

AREA COMMITTEE NEWS SUMMARY

February 13th meeting at Runcorn Branch

Further planning meeting arranged for Area reunion.

Several members of the Area committee are to meet with hotel officials at the Norbreck Hotel in Blackpool on February 22nd to discuss the arrangements for the reunion weekend in April. Discussions will cover items of a technical nature, such as timings for certain events etc, throughout the period. The latest update on persons who have booked for the weekend will also be discussed.

Area Standard Bearers Competition

The committee were informed that judges for the competition have been engaged from Nos. 8, 9 and Scottish Area and will be arriving at the Hotel venue on the Friday prior to the competition. Members of the Area committee again urge all branches in the Area, to consider entering their Standard Bearer into the competition this time around.

Central Charities Fund donates £1,000 to Broughton House

The Area Chairman announced, that he had been advised by the Association's Charities and Welfare Officer, S/m Mrs Rita Lock, that an annual grant of £1,000 from the Central Charities Fund to Broughton House Salford, had been approved by National Council. This follows a request made via the National Council member sometime ago from his branch.

PRO's concern over lack of information on Trafalgar 200

The Area PRO voiced his concern about lack of information concerning the many events taking place this year in Portsmouth and elsewhere, but mainly in Portsmouth during the International Festival of the Sea in June. Although the RNA would be the main charity to benefit from this event, and the involvement of RNA members is expected during that period, little or no information is forthcoming from either the MOD or the National PRO, Commander Pam Healy. No meetings have to date, been arranged for the Area PRO's to discuss this subject.

Committee discuss disquiet amongst several branches

The Area Secretary referring to the last Area conference (January 29th 2005) said the question of the Area severing its links with the Association is being raised by various branches at practically every Area conference, and cannot be ignored. Sooner or later the issue will have to be addressed. The main complaint appeared to be the constant rise in subscriptions, and the poor value for money the members receive. Several members of the committee felt a monthly Circular Letter from Headquarters represented poor value for their subscriptions. Several other points were raised, mainly the constant loss of members, and which way was the Association heading. The cost of keeping an HQ's in London, with full time staff is becoming a very expensive option, in view of a declining membership. It was generally agreed to keep this matter, because of its serious implications, under constant review.

Next meeting of the Area committee, at Runcorn on March 13th at 1100.