

General Meeting

Steeton Hall, Steeton, Keighley

Thursday, 12th October 2017

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, there was a minute's silence in respect of members who were no longer with us since our General Meeting on 6th July 2017.

Roll Call -

Tony Hennigan, John & Susan Chambers, Graham Berry, David Lonsdale, Joe Graham, Brian Russell, Fred Dadswell, Mick Spencer, Steve Walker, Steve & Sue Metcalfe, Steve Brown, Ron & Carol Harrison, Chris Binns, Bernard & Pauline Grundy, Peter Whitley, Sue Neave, Milly Wheelwright, Brian Hinchliffe, Hilary Baxter, Sue Marshall, Jim McSharry, Liz Baluk, Alex Robb, Terry Nattrass, Peter Maughan, Roger & Ann Yearby, Ian & Elizabeth Hemsworth, Andy & Peggy Holmes, Sheila Dunstan, Alex & Linda Barclay, David & Anne Carr, Les Scaife, Mark Allsop, Steve Norman, Robin Hebden, John Downie, Paul & Dorothy Margerison, Simon Atkin, Dave & Audrey Sands, Bill & Nina Nicholson and Andrea & Jens Hislop.
(54 Members)

Apologies –

Joe O'Doherty, Allan & Angela Jacks, Lionel & Jane Fletcher, Chris Allan, Fraser & Bev Dunn, Les & Margaret Allinson, Tilly Smith, George Marshall & Richard Schofield.

Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July 2017 – Were read & approved.

Chairman's Address –

1. Newly Transferred Members – Roy Wensley & Richard Schofield – from Leeds & District Branch to our Branch.
2. No new members since 6th July – keep spreading the news.
3. **Scarborough Conference** - Friday, 8th September – attended by John Chambers and me. This year, the Motions were discussed and voted on during the morning.

Motion 1 – Rules of the Association – Proposed by the NEC

'Carried'

Tony told the meeting that he had a copy of the 'Rules' for anyone to see but anyone can examine the Rules on 'Supersleuth'

Amendment 1 – Definition of Police Pension – Proposed by Nottinghamshire

'Carried'

'Police Pension means a Police Pension under current or previous Police Pension Regulations, Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations, Deferred Pension or an entitlement to a Police Pension had the person not opted out of the scheme.

Amendment 2 – Membership Eligibility – Proposed by Nottinghamshire 'Carried'

Full Membership of the Association shall be open to former police officers who have served within a police force and who have met the minimum service, age or ill health requirements that would entitle them to a police pension; and who have not been dismissed or required to resign from a police force by reason of misconduct.

Amendment 3 – Branch Elections – Proposed by Merseyside 'Carried'

Each Branch shall elect the Officers of the Branch either at the Annual General Meeting or at the Branch Committee Meeting following the Annual General Meeting.

Amendment 4 – Branch Committees – Proposed by Merseyside 'Carried'

Branches may elect any members of the Branch to form the Branch Committee provided that the number of such members is less than the number of Full Members.

Amendment 5 – Reserves – Proposed by Bristol Avon 'Carried'

This is to allow 'reserves' to be aware of procedures and allow them to be fully operational at whatever point they become NEC Members.

The President, Mr Ian Potter, gave his farewell address which was somewhat disparaging as he wants smaller Branches to merge with larger Branches.

The Guest Speaker was James Ketchell, who gave an interesting talk about rowing across the Atlantic Ocean and successfully climbing to the summit of Mount Everest. Unfortunately, he ran out of time and was invited back to talk about cycling 18,000 miles around the world.

There was a Panel discussion on 'Caring for the Future' by Joyce Pinfield (National Care Association); Claire Long (Police Mutual Head of Police Service Engagement) and Sally Hutchinson (Age UK).

4. Regional Meeting – Saturday, 7th October – attended by John Chambers and me.

Congratulations go to Richard Critchley, who was elected the Vice-Chairman of NARPO at the Executive Meeting held the day after Conference. Richard (for those that don't know him) is the current Secretary of the Wakefield Branch.

National Updates – NARPO HQ will not be moving. There will be improved 'disabled access'.

A 5 year plan is being introduced for Conference 2018.

Tony explained that we join NARPO for 'member services' and 'sharing information. It's good to have the backing of NARPO in difficult cases such as 'Hillsborough' and 'Orgreave'; he believed 'Word of Mouth' is the best way of recruiting.

Liverpool has been suggested for the 2019 Conference – a bad choice for obvious reasons.

Hillsborough Update by Mick Brookfield (Sheffield Branch) – Tony read the transcript which Mick Brookfield had prepared for the Regional Meeting, which is as follows: -

SUMMARY OF HILLSBOROUGH UPDATE

Since the last regional meeting, the High Court action by David Crompton against the PCC, Dr Billings had decided in favour of Mr. Crompton. The court held that the action by the PCC against Mr. Crompton was unlawful stating that the decision to require him to resign was irrational and unreasonable.

CPS announced details of the charging decisions following the submission of files from the IPCC and Operation Resolve. They had decided that there was sufficient evidence to charge one of our members with gross negligence manslaughter, two others with perverting the course of justice and a third with misconduct in public office. The announcement also indicated that charges were to be brought against the Force solicitor for perverting the course of justice and a former employee of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club for offences against the Safety at Sports Grounds and Health and Safety regulations. Before any action can be taken regarding the charges of manslaughter, however, CPS must first apply to the High Court to remove a 'stay' on any future process which was imposed following the earlier trial in 2000.

On 9 August those involved in matters other than the manslaughter allegations appeared before a Judge at Warrington Magistrates Court. Following a brief appearance they were released on bail to appear at Preston Crown Court on 6 September. The proceedings at Preston Crown Court were primarily concerned with deciding a venue for any future trials. Despite strong submissions against any such hearings being held in the northwest the judge announced that Preston Crown Court would be the venue. Not surprisingly the submissions were based upon where the accused were likely to expect the prospects of an impartial jury and a fair trial.

The application by CPS to remove the 'stay' is scheduled to be heard on 11 and 12 January 2018. The timetable for the trials, should the application succeed, could extend to the end of year 2019. The intention is to hold three separate trials, one relating to the allegations of manslaughter and Safety at Sports Grounds issues, one relating to the perverting the course of justice allegations and the third regarding the allegation of misconduct in public office.

Due to concern about the welfare of NARPO members during the course of any such trials Mick Brookfield requested a meeting with Steve Watson, South Yorkshire Chief Constable

The meeting took place on 26 September and was attended by representatives of all staff associations. It is pleasing to report that Mr. Watson intends to offer whatever support is possible to our members along the lines of the arrangements which existed during the Warrington inquests.

The Misconduct Appeals Sub-Committee was no longer necessary (as from this year's Conference); each Branch was to decide on discipline matters – hence Joe Broadley (Bradford) found himself without of a job.

The discussion of 'branch funding' was again put forward by Alan Jones (Rotherham) but the Regional Representatives (Richard Critchley and Bob Watson) stated the NEC had 'not changed their mind'.

The date of the next regional meeting was to be held on Saturday, 12 May 2018 at the Police Treatment Centre, Harrogate - 10.30am for 11am.

5. West Yorkshire Group Meeting – held at Wakefield today – attended by John Chambers and me. The same agenda was discussed as per the Regional Meeting.

On the way home, we called to see Keith Foster who was recovering from a triple by-pass operation following a heart attack. Keith was progressing well on his road to recovery.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.

It was followed by a most enjoyable pie and pea supper.

Proposed	Graeme Sheard	Seconded	Ian Hemsworth
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Chairman	Tony Hennigan	Date	26.7.2018.
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