

**ROYAL NAVAL WRITERS' ASSOCIATION (RNWA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)
HELD FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2017 AT THE UJC LONDON AT 18:30**

Present: -	Colin	Hughes	President	(CH)
	Les	Heyhoe BCav	Secretary	(LH)
	Pat	Prior BEM QVRM	Treasurer	(PP)
	Tony	Webber	Committee	(TW)
	Mike	Moncur	Committee	(MM)
Apologies: -	George	Mytom-Hart BEM	Committee	(GMH)
Present:-	Phil 'Darby'	Allen MBE	Member	(PA)
	Andy	Baldwin	Member	(AB)
	Valerie	Blackwell	Member	(VB)
	Peter	Danks	Member	(PD)
	Eileen	Dimmock	Member	(ED)
	Jim	Dimmock	Member	(JD)
	Jim	Donaldson	Member	(JDo)
	Paddy	Erskine	Member	(PE)
	Ian	Freeguard MBE	Member	(IF)
	John	Hart CBE	Member	(JH)
	David	Hill	Member	(DH)
	Nancy	Hill	Member	(NH)
	Arthur	Horne	Member	(AH)
	Nick	Johnstone	Member	(NJ)
	Richard	Lawrence	Member	(RL)
	Tony	Mason	Member	(TM)
	Brian	Murphy	Member	(BM)
	Bill	Paterson	Member	(BP)
	Ian	Shearsby	Member	(IS)
	Doug	Sparks	Member	(DS)
	David	Spicer	Member	(DS)
	Jed	Stone OBE	Member	(JS)

Apologies to anyone who attended not mentioned above, due to not being recorded.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM 14th October 2016 were taken as read. All minutes were available to be viewed via the RNWA's website prior to the AGM.

2. Deaths

The President (CH) would report during his Reunion Dinner speech of those members that had 'Crossed the Bar' since the last AGM; sadly a few in recent weeks.

3. Treasurer's Report

The balance of account as at 10th October 2017 stood at £6,874.35 This did not reflect the true situation as the remaining deduction for the cost of the Reunion Dinner had to be taken into consideration (approximately £2,543.50) which would not be finally known until the end of the evening, hence why no actual statement of accounts was produced.

4. Membership

Membership as at the date of the meeting comprised of: -

Honourary Members:	3
Life Members:	32
Members:	240
Total Membership	275

5. Any Other Business

i. CH advised that the Revised Rules & Guidelines as agreed by the Committee had been published on the website and members informed via the July 2017 Newsletter. It was hoped that they could have been ratified at the AGM but further time will be given and announced in the November newsletter for them to be viewed and any comments made by the end of 2017 otherwise they will come into force. Member Pete Nicholls has been the only person to comment so far regarding the 'Audit Form' and the terminology of Audit.

ii. 131st Reunion Dinner 2018 (date for your diary – Friday 12th October) LH advised that already plans were underway and when the committee last met, it was agreed that next year's reunion Dinner would definitely return to the shores of Portsmouth. The exact venue was still to be discussed, taking into account, accommodation, value for money, availability, facilities, ambience, décor, convenience, maximum number etc. Potential current venues being considered are the Royal Naval Club (Pembroke Road) and The Best Western Royal Beach Hotel plus a couple of more venues. A decision will be made at the RNWA Committee meeting on Thursday 16th November and details published in the November / December 2017 Newsletter.

iii. Reunion Dinner at the UJC 13/10/17 – LH was very pleased to advise that numbers had significantly improved and had more than doubled since the last meeting and a total of 87 were now attending. This would include a number of Service personnel requested to attend in uniform to make the Guest of Honour more than welcome in the First Sea Lord's presence also in uniform ('Mess Undress with medals').

a. LH upon liaison with PP had made a refund of £60.00 to Alan & Isabel Hawkin who regrettably for personal reasons were now unable to attend the Reunion Dinner.

b. A subsequent request via email had also been received from Jim Donaldson advising that one of his guests, a Bill Howie (email 16/08/17 to JD) was unable to attend as his wife is due to have surgery. It was agreed that JD could receive a refund due to the fact that the closing date had not yet been reached and food / payment has yet to be made. Any request after the closing date of Friday 22nd September would not be considered for refund, regrettably for whatever reason.

c. Various ideas and suggestions were considered regarding the 131st Reunion Dinner in 2018 and all agreed that it would return and be held in Portsmouth subject to availability of venue and cost. A place suggested for consideration was the Royal Naval Club & Royal Albert Yacht Club, 17 Pembroke Road, Portsmouth PO1 2NT (see <http://www.rnc-rayc.co.uk/>) which appears to have excellent facilities and would be a different venue from previous occasions of HMS NELSON, The Royal Maritime Club (formerly The Home Club) and Best Western Royal Beach hotel – Action LH/CH and discuss at the AGM 13/10/17.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:15.

Date of next meeting, 19:00 Thursday 16th November 2017 at RNA Gosport & Fareham Branch.

