

General Meeting

Cougar Park, Royd Ings Avenue, Keighley

Wednesday, 28 July 2021

Roll Call -

Tony Hennigan, John Chambers, Graham Berry, David Lonsdale, Paul & Dot Margerison, Peter & Dianne Sharpe, Peter Whitley, Jim McSharry, Steve Walker, Steve & Sue Metcalfe, Jens & Andrea Hislop, Diane Watts, Carol Harrison, Audrey Sands, Alvin Leverton, Steve Marshall, Jack & Laraine Davies, Steve Norman, Fraser Dunn, Paul Spencer & Pam Clarke, Peter Hastings, Brian Coppen, Geoff Craven, Bill Cunliffe, and Ian Hemsworth.

Zoom Link – Mick Spencer and Terry Slocombe

(33 Members & Partners)

Apologies –

Patrick Rout, Andy Barker, Hilary Smith, Liz Baluk, Chris Allan, Lionel Fletcher, Steve Brown, Les & Margaret Allinson, Gary & Kathryn Jeggo, Monty Newton, Terry Nattrass, Mark Allsop, Joe O'Doherty, Roger & Ann Yearby, Tony Durkin, Angus Rushton, Allan & Angela Jacks, John Sharp, Bev Ramsey, Sean Marshall, Byron Sykes, Alec & Linda Barclay & Pauline Grundy.

(28 Members & Partners)

Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2019 –

Were read & approved on a proposal by Jack Davies and seconded by Steve Marshall.

Approved

Matters arising –

The update on the Hillsborough Disaster was mentioned. The case against Norman Bettison - all charges were dropped. The case against David Duckenfield was also dismissed by the jury and a verdict of 'Not Guilty' was declared. The two other guys who were charged was also dismissed because the evidence was insufficient, and the case was dropped.

Chairman's Address –

Tony welcomed all those present and included Mick Spencer and Terry Slocombe who had attended via the 'Zoom' link.

He mentioned Diane Watts (a member of our Branch sitting in the audience) who would be willing to provide us with a talk on 'Embrace' at the next meeting. 'Embrace' is a charity for child victims of crime.

On our behalf, Jens Hislop arranged a Burns Supper evening in January 2020. This proved to be very successful but had to be cancelled this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Jens has promised to hold another Burns Supper in January 2022.

Jens Hislop was appointed our Welfare Officer at this year's A.G.M. Last week, he asked Jens to report at each social meeting on members who are poorly.

At this point, Jens reported on the following members:

Terry & Betty Nattrass, Alec & Linda Barclay, Joe & Ann Marie O'Doherty, Roger Yearby and Joe Graham. All have 'age concerned' ailments. We send them all our best wishes.

On behalf of the Branch, spare a thought for all our members and partners who are unwell. Anyone who knows of a member needing our assistance, please contact Jens Hislop on 01535-644444 or John Chambers or Tony Hennigan. Jens will keep contact with them and report an update on their condition at each social meeting.

There have been no obituaries to report since the A.G.M.

Christmas Lunch will be held at Cougar Park on Sunday 12 December 2021 and details have been circulated to all members. Together with John, Graham and Dave we have had a discussion with Lisa Beckwith-Kinard (the Manageress) about the issues surrounding the service and quality of the meal in 2020. She has assured us that these problems have been resolved and the service will be speedier and not fragmented (e.g., each table will be served in turn, and the food will be prepared and served by the newly appointed on-site caterer). Lisa agreed – it was a mess and promised to improve the service and quality of food this year. We, in turn, have decided to keep numbers strictly to 100 and to refrain from holding a long-drawn-out raffle. John Chambers stated the lunch was fully booked but he would start a 'reserve list' for anyone who wants to attend.

Tony went on to explain the structure of NARPO National Executive and the Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O.) and his paid staff, who work on behalf of NARPO. The C.E.O. was a man called Steve Edwards who had issues with NARPO and recently resigned over a dispute with the N.E.C. His role has been taken over temporarily by the Deputy C.E.O. Alan Lees until the post has been advertised.

The only motion at Conference this year concerns the location of NARPO HQ. The NEC decided that the HQ building used in Wood Street Wakefield was no longer fit for purpose and should be relocated. NARPO have put aside a substantial amount of money to pay for the new building without putting it to our membership.

At the last Conference, Humberside put forward a motion to have a thorough look into the feasibility and cost of such a move. They argued that the disability access could be managed and made good. It also affects the staff who work for NARPO, some of which work from home. We shall update you at the next meeting.

This year, John Chambers can not attend the Annual Conference in Llandudno. His place will be taken by Graham Berry and Dave Lonsdale. As we have over 200 members in our Branch, we are allowed to send three delegates to Conference. As in past years, travelling expenses and board & lodging are paid by the Branch, but any other expenses are paid by the delegates. The wives of each delegate will also attend. **Agreed**

If Conference had been held, we would have been in Southport 2018, Torquay 2019, Plymouth 2020, Llandudno 2021, and Torquay 2022 - hardly proportionate for our region. Scarborough 2017 was the last time we were in the north. Let us meet in the midlands where it is equidistant. This is another issue where the NEC and the paid employees have a dispute.

At some point in the future, Tony was going to talk about the 'walk' he had just completed for the Sue Ryder Manorlands Charity. All he would say was to acknowledge the great help and camaraderie he had received from NARPO. He mentioned our Branch members: Ivor Ralston, Jack & Kit Birse and Fran & Rachel Steventon, who lived in various parts of the country, and who had helped him with accommodation, food, and subsistence. He also met NARPO friends in Shropshire, and John Chambers, Jim McSharry, John Birkenshaw and Fraser Dunn & Bev Condren during his travels.

He thanked everyone who had donated to the Charity. His initial goal was to raise £3,000.00 and to date he has raised a magnificent £17,500.00.

Tony reminded everyone to read and digest the latest ruling about Travel Insurance which was circulated by email on 27 July 2021.

Any other business –

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