

General Meeting

Steeton Hall, Steeton, Keighley

Thursday, 25th July 2019

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 Annual General Meeting on 7th March.

In particular – Bernard Grundy, Reginald Crannage, Bob Copeland, Lynda Anne Gasson and Judith Sheard.

Roll Call -

Vince Curran, Tony Hennigan, John Chambers, Graham & Ian Berry, David Lonsdale, Peggy Holmes, Andy Holmes, Sheila Dunstan, Tilly Smith, John Andrusiak & friend, Harry Jeffrey, Ken Pickles, Mick Spencer, Fred Dadswell, Steve Walker, Jack Davies & Laraine Davies, Peter Whitley, Liz Baluk, Alex Robb, Peter Maughan, Bill Cunliffe, Ian & Elizabeth Hemsworth, Gary Hayhurst, Jens Hislop, Alex & Linda Barclay, Chinny Singh, Indy Kaur, Calvin Singh, John Cowan, Keith Foster, Colin Stansby, Jim McSharry, Aidy Lyles, Gary & Kathryn Jeggo, Marion Taylor, Judith Fisher, Patrick Rout, John Sharp, Les & Margaret Allinson, Roger & Ann Yearby, Ron & Carol Harrison. (50 Members & Partners)

Apologies –

Allan & Angela Jacks, Sue Neave, Milly Wheelwright, Paul & Dot Margerison, Bill & Nena Nicholson, Joe Doherty, Alan & Pat Smithies, Lionel Fletcher, Pauline Grundy, Rose Huck, Steve & Sue Metcalfe, George Wardley, Chris Binns, Jane Dickerson, Jane Dickerson, Hilary Baxter, Monika Beckwith, Fraser Dunn, Brian Hinchliffe & Graham Sheard.

(25 Members & Partners)

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2018 – Were read & approved on a proposal by Jens Hislop and seconded by Ian Hemsworth. **Approved**

Matters Arising – None

Chairman's Address –

Membership Changes – Tony welcomed the following members since the A.G.M. on 7th March 2019: Graham Summers, Rick Pentith, Angus Rushton, Angela Barr, Glynn Sunter, Tony Meredith, Dave Boulder, Judith Fisher, Martin Jordon, Michael Shaw and Bill Cunliffe.

New 'Widow' Membership – Pauline Grundy

Obituaries – Bernard Grundy, Reginald Crannage, Bob Copeland, Lynda Anne Gasson and Judith Sheard.

Welfare – Tony asked those present to spare a thought for all our Members and Partners who are unwell and suffering at this time. He also mentioned Barry Mort's request for photographs, anecdotes etc. to celebrate his 70th Birthday.

National Updates – On Saturday, 18 May 2019, Tony informed the meeting that he and John Chambers had attended the NARPO Regional Meeting. The major points discussed were:

'Charitable Status' – if granted this would be very beneficial to us; including membership fees with a 20% extra discount.

'Membership Initiative' – is where we write to all police pensioners who are not NARPO members, explaining how and why they should join NARPO. A letter prepared by the Centre is about to be sent to all police pensioners who are not in NARPO via our Pension Provider (KPS Administration). This is a free service provided by the Centre.

'Widows Pension for Life' - is gaining momentum. You are encouraged to write to your Member of Parliament to highlight this extremely important campaign, using the template letter circulated on <https://www.narpo.org/>

'Hillsborough Update' – A report prepared by Mick Brookfield (Sheffield) was read to the meeting, as below:

'As you will now be aware the Hillsborough trials commenced on 14th January 2019 and concluded on 3 April after 40 days of trial and eight days of deliberation by the jury. The jury were unable to reach a verdict regarding David Duckenfield. Graham Mackrell was convicted of a health and safety offence relating to turnstile arrangements and will be sentenced on 13th May just prior to our next meeting.

Despite this being the second criminal trial of David Duckenfield in which the jury have been unable to reach a verdict the CPS immediately gave notice of their intention to seek a third trial.

As the date for the trial approached there was difficulty in identifying suitable accommodation for David and his wife. Thanks to sterling support from the Superintendent's Association, Steve Edwards our C.E. O. and our representative Richard Critchley, accommodation was identified and offered by Lancashire Police in their Headquarters at Preston. This was ideal both from a security and location point of view.

On Saturday 12 January David and his wife were in Sheffield en route to Preston. The car was loaded up with stuff to take up occupation the following day and they were visiting relatives on the way. At 11.45am that date, 24 hours before they were due to move in and

less than 48 hours before the trials were due to commence they received a phone call cancelling the offer of the accommodation. No official reason for this appalling situation has yet been offered.

I met David in Sheffield later that day and you can imagine how he felt. Due to magnificent work by the Superintendent's Association and again I understand assisted by Steve Edwards alternative accommodation was quickly identified. At least one member of the Superintendent's Association has been in touch with David and Ann throughout the trial. They have driven then to and from court, coordinated their security arrangements, and taken them out for food on many occasions. In short their support has been magnificent.

Our work in preparation also led to a situation where witnesses were offered transport by South Yorkshire Police. Those taking advantage of this offer were picked up from home, driven directly to court and then returned home at the close of business. Through liaison with Operation Resolve all witnesses were extremely well cared for through a network of specially trained witness liaison officers. Throughout what must have been an extremely stressful experience we were satisfied that witnesses were well supported.

As far as the trial was concerned there was an excellent and objective live summary published each day by the Liverpool Echo. Those of you following the trial will have seen that the Judge found it necessary, on the fourth day of their deliberations, to issue a warning to the jury. He referred to improper attempts to impose opinions on others and said that if any jury member was concerned they should bring it to his attention and he would take stern action to maintain the integrity of the trials!! We can refer to this as it was a warning given in open court and begs the question as to whether the integrity of the trials had not already been lost.

Within days of the verdicts the media were visiting witnesses who had just given evidence seeking arrangements for interviews. Approximately three weeks ago Operation Resolve commenced contact with witnesses seeking details of their availability for a retrial in September.

Against the background of this summary you may well ask how these people cope with the level of stress to which they have been exposed for so many years. When saying that I include the witnesses and their families as well. Does the public interest seriously call for yet another criminal trial? The date for the CPS application is scheduled for 24th June at Preston. If the application is successful, I understand that the retrial is likely to take place in October.

On Wednesday 1 May, together with Rick Naylor and Graham Cassidy, I met with Steve Watson, Chief Constable of South Yorkshire. We thanked him for his support to date acknowledging the difficult position he finds himself in with the P.C.C. I am pleased to say that he is committed to providing welfare support throughout any future trials and that of

course involves the outstanding cases against Don Denton and Alan Foster. The cases against them were scheduled to commence in September and could well now be put back to next year which does little to ease the dreadful stress being suffered by them and their families.

I am extremely grateful for the support we have enjoyed so far in doing whatever possible to help our colleagues and their families who continue to be forced into reliving the nightmare of that dreadful disaster 30 years ago. I am especially grateful to members of the Superintendent's Association whose dedication has made our job so much easier. I have spoken to both Dan Murphy, their national secretary, and Vic Marshall who has spent so much time in Preston together with Eamonn Carroll and Christine Wilson and thanked them on behalf of NARPO.

Thank you all for your support during the last seven years during what must be the most challenging welfare issue during the 100 years of the existence of our Association.'

Regional Chair/Secretary – Tony announced that North Tyneside Branch was taking over this role from 2020/2021 and Leeds & District Branch from 2022/2023.

Annual Travel Insurance Policy from 1 May 2019 – Tony also mentioned that there were a number of changes being made from renewal; these include:

Age-rated premiums - previously, all members have paid the same premium regardless of age. From renewal, all members will be categorized in age bands and the premiums will be priced accordingly; i.e. a 70 year old will pay a higher premium than a 60 year old.

Change for Members - who join mid-way through the policy year: NARPO members could join the policy at any time during the policy year from 1 May to 30 April, but payment of the full annual premium was required, regardless of the date that a member enrolled.

From 1 May 2019 Renewal, new members joining the policy mid-way through the policy year will enjoy cover for a full 12 month period from their date of enrolment; i.e. policy commencement date 1 July 2019, renewal date 1 July 2020.

Cover for Europe-only travel - finally, a further level of cover has been introduced for those members who only travel within Europe. The premiums reflect that your travel is limited to Europe only and has single trip duration of up to 25 days, up to a total of 65 days maximum in any policy year.

What happens next? - AXA PPP Healthcare will issue renewal letters approximately 6 weeks prior to the renewal date, advising members of the annual premium for 2019.

Please note that THIG - The Health Insurance Group who administer our Group Travel and Health Insurance schemes have changed their name to Towergate. It is a change of name only and they will continue to administer our Group Travel and Health Insurance schemes,

the policy is still under written by AXA PPP Healthcare. Our intermediary - The Health Insurance Group, is available to discuss your renewal, or new travel enquiries, and can be contacted by telephone 0800 389 7724; Monday – Friday 9am - 5pm.

English Heritage - have agreed to offer NARPO members discount on all Annual Memberships. Visit their website to obtain your discount. The code is Police20 and reduces the cost by 20% off all Annual Membership types. This code can be redeemed online at www.english-heritage.org.uk/join or on the phone 0370 333 1182.

Southport Conference – will be held on Friday, 6th September 2019 – attended by John Chambers and me.

Conference Motions – There are six motions for inclusion in the 2019 Conference Agenda. The most important one is that of the Humberside Branch which, ‘instructs the NEC to abandon its policy to move from the current NARPO HQ until such time as a full scoping exercise and cost benefit analysis has been carried out on all the options available including:

Remaining at and modernising the current NARPO House building;

Moving to smaller premises and encouraging more remote working in line with current Government policy and legislation.

It cannot be that the spending of over half a million pounds of members’ money can be authorised without the general membership being aware of the reasons for and the requirements behind the decision or without due diligence to all aspects and reasons for spending that amount of funds being open and transparent.

A full list of motions for the Annual Agenda at the Southport Conference 2019 is attached.

All the business of Conference can be watched live on the internet via the NARPO web-site.

Centenary Celebrations in 2019 – Together with Marion, I, John and Susan Chambers attended the Centenary Celebrations at the Tower of London on Thursday 13 June, where John was chosen by the NARPO Executive to be presented to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal. John and I also attended the NARPO Centenary Parliamentary Reception at The Cholmondeley Room in The House of Lords on Wednesday 17 July at our own expense.

West Yorkshire Group Meeting – held on Thursday, 6 June 2019. Mention the web-site has fallen but Leeds & District Branch has completely got their house in order.

Christmas Lunch – On Friday 19 July 2019 Tony, together with John Chambers, Graham Berry and Dave Lonsdale, arranged to meet the owner of Steeton Hall to discuss the Christmas Lunch, which had been previously booked for a 12 noon start on Sunday 1 December 2019. Angela (the owner) explained that she intended using the main dining area as a Toby Carvery Restaurant on Sunday lunch times, from September onwards.

We told her the venue had been booked, a deposit of £100.00 had been paid and the cost of the Sunday Lunch had been agreed at £23.00 per person (£25.00 extra for cheese & biscuits) in January of this year. Angela quoted £27.50 per person but, when we pointed out these details were already recorded in her diary, she checked her diary and agreed with us. She told us she would honour her obligations this year.

After the meeting with Angela, Tony, John Chambers, Graham Berry and Dave Lonsdale visited Keighley Cougars Rugby League Park to inspect their premises situated in the Presidential Suite as a suitable venue. We were immediately impressed with the welcome we received and collectively thought the premises were ideal for our Christmas Lunch and Social Meetings throughout the year. The premises catered for 120 members.

After a brief discussion, Jens Hislop proposed and Steve Walker seconded that, 'Keighley and District NARPO Branch transfer their allegiance from Steeton Hall to Keighley Cougars Rugby League Club commencing forthwith.'

Unanimous

The Christmas Lunch will be held on Sunday 1 December 2019 commencing at 12 noon for 12.30pm and has now been fully booked.

Ian Berry - Tony then introduced Graham Berry's brother Ian Berry, who held a senior position with British Nuclear Fuels at Sellafield and went on to give our meeting a very comprehensive account of his role at Sellafield and also his experiences at other powers stations around the world. He was a witty raconteur and made it interesting and most amusing. The talk lasted 30 minutes and this was well received by the members. He thanked Ian for his time and effort in producing a good and interesting talk.

Any other business - George Wardley, who could not attend the meeting, kindly donated a bottle of Glen Moray Whiskey for the Christmas raffle, which was gratefully accepted by John Chambers on behalf of the Branch.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.45 p.m.

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

Proposed	Graham Berry	Seconded	Dave Lonsdale
Chairman	Tony Hennigan	Date	3.10.2019.