

Keighley NARPO Branch Social Meeting
Cougar Park, Royd Ings Avenue, Keighley
Wednesday, 5 October 2022

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 22 June 2022. In particular – Anne Marie O'Doherty, Stan Wilkinson and Steve Hobson. Tony went on to mention Charlie Berry, who discovered he had a terminal illness and who recently then went on to hold and attend his own wake at Keighley Rugby League Club! He told Tony that he had lived a good and happy life with his wife and family and how he had nothing to come back for. What a character!

Roll Call

Vince Curran, Tony Hennigan, John & Susan Chambers, Graham Berry, David Lonsdale, Peter Corkindale, Milly Wheelwright, Alex Robb, Mark Newton, Angus Rushton, Peter Whitley, Mick Spencer, Hilary Baxter, Jim McSharry, Andy Holmes & Sheila Dunstan, Jens & Andrea Hislop, Robin Hebden, Ian & Elizabeth Hemsworth, Laraine & Jack Davies, Derek Callon, Geoff Craven, Peter Hastings, Bill Cunliffe, Steve Marshall, Audrey Sands, Alvin Leverton, Fraser Dunn, Terry Slocombe, Andy Barker, Chris Allen, Lionel Fletcher, Audrey Sands, Peter & Diane Sharpe Paul & Dot Margerison, Steve Marshall, Alan Pritchard, Tony Thornton, Nigel & Kate Booth, Paul Spencer, Pam Clark and Jim McSharry.

Tony stated that there were not many new members as by and large officers were not retiring of late, but nevertheless he warmly welcomed the latest newcomer to our NARPO Branch, John Craven who was in attendance. You are most welcome John.

Tony went on to welcome two other members from the Bradford Branch, Catherine (Caite) and Nigel Booth who had joined our Branch as associate members and who were also in attendance. Tony mentioned how Catherine originated from the delightful Helmsdale/ Durness area of Scotland, which he had walked through on three occasions!

Apologies

Bev Ramsey, Sean Marshall, John Sharp, Fred Dadswell, Chris Corkindale, Les & Margaret Allinson, Roger & Ann Yearby, Garry Jeggo, John Sharp, Byron Sykes, Alec & Linda Barclay, Sue Neave, Pauline Grundy, George Wardley, Hilary Smith, Liz Baluk, Brian Russell, Rose Huck, Samantha Buckley, Les Scaife, Marion Taylor, Judith Fisher, Paul Spencer, Allan & Angela Jacks, and Joe O'Doherty.

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022

Were read & approved on a proposal by Graham Berry and seconded by Dave Lonsdale.

Tony reminded those present that it was at the last meeting that he gave a talk on his third walk from Lands' End to John O'Groats. He was pleasantly surprised and overcome by the fact that over £700 had been raised for Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice on that night. He thanked everyone for their kindness and generosity, stating that the donations re his End-to-End 1000 mile walk had now reached over £20,000. His initial goal had been £3,00 and so he was overwhelmed at the benevolence and kindness of relatives, friends, casual acquaintances, strangers, the homeless, a Cornish toilet cleaner, a Somerset-based podiatrist, and a Shropshire-based member of the clergy!

The Secretary made a special note of Tony's achievements in the minutes. This was a Very Special Achievement.

Well done, Tony!! Fantastic; particularly when one remembers your age at the time of your walk (70 years); the awful weather conditions for much of the walk, sleeping rough for some weeks and the pandemic.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising, as the minutes had been previously circulated by bulk mail.

Chairman's Address:

Tony welcomed those present and included members who were attending via the 'Zoom' link.

Welfare

Tony explained that there were some welfare matters where members are entitled to total privacy, as had been the case with Charlie Berry, until he consented to making members aware of his issues. Such welfare issues continue to be dealt with, whereby privacy is treated as a matter of absolute priority.

Our Welfare Officer, Jens Hislop, commented on Steve Windle's condition. Steve has Vascular Dementia, which means he has great difficulty in standing up and walking. Rona, his wonderful wife, says she cannot leave him on his own, but she must go every Wednesday morning to a carer's meeting. Jens has arranged a rotor system with seven or eight members who can visit Steve at his home address in Goose Cote Lane, to sit with him and pass on memories of the job etc. He needs stimulus by talking or playing games etc. This support to Steve and Rona has now ended at Rona's request and both are grateful to those who visited and supported them.

Jens updated the meeting with the conditions of Alex and Linda Barclay, Joe O'Doherty, Roger Yearby, and he also mentioned how Dave and Althea Howell's son Jonathan is suffering from cancer. He also added that Carol Harrison had been admitted to a care home at Fletcher Court, Oakworth, suffering from dementia.

Graham Berry reported that Joe Graham was doing okay, but there was a Covid outbreak at the home where he is residing and visiting has been cancelled temporarily. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one of them.

Tony pointed out how NARPO was primarily about looking after one another in times of need and he considered it to be the primary function of our NARPO Branch. He added that us who were able-bodied at the moment should count our blessings and he thanked Jens for his continuing input and work as our Welfare Officer.

Conference 2022

The Conference this year was held in Torquay, attended by Tony and Marion Hennigan and John and Susan Chambers. Tony explained that we stayed for four nights in accommodation, but we paid for two nights and NARPO paid the other two nights

plus travelling expenses. In other words, we made a mini holiday out of the occasion. This year, we went via train, which took us approximately six hours there and six hours back.

The first day (Wednesday) was for travelling; the second day (Thursday) was the Conference Evening Official Dinner, which was a black-tie event; the third day (Friday) was the actual Conference and Social Evening; the fourth day (Saturday) was a 'free' day; and the fifth day (Sunday) was coming home.

On Thursday, 8 September 2022, we had dressed for dinner and were entering the Conference Venue, when we heard the incredibly sad news that Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11 had just passed away. That news put a complete damper on things. We all went inside the Conference Hall, where everyone was subdued and in a state of shock. Suddenly, we all started singing the National Anthem, which for the first time was worded God Save the King.

The National President of NARPO announced that the Conference was cancelled forthwith. Initially, a number of attendees were upset at the decision to cancel the event in view of the costs involved and the time spent travelling such great distances.

The National President then explained that **NARPO'S** Parliamentary Advisors, who were in attendance, had indicated that NARPO could be harshly criticised if the event was allowed to continue. In view of his explanation, we agreed with the decision made, because we pay for such guidance and would be criticised if we did not heed such advice. The National President then left the speaker's platform and made a beeline for John Chambers who was seated at the Keighley and Bradford table, and he kindly enquired about his health following his second stroke. Please see photo.

It was agreed to visit the Riviera Conference Centre on Friday morning and have an informal get-together. We attended on your behalf and participated in an impromptu memorial service. Members who had met and had fond memories of the Queen then addressed us to recount their recollections. Most poignant – and it was entirely appropriate for us all to pay our respects to the late Queen.

There were two ‘motions’ to be discussed. One of them was to do with whether or not to allow people to join who are under investigation for criminal matters; and secondly a motion concerning NARPO becoming a Corporate Body. Both these motions will become clearer in the year and will not be discussed until next Conference.

Moving on, we have three meetings which John and I attended. We attended Conference, the Regional Meeting (which we chaired and ran for three years), and we also attended the West Yorkshire Group Meeting (which Tony chaired). There are seven Branches in the West Yorkshire Group - Pontefract having folded and is now amalgamated with Wakefield.

Tony invited Mr Robins, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire to our last WY Group Meeting. He was accompanied by Graham Berry (our Treasurer, in my absence) who asked a particularly important question i.e. “What do you think about ‘graduate only’ entrants?” He replied that he wasn’t too keen as he was missing out on ex-military recruits, trades people and people from differing walks of life etc. He also highlighted how graduates might have an expectation to advance within the service, when the reality was that numerically the vast majority of them would remain constables – causing them perhaps to either leave or become disillusioned. The role of the Mayor of West Yorkshire (or Police and Crime Commissioner) was discussed as was Inter-Force collaboration with surrounding forces, etc. The Chief Constable and his Staff Officer were thanked and they left the meeting.

We then talked about priorities and the possibility of creating a West Yorkshire NARPO website as originally proposed by a Leeds member. Tony told those present that there was no point in starting another website because the present branch and national website were rarely used – and we have statistics to support that notion. Tony had sent a message to each of the seven Branch Website Officers in the Force to discuss the idea, and only the IT managers from Keighley and Bradford had responded. Tony put the proposal to the meeting and it was unanimously rejected.

Christmas Lunch

Tony explained that Keighley Cougars had vastly increased their prices for the Christmas Lunch and all other social functions. The cost of pie and peas had risen from £3.50 to £7.00 (double the price on the previous year), plus the room hire of £200. They quoted that the Christmas Lunch would cost a minimum of £35 per head plus £200 for the hire of the room, so if a minimum of one hundred members attended the luncheon, it would cost £37.00 each whereas last year the total cost was £23. Regrettably, we informed the Club that we were unable to meet the new prices and agreed to amicably sever our links with them.

Tony then approached Peter Corkindale and asked him for a price for Keighley Civic Centre as that had been one of our previous bases.

The following venues were discussed:

Bradford & Bingley Rugby Union Club, Keighley Golf Club, Bingley St. Ives Golf Club, Keighley Rugby Union Club
Northcliffe Golf Club, Shipley, Branshaw Golf Club, Keighley Rugby Union Club, Civic Centre at Keighley.

Tony went on to say that the Christmas Lunch will be held at one of the above venues (to be decided by the Committee) on Sunday, 4 December 2022 for a sit-down meal from 12.30pm. A newsletter would follow with all instructions thereon.

The Secretary pointed out that there were other venues such as the Rendezvous and Addingham Golf Club which might be considered but he thought these venues were too far away for members to travel. Tony asked the members present to leave the final decision to the hopeful wisdom and discretion of the Committee.

Bill Cunliffe mentioned mid-week social events. Traditionally, we have had meeting on an evening time, but he thought it was a reasonable suggestion to move meetings particularly in dark winter times to mid-day. However, some of our members are still

working and would be unable to attend. It was a suggestion that could be considered. Andy Holmes made the comment that we are not getting any younger and this was a reasonable idea.

Tony asked members to put their ideas forward by e-mail. Everything would be considered. We are here to listen and react to your ideas.

Burns Supper

Jens announced that two years ago, he held a successful Burns Supper at Keighley Rugby League Club. He intends to run one again this year. He asked for a show of hands to see if anyone was interested. There was at least twenty people interested so he promised to go ahead with it. Full details will be sent to you via bulk mail.

Guest Speaker

Tony thought more guest speakers would be worthwhile and he thought of inviting our member Tony Walker, who could talk of his late wife's Ukrainian family whom he helped liberate from the Ukraine via Poland to his North Yorkshire home. Many will remember Tony working in Bingley and playing his tin whistle and he is an accomplished speaker.

Finally, Tony mentioned that the Branch have only had two resignations in the past ten years. Ernest Mathers left some years ago because he left the area and Tony Meredith resigned in recent months. Tony was incredibly sad that Tony Meredith has left us.

Any other business

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.45pm and followed by a most enjoyable pie and pea supper.

