination  No nomination  Simmonds  Rooney  McPhillips </td> </tr> </table> <p>Chair SOC noted that to get the NCM elections re-aligned that the 10 Area election would be for one year only.</p>	<b>NCM</b>	<b>DNCM</b>	2 Allen 5 Hammond (on stand down of NCM) 6 Ridley 7 Williams 8 Godwin 9 Crawford 10 Wright 11 McQueen Scot Irvine	Cox election required No nomination Warner No nomination No nomination Simmonds Rooney McPhillips
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		<p>Elections to the SOC were scrutinised by NCM, the result was announced:</p> <p>S/M P Harries S/M T Howard</p> <p>Both correctly nominated. Two positions available so they have been duly elected.</p>
11	Minutes of the 2016 Annual Conference	<p>There were no suggested amendments to the minutes of the 2016 Conference.</p> <p><b>Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2016 Conference.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed - Portland</b> <b>Seconded - Royston</b></p> <p><b>Carried on a unanimous show of hands</b></p> <p>Matters arising – None raised</p>
12	Annual Accounts for FY 2016	<p>The Hon Treasurer then took Conference through the main points of the accounts (which are available on the website). Key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The accounts were prepared in accordance with the SORP and FRS 102.</li> <li>• Movement of funds is £403,123 with £268,844 of Project Semaphore grant leaving £134,279. This was accounted for by £169,000 gain in value of investments balanced against an operating deficit of £35,833.</li> <li>• Income from subs was down by 8.68% reflecting the age profile, club closure and 7 branch closures. Investment income is up by 3.09%.</li> <li>• Grants for Shipmates and Oppos, social media assistant received.</li> <li>• £75.5k received in donations and legacies. Total income was £295.2k.</li> <li>• Expenditure had been under tight control by CO. Agency staff had been used for termly accounts and an audit of the database.</li> <li>• Insurance costs were down with the removal of standards insurance and a mutual system in place.</li> <li>• Significant savings made with the mainly digital newsletter and circulars, with 19 branches still on hard copy.</li> <li>• The property fund had gained £47.4k.</li> <li>• Central Charities Fund £7.7k received.</li> <li>• Project Semaphore had spent £329.2k on 600 iPads, cases and management costs.</li> <li>• GS and CO staff responds to challenges exceptionally well.</li> </ul> <p>His summary was that the RNA had seen a sound financial performance with a good legacy return and excellent investment return and tight control by the GS and NC.</p> <p>He offered to answer questions, none were asked.</p>



Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p><b>Motion:</b>  <b>To approve the Trustee Report and Financial Statements for FY2016</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Royal Lemington Spa</b>  <b>Seconded Leighton</b></p> <p><b>Carried on a unanimous show of hands</b></p>
13	The National Council's Annual Report to Conference. – National Chairman	<p>S/M Keith Ridley, the National Chairman, gave the annual report of the Trustees to Conference. Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He thanked the Scottish Area for hosting and excellent conference in a great location.</li> <li>• He paid tribute to Chris Dovey and his 2 Vice Chairs Keith Crawford and Mike Hesketh for their fine work and dedication.</li> <li>• He commended the Annual Trustee Report to delegates and thanked the GS for collating and authoring it. He encouraged delegates to share it with their branches.</li> <li>• The NC was content with a sound financial performance for 2016, due to good investment return and tight control by the GS. He explained the reasons behind moving our investments under RNRMC and thanked their trustees for opening the Custodian System up to other charities.</li> <li>• He acknowledged the support by Greenwich Hospital, enabling improvements in the digital space, application for grants and Project Semaphore.</li> <li>• The lease for CO is now 3 years, but is unsecured. It makes sense to keep the Property Fund separate. It now stands at just under half a million pounds. Therefore there is no need for investment growth to be attributed or income to be split out, which can go to the General Fund. There will be an annual review of the state of the Portsmouth commercial property fund.</li> <li>• He noted that membership had declined by 4.6%, and higher than 2015, but the lowest since 2002. He noted that 414 members had joined through the on-line system and a new branch had commissioned at Stowmarket.</li> <li>• The CO of HMS SULTAN had recently reiterated the great value of the 'Culture and Values session with GS and DGS for Phase 2 trainees. This is a good investment for knowledge of the RNA with the serving Navy.</li> <li>• He encouraged branches to develop a link with their local Reserves unit to encourage membership.</li> <li>• NVCh is developing a Recruitment and Retention Working Group to look at branch-focussed recruiting.</li> <li>• Open Days remain very popular and S/M has the chance to see the minibus obtained for £100 and a bottle of rum!</li> </ul> 

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He encouraged branches to support the Jutland Wood project and sought support for the rum raffle in support of the project.</li> <li>• He covered the Shipmates and Oppos programme and how it is working with 1,047 registered in the first year.</li> <li>• He encouraged attendance at the Biennial Parade in September, with Mrs Gill Molyneux and the Second Sea Lord as our VIPs. We hope to see 40 from Belgium and a strong contingent from the Irish Naval Association.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, he looked forward to ‘Good Craic’ at Dublin and the Church Service on the morrow with a pipe band to march behind.</p>
14	Project Semaphore	<p>GS, Lt Sarah Clewes and Alan McGrath then briefed Conference on Project Semaphore. Key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 600 iPads have been procured with Albion (Apple) Ltd. With the model being the iPad Air 2 16 Gb.</li> <li>○ Broadband had been resolved by making the mix 2/3rds with SIM card and 1/3 rd WiFi only. Therefore a 2 phase procurement to check the mix for the remaining machines.</li> <li>○ The SIM card is a 12 Gb/12 month card from the 3 network.</li> <li>○ The iPads have been built with pre-loaded apps.</li> <li>○ Volunteers have been trained in London, Hereford and Harrogate.</li> <li>○ 204 iPads have been issued – with a roll out to Pembroke House a real highlight.</li> <li>○ Sarah Clewes and Alan then described some of their experiences with the candidates receiving the iPads and the difference they make to their lives.</li> </ul> <p>In questions more training sessions were asked for.</p> 
15	LIBOR busses	<p>GS and Sarah Clewes then took Conference through the LIBOR bus project.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The buses are not just for RNA but all naval veterans and particularly for associations that are members of CONA.</li> <li>• One bus will be with Alan McGrath in Burnley</li> <li>• One in the West at Liskeard</li> <li>• One south managed by Central Office, kept in the naval base when not in use.</li> <li>• Grant includes VED, insurance, maintenance, signwriting and the fitting out of the buses.</li> <li>• The vehicle is a Peugeot Boxer panel van for affordability, weight and facilities.</li> </ul> 

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registrations will be RN10RNA, SM17RNA, SM17RNA</li> <li>• There is to be a naming competition at the Gala Dinner.</li> <li>• GS showed a video of the wheelchair lift in operation.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
16	RNRMC	<p>Presentation given by WO1 Andy Stevenson from the RNRMC.</p> 
<b>Conference 2017</b>		
17	Motions of Urgency	<p>Chair SOC noted that one Motion of Urgency had been received.</p> <p><b>To hold the 2019 Royal Naval Association Conference in No 6 Area.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed</b> by St Neots Branch  <b>Seconded</b> by Royston Branch</p> <p><i>Explanation:</i>  The St Neots branch proposes to hold the Conference in 6 Area in the first or second weekend in June in 2019.</p> <p>Report against the Conference Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The location is not yet known and is under investigation by CONA Travel.</li> <li>• It is most likely that the hotel will be near St Neots.</li> </ul> <p>The NC <b>supported</b> the motion.</p> <p><b>Carried by General acclamation and unanimously</b></p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
18	National Council motions	<p>The Chair of the SOC briefed Conference that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All motions had been reviewed to ensure they were in accordance with the Charter, not time-barred, would achieve the aim of the motion.</li> <li>National Council Motion 4 has been withdrawn.</li> </ul> <p>NCM 9 proposed <b>National Council Motion 1</b> as follows:</p> <p><b>That Rule 20 (b) is amended to read as follows:</b></p> <p><b>In order to carry a vote at a Conference it shall be necessary for at least <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> of those present, and entitled to vote, to be in favour. Except as provided for in Standing Order S9(f)</b></p> <p><i>Explanation: Rule 20 (b) is one of 13 Articles, Rules and Byelaws requiring a weighted vote to achieve a decision, however it is the only one that includes the phrase <a href="#">‘the votes cast by’</a>. The removal of this phrase will make the Rule concordant with Articles 16 (2) and 19. Reference to an exception is added.</i></p> <p><b>NCM 12 Seconded the motion</b></p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke <b>against</b> the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Spennymoore.</b> Had an issue with the phrase ‘votes cast by’, due to the loss of a card vote. What if the number of delegates can’t be divided by 3?</li> </ul> <p>Speaking <b>for</b> the motion: <b>None</b></p> <p>Chair of SOC clarified the voting procedure and that all in the room would be counted and an abstention would be a vote against. This is required since Conference does not have a quorum.</p> <p>He also clarified a question regarding how the 2/3rds is worked as ‘Present and entitled to vote’.</p> <p><b>The National President put the motion to Conference</b></p> <p><b>69 Delegates present. Against 2. Motion carried without a count.</b></p> <hr/>



Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>The NCh then put <b>National Council Motion 2</b> to Conference, the motion read:</p> <p><b>That Rule 4 (d) is amended to read as follows:</b></p> <p><b>A member may be in more than one branch and shall pay the Branch subscription of each Branch of which he is a member. Members shall pay the required Association subscription to one Branch only. A member may only hold elected Office or vote in the Branch to which he pays his Association subscription, and in the case of a Life Member, in the Branch in which he is registered. The appointment of members as Delegates to meetings or conferences shall be as prescribed. A Member may transfer to another Branch, to, or from the Headquarters Roll.</b></p> <p><i>Explanation: This amendment will legitimise the practice by which a Branch appoints a member of another Branch as its Delegate to an Area meeting or National Conference.</i></p> <p>If the motion is approved by Conference, the NC will amend Bye-Laws B14 and C1 (b) as follows:</p> <p>Byelaw B14</p> <p>(a) A Branch, HM Ship or Establishment may appoint any eligible Association Member as its Delegate to a Conference, Area or other meeting convened for Delegates.</p> <p>(b) Expenses for Delegates attending a Conference, Area or other meeting convened for Delegates shall be borne by the appointing Branch, HM Ship or Establishment</p> <p>Byelaw C1</p> <p>(b) Each Branch, HM Ship or Establishment appointing a Delegate shall send details to the Council to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference. Another eligible member may substitute, provided the Council is notified not less than twenty-four hours before the Conference.</p> <p><b>Seconded by NCM 4</b></p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke <b>against</b> the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spennymoor.</b> Surely a member paying fees in 2 branches should be able to hold office in 2 branches. Also he took issue with the gender specific wording.</li> </ul>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plymouth.</b> You only pay RNA subs in one branch. Will not encourage attendance at Conference by some branches. Should concentrate on recruiting instead.</li> <li>• <b>Newton Aycliffe.</b> If pay a sub should be able to vote.</li> </ul> <p>Speaking for the motion: <b>None</b></p> <p><b>Right of reply by NCh.</b> Clarified that should only pay subs in one branch, can be a social member of a second branch and pay branch subs only.</p> <p>Chair of SOC clarified the issue regarding membership and subs and the reason for the motion.</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference:</p> <p><b>Against 7, no abstentions. Motion carried without a count.</b></p> 
19	Branch Motions	<p><b>Branch Motion 1</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>That National Council review the guidelines relating to future Conference venues</b></p> <p>The motion was proposed by <b>Plymouth</b>, key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion asks the NC to reappraise criteria for Conferences.</li> <li>• The percentage of branches sending delegates has gone down from Perth last time at 35% or 23% for Reading last year.</li> <li>• Why is there a reluctance to come to Conference, a combined issue of location, venue and travel costs and the quality of the venue?</li> <li>• Most members have limited financial resources.</li> </ul> <p>Seconded <b>Liskeard</b></p> <p><b>NCM10</b> spoke in support of the motion on behalf of the NC.</p> <p><b>Carried unanimously on a show of hands</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Branch Motion 2</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>That National Council create a Conference Byelaw to allow a discussion period if there is time in the Conference due to insufficient Motions or other Business. Topics for the discussion period to be submitted to the National Council.</b></p> 

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p><b>The outcome of such discussions will not have the force majeure of a conference motion.</b></p> <p><i>Explanation: An opportunity to debate topics which would provide additional guidance for the National Council in future strategy and inspire Branches to generate Motions for subsequent Conferences.</i></p> <p>The motion was proposed by <b>Plymouth</b>, key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should debate a topic of interest, if time allows.</li> <li>• Topics should be submitted for the closing date after motions.</li> <li>• Should be used for subjects of value not gripes.</li> </ul> <p>Seconded <b>Liskeard</b></p> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Amendment</b></p> <p><b>Bracknell.</b> Change motion to be 'After Conference has formally closed'</p> <p>Proposed but not seconded. Amendment failed.</p> </div> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke <b>against</b> the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spennymoor.</b> Only if there is time.</li> <li>• <b>Glasgow.</b> This is mainly a reunion, trivia no good.</li> </ul> <p>Speaking <b>for</b> the motion: <b>None</b></p> <p><b>NCM 7</b> spoke against the motion on behalf of the NC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion without facts or data, hard to control.</li> <li>• The Conference is formal decision making forum of the RNA, therefore motions could be proposed that had not gone to branches</li> </ul> <p>Right of Reply: <b>Plymouth NC</b> would still have control.</p> <p><b>For the motion 8 all remaining votes Against. Motion failed without a count.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Branch Motion 3</b></p> <p><b>That Rule 20(c) be amended to read as follows:</b></p> <p><b>“For the election of a Member for an Office or other</b></p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p><b>purpose from a group of candidates, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected. A member unable to attend a Branch meeting may have a postal vote, in which case the deadline for nominating candidates will be 31 days before the AGM.”</b></p> <p><i>Explanation: Those Branch Members who are prevented from attending an AGM due to illness or are elderly and do not venture out to meetings during the darker evenings will be able to participate in the election of Branch Officers and Committee Members at Branch AGMs. If passed by the Annual Conference, the above motion would be introduced and added to the Bye-Laws for the administration of Branches as Rule 20(c).</i></p>  <p>The motion was proposed by <b>St Neots</b>, key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion as proposed in the agenda.</li> <li>• Members don't feel part of the branch if they cannot attend.</li> <li>• The AGM is the most important meeting of the year.</li> <li>• Some branches meet in the afternoon therefore excludes those working full time.</li> </ul> <p>Seconded <b>Huntingdon</b></p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke <b>against</b> the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plymouth.</b> This was defeated in the past. It might allow apathy and manipulation. This also undermines democracy.</li> <li>• <b>Glasgow.</b> This is mainly a reunion, trivia no good.</li> <li>• <b>Spennymoor.</b> Who will guarantee fairness?</li> </ul> <p>Speaking <b>for</b> the motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Royston.</b> Same reason as proposer</li> </ul> <p><b>NCM 2</b> spoke <b>against</b> the motion on behalf of the NC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Electoral Reform Society sets strict requirements for postal votes.</li> <li>• There is a cost implication since there would be a requirement to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to run the vote. There is considerable risk of fraudulent intervention.</li> </ul> <p>Right of Reply: <b>St Neots</b> None.  <b>For the motion 8 all remaining votes Against. Motion failed without a count.</b></p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
19	Conference Raffle	The Conference raffle was held the results were:  1st - Runcorn Branch 2nd - S/M Coulston 3rd Huddersfield Branch 4th Newark Branch
20	Closing of Conference	NP thanked Delegates for the comradely tenor of the debate during the day. The National Anthem was played. The National Standard marched off to 'Hearts of Oak'

Please note that some of the elements of the AGM and Conference ran slightly out of phase with the Agenda, the minutes record all activity and are presented in Agenda order for consistency with prior year minutes.

P A Quinn OBE  
General Secretary

30 June 2017

### Glossary

NP	National President
NCh	National Chair
NVCh	National Vice Chair
NC	National Council
NCM	National Council Member
DNP	Deputy National President
1SL	First Sea Lord
ISD	In Service Date
IMC	International Maritime Confederation
CONA	Conference of Naval Associations
NSM	Naval Service Memorial
NMA	National Memorial Arboretum
NSB	National Standard Bearer
Acct	Accountant
GS	General Secretary
CO	Central Office (was HQ)

