

AREA COMMITTEE NEWS SUMMARY

January 15th meeting at Wythenshawe

Reverend John Williams gains Honorary Commission in RNR

Her Majesty the Queen has, recently graciously approved an Honorary Commission to the Rev John Williams MBE as a Chaplain in the Royal Naval Reserve.

'Father John' as he is affectionally known throughout the Area and especially on Merseyside was informed of his Commission by the First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Alan West in early January. The Area committee extends its warm appreciation for this well deserved award.

Vice Presidency announced

S/m Bill Carruthers (Liverpool) has accepted an invitation from the Area committee to become an Area Vice President in recognition to his long and devoted service to the Area, and the RNA as a whole.

Help promised to Harare branch

Area Committee promise further help to Harare Branch. With the safe arrival of a consignment of No.10 Area ties donated by the committee, a further batch has been despatched via the Bury branch Secretary, to this hard pressed branch in Zimbabwe. After hearing of the extremely dire position the Harare branch finds itself in, the Area committee decided to assist this branch further.

Trafalgar Dinner doubts

Doubts were expressed at the recent meeting concerning the planned Dinner at Greenwich College on the evening preceding the RNA bi- annual parade in September. Members of the committee were critical not only at the proposed cost of the dinner, but the attendant expense of travel and accommodation in London. It was felt there would be few takers for the 26 places on offer to the Area.

Concern over low numbers for Area Reunion Weekend in April

With only 99 confirmed hotel bookings so far, the committee are fearful the Norbreck hotel will reallocate our agreed number of reserved rooms in February if bookings do not improve. The Area Chairman is to appeal to branch delegates attending the Area AGM in late January to urge their branch members to book early if they are contemplating attending the April Reunion/Conference.

Concern over non invitation to local branches at RN Presentation Team visit.

The Area Secretary reported that two branches in the Stockport Area (Hazel Grove & North Reddish), had not been included in the invitations sent to local service organisations in the Stockport area pending a visit in January of the RN Presentation Team. The Hazel Grove branch took up the issue with Headquarters when it was learned that the local branch of the RBL and White Ensign Association had received invitations. Action was also demanded by the Area Secretary, and also, the Area President who both urged the General Secretary to intervene in this matter. As a result of these actions, the General Secretary having made representations to the MOD, the matter has hopefully been resolved.

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