

General Meeting

Cougar Park, Royd Ings Avenue, Keighley

Thursday, 3 October 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 last Social Meeting on 25 July 2019.

In particular – Cyril Thompson (died 30.7.19.) Tommy Atkin (died 1.8.19.) and David Sands (died 15.9.19.)

Roll Call -

Vince Curran, Tony Hennigan, John Chambers, Graham Berry, David Lonsdale, Mick Spencer, Fred Dadswell, Hilary Baxter, Terry Slocombe, Lionel Fletcher, Chris Allan, Paul Margerison, Peter & Dianne Sharpe, Peter & Sue Whitley, Les & Margaret Allinson, Tilly Smith, Liz Baluk, Marian Taylor, Sue Marshall, Gary & Christine Hayhurst, John Cowan, Keith Foster, Alex Robb, Harry Jefferies, Ken Pickles, Peter & Sally Maughan, Jim McSharry, Steve Brown, Mark Newton, Deborah & Lloyd Heeley Hirst, Steve Walker, Steve & Sue Metcalfe, Eric Sillence, Indy & Chinny Singh, Angela & Allan Jacks, Andy Holmes & Sheila Dunstan, Jens & Andrea Hislop, Joseph O' Doherty, Les & Margaret Scaife and Tony Durkin (52 Members & Partners).

Apologies –

Jack & Laraine Davies, Bob Tyne, Richard Berry, Steve Norman, Bill Cunliffe, Martin Jordan, Dot Margerison, Ian & Elizabeth Hemsworth, Bill Nicholson, Ronnie & Carol Harrison, Roger & Ann Yearby, Garry Jeggo, John Sharp, Geoff Craven, Byron Sykes, Robin Hebden, Alec & Linda Barclay, Sue Neave, Pauline Grundy, Brian Hinchliffe, George Wardley & Brian Russell (his wife has got 'Parkinson's Decease' (23 Members & Partners)

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2019 – Were read & approved on a proposal by Graham Berry and seconded by Dave Lonsdale. **Approved**

Matters arising – There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Address –

1. New members since the Social Meeting on 25 July 2019 – Martin Jordan, Bill Cunliffe, Bev Ramsey (Police Widow), Keith Gilert, Steve Marshall, Michael Shaw, Byron Sykes, Shirley Thompson (Police Widow), Mark Newton, Derek Callon, Geoff Craven and Tony Durkin.

2. Conference – Friday 6 September 2019 – Attended by John Chambers and me.

This year there were six motions put forward. See Minute Book for details.

Motion 1 – Rule Change NEC Representative – Dorset Branch	Carried
Motion 2 – Rule Change NEC Representative – Nottinghamshire	Carried
Motion 3 – Rule Change Membership – York North Riding	Lost
Motion 4 – Relocation of NARPO HQ – Humberside	Remitted
Motion 5 – Rule Change Life Membership – Cambridgeshire	Withdrawn
Motion 6 – Rule Change Financial Year – Hampshire	Lost

Tony was also recorded in the Life Memberships page of the Annual Report 2018 at the Southport Conference 2019.

3. **Hillsborough Update for Regional Meeting held on 5 October 2019 –**

At the conclusion of the last criminal trial of David Duckenfield the jury were again unable to reach a verdict. Two criminal trials ended with hung juries. CPS immediately gave notice of their intention to apply for a third trial which, in the absence of any new evidence and to anyone following the evidence in the last trial must have come as a surprise. The answer, we believe, lies in the fact that had CPS not applied for a third trial the Judge would have had no choice but to find David ‘Not Guilty’. Apparently that was not acceptable.

The CPS application to proceed with another criminal trial was heard at Preston Crown Court on 24/25th June. Despite a lengthy submission by the defence in opposition to this application the Judge Sir Peter Openshaw decided that the public interest demanded that a third trial should go ahead. Furthermore he ruled that the new trial should again be held at Preston Crown Court. There have since been two pre-trial reviews to discuss which witnesses will be called and the trial is scheduled to commence on Monday 7 October. Witnesses are being told to expect a trial of between 6 and 8 weeks.

You may well ask yourself why Preston again and which section of the public’s interest demands a third criminal trial with all the attendant expense, stress and heartache for the people involved. I include here the witnesses who once again will have to live the nightmare and the discomfort of cross examination by legal experts determined to find flaws in the accounts from the memories of so many years ago. You may also ask how on earth it’s possible to select an impartial jury whose minds and opinions are not influenced by what they have already seen and heard. Remember there is **NO NEW EVIDENCE**.

Thankfully South Yorkshire Police are again committed to providing transport for retired officers, which is an enormous relief. The Superintendent’s Association are again committed to supporting David and his wife throughout the trial which will

obviously necessitate their living in Preston so far away from their home in Bournemouth.

Meantime Don Denton, Alan Foster and the solicitor Peter Metcalfe and their respective families wait in the wings. The latest estimate for the start of their trials is April 2020. Both Don and Alan are full time carers for their wives who are seriously ill. Don and Sylvia Denton have just celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The speech by Priti Patel, Home Secretary, at the recent Superintendent's Association Conference is well worth a read. I was so taken by some of her comments that I wrote drawing her attention to the dreadful abuse of process which I feel surrounds this case and in particular the manner in which retired officers carrying out their duties to the best of their ability have been abandoned by the Service and the Home Office. I emphasised the refusal to fund the defence of these officers and compared it to the immediate commitment by the MOD to fully support and fund Veteran Soldiers recently selected for prosecution. I await an acknowledgement. Similar correspondence to Sajid Javid during his spell as Home Secretary was completely ignored.

Hopefully on the run up to this trial David Duckenfield and his wife will not have to suffer the additional trauma of their accommodation being withdrawn at the eleventh hour. Since our last meeting we have discovered that the reason for that happening two days before the last trial commenced was due to the involvement of that independent body known as Operation Resolve.

4. **Regional Meeting – Saturday, 5 October** – Will be attended by John Chambers and Tony Hennigan.

Various topics to be discussed, but the most important one will be made by Matthew Armsby from BC Technologies who will be giving a presentation on 'Cyber Security Training'.

Most important news is that John Chambers (Secretary) and Tony Hennigan (Chairman) will be in charge of their last meeting, handing over the responsibility to North Tyneside from May 2020.

5. **West Yorkshire Group Meeting** – A meeting was arranged on Thursday 17 October but it has had to be cancelled. A new date is being arranged.
6. **Christmas Lunch** – This year it will be held in these premises on Sunday 1 December 2019. All cheques and choices of menu will be gladly received by John at this meeting. Anyone who does not want to attend, please tell John now as there are people on the reserve list.
7. **President of Bradford Rotary – Chris Binns (Mention his charity).**

Any other business –

Terry Slocombe suggested the next speaker should be Dianne Watts, a retired officer from Oxenhope, who is the North of England representative for the charity 'Embrace Child Victims of Crime'.

Jens mentioned organising a Burns Night on Saturday 25 January 2020 - details to follow. The Secretary would bulk mail the whole membership to ascertain if there is sufficient interest to hold such an event.

The Secretary sold 27 diaries at the meeting, leaving only 3 diaries to sell.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.15 p.m.

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

Proposed

Seconded

Chairman

Date