

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIRE FIGHTERS**

Held at Aylesbury Fire Station Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Authority on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 1999

Chairman & Secretary: J Cracknell. 141 Cressex Road High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. HP12 4PZ  
Tel: 01494 441480

The Meeting commenced at 2:40pm and was opened by our Chairman Jack Cracknell with the permission of the attending Honorary President W M Ward OBE.

**Members attending:**

Wilf Ward	Jack Cracknell	Peter Robinson	T Price	A Ellis
Pete Robinson	E Wright	J Dunbar	J West	D Richards
B Morling	E Shankster	D Bonham	P Renyolds	D Roots
Tony Crooke	N Razey	Jim Southcott	J Maher	
Ron Hearn	H Weller	F Knowles	J Langford	
Rolly Goss	Geoff Bowles	S Dixon	J Crossman	

**Apologies Received from:**

P Rolph	J Barnard	J Whitehouse	E Brathwaite	J Plumridge
N Razey	B Howard	E Cooper	J Boylan	P Young
D White	R Potton	G Bennett	D Deeprise	R Fearn
J West	F Stanley	K Penn	A Baker	J Webb
J Maher	M Ash	B Shafe	B Perry	R Neild
H Leslie	L Bailey	R Hedges	P Girling	R Tamblin
C Campbell	P Gallagher	N Baker	B Edwards	C Sullivan
J Crossman	M Madigan	C Filmore	N Worrall	B Grou

**Opening address:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and the Ladies left for a visit to the Brigade Control Room to be kept up to date on the new technology. CFO Goddard was introduced and invited to give his customary report as he had another engagement to attend.

**CFOs Report:**

His address was opened with an indication that he was struggling with the new authority with serious financial difficulty which seriously affected the Brigade, the move from the existing HQ site has been dogged with one or two problems but it is definite that the new station will be built on the Stocklake area green field site to the East of the town, the finances are looking very good. His main worry revolved around the pending strike which would have serious repercussions. He stated that he had been honest and open with everyone over the various issues as it would not help to be telling one section one thing and something different to another, this causes suspicion and resentment. He stated that of more interest to the NARF members was that of the pension and it was just being managed to meet current commitments, this was fine for existing pensioners but would not be so gregarious to serving and future pensioners, this was due to many factors, not least that there was not any spare cash.

One of the other difficulties he faced was that of recruitment, this was proving very difficult and, having recently been to a meeting which was addressed by Jack Straw the Home Secretary, who had been very open with his requirement for more integration of Ethnic minorities. Brigade equipment was currently at a very high standard, with state of the art protective clothing and also the latest carbon fibre BA cylinders which had halved the weight on a fireman's back. Ignoring the political implications which were being addressed Mr Goddard felt that the way things were proceeding with greater co-operation with Berkshire and Oxfordshire this was a move towards a Thames Valley Fire Authority in the future, the current "buzzword" was Outsourcing. This heralds dramatic change of the brigade over the next few years. A question and answer session followed the Chiefs dissertation which covered more detail of the what had already been given. Last but not least it was noted that the new authority was working quite well and that the Brigade now had a new recruit, an "arson" detective dog which was being sponsored by the Eagle Star Insurance Company.

A vote of thanks was given by the Chairman and endorsed by all the members present in the usual manner.

**Minutes of the Last Branch Meeting:**

The Chairman read through the minutes of the last meeting which had been circularised to all members prior to the meeting. There being no matters arising they were voted by all the members present as a true record, they were signed by the chairman and Vice Chairman.

**Correspondence:**

Arthur Ellis had been visiting Ted Prescott in Perth Australia and a photograph at the meeting showed Ted and his lady looking fit and well.

Ernie Braithwaite had written saying that he was shortly to be enjoying his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, congratulations Ernie hope you make your 90<sup>th</sup> and that you will come and see us all at the next meeting with some Birthday cake.

Archie Baker had written and said that he and his wife had moved into sheltered accommodation, unfortunately Archie is suffering from Arthur Ellis! Sorry Arfurritis.

Dusty Miller who was not in attendance having suffered a slight heart attack, possibly due to the fact that Jack was demanding money with menaces, we all wish you well Dusty and look forward to seeing you soon.

Dusty had written with apologies due to his medical problem. Sack the doctor Dusty and come to the meetings.

Mark Rowan had been in touch and said he was not very well at the moment as he was waiting for a zip replacement, I think he means a Hip replacement. Hope they find one good enough for you soon Mark and that you will practice walking to the next meeting.

Mick Madigan had written with apologies for not being with us at the AGM, next time Mick!

It was reported that Roy Fearn's wife Doreen had passed away and at the recent service it was nice to see quite a few NARF members at the funeral to support Roy, our deepest sympathy to you Roy at your sad loss. Do keep in touch.

Graham Sherry from Buckingham had recently passed away and his wife Ursula has written thanking in particular the retired firemen who had given Graham such support by visiting him during his illness a copy of Ursulas letter is attached and forms part of these minutes.

#### **Treasurers Report:**

Jack gave a breakdown of the branch finances and a copy of the accounts are attached and forms part of these minutes. The meeting accepted unanimously that the accounts be accepted as a true record of the branch finances.

#### **Secretaries Report:**

Sad to report that since the last meeting 5 members had passed along the highway to that great Fire Station in the sky these were:

George Curtis Len Bailey Rock Hudson Grahame Sherry & Ron Spencer.

Sad also to report that three members wives had also passed along the same highway they were:

Betty Cuthbertson Pam Robinson & Doreen Fearn

It was reported that Archie Baker had got itchy feet and had moved to Torpoint

Harry Leslie has moved to Portland Dorset

It was reported that the pension increase granted on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1999 was 3.2% this was received with "Get a round in Jack"!

The secretary made a plea for members to visit any member currently not well as is very apparent from Ursula Sherry's letter a visit from an old pal or just a colleague is greatly appreciated, please also let Jack know if any one is not well as sometimes it is possible to arrange a visit if we know about it.

Jack announced that the annual Firemen's parade at the Barbican and the march through the City to St Paul's Cathedral will be on the 12 <sup>th</sup> September 1999, The Brigade colours will be flying and it is hoped that a large Bucks contingent consisting of both serving and retired members of the brigade will attend.
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The Annual Luncheon had proved to be very popular especially by Jack Langford and the date for the next one is September the 18 <sup>th</sup> 1999 at Aylesbury. Put the date in your diary now. <b>Lets make this the best ever as the last one of the current Century.</b>
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Following the announcement of the fireman's remembrance parade at the Barbican all the members were asked to stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of our comrades and their loved ones who had passed on over the last year. The silence was observed by everyone present.

#### **District Representatives Report:**

Peter Robinson had not lived up to his signature tune (Don't Rock The Boat Baby) as he had been to quite some momentous meetings on behalf of the branch. A full report is attached and forms part of the branch minutes. Thank you Peter for your vigorous efforts on our behalf.

**Welfare Report:**

Jim Dunbar addressed the meeting and said that there was very little to report from the last meeting other than the Ben fund was still experiencing difficulty in obtaining funds. One way was to apply for the NARF credit card which was free (no annual fee) and the fund benefited from a donation every time the card was used. Details in the news letter

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Jack Cracknell Vacated the chair and Peter Robinson officiated for the election of branch officers.

Jack Cracknell was proposed for the position of chairman by Frank Knowles and seconded by Brian Morling this proposal was carried by a unanimous vote.

Jack took the chair again and asked for proposals for the Vice Chairman. Peter Robinson was proposed by Jack Cracknell, seconded by Ernie Shankster this was voted for by all members present.

The position of Branch secretary was taken by Jack Cracknell as the members decided that it went with the Chairman's job

Terry Price was proposed as the assistant secretary by Peter Robinson and seconded by Ted Wright this was carried by the meeting.

Peter Robinson was proposed as the district representative this was proposed and seconded by the whole branch and accepted by all at the meeting.

Jim Dunbar was proposed by Derek Rootes and seconded by Jack Langford all voted Jim again as Ben rep.

Any Other Business:

It was proposed by Frank Knowles that a vote of thanks be passed for all the work that the committee had put in over the past year on their behalf, the applause of the members present showed that the proposal was well accepted.

***There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 4:20pm.***