



The Royal Naval Association



81st Annual Conference & Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Royal Marine Hotel Dun Laoghaire

Saturday 9 JUNE 2018

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 BEM	Chairman, Standing Orders Committee
Shipmate R Barraclough	National Honorary Treasurer
Shipmate M Kieran	National Ceremonial Adviser
Shipmate J Rooney	National Clubs and CORCA Advisor
Shipmate S Caulfield	National Events Co-ordinator
Shipmate R Lock MBE	Vice President/National Welfare Adviser
NCMs representing	Areas 1,2,5,7,8,9,10,11, Scotland

In attendance

The Ven I Wheatley CB QHC	Chaplain of the Fleet
Captain P Quinn OBE RN	General Secretary
Mr K 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 A McGrath	Branch Support Officer (North), Volunteer
S/M P Watson	Central Office Volunteer
Mr L Ford	Sound Engineer

Conference Delegates 2018

Shipmates

BRANCH	DELEGATE
Ashford	Ronald Dorey
Aylesbury	Glen Beck
Birmingham Central	George Barbrook
Belfast	Jim Lyons
Bromley	Frances Halifax
Bloxwich	Christine Mawhinney
Bridport	Jane Barraclough
Christchurch	Christine Payne
Chester	John Arnold

Crosby	Noel Williams
Cork	Tom Steele
Chatham	Colin Rickard
Deal	David Fagg
Dublin	Nigel Brislane
East Antrim	Robert Loughran
First 1st Garden City Letchworth	Gus Gudgeon
Greenford	Ann Foley
Gosport	Valerie Gleave
Hartlepool	Pete Reddick
Inverness	June Coburn
Huntingdon	Bill Small
Huddersfield	G Horner
Leighton	Ken Brown
Lee on the Solent	Paul Watson
Llandudno	Mathew Shields
Londonderry	Robert Buchanan
Lichfield	James O'Hagan
Limavady	Chris Batten
Maidstone	Stephen Champion
Mansfield	Wesley Pierpoint
Margate	Michael Cox
Monmouth	John Clarke
Newton Aycliffe	Elizabeth Lewarne
Nottingham	Tom Rotherham
Oswestry	M Evans
Portsmouth	Rosalie Atack

Peterborough	John Lallyette
Pendleton	John Coxon
Portland	A Cartwright
Paddock Wood	Susan Rickard
Plymouth	Arthur Gutteridge
Rhonda	Graham Warner
Royston	Geoff Apperley
Royal Leamington Spa	Alan Fletcher
Rosyth	Bernard McPhillips
St Neots	Maureen Ridley
Forth Valley	Andy McDonald
Spalding	Terry Day
Spennymor	Chris Lewarne
Scarborough	Shaun Brosnan
Trafford	Peter Barlow
Warwick	David Butler
Tewkesbury	Peter Godwin
Tyne	Roslyn Hastie-Murray
York	Pat Harrington
Wrexham	D Furber
Wythenshaw	John Smith

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 Standards of the RNA and the Irish Naval Association were marched on.
2	Opening Prayers	<p>The Conference opening prayers were said by Ven Ian Wheatley QHC, the Chaplain of the Fleet.</p> <p>After making humorous remarks he reminded us that looking after each other and being all of one company was what the RNA is all about, and that we should bear this in mind and led us in prayer remembering Shipmates who had crossed the bar and former NCM Peter Reed in particular.</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 Dublin Branch on staging the Conference. He welcomed our distinguished guests and welcomed Brian Gilday the Chair of the Irish Naval Association, acting as an observer.
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	<p>Opening of Conference</p> <p>Senator Richmond</p>	<p>The National President welcomed Senator Neale Richmond to the Conference. He noted the Senator’s leadership of the Irish Brexit Committee. The Senator’s key messages were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Ireland and Dun Laoghaire in particular. He gave a brief history of the Port and the close connections it has had to the Royal Navy. He noted that in recognition of her wonderful work with migrants in the Mediterranean that LE Ethnie has been adopted and the ship was visiting to support the Conference. • He noted that the Royal Marine Hotel was famous for a visit by Queen Victoria in which she managed an 18-course breakfast! • He recommended a walk on the pier and a Teddy’s ice cream! • He warmly reflected that after Brexit that Ireland will be the UK’s closest friend in Europe and perhaps the world. • There are record number of Irish citizens serving in the UK Armed Forces. <p>Senator Richmond was thanked for his kind words by NP.</p> 
Cont	Keynote Speech	 <p>The NP then welcomed Vice Admiral Mark Mellett DSM PhD FNI, Chief of Defence, Irish Defence Forces. NP noted that Adm Mellett had commanded 3 ships, passed out top in all staff courses and had had a vision to transform the Irish Navy into the world’s smartest, most responsive and innovative.</p> <p>Vice Admiral Mellett addressed conference, his key points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CoF theme on all of one company chimed well with the Irish Defence Forces with a long history with the Royal Navy. • His theme was to be John Donne’s ‘No man is an island’. • Defence Forces underpin civil society and protect it and its interests. We have a volatile world around us and a history of 60 years of Irish commitment to peacekeeping and 70,000 rotations of duty. 87 soldiers have given their lives for international peace. • The Irish Defence Forces deliver security to the State. But a time of uncertainty with wars or proxy wars in Ukraine/Syria/North Africa. Challenges regarding narcotics into Europe and climate change and population increase. • Cyber destabilisation of states too. • Critical to look to the future. • Opportunities into the future, especially data and knowledge – meaning that we need to collaborate all the more. • Linkage RNA/INA typifies the way that we should work together. • Leadership is the key to encourage collaboration together. No strength without unity!

		<p>Admiral Mellett answered questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming vessels, multi-purpose vessel, that can cope with the weather off the West of Ireland. Also flexible vessels that can carry out a wide variety of roles including peacekeeping. • Naming of Irish vessels is to move from an internal audience (Irish heroines) to famous Irish writers. To allow wider impact when deployed. <p>NP thanked VAdm Mellett for his thought provoking speech.</p> <p>NP presented a decanter of rum to Senator Richmond and Admiral Mellett, who withdrew.</p> 
7	Adoption of Standing Orders	<p>The Chair of the SOC then briefed that there was one minor change to Standing Orders as circulated at the Agenda, S3m.</p> <p>To approve Standing Orders as amended</p> <p>Proposed: Rosyth Seconded: Monmouth</p> <p>Passed unanimously</p>
8	NP address	<p>The NP then addressed Conference. Key points of his speech were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He thanked all for making the effort to come to Dublin. • Thanked Ian Wheatley for his time with the RNA • Many thanks to Dublin for hosting the Conference and making the Royal Irish Yacht Club available for meetings, and the Maritime Museum. A big well done to Dublin Branch especially to Nick Purkis and Paul Stephenson. • He thanked Ken Knight and Bob Scott for their service on the NC. He said goodbye and hello to Mike Gray, leaving the Navy News but joining the RNA as our Digital Doctor! • He thanked Ray Barraclough for his 30 years as the Hon Treasurer. Warm thanks for a job very well done. • S/M Ian Irvin is taking over as Hon Treas after conference. • This is the last conference for the GS, Paul Quinn. He has been outstanding. He has the rare characteristic of being able to conceive of projects and deliver them and their funding. Examples being; Naval Service Memorial, Project Semaphore, Shipmates and Oppos, LIBOR buses. Organising meetings, conference and parades. Profile raised with the RN – mentoring, lecturing courses. Fair and frank friend and ready for a laugh. • Captain Bill Oliphant will be taking over following a tough interview. Attending conference, don't put him off. • Maybe the last Conference for S/M Ivan Hunter, NCBA and former NCM12. The architect of the revision of our rules, requiring laser 

		<p>attention. Delighted that he has been awarded a BEM in the Birthday honours list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have lost 3 ex NCMs this year. Paul Harries, Dick Ascott and recently Peter Reed. The National Standard was paraded at their funerals and will be at Peter Reed's forthcoming funeral • Highlights of the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project Semaphore. 550 iPads now issued, with grants from RNRMC and IEST to stretch the money out. Emphasis on volunteers and training. ○ LIBOR buses. Named after gallantry award winners. NP met all at the Biennial Parade when the buses were dedicated and blessed. ○ Strategy progressing well – better FB and website. RNA Clothing on line. ○ New Collaboration Agreement and Charter signed at the Biennial Parade. ○ Minor grants from the BCSF ○ Attendance at the Manchester Pride event. TY to Steve Caulfield. The RN appreciate our involvement with the LGBT community. ○ Investments with RNRMC has seen a better return. ○ CONA now at 83 members and doing well. Maureen Quinn of CONA Holidays is leaving us to retire. Many thanks to her. • Annual report covers all in detail. <p>The RNA has a marvellous story to tell, leading the veterans' community. Vital that we recruit otherwise we die.</p>												
9	NP awards	<p>The NP awards for recruiting were made:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Sword of Honour</td> <td>3 Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Briggs Dirk</td> <td>Reigate</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brigg's Rose Bowl</td> <td>Coventry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tasker Bowl</td> <td>9 Area</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Certificate for larger branches</td> <td>Torre Vieja</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overseas Certificate for smaller branches</td> <td>Jersey</td> </tr> </table> 	Sword of Honour	3 Area	Briggs Dirk	Reigate	Brigg's Rose Bowl	Coventry	Tasker Bowl	9 Area	Overseas Certificate for larger branches	Torre Vieja	Overseas Certificate for smaller branches	Jersey
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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>A rough passage for the SOC with the passing of S/Ms Harries and Ascott and S/M Tubman and S/M Howard standing down for health reasons.</p> <p>NC has co-opted S/Ms Purkis; Higgon - Young and S/M Day. SOC still one short, and NC would like to co-opt one more before Christmas.</p>												

		<p>Election to SOC, just one candidate is Higgon-Young for 2 places.</p> <p>He noted 57 delegates present, one failed to show.</p> <p>No motions of urgency.</p> <p>One motion effecting the Supplementary Royal Charter. Shown separately on the agenda.</p> <p>3 NC motions affecting the Rules.</p> <p>2 Branch motions. One is for Conference 2020 – the other for an improvement in the management of the association.</p> <p>Proposer gets 5 minutes, those for and against will get 3 minutes and the Proposer has a right of reply.</p> <p>He announced the result of elections for NCMs/DNCMs and SOC as follows:</p> <p>Results of elections:</p> <table data-bbox="470 1030 1252 1310"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: left;">NCM</th> <th style="text-align: left;">DNCM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>M Foley</td> <td>No Nomination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>S Maclean</td> <td>R Pullen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>A Gutteridge</td> <td>No nomination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>J Hammond</td> <td>No Nomination</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>D Wright</td> <td>S Simmons</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>P Stephenson</td> <td>R Buchannan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>-</td> <td>G Barbrook</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		NCM	DNCM	1	M Foley	No Nomination	3	S Maclean	R Pullen	4	A Gutteridge	No nomination	5	J Hammond	No Nomination	10	D Wright	S Simmons	12	P Stephenson	R Buchannan	8	-	G Barbrook	
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11	Minutes of the 2017 Annual Conference	<p>There were no suggested amendments to the minutes of the 2017 Conference.</p> <p>Motion: To accept the minutes of the 2017 Conference.</p> <p>Proposed - Monmouth Seconded - Rosyth</p> <p>Carried on a unanimous show of hands</p> <p>Matters arising – None raised</p>																									
12	Annual Accounts for FY 2017	<p>The Hon Treasurer then took Conference through the main points of the accounts (which are available on the website). Key points are:</p>																									

- This is his last report having been Hon Treas for 30 years. The RNA had been a very enjoyable extension to a long Naval career
- The accounts were prepared in accordance with the SORP and FRS 102, with some changes to layout.
- A surplus of £155105 and reserves increased by 7.33%. The increase in the General Fund of £131,058 – a good year for legacies at £122,840. The operating surplus was £85,486. A very encouraging gain on investments of £45,582.
- The increase in subscriptions had restored balance to the accounts increasing to £159.1K, despite the loss of 2 clubs and 10 small branches.
- Investment income has risen to £66,788, a big increase under the custodian arrangement with the RNRMC.
- Shipmates and Oppos again had been fully funded by Greenwich, with income for social media, £10K and project manager (£5K). Donations and legacies has been £122.8K with income 66.2% over budget.
- Expenditure under control due to good cost control. Temporary agency staff used for termly accounts and database audit. NC travel was up 19.8% due to trustee training and cost of Biennial Parade.
- Postage and telephone down due to electronic dist of Circular, a massive saving.
- The independent examination saves £4K over a full audit.
- Investment management fees had disappeared due to RNRMC deduction at source.
- Expenditure is supervised by the FAC and reported to the NC.
- Hon Treas then took conference through the Statement of Financial Activity (SOFA). He noted 2.5% capital growth in the General Fund, £8.1K reserves in the Standards Fund. The intention to retain the Property Fund since the Semaphore Tower lease is unsecured. £30K from Central Charities to the Drumfork Club project run by RNRMC.
- £252,960 carried forward in Project Semaphore Fund. £37,915 retained in the LIBOR minibus fund which will keep us going for a while.
- He thanked Brooms for their care of RNA accounts since the 1970s, Kevin since 1982.



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.

He offered to answer questions, none were asked.

Motion:

To approve the Trustee Report and Financial Statements for FY2017

**Proposed
Seconded**

**Royal Lemington Spa
Portland**

Carried on a unanimous show of hands

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"> • He thanked the Dublin Branch for hosting an excellent conference in a great location. • He opened by welcoming Captain Bill Oliphant on his appointment as General Secretary, joining later in the year. He reflected on interviewing Naval Captains with an Admiral and Commodore and that stokers do have their uses. • He thanked Ray Barraclough for his wide advice as Hon Treas and NCMs 3 and 4 standing down. He congratulated S/M Steve Caulfield on the AFD and Manchester Pride support he had given. • He thanked Greenwich Hospital for the excellent support given on various projects, especially Shipmates and Oppos. • He reflected on the success of Open Days and the Phase 1 mentoring by Plymouth Area branches and the Central Office Culture and Values sessions for Phase 2 sailors. • He reminded Conference that it is a branch responsibility to recruit and that if just 25% got one member then we'd bring in 3,500 members. • The NC has just appointed a Branch Recruitment and Retention Advisor who will be starting work with the AMC soon. • He reported the Biennial Parade as a well planned and executed event with a shorter route of march. The parade was led by the RN's massed volunteer band service and well supported by Ships Associations, Irish and Belgian Naval associations. He noted that the dedication of the LIBOR buses to naval heroes was marvellous, especially meeting with two of them in person. • He thanked Central Office staff for giving up many weekends in support of RNA events. • He noted that the Jutland Wood project continues with a planting event in the New Year and encouraged members to buy a whip tree to complete the fundraising effort. • He congratulated all those who took part in the Standard Bearers' competition with a high standard of dress and drill. BZ to Bob Coburn for winning for the 5th time and to David Corrigan the Deputy National SB. • He drew delegates attention to the Annual Trustee Report full of information. He thanked GS and Central Office staff for collating the information and for such a high-quality report. He noted that the NC were grateful for another sound financial performance. • He congratulated S/M Rita Lock for an excellent Welfare Seminar held in Stoke on Trent, supported by 60 Shipmates and some excellent speakers. • He noted that we are to host the Executive Council of the International Maritime Confederation in November for a 1WW commemorative event, casting flowers into the sea off Spitbank shoal. 
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reported with pleasure that Mike Gray is to join the Staff as our Digital Skipper and thanked him for his support at Navy News. • He encouraged attendance at next year’s Conference in St Neots and the Church Service on Sunday – Ian’s last! <p>He then reported back to Conference on the National Council consideration of last year’s motion to review the arrangements for Conference. He noted that several options had been considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staying as is. 2. Finding a permanent place. 3. Having an AGM annually but the reunion every other year. <p>He noted the difficulty with option 2 to find a permanent home and a hosting Area and the burden it would bring. CO staff could not deliver without additional staff member.</p> <p>He noted that option 3 would be more affordable for members, but the AGM would not be an attractive option per se, but there must be one to approve accounts. NCBA had expressed 24 concerns regarding this option. The NC had considered putting motions before Conference but that had not had enough support with the trustees. It was the option the NC thought could be developed but that NC wanted to know the mood of Conference to determine if it was to be further developed.</p> <p>He asked for comments from the floor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick said we needed one building for everything. NCh pointed out that this was in the Conference guidelines and has been met for the last 5 years. • Monmouth said that an AGM would have much less attendance. <p>The NP asked Conference if anyone thought this was a good idea. No delegate raised their hand.</p> <p>He then asked if Conference thought it was a bad idea, all delegate hands went up.</p> <p>The idea is to be dropped, no further work on the Conference motion from last year.</p>
14	RNRMC Report	The RNRMC has not sent a representative. Report will be sent with the Semaphore Circular.
15	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"> • Moved on quickly since Sarah took over as Project Manager. • 550 iPad now been issued but a new emphasis on collective training and developing volunteers. Individual issues still happening. 

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A move to put iPads into veteran homes, but this has left RAF and Army vets out. We got a Project variation to allow this. • We want to excite other charities from such a fabulous project. • Sarah Clewes shared some feedback on the impact of the project to individuals. • We get positive feedback all the time. • A big thanks to volunteers without whom the project would not be delivered. • Julie Royston and Alan McGrath do a lot of the work on the ground. • Alan reported the pleasure and privilege of issuing 70 iPads, especially going into people's home. Have recently been in Ireland. • Sarah then did some myth busting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project is not RNA money. ○ Not an IT project, see what is on the internet. ○ Improve relationships. ○ Not just an iPad, about getting on line, but have support with someone you can trust. ○ Broadband – can be given by SIM card. ○ This is not means tested. ○ There is no IT desk – relies on volunteers or Apple Shops. • New procurement process with fully individualised tablet. • We will come to you to train, explain or demonstrate. Cake is the key (and tea). • Workshops coming in Plymouth, HMS Forward. <p>Questions/Answers:</p> <p>No increase in budget following Army and RAF inclusion.</p> <p>Thanks for the concept and delivery. Life changing for those who receive an iPad.</p> <p>Return of iPads on death of veteran: compassion and common-sense prevail.</p> <p>No change to the criteria for qualification.</p>
16	Motions of Urgency	Chair SOC reported that no Motions of Urgency had been received.
17	National Council motions	<p>The Chair of the SOC briefed Conference that:</p> <p>All motions had been reviewed to ensure they were in accordance with the Charter, not time-barred, would achieve the aim of the motion.</p>



Amendment to the Supplemental Charter

National Council Motion 1

That Article 2 of the Supplementary Royal Charter be amended by adding 'Former members of the Merchant Navy who have been awarded the Veterans Badge' at number (11)

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.

NCM 8 presented the motion to Conference explaining that holders of the Merchant Navy Veterans badge had to have been under charter to the MoD in an operational area that would qualify for the Operational Service Medal. MN Veteran's badge holders have taken the same risk as their Navy shipmates

NCM 2 Seconded the motion

No delegate wished to speak for or against the motion.

The National President put the motion to Conference

57 Delegates present. Against None. Motion carried without a count.

NCM8 then put **National Council Motion 2** to Conference, the motion read:

That Rule 2 (a) of the Supplementary Royal Charter be amended by adding after the second entry of the word 'Commonwealth' the words, "and holders of the Merchant Navy Veterans Badge".

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

NCM 2 seconded the motion

No delegate wished to speak for or against the motion.

The National President put the motion to Conference:

57 Delegates present. Against None. Motion carried without a count.



The NCh put **National Council Motion 3** to the Conference, the motion read:

That the following new Rule be added: Rule 11 Sports and Social Groups:

(a) Members of the Association may advance its objects through sports and social groups (SSGs).

(b) A S&S Group shall work within the Association and in accordance with the Association's Supplementary Charter, Rules, Bye Laws and a Terms of Reference (TOR).

(c) The TOR, which must be agreed with the National Council, shall be placed as an appendage to the Supplementary Charter, Rules and Bye Laws.

Advance numbering of subsequent Rules by 1

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

The NCh spoke to the motion saying that this was a way to build the options to the membership and had been inspired by the Riders Group.

NCM 5 seconded the motion

No delegate wished to speak for or against the motion

The National President put the motion to Conference.

57 delegates present. 1 against motion carried without a count.

NCM 9 put National Council motion 4 before Conference. The motion read:

That the following new Rule be added Rule ~~12~~ 13 (because of previous number change after adoption of National Council Motion 3).

13. Payment of authorised expenses

i. Authorised expenses incurred by officers, staff and members on behalf of the Council may be paid against a claim form and receipts and, where appropriate, in accordance with the guidance document, 'PAYMENT OF EXPENSES, National Council and Staff'.

ii. Authorised expenses incurred by officers and members, on behalf of their Area or Branch may normally be paid by the Area or Branch against a claim form and receipts.

iii. Members may accrue minor expenses and/or use their facilities to provide a service to the Association, Area or Branch. The Association, an Area or Branch may make, in

		<p>good faith, reasonable remuneration for such service by making one off, or periodical payments. Remuneration under this category is not to be made if the expenditure was reimbursed under i or ii above, or by another organisation.</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> <p>NCM9 explained that this rule regularised normal practice.</p> <p>NCM 8 seconded the motion.</p> <p>No delegate wished to speak for or against the motion</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>57 delegates present. None against. Motion carried without a count.</p>
19	Branch Motions	<p>Branch Motion 1</p> <p>Proposed Crosby</p> <p>That the 2020 Conference be held in the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, at a date and price to be confirmed.</p> <p>The motion was proposed by Crosby, key points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area 10 has held a good conference in 2013. • The Area committee know the strengths and pitfalls • Disabled access • Single venue, conference to be held in the hotel. <p>Seconded Plymouth</p> <p>NCM10 spoke in support of the motion on behalf of the NC. He said that the lifts were a lot better, 3 nights for £168, Gala dinner £27.50. Dates to book are 5-8 June 2020.</p> <p>York spoke in favour of the motion</p> <p>The National President put the motion to Conference</p> <p>57 Delegates present. None against. Motion carried without a count.</p> <hr/> <p>Branch Motion 2</p>

That the National Council set up a study group to investigate the feasibility and implications to the Association of managing membership centrally rather than at Branch level. The Study Group shall report its conclusions and recommendations and if appropriate, submit a further motion or motions to the 2019 Conference.

The motion was proposed by **Lee on the Solent and Stubbington Branch**. The delegate explained that many branches struggle to manage branch organisation. Managing membership centrally would:

- Remove an onerous task from the Branch and ageing membership
- Allow Central Office to collect subscriptions by Direct Debit
- Allow the creation of a central membership record which would allow information to be passed directly to members if they so wished.
- All data would have to be compliant with GDPR
- Significant simplification of annual returns
- More accurate management information i.e. Year Book, Trustee Report



The motion was seconded by Portsmouth

The following spoke for the motion

Royston

- A study group is a good idea and may be able to help.
- This did lead to loss when done by TRBL which the group will need to review.

Pendleton

- Discussion and study can't be wrong. This is study only.

The following spoke against the motion

Plymouth

- Motion greeted with unease in the branch, devolves fundamental role of the branch
- Many members don't want direct debit, and prefer cash or timing a standing order
- TRBL lost 25% on central control
- There is a cost to implement.



St Neots

- Many members prefer cash, direct debit is unpopular.
- Subs are a good reason to visit for welfare reasons.

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 </td
Acct	Accountant
GS	General Secretary
CO	Central Office (was HQ)

