



The Royal Naval Association

78th Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Grand Burstin Hotel
Saturday 20 JUNE 2015

Charity Number 266982

Present

Commodore M Slawson OBE RN

Shipmate C Dovey OBE

Shipmate K Crawford MBE

Shipmate J McClurg RN

Shipmate R Barraclough MSM

Shipmate M Kieran

Shipmate S Caulfield

Shipmate R Lock MBE

NCM representing

WO1 Cass,

WO1 Bowers

Deputy National President

Chair of Conference 2015

National Chairman, NCM 8

National Vice Chairman, NCM 9

Chairman, Standing Orders Committee

National Honorary Treasurer

National Ceremonial Adviser

National Events Co-ordinator

Vice President/National Welfare Adviser

Areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10,11,12, Scotland,

Vice President (Serving (WONS))

Vice President (Serving)

In attendance

Vice Admiral Peter Hudson CB CBE

Councillor Emily Arnold

The Ven Ian Wheatley QHC

Captain Paul Quinn OBE RN

Lt Cdr A Christie RN

Lt Cdr N Huxtable RN

Mrs M Bainbridge

Mr Kevin Cornelius

Mr Lyndon Ford

NATO Maritime Commander

Mayor of Folkestone

Chaplain of the Fleet

General Secretary

Deputy General Secretary

Assistant General Secretary

Financial Controller

Accountant

Sound Engineer

Delegates

Shipmates

Ashdown	G	Ashford	Brown	Ken	Leighton
Lever	Bernard	Atherton	Gugeon	Gus	Letchworth
Beck	Glen	Aylesbury	Strudwick	Gordon	Liskeard
Manners	Len	Beccles	Anderson	John	Liverpool
Ferguson	Alex	Belfast			
Corrigan	David	Bletchley	Lovatt	Ian	Llandudno
Mawhinney	Christine	Bloxwich	Morgan	Dennis	Llanelli
Smith	Anthony	Bolton	Woods	Ronald	Luton and Dunstable
Barraclough	Lesley	Bridport	Slatcher	Bob	Lydd & Dungeness
Fitzgerald	Paul	Brixham	Champion	Steve	Maidstone
Susans	Steve	Bromley	Johns	Glyn	Mansfield
Taylor	Ken	Caerphilly	Dunthorne	Carol	March
Roberts	Roy	Camberley	Cox	Mick	Margate
Griffiths	Donald	Carmarthen	Clarke	John	Monmouth
Ide	Roger	Chatham	Sandom	Brian	Netley
Gamlin	LJ	Chelmsford	Lewarne	Elizabeth	Newton Aycliffe
Fay	CJ	Chester	Rotherham	Tom	Nottingham

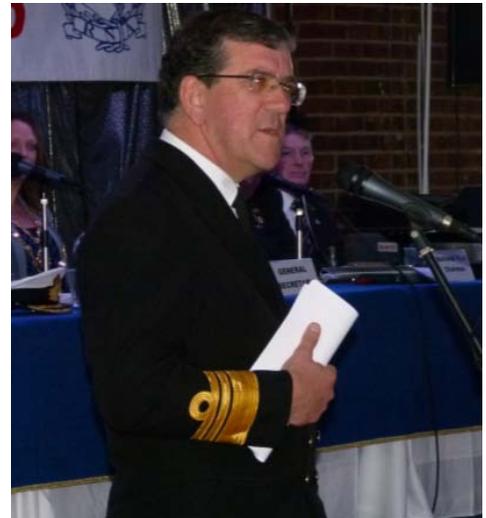
Antrobus	Brian	Corby	Stewart	John	Orkney
Roberts	Bill	Crosby Deal &	Evans	M	Oswestry
Fagg	D C	Walmer	Norman	Kevin	Paddock wood
Matthews	Dennis	Dorchester	Stirton	Alister	Perth
Stephenson	Paul	Dublin	Lallyette	John	Peterborough
Burdekin	Ronald	Falmouth	Gutteridge	Arthur	Plymouth
Arnold	Mick	Ferndown	Patterson	Jim	Portland
Westwood	Fred	Folkestone	Bernard	Ronald	Portsmouth
McDonald	Andy	Forth valley	Fletcher	Alan	R L Spa
Wilson	Tug	Frome	Hammond	james	Rayleigh
Wilkie	Derek	Glasgow	Brosnan	Shaun	Scarborough
Gleave	Valerie	Gosport	Atack	Rosalie	Rosyth
Chaplin	Edwin	Grantham	Apperley	Geoff	Royston
Richards	John	Gravesend	Turner	John	Shrewsbury
Foley	Ann	Greenford	Beeson	Peter	Sidcup
Pointon	Doug	Harrogate	Allen	Dave	Sittingbourne
Reddick	Peter	Hartlepool	Low	Norman	South Bristol
Starkey	Mike	Haven	Kemp	Roger	Southend on sea
Dando	Chris	Henlow	Day	Terry	Spalding
Trigg	Nigel	Hereford	Lewarne	Chris	Spennymoor
Peckett	Alan	Horsham	O'Shea	Dennis	St Helens
Horner	Graham	Huddersfield	Ridley	Maureen	St Neots
Hudson	Harold	Hull	Staines	David	Sunderland
Webb	Karl	Huntingdon	Morgan	Gil	Swindon
Coburn	Bob	Inverness	Hoggett	Janet	Tenbury Wells
Clarke	Edna	Isle of man	Brocking	Alan	Trafford
Salter	Sid	Launceston Lee on the	Rich	Christopher	Tyne
Harby	Bernice	Solent	Venables	Joan	Wansbeck
			Butler	Dave	Warwick
			Broderick	M W	Waterlooville
			Cutler	Natalie	West Lothian
			Cox	Alan	Weymouth
			Davie	Tony	Woking
			Merritt	Keith	Worthing
			Eggleton	Derek	York

Note:

1. A full sound recording is available of Conference, it is held in HQ for historical archive purposes.
2. Transcripts of the main speeches are available from the HQ.

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
1	March on	The National Standard was marched on.
2	Opening Prayers	<p>The Conference opening prayers were said by Ven Ian Wheatley the Chaplain of the Fleet.</p> 
3	Tribute	All present, at the invitation of the Deputy National President (DNP), stood to remember Shipmates who have crossed the bar.
4	Opening Remarks	The Deputy National President welcomed all to Conference and congratulated 2 Area on staging the Conference. He explained that Shipmate President John McNally had been called away at 0600 to go to London, where his sister had fallen seriously ill. DNP made a pre-emptive apology for his lack of practice in the role of Chairing Conference.
5	Greetings	<p>The General Secretary read out the following Patronal and Fraternal greetings from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Majesty the Queen • President of the Royal British Legion • Secretary General, Royal Air Forces Association • Chair, Association of WRENS • CEO Royal Marines Association.
6	Opening of Conference	<p>The National President welcomed Cllr Emily Arnold the Mayor of Folkestone and invited her to open Conference. Cllr Arnold opened the Conference, her key messages were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A warm welcome from the Folkestone Council also from the District Council of Shepway. • The town has much military history to commemorate. • The RN has played an important part in the development of the town. • She loves Folkestone and is very proud of the Sea Cadet unit. • She wished everyone to have a lovely time in Folkestone.  <p>Cllr Arnold was thanked for her kind words by DNP.</p> <p>DNP then introduced Vice Admiral Peter Hudson, the NATO Maritime Commander. He gave details of Admiral Hudson's career and Commands, particularly of HMS BULWARK and his present role in charge of all maritime</p>

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		<p>assets declared to NATO. Admiral Hudson then gave his keynote speech, main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RN only gets such a senior appointment at the NATO Command table as his, due to the respect and reputation that the RN enjoys. • The main threat areas are Russia's behaviour in Ukraine and a difficult relationship. The Middle East and Syria in particular with ISIS and the flow of thousands of refugees across the Med. • He summed up the core missions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deterrence as ever ○ Defence of the UK, recent examples being HMS LANCASTER following Russian destroyers in our area of interest. Merlin providing important ASW support, run off tankers. ○ Defence of overseas territories, particularly the Caribbean. ○ The River Class Ships in the South Atlantic, with difficult relationship with Argentina. ○ The RN is fundamentally a fighting service and therefore maintaining contingency ability is vital. ○ RN played an important part in managing the chemical weapons out of Syria with RN escorts. • The Astute Class are up and running, in particular the Chalfont SF delivery systems. • Bulwark busy with managing migrants in the Med. • Argus tackling Ebola • Minehunters in the Gulf • Type 45 providing air picture for USN Carriers in the Med. • Recent Baltic exercises 55 ships, 2,000 Marines. • FOST is the gold standard for training, even 4x USN destroyers will be training in Plymouth. <p>He then moved on to discussing new kit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMS Queen Elizabeth will be at sea next year, with HMS Prince of Wales coming very quickly. Ship's company move onboard in early 2016. • 300 RN personnel with USN and the French getting carrier skills up to speed. • Long lead items for Type 26 now in production. 1SL will be going for 13 in SDSR. • RFA Tidespring building quickly in Korea, 37,000 tons. Due into Falmouth in June 16. • New River class offshore patrols replacement ships on order, will take



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		<p>a Merlin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New radars, guns etc also on the way. • Post election the order for 4 bombers has stabilised and 7 Astutes have been ordered. • F35 (Lightening 2) 48 aircraft being ordered 4 already in training. 1 a day now coming off the production line. • Scaneagle, unmanned air vehicle now in service. Orders for the Merlin Bagger in hand and Lynx Wildcat very well advanced. <p>Admiral Hudson then took Conference through 1SL's Inbox:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDSR should complete by October, this is very important and the RN has a good story to tell with the strategic pillars of The Deterrent, Carrier and Amphibiosity as the 3rd. • Manpower a huge issue, especially engineers – attracting and retaining the right numbers of the right quality. <p>Final message</p> <p>It is the sailors not the ships that constitute a Navy.</p> <p>Admiral Hudson then offered to answer questions</p> <p>Q1. Is it true that we have US technicians in our ships?</p> <p>A1 Yes, we have US coastguard officers in the RN, Canadians too. This is not novel. Why? USN coastguard are available – numbers are only a couple of dozen. The Canadians are keeping their engineers active and up to date while vessels are in build/refit.</p> <p>Q2. Will we be able to borrow the French carrier</p> <p>A2. No. The RN has a companion carrier schedule with the USN. The French carrier is part of a combined joint expeditionary force and is part of NATO co-operation.</p> <p>Q3. There is a threat from Russians with SDSR and further cuts in Deference what will happen about maritime air patrol aircraft?</p> <p>A3. The RN really feels the absence of MPA; it is a profound gap and the most painful part of the last SDSR. An early priority for restoration as part of the SF/CIS/MPA mix. The issues with the Russians have put this into sharp focus.</p> <p>Q4. What is happening to HMS ALBION in Extended readiness</p> <p>A4. Ship is in refit with comms and engine upgrades, comes out 2016. The BULWARK goes into ER. She is not rotting in a dock!</p> <p>Q5. Migrants – shouldn't we just send them back?</p> <p>A5. Last year 175,000 migrants made their way to Italy, already 100,000 by beginning of June. Handling migrants is a political issue –</p>

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		<p>with a debate about migrants going through the rest of Europe. The military mission in the Med driven by politicians.</p> <p>Q6. Is NATO considering chucking UK out?</p> <p>A6. No, the debate about 2% of GDP for defence spending is important. The UK delivers in NATO and is de facto second in command after the US. UK is the Cheerleader of NATO</p> <p>Q7. Can we hurry up the Legion d'Honneur (D-Day vets) medals?</p> <p>A7. There was a slow start by the French Government but resources have been put in to accelerate the number of medals being produced and awarded.</p>
7	Adoption of Standing Orders	Standing Orders S1 to S13 of the Rule Book were accepted for Conference by general acclamation.
8	NP address	<p>The DNP then addressed Conference; he said that he would read the speech that Admiral McAnally had prepared. Key points of his speech are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A welcome to the new Chaplain of the Fleet and Hon Chaplain to the RNA. The Venerable Ian Wheatley QHC. • A welcome to S/M Bob Scott as NCM3 and Steve Caulfield as NCM10. • A particularly warm welcome to the Command Warrant Officers. • He reviewed the dedication of the Naval Service Memorial and its popularity at the National Memorial Arboretum. He mentioned the necessary warranty repair on one of the glass panels. • He noted that he was pleased that despite the NSM costs and poorer legacy returns that the deficit was considerably under budget. • He took Conference through the change to Hoare's Bank. • He took Conference through the Strategy Review by the National Council. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main Strategy approved details and actions to be taken at Sep meeting. ○ This is probably one of the most important developments in the last 15 years. ○ The strategy has 4 main objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To increase membership ▪ To promote the profile of the RNA amongst prospective members. ▪ To draw closer to serving members of the Naval Service. ▪ To strengthen our branches and make it easier for



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		<p>them to survive and thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NP then mentioned 5 target groups to improve and approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing branches ▪ Younger service leavers. ▪ 40-60 year old service leaver. ▪ Existing Associations. ▪ The Serving Navy ○ He also mentioned that there was considered to be value in opening talks with the RNRMC on closer working and collaboration. He reassured Conference would always have the final say. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He covered that Shipmates was now fully funded by Greenwich Hospital. ● The Conference of Naval Associations had grown from 27 members last year to 45 members this year, with great offers for members and the potential for a CONA worker to help associations and branches with admin support. ● DNP finished with a reminder about the Biennial Parade on 6 September. 												
9	NP awards	<p>The NP awards for recruiting were made:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Sword of Honour</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: right;">3 Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Briggs Dirk</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Warwick</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brigg's Rose Bowl</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Lee on the Solent and Stubbington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tasker Bowl</td> <td style="text-align: right;">8 Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Certificate for smaller branches</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Costa Blanca North</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Certificate for larger branches</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Torre Vieja</td> </tr> </table>	Sword of Honour	3 Area	Briggs Dirk	Warwick	Brigg's Rose Bowl	Lee on the Solent and Stubbington	Tasker Bowl	8 Area	Overseas Certificate for smaller branches	Costa Blanca North	Overseas Certificate for larger branches	Torre Vieja
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10	Standing Orders Committee Report	<p>The Chair of the Standing Orders Committee, S/M P McClurg briefed Conference on the procedures and Standing Orders and the time bar on motions raised in the last 2 years.</p> <p>He noted that there were 96 Delegates registered and present.</p> <p>Motions had been placed on the Agenda, the SOC had redrafted for clarification where required both for National Council and Branch motions.</p> <p>He noted that the debate was an adversarial dialogue with delegates coming to a reasoned view knowledgeable of the pros and cons of each motion.</p> <p>He called for brevity and clarity in debate.</p> <p>He announced the result of elections for NCM/DNCM and SOC as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Results of elections</td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">NCM</td> <td style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">DNCM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Area -</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Allen</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Cox</td> </tr> </table>	Results of elections	NCM	DNCM	2 Area -	Allen	Cox						
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		<p>6 Area - Ridley Parry 7 Area - Williams Warner 8 Area - Dovey Mawhinney 9 Area - Crawford Williamson 10 Area - Caulfield Wright 11 Area – McQueen Rooney Scotland - Hesketh McKenzie</p> <p>S/M Allen stands down from the SOC on election as NCM</p> <p>Elected to the SOC are</p> <p>Sandham; Downing; Lyons</p> <p>The number of delegates were counted – present were 96.</p> <p>Chair SOC then took questions</p> <p>Q1. Regarding reject branch motion 5 raised by Carmarthen Branch. Branch asked for further clarification. Chair SOC made the points that since all local authorities were different as well as District Councils and the devolved administrations in NI, Scotland and Wales. As a result need be more direct. GS will raise at the VetsUK Customer Advisory Board.</p>
11	Minutes of the 2014 Annual Conference	<p>There were no suggested amendments to the minutes of the 2014 Conference.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2014 Conference.</p> <p>Proposed - Hartlepool Seconded - Mansfield and District</p> <p>Carried on a unanimous show of hands</p> <p>Matters arising – None raised</p>
12	Annual Accounts for FY 2014	<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"> • Annual deficit was £122.9K • Subs income down 5.3% reflects the reductions in members, 14 branches closed. • Gift Aid has fallen, so no rebate to Areas this year. • Shipmates now funded by RHG • A change in the standards insurance system with a separate self-funded scheme which has saved on insurance premium. • Many expenses less than 2013, for instance the independent examination saves £4k over an audit. 

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much movement in the FTSE a 14 year high then lower at YE. • The NSM event cost £15,827 which was very good value for money. All VAT back by grant of £31.3K. £5.4k raised by sale of the rum tub. • CCF paid £13.8k in the year • A BZ to the HQ staff and GS for control of expenditure with it 13% under budget. <p>The Hon Treasurer then invited questions</p> <p>Q1. Why were admin salaries in governance costs?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A1. Referred to the notes to the Financial Statements, 90% of staff work is related to achieving the charitable object and 10% in governance.</p> <p>Q2. There is a difference in the Life subs figures received in the Subs Fund and the figure in the SOFA on p3 of the accounts.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A2. Accountant explained that the transfer to income was one tenth of the last 10 years and not what was received in-year, to reflect an even distribution of the income over the 10 years of the subs given.</p> <p>Q3. Where was the accounting for the Hall Associates study, it did not appear in the strategy expenses and how much?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A3. The £4,000 is within the PR and marketing figure.</p> <p>Motion: To approve the Trustee Report and Financial Statements for FY2014</p> <p>Proposed Ferndown Seconded Falmouth</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Carried on a unanimous show of hands</p>
13	The National Council's Annual Report to Conference. – National Chairman	<p>S/M Chris Dovey, the National Chairman, gave the annual report of the Trustees to Conference. Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He hoped that the photos, charts and spreadsheets in the annual report made the report an interesting and informative read. • A better year than anticipated both financially and in what the activities of the RNA. • The dedication of the NSM was a magnificent day and great thanks to the HQ staff. • The planned operation deficit came in 34% less than expected, but legacy below historical norm. • Over 1,000 Phase 2 trainees mentored in the HQ last year (and have sales pitch on RNA), a great success of the Partnering Agreement. • Open Days have been a great success with 200 members on arranged days and 100 drop-ins. • There has been much work on the website with the introduction of on-line membership, leading to a flow of new members.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Standard Bearers' competition at HMS COLLINGWOOD was a great success; with a change of National Standard Bearer and a parallel running of the Association of WRNS own competition. • The NCh mentioned the growing closeness of the RNA with the Sea Cadet Corps at National level – since this is in robust good health locally. Investment in the long term future of the Naval Service remains a keystone of the RNA future policy. • He thanked S/M Charles Hutton for his time as NCM 10 and Tony Sattin for his time as NCM 2. He welcomed Steve Caulfield and Victor Allen onto the NC. • NCh then covered more personal ground regarding his recovery from cancer and NVCh from a stroke, and expressed his thanks and gratitude that both are now a long way along the road to recovery. • He commended the General Secretary for his work in fundraising and congratulated him on his appointment as a cluster leader for COBSEO. <p>The NCh then took questions:</p> <p>Q1 Was the Legal Advisor a trustee</p> <p>A1. During the period of this report and for her tenure, yes she is.</p>
14	Motions of Urgency	None
15	National Council motions	<p>NCh proposed the National Council Motion 1 which is as follows:</p> <p>The Following RNA Rules be changed for the reasons stated and for submission to Her Majesty’s Privy Council for approval and that these amendments shall be subject to such changes as may be required by the Privy Council and as agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p> <p>RNA Rule 7 (c) be amended by adding the words “by virtue of this appointment” after the second mention of Council. The rule would then read:</p> <p>The National Officer who shall be appointed by the Council but shall not be a member of the Council by virtue of this appointment is: The Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to prevent the disenfranchisement of a member.</i></p> <p>That Rule 7 (h) be amended by adding the words “by virtue of this appointment”. The rule would then read:</p>



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		<p>The Council may appoint any Member of the Association with appropriate qualifications or experience as a National Officer or Adviser for a specific subject. He shall be responsible to the Council in such manner as the Council directs. Such Officer or Adviser shall not be a member of the Council by virtue of this appointment.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to prevent the disenfranchisement of a member.</i></p> <p>That Rule 10(b) be amended by changing “three years” to “one year”, and adding the words “prior to election” to the end of the Rule. The second sentence of this Rule would then read:</p> <p>Furthermore they may be elected to office as Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer (but not as Chairman or Vice-Chairman), provided that they have completed at least one year’s membership of the Association prior to election.</p> <p><i>This amendment reduces the minimum number of years an Associate Member has to serve before becoming eligible to be elected as a Branch Honorary Secretary or Honorary Treasurer. It is necessary to ease the difficulty some Branches have in fulfilling the requirements in Bye-Law B12 for forming a Committee</i></p>  <p>That Rule 15 (a) be amended by adding ‘or any of their Chairmen’ to the end of the paragraph.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary because it could be a month before the Branch meets and three months before the Area or Council meets, making the aim of hearing a complaint within 28 days difficult to achieve.</i></p> <p>That Rule 15 (b) be amended by changing the number of days notice from 21 to 7.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to create a better opportunity for the complaints process to be completed within 28 days of the complaint being made.</i></p> <p>That Rule 15 (e) be amended by adding ‘or its Chairman’ after the word Council.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary because it could be three months before the Council meets, making the aim of hearing an appeal within 28 days difficult to</i></p>

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		<p><i>achieve</i></p> <p>NCh explained to Conference that these were mostly minor amendments to last year's Charter, but did streamline the Complaints process and remove inconsistencies in the working of two of the Rules. He noted that the Privy Council would be required to approve this motion.</p> <p>The motion was seconded by Tenbury Wells without further comment.</p> <p>Each section was then put to conference for the opportunity for someone to speak against. No one wished to speak on any of the 6 amendments</p> <p>The Deputy National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>For 96 Against 0</p> <p>Carried unanimously</p> <hr/> <p>The NCM 11 then put the National Council Motion 2 to Conference, the motion read:</p> <p>That the following Rules be changed to improve clarity or correct errors and for submission to Her Majesty's Privy Council for approval and that these amendments shall be subject to such changes as may be required by the Privy Council and as agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p> <p>That Rule 9 (o) be amended by changing the word 'disciplinary' to 'complaints'.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary because the work of this tribunal encompasses more than discipline, and the constant use of the word 'discipline' is not conducive to the aspirations of a friendly society.</i></p> <p>That Rule 9 (o) be amended by changing the word 'panels' to the word 'tribunals'.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to establish consistency with Rule 15.</i></p> <p>That Rule 15 section heading be amended to read "COMPLAINTS MEASURES".</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to establish consistency with the principle in Rule 9 (o)</i></p> <p>That Rule 15 be amended in paragraphs (a), (b), (e) x 2 and (f) to change the words 'discipline' and 'disciplinary' to 'complaints'.</p> <p><i>This amendment is necessary to establish consistency with the principle in Rule 9 (o)</i></p>

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		<p>Appreciation. It would read:</p> <p>(d) Associate Members who have been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation or who have been elected to a Branch Main Committee or subcommittee will have voting rights as prescribed. Other Associate members may vote at Branch meetings on matters that do not require a weighted vote.</p> <p>For submission to Her Majesty's Privy Council for approval and that these amendments shall be subject to such changes as may be required by the Privy Council and is agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p> <p><i>The reason for this proposal is to add value to the Certificate by extending voting rights to members who have demonstrated a commitment to the RNA.</i></p> <p>NCM12 put the case to Conference that the NC was minded to recognise the continuation of Associates by giving them full voting rights when they have been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation.</p> <p>Seconded by Bloxwich without comment.</p> <p>No-one wished to speak either for or against the motion</p> <p>The Deputy National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>For 96 Against 0</p> <p>Carried unanimously</p> <p>The Conference Chair (DNP) expressed his hope that all delegates would listen carefully to all the arguments before making their minds up. It is vital that delegates take account of issues and facts that may not have been available to their branch and might have swayed their point of view. If delegates just came blindly to vote as they are told then there is no point in a Conference with a debate.</p> <p>National Council Motion 4 Seconded Tenbury Wells</p> <p>That annual subscriptions should be increased as follows</p> <table data-bbox="456 1727 1002 1794"> <tr> <td>UK Full and Associate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£7.50</td> </tr> </table> <p>Explanation:</p> <p>Subscriptions to the Royal Naval Association have been the same for 10 years during which time the value of the subscription has reduced substantially, currently worth less than £7. This motion is to restore the value of subscriptions eroded by inflation.</p>	UK Full and Associate	£15	Overseas	£7.50
UK Full and Associate	£15					
Overseas	£7.50					

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>The NCh put the case for the motion his key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has been 10 years since the last increase • The NC had wished to keep subs down during the recession and we are now 7 years on from the crash. • State Pensions have gone up considerably since 2006. • Legacies have propped us up and have offset the lower income from subs, but were much lower in 2014 • Large portions of the Reserves are in reserved funds such as the £400,000 property fund. • This was a 50% increase after ten years, but only equated to 2 pints of beer a year or 5 teaspoons a week. • The RNA still have the lowest subs of most ex-Service associations. • The NC did consider staging the increase, but this leads to increased costs in printing of joining forms and re-programming the secure on-line joining system. • The increase will restore the subs value to where it was in 2005 + £1. <p>The following spoke against the motion</p> <p>Corby</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 50% increase had to be offset against pension affordability • Hard to find justification • More members will leave. • Suggest £2 would be OK. <p>Hartlepool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against the motion because of the effect on their club, Associate members won't come back • The loss of members would increase. <p>Falmouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against an immediate 50% increase • £15 is reasonable but not in one step. • Smaller rises in stages would be better • FAA tried this lots left, branches closed • Branch is against this. <p>Mansfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it goes up so much would be unfair, not all members have an RN pension. • Life members should contribute. <p>Southend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Branch opposed • Would lose cash <p>Speaking for</p> <p>Portland</p>



Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should do it in one hit <p>South Bristol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not the cost of a bottle of wine • Don't believe Associates will leave • Not much to pay for what you get • Scouts etc pay more <p>The NCh as proposer summed up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It might be better to have had a smaller increase, OK in hindsight. • Staging costs money on printing and the website • The pension issue has gone up since 2006 by £1700 for single and £2,800 for a married couple. • Associates put off by the increase aren't genuine members, more beer drinkers in the club • £5 is not a lot to ask. • He commended the motion to Conference. <p>At this point an amendment was table by Falmouth</p> <p>Increase subs to £12 in 2016, then £1 a year thereafter, overseas to £7.50'</p> <p>Seconded by Spennymoor and Ferryhill.</p> <p>NCh spoke against the motion on behalf of the NC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staging over 4 years bring lots of admin effort, changing joining forms and website every year. <p>Against</p> <p>Royston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against the motion <p>Monmouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happens if inflation goes through the roof? <p>For</p> <p>Mansfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep members happier <p>The DNP put the amendment to motion 4 to the Conference 96 delegates present.</p> <p>For 30 Against 66 Amendment fails</p> <p>No further amendments were proposed.</p> <p>DNP put motion 4 to Conference. 96 delegates present</p> <p>For 43.</p> <p>Insufficient to carry the motion (2/3rds required)</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>The motion was therefore not carried,</p> <p>The DNP warned that there would be consequences due to Conference failing to make a decision on this issue.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>There were un-minuted discussions about procedure during this item between Chair SOC, DNP/GS with assistance from NCM12.</p>
16	Branch Motions	<p>Branch Motion 1 Proposed Dorchester Seconded Weymouth</p> <p>That the National Council shall change Bye-Law 6(a)(i)a so that nominations for NCM and DNCM should be approved by the nominee's Area before being forwarded to RNA HQ.</p> <p><i>Currently, an individual can be nominated by his branch and seconded by another branch without the Area committee or the other branches in the Area being aware of the nomination. If there are no other nominees, the Area committee may have to work with an NCM or DNCM that it did not approve of until the next elections</i></p> <p>Dorchester as proposer of the motion put the case:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area did not know about DNCM/NCM candidates and they may end up with someone they don't think they can work with. <p>Seconded by Weymouth who commented that it was crazy that the Area did not know about the nomination before the deadline.</p> <p>The NC view was put by NCM2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NC opposes this motion • Delegates are nominated by branches as part of a democratic process and the branch is required to nominate NCM and DNCM and they know the candidate best. Therefore keep the nomination with branches. • If the Area committee does not approve of a candidate then it isn't showing unity or comradeship. <p>Plymouth spoke against the motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Area should not interfere with the branch democratic process • The Area committee should have no input. • Disqualification is provided for in the event of bad behaviour. • A slippery slope to favouritism. • The Present rules are adequate. <p>DNP put branch motion 1 to Conference, 96 Delegates present</p> <p>For 11 Insufficient to carry the motion (2/3rds required) The motion is therefore defeated.</p>

P A Quinn OBE
General Secretary

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
CC14	Charter Challenge 2014
NSB	National Standard Bearer
GS	General Secretary

