



The Royal Naval Association

79th Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting

Minutes



Wokefield Park Hotel Reading

Saturday 11 JUNE 2016

Charity Number 26698

Present

Shipmate Vice Admiral J H S McAnally
CB LVO
Commodore M Slawson OBE RN

Shipmate C Dovey OBE
Shipmate M Hesketh
Shipmate I Hunter
Shipmate R Barraclough MSM
Shipmate M Kieran
Shipmate S Caulfield
Shipmate R Lock MBE
NCM representing
WO1 Cass,
WO1 Cox

National President and Chair of Annual
Conference
Deputy National President
Chair of Conference 2015
National Chairman, NCM 8
National Vice Chairman, NCM Scotland
Chairman, Standing Orders Committee
National Honorary Treasurer
National Ceremonial Adviser
National Events Co-ordinator
Vice President/National Welfare Adviser
Areas 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12.
Vice President (Serving (WONS))
Vice President (Serving)

In attendance

The Ven Ian Wheatley QHC
Captain Paul Quinn OBE RN
Lt Cdr A Christie RN
Lt Cdr N Huxtable RN
Mrs M Bainbridge
Mrs C Hughes
Mr Kevin Cornelius
Mr Lyndon Ford

Chaplain of the Fleet
General Secretary
Deputy General Secretary
Assistant General Secretary
Financial Controller
Shipmates and Oppos
Accountant
Sound Engineer, organist

Conference Delegates 2016

Shipmates

Corrigan	David	Bletchley	Clarke	John	Monmouth
Oliver	Alan	Ashford	Rotherham	Tom	Nottingham
Beck	Glen	Aylesbury	Lallyette	John	Peterborough
Barbrook	George	B Ham Central	Gutteridge	Arthur	Plymouth
Hempstead	R	Beccles	Barraclough	June	Portland
Boddrell	Anthony	Bracknell	Fletcher	Alan	R L Spa
Brentwood	David	Brentwood	Hammond	James	Rayleigh
Ridler	Peter	Bridport	Warner	Graham	Rhonda
Susans	Steve	Bromley	Atack	Rosalie	Rosyth
Taylor	Ken	Caerphilly	Parry	Graham	Royston
Roberts	Roy	Camberley	Brosnan	Shaun	Scarborough
Potter	Dennis	Chatham	Rickard	Colin	Sevenoaks
Gamlin	Mel	Chelmsford	Watkins	Les	Shrewsbury
Blythe	David	Chichester	Low	Norman	South Bristol
Morris	Dennis	Christchurch	Lewarne	Chris	Spennymoor

Matthews	Dennis	Dorchester	Milne	Michael	St Neots
Irvin	Ian	Edinburgh	Kenny	Mick	St. Helens
Osborne	George	Ferndown	Staines	David	Sunderland
Lawton	Mike	Frome	Hoggett	Janet	Tenbury Wells
Burns	Raymond	Forth Valley	Godwin	Peter	Tewkesbury
Mackenzie	Brian	Glasgow	Rich	Christopher	Tyne
Rea	Roger	Gloucester	Butler	David	Warwick
Gleave	Valeri	Gosport	Broderick	Mike	Waterlooville
Reddick	Peter	Hartlepool	Cutler	Natalie	West Lothian
Trigg	Nigel	Hereford	Mullen	Keith	Weymouth
Dale	John	Horsham	Merrett	Keith	Worthing
Horner	G	Huddersfield	Eggleton	Derek	York
Small	Bill	Huntingdon	Purkiss	Nick	Dublin
Coburn	Robert	Inverness	Lewarne	Elizabeth	Newton Aycliffe
Morris	Mary	Lee on the Solent	Davies	Selwyn	Merthyr Tydfil
Brown	Ken	Leighton Linlade	Robinson	Eric	Cheshunt
Godwin	Peter	Letchworth G C			
Strudwick	Gordon	Liskeard			
Woods	Ron	Luton			
Champion	Steve	Maidstone			
Ascott	brenda	Maldon			
Johns	Glyn	Mansfield			
Gowing	Carol	March			
Cox	Michael	Margate			

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
Annual General Meeting		
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> 
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 3 Area on staging the 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. • CEO RNRMC
6	Opening of Conference	<p>The National President welcomed Cllr Quentin Webb the Chair of the West Berkshire Council and invited him to open Conference. Cllr Webb opened the Conference, his key messages were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to West Berkshire a unitary authority. • 90% of West Berkshire is rural with 74% as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. • Delighted to Open Conference. <p>Cllr Webb was thanked for his kind words by NP.</p> <p>NP then presented him with a present.</p> <p>NP noted that the Commandant General of the Royal Marines had been called away to Brussels at short notice and was unable to provide the key note address to Conference.</p> 

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
7	Adoption of Standing Orders	<p>The Chair of the SOC then briefed conference about the amendments to Standing Orders 4, 5 and 6 that had been included in delegate packs. The changes were regarding:</p> <p>3i Elections to SOC to be scrutinised by NC 6 Suspension change included in Bye-Laws 8f. Substantive motion vote only after all amendments resolved.</p> <p>To approve Standing Orders as amended</p> <p>Proposed: Glasgow Seconded: South Bristol</p> <p>Passed unanimously</p>
8	NP address	<p>The NP then addressed Conference. Key points of his speech are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to 3 Area for organising conference and the hotel arrangements. • He paid tribute to S/M Keith Crawford for his service as NVCh and welcome S/M Mike Hesketh as his successor. • He announced that WO1 Jan Cox was the New Vice President (Serving) and thanked WO1 Tim Bowers for his service on the NC. • He welcomed S/M Ivan Hunter as Chair of the SOC and thanked him for taking the role on. • He paid tribute to Shipmates who have crossed the bar, in particular S/M David Tollerton and S/M Alan Booth. • The NSM is to be the subject of a key info panel in the new visitors' centre at the NMA. • We had a very successful Biennial Parade with very senior attendance by Ministers and the Fleet Commander, now 1SL. A growing relationship with Sea Cadets and CONA members; also the Phase 2 trainees from HMS COLLINGWOOD and HMS SULTAN. • He updated on the Shipmates and Oppos programme. • He introduced Project Semaphore, the provision of iPads to digitally isolated naval veterans, the benefits of being on-line regarding reducing isolation and saving money. • He noted with pleasure the marked reduction in the loss of members, and the benefits of on-line joining. • He noted that the RNA had a decent financial performance thanks to a large legacy, but that subscriptions was the only source of guaranteed income and for delegates to carefully consider the subscription motion later. • He noted the RNA's partnership with the Woodland Trust in establishing the Jutland 100 wood. • He recommended the cut-down and colourful Conference minutes. <p>He finished with the point that the RNA is a vigorous and forward-looking organisation.</p> <p>Questions were invited, but none were asked.</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision																		
9	NP awards	<p>The NP awards for recruiting were made:</p> <p>Sword of Honour Briggs Dirk Brigg's Rose Bowl Sleaford Tasker Bowl 8 Area Overseas Certificate for smaller branches Almunecar Overseas Certificate for larger branches Riyadh</p> <p>The NP presented WO1 Jan Cox with her Vice Chairman's badge of office.</p> <p>The NP presented the new Area Standard bearers sashes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 Area Plymouth</p> 																		
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>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 announced the result of elections for NCM/DNCM and SOC as follows:</p> <p>Results of elections:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">NCM</th> <th style="text-align: center;">DNCM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 M Foley</td> <td>T Lowdon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 R Scott</td> <td>S Maclean</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 K Knight</td> <td>H Page</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 D Ambrose</td> <td>N Hammond</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 P Stevenson</td> <td>N Purkiss</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Elected to the SOC were scrutinised by 3 NCM, the result was announced:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tbody> <tr> <td>R Ascott</td> <td style="text-align: right;">48 votes (elected)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Tubman</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43 votes (elected)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T Howard</td> <td style="text-align: right;">42 votes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NCM	DNCM	1 M Foley	T Lowdon	3 R Scott	S Maclean	4 K Knight	H Page	5 D Ambrose	N Hammond	12 P Stevenson	N Purkiss	R Ascott	48 votes (elected)	J Tubman	43 votes (elected)	T Howard	42 votes
NCM	DNCM																			
1 M Foley	T Lowdon																			
3 R Scott	S Maclean																			
4 K Knight	H Page																			
5 D Ambrose	N Hammond																			
12 P Stevenson	N Purkiss																			
R Ascott	48 votes (elected)																			
J Tubman	43 votes (elected)																			
T Howard	42 votes																			
11	Minutes of the 2014 Annual Conference	<p>There were no suggested amendments to the minutes of the 2015 Conference.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2015 Conference.</p> <p>Proposed - Hartlepool Seconded - Rayleigh</p>																		

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<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"> • The accounts were prepared in accordance with the new SORP. • The main income was £140k, down £2k, a 1.4% reduction matching the loss of members. • Shipmates and Oppos funding is £40k for 5 years with a review at 3 years. • Total income with legacies of 12.7% up from 2014. • Many expenses were less than 2015. • The total of expenses of £324.6k, 15% under budget and a deficit of £91.7k. • The Accumulated Fund has been merged with the Investment Fund to create the General Fund. All investments now with Hoares Bank. • Traversing across the accounts he noted £121.6k as legacies; capital growth allocated to the property fund. • The GS has secured a 3 year lease for Semaphore Tower. • CCF stands at £7.9k with the raffle raising £3.8k. • The Branch and Club Support Fund will benefit from the finds of branches closed over 10 year ago + excess (if any) from pooled fares. • Charter Challenge 2014, £5.4k in with £4.2k of expenses with the new info panel and bench. • The NC now has a long term financial forecast. • The Association has managed its affairs with good effect and especially by the Central Office staff. <p>Questions:</p> <p>1. A healthy PR/Marketing/PR budget is important for supporting members joining, why was the figure £17.4k lower than 2014?</p> <p>On invitation GS answered. 2014 saw a major investment in updating the security and software for the website to allow on-line payments to be accepted. The NC had brought forward budget cover from 2015, hence a lower figure than the usual £20k in 2015. This year was seeing an internet re-marketing programme through Google and Facebook, gizzits for AFD and regional events and minor website improvements.</p> <p>2. A technical question about Note 8 and the allocation of pooled fares, noted that this was an accounting convention of governance allocation of</p>



Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>1/10 for Conference costs.</p> <p>3. The accountancy fee seems high GS explained that the HQ does not employ an accountant and Broomes' role was vital. They do not charge out time or expenses for attending FAC, NC or Conference and charged a small fraction of what a commercial organisation would. GS thanked Broome's for this and asked that they did not submit a higher invoice!</p> <p>Motion: To approve the Trustee Report and Financial Statements for FY2015</p> <p>Proposed Royston Seconded Peterborough</p> <p>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 brought delegates attention to the Trustee Report prepared by GS/NC, which included a review of the year by NCh. • The NC had voted £4,000 for two specimen oak trees for the main avenue at the Jutland Wood, two of 14 commemorating the 14 RN ships lost at Jutland. • 2015 saw the lowest loss of members for 19 years, with on-line marketing and on-line joining being a powerful help with about 500 members brought in, 90% of whom want to join a branch. • We have implemented Branch motion 1 regarding on-line membership and NCh reminded branches that they don't have to wait for Conference if they have a good idea. • CONA has now expanded to over 60 members, a large group of naval veterans working together for the common good. CONA has now got good buying power which has brought significant benefits, advertised in the Circ each month. • He calmed fears that the Shipmates and Oppos programme meant a loss of the term 'shipmate' in the RNA. He explained that the Oppos was added for bootnecks who found it better. Since this is aimed for the serving he suggested calmness. • He explained that last year's financial performance has been OK because of a large legacy and the lowest expenditure in years. We were at the point that to reduce expenses further would mean taking out one or more of the four staff, and the loss of our programmes and core activity. The CEO of TRBL earns more than all the staff put together and there are 20 TRBL staff that earn more than the GS. The high standing of the RN relies on the innovative projects and the work of Paul Quinn and the staff. 

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He announced that due to ill-health following chemotherapy and two major operations for cancer, he would be standing down in September and not seeking re-election. • He has been NCh for 6 years, starting the same day as Paul Quinn; and thanked him for support and advice over the years. So too the National President. He never thought he would order a Captain about and pull the leg of an Admiral! He has enjoyed the RNA enormously and it has been a pleasure to repay that in his time as NCh. Finally he thanked Gail his wife who had been an RNA widow for too long. • The RNA has come a long way in the last 6 years, he mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Partnering Arrangement ○ Rebranding the RNA ○ Re-launch of a highly successful website. ○ On-line membership. ○ The Naval Service Memorial. ○ New lines of RNA clothing. ○ Better management of accounts. ○ 6 successful Conferences. ○ RNA's first ever strategy. ○ An innovative and respected Naval Leavers programme. ○ Partner in the Jutland Wood. ○ £650,000 for Project Semaphore for digitally isolated naval veterans. ○ Very popular Open Days. ○ Developed CONA into a very successful naval veterans' forum. ○ Mentoring of Part 1 and 2 trainees. ○ Much improved Circulars, annual conference minutes and trustee reports. ○ 22 Shipmates going to the Patrons Lunch free of charge. • He said he was immensely proud to have played just a small part. • The RNA is much more attractive – we don't own the RNA, we are its current custodians, it is our job to pass the torch to have a strong and thriving RNA for future generations of our RN Shipmates (and Oppos). <p>The Conference gave S/M Dovey a lengthy standing ovation, which required emergency re-supply of tissues to the top table.</p> <p>The NCh then took questions:</p> <p>Q1. Plymouth. The strategy looks for retention of 40-60 year olds. This will require dynamic activity and guidance. Some branches are not up to the challenge.</p> <p>A1. NCh. Recruitment and dynamism is OK in the Port Areas, but not many veterans in the Midlands for instance. Some branches are re-commissioning or commissioning for the first time. This needs local dedication, not helped with some Shipmates and Oppos leavers rejected by branches. The branch support officer was rejected by one Area, who was just there to help branches manage. The NC is providing an example by meeting in informal rig – branches should follow suit – younger members are not keen on the blazer and tie image. In the end we have to make people welcome and that is down to all of us.</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
14	Project Semaphore	<p>GS and Lt Sharon Brown RNR (the Project Manager) briefed Conference on Project Semaphore. GS started by introducing the main team involved in the bid Mr Hugh Player – Director Greenwich Hospital Ms Sarah Clewes (Branch admin support). Mr Alan McGrath – Project implementation.</p> <p>Main points in the brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For digitally isolated naval veterans, who are poorer by £1,000 for not being on line, more isolated; can't get groceries when they need and can't get news and programmes when they want. ○ Paid for by the Aged Veterans Fund (LIBOR money). ○ Should buy over a 1,000 Apple iPad tablet computers and broadband to get the candidates going. ○ Training for volunteers and candidates ○ Sharon Brown is the Project Manager. ○ Albion has been appointed as the Apple reseller. ○ Applications for volunteers will be on-line through the RNA website, so too candidates, although a hard copy form will be sent to branches. ○ Training will be done at one of 5 locations nationally. Volunteers' expenses will be met and they will be issued with an iPad. ○ All iPads will be the Air 2 model (latest). With RNA branded cover. ○ Hope to get going mid autumn, GS has to ask for the half a million quid a bit earlier. <p>Questions:</p> <p>Q1. If an S/M crosses the bar, can the widow keep the iPad? A1. If she wants to, and will use it, then yes.</p> <p>Q2. Are there spares in case of breakage? A2. Yes a strategic reserve at Central Office plus a 2 year warranty from Albion.</p> <p>Q3. What if it is not used? A3. The mobile device monitoring system will detect and then we will look at further support or training, but if it won't be used it should be re-allocated.</p> <p>Q4. What if there isn't enough uptake? A4. RNA first, but then will be opened to CONA, then wider if necessary.</p> <p>Q5. Will volunteer expenses be covered to visit the candidate at home? A5. Yes.</p> <p>Q6. Why iPads, they are expensive. A6. Much easier user interface, no virus checker, lots of apps.</p> <p>Q7. Will apps be pre-loaded? A7. Yes, all the common ones, which can be trimmed during set-up in the</p> <div data-bbox="1190 257 1458 658" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1072 1308 1469 1641" data-label="Image"> </div>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>candidate's home.</p> <p>Q8. Can I volunteer? A8. Yes let Sharon know.</p> <p>Finally it was mentioned that Albion had a stand outside with iPads for everyone to go and see for themselves.</p> <p>Overall a most positive and encouraging response from delegates.</p>
15	Jutland 100 Wood	<p>Presentation given by Mr Karl Mitchell, from the Woodland Trust (WT). Main points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WT has 1,200 woods nationally, woodland is very vulnerable, the U.K. Is one of the least wooded countries in Europe. • Joined with the Imperial War Museum for 1WW commemorations, Arras, Passchendale, Somme, Vimy Ridge, Jutland. With over 1,000,000 trees planted so far. • Centenary woods in Scotland, Wales, Ireland and England (Langley Vale as the Flagship project – this includes the Jutland Wood). • Langley Vale is adjacent to Epsom racecourse with 10 acres of ancient woodland and 100,000 native trees and it was where troops were trained 100 years ago. • WT grateful for RNA support. The plan is for 6,097 trees to reflect the RN casualties lost during the Battle of Jutland. • Planting will be of silver birch in waves to give the impression of wave movement. 14 special oaks to represent the RN ships sunk at Jutland. • A centrepiece in the shape of a ship and a statue of a sailor from 1916 one side and 2016 the other. • People able to dedicate a tree to a loved one or a sailor lost in the battle. • 4x1 acre plots available for the 4 VCs awarded. • WT is very grateful for the RNA sponsorship of 2 oaks <p>Now over to the RNA to help get the remaining trees sponsored. One delegate reported that he has sponsored a tree and was very pleased with the certificate that came from the WT.</p>
Conference 2016		
16	Motions of Urgency	<p>Chair SOC noted that one Motion of Urgency had been received.</p> <p>To hold the 2018 Royal Naval Association Conference in Dublin.</p> <p>Proposed by Dublin Branch Seconded by East Antrim Branch</p> <p><i>Explanation:</i> The Dublin Branch proposes to hold the Conference at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire on 8 June 2018 to 10 June 2018.</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>Report against the Conference Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final prices are yet to be determined. The hotel is close to the Dublin ferry terminal and is easily accessed. • The venue is in the Republic of Ireland and will involve individual transportation costs to get to the Conference venue. • The Royal Marine Hotel is easily available by public transport and has significant disabled access. • The proposed dates fall within the guidelines • The Conference, accommodation and social events are all in a single venue and are of sufficient size. • The Hotel has excellent conference facilities, sufficient for the numbers • The Guideline programme will be followed. <p>Dublin RNA branch is a vigorous and lively branch and would be honoured to host the 2018 Conference in the comfortable and prestigious Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.</p> <p>NCM12 supported the motion from the NC.</p> <p>When it was explained that Dublin was where Guinness comes from it was put to the vote.</p> <p>Carried by General acclamation and unanimously</p>
17	National Council motions	<p>The Chair of the SOC briefed Conference that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All motions had been reviewed to ensure they were in accordance with the Charter, not time-barred, would achieve the aim of the motion. • No motion affecting the Royal Charter, but some effected Rules, which would have to go the Privy Council. • There were 3 Rules motions, 4 subscription motions. • Two branch motions had been submitted, one in the Agenda and one withdrawn. • Proposers would have 5 minutes and seconds 3 minutes. • For and against to speak alternatively. • Proposer has a 3 minute right of reply at the end of the debate. <p>NCM 6 proposed National Council Motion 1 as follows:</p> <p>That Rule 5 (a) is amended as follows:</p> <p>The Fee payable by a Branch or an Area for the award of Life Membership or a Certificate of Appreciation and the rates of annual subscription to be paid by Members shall be as recommended by the Council and approved by a Conference.</p> <p>And that this amendment shall be subject to such change as may be required by the Privy Council and is agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p><i>Explanation: This amendment will regularise the practice of applying a fee to the issue of a CoA. Also, for an Associate Member who is awarded a CoA the fee recognises the increased voting and representative rights now granted to such Members.</i></p> <p>NCM 4 Seconded the motion</p> <p>No-one wished to speak for or against the motion.</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>68 Delegates present. For 67. Against 1. Motion carried.</p> <hr/> <p>The NCM Scotland then put National Council Motion 2 to Conference, the motion read:</p> <p>That Rule 6 (h) be re-ordered to place (h) iii 4 in the position of (h) iii and by advancing the previous (h) iii to (h) iv as follows:</p> <p>(h) A person shall cease to be a member of the Council, and of any of its committees, if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. he ceases to be a Member of the Association; or ii. he resigns his office in writing to the Council; or iii. at a Conference of the Association at least two thirds $\frac{2}{3}$ of the delegates present and entitled to vote, vote in favour of a motion for his removal from office; iv. the Council so resolves because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. He has become bankrupt or has compounded with his creditors and has not been discharged; or 2. He has become incapable of carrying out the duties required of a member of the Council by reason of mental or physical disability; or 3. He consistently fails to attend meetings of the Council. <p>And that this amendment shall be subject to such change as may be required by the Privy Council and is agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p> <p><i>Explanation: This amendment is necessary because the previous (h) iii 4 is Conference business, which does not require a Council resolution.</i></p> <p>Seconded by NCM 9</p> <p>No-one wished to speak for or against the motion.</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>Carried unanimously on a show of hands</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>NCM Scotland then put National Council Motion 3</p> <p>That Rule 7 be amended by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. re-ordering the paragraphs by changing (g) to (h) and (h) to (g) b. paragraph 7 (i) be amended to read ‘The Council may rescind appointments made under paragraphs (c) to (h) <p>The above Rule changes shall be subject to such change as may be required by the Privy Council and agreed by the President of the Royal Naval Association.</p> <p><i>Explanation: The above changes are necessary to clarify that the Trustees referred to in 7 (a) and (b) can only have their appointments rescinded under the conditions laid down in rule 6 (h).</i></p> <p><i>The proposed change brings the RNA into line with the Charity Commission policies regarding the appointment and removal of Trustees.</i></p>  <p>NCM 6 Seconded the motion</p> <p>No-one wished to speak for or against the motion.</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>Carried unanimously on a show of hands</p> <hr/> <p>National Council Motion 4</p> <p>That the annual rate of RNA membership subscription be increased to £14 with effect from 1 January 2017.</p> <p><i>Explanation: The better than expected 2015 accounts, boosted by a large last quarter legacy, has relieved the anticipated pressure on the accounts by the failure of the Conference 2015 Subscriptions Increase Motion. The proposed increase for 2017 will just about return our subscription buying power to the value £10 provided us with in 2006. Our annual expenditure in real terms over the same period was at its lowest level in 2015.</i></p> <p>The NCM2 put the case for the motion, his key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The explanation for the increase was set out in a letter to all branches and in the Trustee report. • 2007 was the last time income exceeded expenditure, since then we are down 8,000 members which is £80,000 in income. It is hard to maintain services under these circumstances. • An increase is therefore necessary.

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In answer to the question, is the money spent prudently, from his perspective as new NCM the answer is yes very carefully. <p>NCM3 Seconded the motion</p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke against the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spennymoor. The motion is time barred (Chair SOC briefed that the delegate was wrong, there was specific permission in the Rules/Bye Laws). Increase should not be by 40%, need for compromise. Branch against. Chichester HQ seen as remote. The branch has 5 widows as members, how can the branch ask them for this money? They have had a branch motion against. The Chairman said he will resign if the motion passes. Hartlepool. We may lose club associate members, branch and club against the motion. Mansfield. The branch is against and he is speaking at branch direction. Members are on a fixed income. It is a 40% increase. Merthyr Tydfil. The branch is small and poor, historically has been an impoverished branch, with members in their 80s and 90s. Life expectancy in the Valley is low because of deprivation. He has been mandated by the branch to vote against. <p>Speaking for the motion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horsham. No organisation can run without adequate money. The RNA is not frivolous with money. We are still getting away with it, RAFA is £20.50. Royston There has been no increase for 11 years. If it had been £1 a year would be £22 now. York. Is motion 5 withdrawn if 4 passes? (Chair SOC said no provision has been made). Bracknell. This is the price of a pint. In favour of the increase. If the RNA goes then the RNA night out goes with it. <p>The NCM2 as proposer has a right of reply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He asked delegates to see the bigger picture. He commended the motion to Conference. <p>The National President said that although delegates may feel mandated by their branch they should exercise their vote in accordance with their conscience. He also said 'Should subscriptions never be increased – is this logical? Is this the time that they should be increased?</p> <p>The delegates were counted, 68 present, NP put motion 4 to Conference.</p> <p>For 54. Against 14. Motion carried</p>



Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p data-bbox="456 286 820 315">National Council Motion 5</p> <p data-bbox="552 353 1401 450">That the annual rate of RNA membership subscription be increased by £2 per year in each of the years 2019, 2021 and 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="552 488 1473 819"><i>Explanation: In 2015 the contribution of member subscriptions to our total income was 39%. For a Membership organisation this is our only guaranteed source of income. In 2006 this income was 56% of the total, so it has fallen by just under one third. We have managed to maintain a good level of reserves, by good fortune and by very careful cost control. We have achieved a great deal in putting the RNA at the forefront of Naval Veterans Associations, and are now highly regarded by the Royal Navy Command structures. To maintain this prestige we need to have a better forecast of our guaranteed income over the coming years.</i></p> <p data-bbox="456 857 1098 920">NCM2 proposed the motion to conference, his key points:</p> <ul data-bbox="507 958 1134 1155" style="list-style-type: none"> • The motion is drafted to maintain the value of the subscriptions and allow a regular pattern of small increases which allows for future planning; and responds to the request in Conference 2015 for incremental increases.  <p data-bbox="456 1193 852 1223">NCM3 seconded the motion.</p> <p data-bbox="456 1261 1369 1323">Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke against the motion.</p> <ul data-bbox="507 1361 1449 1809" style="list-style-type: none"> • Spennymoor. Not the year after a subscription increase. • Plymouth. He was against fixing an increase before you know what is happening. If motion fails can come back when necessary. • St Helens. We don't know future members, therefore this is not necessary • York. Can't pass this motion on the same day as NC Motion 4. • Mansfield. Members on a fixed income, folk are just surviving on a pension. • Liskeard. Not enough information, this might have to change in the future and that would need a rescinding motion, although NC could suspend implementation. £2 is too much. • Edinburgh. We don't need to make a decision new, this can be reviewed each year; the issue is timing. <p data-bbox="456 1877 919 1906">The following spoke for the motion.</p> <ul data-bbox="507 1944 1362 2009" style="list-style-type: none"> • Birmingham central Will the NC impose the motion if it is not necessary?

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>The NP reminded Conference that this motion responded to suggestions put forward at Conference 2015. He then put motion 5 to Conference.</p> <p>For 30. Against 40 Motion failed</p> <p>Delegate count 69, but SOC unable to resolve after 2 recounts.</p> <hr/> <p>National Council Motion 6</p> <p>That the Conference decision in 2007 to apply a ‘Cap’ of £100 on the Fee for the award of Life Membership be rescinded.</p> <p><i>Explanation: Conference 2007 imposed a £100 limit on the fee for Life Membership. The normal rate should therefore revert to 10 times the annual fee for a Full Member.</i></p> <p>NCh proposed the motion and made the following points in support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee for a LM is 10x subscriptions or £100 whichever is the lesser. • LM recognises honourable service and should remain a high award. • Value could diminish over time. • LM means a loss of income (most live longer than 10 years thankfully). If cap remains it makes the financial problem worse <p>NCM12 seconded the motion.</p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke against the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nottingham. This is not affordable for small branches. • Merthyr Tydfil. He was mandated to retain the cap, small branch affordability the issue. <p>The following spoke for the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monmouth. No date on the motion so would come into immediate effect. • Tyne. Motion is supported. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Merthyr Tydfil proposed an amendment to the motion</p> <p>‘That a branch may give voluntarily give over 10 times subs’</p> <p>Seconded by Mansfield</p> <p>NP put the amendment to the vote</p> <p>For 3 Against 65 The amendment to NC motion 6 fails.</p> </div>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
		<p>The NP put NC motion 6 to the vote</p> <p>For 57 Against 9 Abstain 2 Motion carried</p> <hr/> <p>National Council Motion 7</p> <p>That the Fee for the award of a Certificate of Appreciation of the RNA be £25 for an Associate Member and £5 for a Life or Full Member.</p> <p><i>The primary award of a CoA is to Associate Members. It gives them significant additional membership rights equivalent to those of Full Members. This fee should ensure that a CoA is awarded for genuine meritorious service to the RNA and not just to increase the AM voting members in branches. The fact that LM and FM do not attract additional voting privileges is reflected in the fee payable.</i></p> <p>NCM4 proposed the motion and made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CoA awards distinguished service and provides full voting rights as a Full or Life member. • The Fee recognised the increased role. • FM and LM do not get additional rights therefore the differential fee recognises this fact in the motion. <p>NCM8 (NCh) Seconded the motion and added that a CoA awarded to a FM or LM, the member could wear both lapel badges since it is unlikely that they would want to change the blazer badge. Also a £5 fee could be mis-used to affect voting balance.</p> <p>Speaking alternatively for and against the following spoke against the motion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spennymoor. The cost of computer paper and badge is not this much. AM still pays dues. AM has earned the right to vote. • Newton Aycliffe. An AM awarded a CoA has worked hard for the honour, the motion takes rights away. • Nottingham. We have had 3 CoA in the last 5 years, this is insulting to AM. • Scarborough. Against the motion <p>NCM4 in the NC right of reply said that affordability must not be an issue and if an AM CoA cannot be afforded, then the branch should approach the Club and Branch Support Fund for assistance.</p> <p>The NP put the motion to Conference</p> <p>For 43 Against 21 the motion is carried</p> <p>(Note The NP declared the motion failed at the time, but a review by Chair of SOC immediately afterwards showed that the motion had made the required 2/3rds majority 42.66 required of 64 votes cast. Announced by GS at Church service on Sunday).</p>

Agenda Number	Item	Discussion and Decision
18	Branch Motions	<p>Branch Motion 1</p> <p>That the details of and the Membership card for a Shipmate who has joined via the Associations website must be issued to the Secretary of the Branch of choice of the new Member. The new Member shall be given the venue times and meeting dates of that Branch and advised he can collect his card at his convenience</p> <p>And that Bye Law B23 is amended to include this instruction.</p> <p>The motion was proposed by Plymouth, key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been implemented by the NC. We need to nurture and welcome members, and this is best achieved by picking up the card at the branch. <p>Seconded Frome</p> <p>NCM4 speaks in support of the motion on behalf of the NC.</p> <p>Carried unanimously on a show of hands</p>
Advert		<p>NCM Scotland provided an advert for the Conference at Perth next year; it is a lovely city and a great run ashore.</p>
19	Conference Raffle	<p>The Conference raffle was held the results were:</p> <p>1st - Mr John Elliot - Sleaford</p> <p>2nd - A Sexton - Stafford</p> <p>3rd David Forest - Middleborough</p> <p>4th Bob Wheatley - Cheltenham</p> 
20	Closing of Conference	<p>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'</p> <p>Delegates adjourned to the bar</p>

P A Quinn OBE
General Secretary

25 July 2016

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

