

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
Of the
Buckinghamshire Branch
Of the
National Association of Retired Fire-Fighters



Held at Aylesbury Fire Station
Of the
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes
Fire & Rescue Authority
On
Saturday 29 May 2004

The Meeting was opened by our Chairman Peter Robinson at 10:50 hrs. The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and also the Chief Fire Officer Geoffrey Goddard who had kindly allowed us to use the Station.

PRESENTATION:

Before the meeting agenda got underway Mr Goddard was asked if he would, on behalf of the Branch and its members make a presentation to one of the Branch Stalwarts to which he readily agreed. There was a bit of juggling then going on in the wings as everything was made ready.

Mr Goddard then declared that it was not often but in this instance that he had great delight and pleasure to present to Jack Cracknell, who had given over 32 years service as Branch Secretary and Treasurer and that it was his privilege to make the presentation of a magnificent engraved cut glass bowl to Jack for his services. He asked Jack if he would kindly step forward to accept the presentation, this Jack did to very hearty applause from all the members present. Jack was a bit overcome by it all but was extremely pleased with his presentation.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Mick Haycock	Larry Pearce	John Maher	Syd Dixon	Clive Teare
Peter Robinson	Jim Boylan	Brian Young		

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (AGM):

The minutes of the last meeting held at Aylesbury on the 13th September 2003, had already been sent to all members and were read out by our chairman, he asked if there were any matters arising, there being none, Peter asked for a Proposer that they be accepted as a true record, this was proposed by Pat Renolds and seconded by John Hudson, the voting was unanimous and they were signed by the Chairman and Secretary as a true record.

CFOs REPORT:

Mr Goddard outlined the Fire dispute, he advised that he did not want to comment too much but he did confirm that there were no troubles in Buckinghamshire. There was a comment relating to the night time stand down for operational crews, this was still allowed for existing firemen but any new firemen would be required to work through their shift. He also advised that everyone in the service were on the same pay scales. As the current station has now been partly vacated this was the last time that NARF would be meeting in this Aylesbury station. The autumn luncheon was mooted to move to Haddenham station for this year. Mr Goddard confirmed that he would be retiring from the brigade in October. He thanked everyone for their good wishes for the future. At the conclusion of the address our Chairman thanked Mr Goddard for his help and assistance to the branch over the years and again extend everyone's best wishes for the future.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE:

The Chairman reminded everyone that the Fire Service now had a place in the National Remembrance parade held in Whitehall London in November and anyone wishing to attend could do so but, tickets had to be obtained to gain entry to Horse Guards.

PENSIONS:

It was reported that there were no changes and any increase would be notified in the usual manner, Pension arrangements were unchanged for current serving members but any new entrants would not get the same deal as there were drastic reviews underway.

THE GREEN FIELDS:

Please see the attached NARF and BENEVOLENT report

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS:

It was indicated by the Chairman that if at all possible we should try to get members to pay by either direct debit or standing order, if members would like to consider this aspect then the branch would investigate the mechanics and report back at a later stage, it was stated that other branches had introduced this and it had worked well.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Peter Robinson reported that he had had a very busy year wearing several hats and attended quite a few district and National meetings, he advised that the proceedings had been fully reported in NARF NEWS so he did not intend to enlarge further at this AGM. Peter did however enlarge on a couple of very important issues, these were that Lancashire branch had ceased with the loss of 400 members and, East Sussex were now in suspended animation with funds being held by the National Treasurer. Peter outlined the benefits of staying with the amalgamated PSPC and Pensioners convention in a concerted voice and making powerful representation to the Government.

BENEVOLENT REPORT:

Attached is a very comprehensive report by our welfare representative Jim Dunbar which forms part of these minutes. Jim outlined his report to the members present and was thanked by our Chairman for such a comprehensive report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Chairman vacated the chair and Jack Cracknell took the chair so that the annual election of officers could take place.

Chairman: It was proposed by Pat Reynolds and seconded by Dave Richards that Frank Knowles become the chairman of the branch. This was carried by the members present.

Secretary: It was proposed by Pat Reynolds and seconded by John Hudson that Peter Robinson act as temporary secretary with Ernie Shankster as Treasurer with Terry Price, all acting in conjunction to keep the branch functioning due to Jack Cracknell having now retired. At this stage it was proposed by Frank Knowles and seconded by Pat Reynolds that Peter Robinson be the branch secretary. There was considerable discussion by the members of the above, it was agreed by all present that this was the best solution at this time and the motions were carried. It was also suggested by Peter Robinson that Frank Knowles as Chairman take over the role of branch representative at district 6.

Welfare representative: It was proposed by John Hudson and seconded by Jack Langdon that Jim Dunbar continues to be the branch welfare officer and Benevolent Representative. This was also carried by all the members present.

A motion of thanks was proposed by John Hudson and seconded by Jack Langdon be given to the past Branch Officers for all their hard work on the members behalf. This received a welcome response from the members present and was carried.

There being no other business the chairman closed the meeting at 12:10 hrs.



NARF WELFARE AND BENEVOLENT NEWS
SATURDAY MAY 29TH 2004

During 2004, Terry Price, Terry Ridgley and Peter Robinson have between them kept me abreast of welfare information about Former Members.

These included:

Dennis Deeprise: Ex Slough & High Wycombe Control, who after an operation in Wexham Hospital, received some FSNBF convalescence at Littlehampton.

Stanley Fuller: Ex Hertfordshire, Rickmansworth, is at present at home in Amersham. At age 83 some visits or a phone call would be welcomed. His number is 01494 763311.

Bill Brooks: After having a back operation in London, Bill received some convalescence at Harcombe House in Devon. He would also like a phone call his number is 01296 487072.

Francis McIntire: Served for 25 years at Bletchley, has sadly passed away. His Funeral was held at Milton Keynes on Monday March 8th 2004.

Mark Harvey: Ex Bletchley retired member sadly passed away after a stroke suddenly on Monday 24th May 2004. At the time of writing the autopsy report was still awaited.

FSNBF Fund Raising Awards - Bucks Fire & Rescue Service

The time has come again when these trophies are awarded at the B F & R S FSNBF 2004 Annual General Meeting. These were as follows:

- a) The Douglas Close Trophy Amersham
- b) The Reg Baker Shield Amersham
- c) The Ward Cup High Wycombe/South Bucks

Terry reports that he now has two new trophies, which he is to issue on an organisational and individual representative basis respectively, following some outstanding contribution to the fund.

New Chief Executive of the FSNBF

Following some rigorous input from Group 6 about the way the Fund was being managed, which led to some lively National Council Meetings at which insults were exchanged, the Fund is now managed on a professional footing, with a new Chief Executive, Roy Lawrence, a fellow scouser, who came to the Fund from the organisation which raised money for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

While Littlehampton offices still exist, together with the convalescent accommodation there, the **Fund Headquarters has now moved to Basingstoke.**

The address is as follows:

The Chief Executive FSNBF
Second Floor Copenhagen Court 32 New Street
Basingstoke RG21 7DT.

Bucks Income for the Fund for the period 2003/2004

Total income was:£25,255.94p
Of which £3645.82p was derived from tax from Gift Aid Donations.

Would you consider contributing to the Fund by Gift Aid? The average donation is £5 per month?

Another source of income to the Fund is the FSNBF Lottery Scheme at £1 per ticket. Details on this can be obtained from your station rep or from Terry Ridgley.

Income is always required by the FSNBF, as it costs 5 million pounds per year to maintain all the services provided by the Fund.

Bucks FSNBF Officials

Supported by a Brigade Council which is Chaired by the CFO

Terry Ridgley Brigade Secretary
Steve Foster Brigade Treasurer
(Chris Bunce's retirement caused the change in officials)

Bucks FSNBF Group Officials

Chief Fire Officer Geoff Goddard
Brigade Secretary Terry Ridgley
Brigade Treasurer Steve Foster
Brigade Assistant Chris Bunce
NARF Representative Jim Dunbar

A point of information that I am pleased to report, Terry Ridgley is to be promoted to Divisional Officer wef 1st June 2004.

Useful telephone numbers for you to contact the FSNBF with

Brigade Secretary: 07876 130543
FSNBF direct Help Line:0800 389 8820

This latter number is the FSNBF Grant Services Team help line, which is manned on the days and times given below. At other times an answer phone is available.

Help Line Manned Times:

Tuesdays 1400 to 1600 hours Wednesdays
1000 to 1200 hours
Thursday 1000 to 1200 hours

When making your enquiry direct out of the Help Line manned times and days, you are to state whether you are requesting convalescent rest or other assistance, your name and return telephone number etc.

The fund will confirm with the brigade secretary to ensure the claimant meets the relevant qualifying criteria.

The future looks bright for the FSNBF under the direction of the new Chief Executive, Roy Lawrence.

Station representatives are soon to be provided with new information books and the content and guidance contained therein is aimed at improving benevolent fund assistance turn round times.

Jim Dunbar

NARF WELFARE AND FSNBF REPRESENTATIVE

Signed as A TRUE Record

Chairman: _____

Date: _____