

## **AREA COMMITTEE NEWS SUMMARY**

### **MEETING AT RUNCORN ON MARCH 13<sup>th</sup>**

A further meeting took place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with officials at the Norbreck Hotel in Blackpool, to finalise details of the Area Reunion/Conference on April 29<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>. In attendance were the Area Chairman and Secretary. It was confirmed, that to date, 219 persons had booked with the hotel for the weekend. Bar subsidies have been agreed, and the menu or the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening has been confirmed.

The NCM (S/m F Atkinson) reported that a grant of £1,000 had been approved by the Central Charities Fund to be paid to Broughton House, a home for ex-servicemen, which is located in Salford, Gtr Manchester.

The committee commiserated with the Kirkby branch, whose club, is threatened with a Compulsory Purchase Order to make way for a tram system in the town. Because of this, they will not be holding their B.O.A. service this year. This is the first time in 30 years, that the commemoration will not take place at Kirkby.

Two Life membership applications were dealt with by the committee.

The committee discussed a failed motion submitted by the Bolton branch to National Conference, seeking to freeze future subscription increases in the Association. It was learned, that the proposed motion failed, due to late submission.

Southport branch have applied for the Area Standard to attend their B.O.A. commemorative service at Holy Trinity church Southport on Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup>.

The Secretary reported Headquarters are becoming concerned about the number of branches with clubs, who are failing to follow the correct procedures when applying for their annual Club Permits. Many are not submitting their applications on time, failing to provide audited accounts, and neglecting to apply in the first instance, for their permits via the Area Secretary.

Recent Branch Secretary changes have taken place at Crosby and South Liverpool.

The committee agreed to donate £200.00 (subject to conference approval) to the St. Nicholas Light Tower Appeal (see report on home page news)

S/m Atkinson (NCM) reported on the clubs seminar in Belfast on March 9<sup>th</sup> Attendance was poor, with only 10 delegates at the meeting. Of the ten, six were from this Area.

The Treasurer reported a fairly quiet past month on the financial front, with the receipt of the area capitation fee slightly up on last years. This was due no doubt, to the increased subscription levels, despite a predicted fall in membership levels.

The PRO expressed increasing concern about the lack of information concerning the events in Portsmouth and elsewhere, for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of WW2 and Trafalgar 200. He reported there had been no communication to the Area PRO's from the appointed National PRO, commander Pam Healey.

The committee expressed its disappointment in the poor response so far, for the Area Standard Bearers competition in Blackpool on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting of the committee will take place in Blackpool on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 2000 at the Norbreck Hotel.