



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

Spring Newsletter – 2015



Chairman's Notes



As I write these notes, the Election Campaign is in full swing, with the two main political parties saying they are intent on winning an overall majority, although all the polls and political pundits seem to suggest that that this is an unlikely outcome. If this turns out to be the case, we will be left post election with deals being struck behind closed doors until a suitable agreement has been thrashed out by the parties involved. By the time you read this, the dust may well have settled and

we have either a single party or a coalition government in place. For your information, ex Chief Superintendent Des Parkinson is standing as the UKIP candidate in the Montgomeryshire constituency.

The next meeting of the National Executive Committee of NARPO takes place on the day following the election, so we **may** have an idea by then of which way the wind is blowing. This may impact on the theme and invited speakers for this year's Conference, which is being held in Southport in September.

On the theme of Conference, you may recall that last year, for the first time, the event was available to those with internet as a live web broadcast. This will be repeated this year – details will be available nearer to the date on the NARPO website.

The Branch website is going from strength to strength, thanks to the efforts of our illustrious web master, Hugh Colley. Again, this is obviously only available for those with internet access, but it is well used and becoming increasingly more so. However, we are reliant on photos, stories etc from members to keep it up to date and interesting, so dig out those old photos which you think will be of interest and send them to Hugh – e mail address to be found elsewhere in this newsletter – particularly those of you from the Aberystwyth or Llanelli areas. Hugh makes the decision whether items are suitable for the website – with Clive and me giving our viewpoint if necessary. Hugh has penned a short article to be found elsewhere in this newsletter on the same theme of asking for items.

We would also like to see articles by members published in the newsletter as well – I've written before about keeping it topical and interesting - items from different sources will help to achieve that goal.

The Branch AGM held at the end of March in Carmarthen was well attended. The minutes are available on the website. It is proposed to hold the Autumn meeting in the South Pembro area – details will be circulated nearer the date.

Those of you who retired between 1998 and 2006 may be aware of an ongoing campaign to review the commutation factors between these dates – they were reviewed and increased in 2006. The matter has been before the Pensions Ombudsman for a considerable time and he has finally reached his decision. This decision will be made public imminently – in fact by the time this newsletter is published, the decision may well have been made public. Full details of the up to date situation are available by following the links on our website or the NARPO website. For those who retired between these dates and do not have internet access, I am sure that you will be contacted in due course if there is anything to report.

Talking about the NARPO website, it is well worth repeating that it contains much useful information and links to related websites of interest. The organisation is continually seeking to find new member benefits – the latest one is a ten per cent discount off Fred Olsen cruises. Again, full details are to be found on the NARPO website – link also available from our branch website.

You may remember that I finished my Christmas Newsletter by saying that I was going to Brussels to watch Wales play Belgium in the European qualifiers. The result was a nil nil draw, but it was one of the best games without a goal that I have seen, giving Wales a real chance of qualifying for the final stages. Gill and I were thinking of going to Cyprus in September to watch Wales play again, but I realised that the fixture clashes with this year's NARPO Conference, so we will unfortunately have to give it a miss (see, there was a NARPO theme to that last paragraph!)

Enjoy the summer – let's hope that the current spell of fine weather is a sign of things to come!

Stop Press 1

Since I penned my notes, the Election has been and gone, with the result taking most people by surprise. I did refer to the fact that the election result may have a bearing on the theme at this year's conference. As it turns out, this did not prove to be the case and the presentation/debate is going to be on the subject of Welfare. A number of speakers were suggested at the NEC meeting and over the next couple of months the panel will be formulated. The TV presenter John Stapleton has been confirmed as the facilitator – he had carried out this role on two or three occasions at our conference and is an expert.

Phil Hopkins – Chair

******* Stop Press 2 – Pensions Ombudsman Decision *******

As this newsletter is going to press, the decision by the Pensions Ombudsman in relation to the commutation factors (referred to in my Chairman's notes) has been released and the following information has been received from the NARPO Headquarters:-

Those officers retiring **before** 1st December 2001 will not be receiving any additional payments, as the Ombudsman has decided that the 1998 factors covered this period.

Those retiring **after** 1st December 2006 will not be receiving additional payments as their commutation factors were revised as from 1st December 2006.

The relevant dates determined by the Ombudsman are therefore 1st December 2001 to 30th November 2006, split into two periods of revised factors:- 1st December 2001 – 30th November 2004 and 1st December 2004 – 30th November 2006.

Those officers retiring between these two dates, **if** they commuted some or all of their pension into a lump sum, will (**if all goes according to plan**) be receiving payments. The new factors have not yet been given out by the Government Actuaries Department, so it is impossible to give at this stage any indication of what this means in monetary terms to those officers so affected.

I should add the caveat that there is a period of one month during which the GAD can appeal against the ruling, although this is unlikely to happen and also that the determined case relates to a retired fire officer. However the Ombudsman has made it clear that the same rulings should apply to retired police officers.

I reiterate that at this stage there is no need for anyone to take any individual action – any payments due should be made automatically. If there is any undue delay in processing these payments, the Police Federation and NARPO will be pursuing the matter.

N.B. It should be noted that the information given above is the best case scenario for those officers who will benefit and is the most likely outcome. Up to date information can be found on the NARPO website and will be circulated as soon as we receive it.

New Members

Full Members: Mr Roger Wyn Davies, Mr Jonathon Mark Davies, Mrs Catherine Williams, Mr Mark Andrew Brown, Mr Allan Skerme, Mr Andrew Cousins, Mr Andrew Miles, Ms Helen Coles, Mr Malcolm Thompson.

Associate Members: Mr Paul Herdman, Mr Thomas Elfyn Lewis, Mrs Lynwen Evans, Mr Jules Evans, Mr Kenneth Small, Mr Michael Anthony, Mr Dylan Matthews, Mr Martin Fallows, Mr Nick Bevan, Mr Philip Andrew Sullivan, Mr Stephen Greensmyth, Mrs Claire Rosemary Barnes.

Bereavements

Mr. Raymond Richard DAVIES, On Saturday 18th April, 2015, ex. PS 220, aged 83 years of Highcroft, Rheidol Road, Penparcau, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 1RW. He is survived by his wife Doreen, his daughters Linda and Wendy (Phillips) and his three grandchildren.

Raymond joined the Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire Constabulary at the end of the nineteen fifties. He served in Glanamman, Brechfa and Aberystwyth and retired from the Dyfed-Powys Police on 1st September, 1985.

Thomas Cecil HAINES, on 7th April, 2015, ex. PS 699, aged 95 years, formerly of Halcyon, 9 Hospital Road Lane, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3AT. He is survived by his daughters Jane, Susan and Rosemarie, his sons Dennis and Lesley (who served as a Mid Wales/Dyfed Powys Police Officer before transferring to Gloucester), his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his wife Myra ten years ago.

Cecil joined the Mid Wales Constabulary on 4th August, 1949 and served in Builth Wells, Cefn Coed and Brynmawr before being promoted to Sergeant at Crickhowell. His last posting was to Ystradgynlais where he remained until his retirement from the Dyfed-Powys Police on 4th October, 1974.

Mrs Gaynor Hughes of 11 Glantawelan, Johnstown, Carmarthen, SA31 2NP (the wife of Mr Fred Hughes, ex-Chief Inspector & Chairman of JBB) passed away on Thursday 2nd April 2015 at Glangwili Hospital Carmarthen.

PS 206 Malcolm JAMES of Brecon Police Station. 1st March, 2015, He is survived by his wife Joanne, mother Joan and daughter Annabel. Sergeant JAMES joined the Dyfed-Powys Police on 21st July, 1986. He was initially posted to Llanelli before transferring to Powys where he had been based for the last twenty four years, serving in Llandrindod Wells, Hay-on-Wye and Brecon, most recently as the Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant for Breconshire.

John Robert (Bob) STRASDIN, on 5th March, 2015, Ex. PC 181 of 31, Treetops, Swiss Valley, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, SA14 8DW. He is survived by his wife Sheena, his mother Elizabeth, his sons Stuart and Simon and their partners Kate and Andrea, his brothers David and Michael and his grandchildren. Bob served as a Beat Officer in Tenby, Brynamman, Felinfoel and Llanelli before becoming the Crime Prevention Officer for A Division, Llanelli. He retired on 12th January, 1994.

Summary of AGM Held at the Falcon Hotel Carmarthen 23rd March 2015

Before the start of proceedings a period of silence was observed in memory of members who had passed away since the last meeting

Mr Phil Hopkins was re-elected Chair and Mr Clive Cowey Secretary/Treasurer. And others elected and re-elected as per the list.

The circulated accounts were approved

DPP welfare fund now processes claims electronically

It was agreed that due to cost increases and the fact that most use electronic means, diaries would no longer be purchased. Members could still order personal copies

The next meeting would be held during the week commencing 5th October 2014 in the Tenby/Saundersfoot area at a venue to be arranged the Pembrokeshire committee members.

The Chairman who is also a member of the NEC, highlighted that the association are currently rewriting the rules under the guidance of solicitors.

The chair and secretary had also held a meeting with the Chief Constable. Mr Prince had been unable to attend the AGM due to other commitments. It was suggested that the Police and Crime commissioner be invited to a future meeting.

It was also agreed to purchase a coffin drape for the use by the branch.

The Executive and Committee as at 23rd March 2015.

President

Mr Simon Prince, Chief Constable Dyfed Powys Police

Vice Presidents

Mr Ian Arundale

Ms Jacqui Robers

Mr J. Owen- Evans, 01970 617126 john.o.evans@btopenworld.com

Executive

Chair, Mr Philip Hopkins, 01938 554302, philiphop@yahoo.com (Also NEC Member for South Wales, which includes Branches covering the Dyfed-Powys, South Wales and Gwent Police areas)

Vice Chair, Mr Peter Davies, 01267 230674, p90pgd@btinternet.com

(Main Point of Contact) Secretary/Treasurer, Mr Clive Cowey, 36 Elder Grove, Llangunnor, Carmarthen, SA31 2LQ, Tel: Home, 01267 234316, Mob: 07971563972,

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Webmaster: Mr Hugh Colley, 01646 683232 hughcolley144@btinternet.com

Committee

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POWYS

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Mr Derek Bloomfield	01686 626083	derekandedwina@yahoo.co.uk
Mike Kelly,	01597 822030	mikekelly706@icloud.com
Graham Earp,	01874 624264	grahamearp@btinternet.com

WEBSITE UPDATE**CLASSIFIED ADVERT SERVICE**

Did you know that members can now advertise on the Dyfed - Powys NARPO website just as you would use a traditional classified advertisement in your local newspaper?

The following are just an example of the categories in which you can create an advert:

- Motors for sale / wanted
- Miscellaneous items for sale / wanted
- Leisure & Hobbies
- Businesses / Services
- Jobs
- Home & Garden
- Property for sale / rental
- Holidays and travel
- Wanted Advertisements

To find out more go to the **Members Section on dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk/**

Please note the service is *only* available to members of Dyfed-Powys NARPO

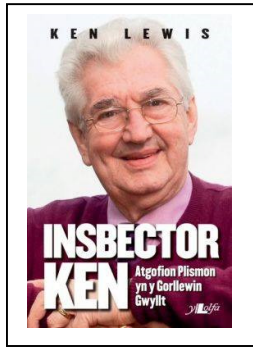
The **Photo Album** section of the website is proving to be very popular. It would be great to receive some from ex-colleagues in the Llanelli, Brecon and Aberystwyth areas as I'm sure there must be loads of interesting photos lying in the attic / garage!

When submitting photographs, please remember to include brief details including approximate date taken, location / event and the names of colleagues appearing in the photograph.

(Please keep sending them in together with articles / anecdotes etc but bear with me if there's a delay before they actually appear on the website).

My email address is: hughcolley144@btinternet.com

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED



The book (published in Welsh) is Ken's autobiography of his time as a young Constable in his local village, his career in Carmarthenshire & Cardiganshire and later with Dyfed Powys Police. Profits from the sale of the book will be donated to charity. The book launch was held at The Grannell public house, Llanwnenn, near Lampeter on Tuesday 31st March 2015.

POLICING KIWI STYLE by Hugh Colley



Hugh meeting Sgt Colin Stewart

Rangiora is situated in the Canterbury Region of New Zealand's South Island. It is 29 kilometres (18 miles) north of Christchurch and is a satellite town of the second largest city in New Zealand. The area's economy is largely based on agriculture, forestry, wine production and tourism.

During a recent stay in New Zealand I called into Rangiora Police Station where I met Sergeant Colin Stewart of the New Zealand Police (NZP) who answered questions about policing this beautiful part of the world.

Rangiora seems a peaceful, law abiding town – how do you police the area?

Rangiora and Kaiapoi are the local two major towns and I'm the Sergeant based at Rangiora performing General Policing Duties, another Sergeant is based at nearby Kaiapoi. We share a total of 20 staff i.e. five sections of four Constables per section. Our responsibility is the area around the two towns which has a combined population of about 40,000, this is growing rapidly as people are moving out of Christchurch following the earthquake.

Further afield there are six out stations and a Sergeant working out of Rangiora manages staff based at these stations. It is not unusual for staff based at Rangiora to travel to these areas as and when required which can, due to the distance involved, take up to two hours. I'm also

responsible for co-ordinating searches for lost persons such as hikers by using volunteer groups and a specialist team of officers based at Christchurch.

(NZP manages nearly 2,000 land and marine search and rescue incidents each year).

What are the requirements for joining the NZP?

Recruits must have NZ citizenship or obtained NZ Residency and be over 18 years of age – four officers based at Rangiora have transferred from UK forces and they all say that the style of policing here is very similar to the UK but the quality of life is better. One of the UK transferees made the news recently when he issued a ticket to a tourist speeding in North Canterbury. As they chatted the driver realised that the constable had also issued him with a speeding ticket back in the UK!

Recruits attend a six month residential course at the Police College at Porirua, north of Wellington where they receive training in all aspects of Police work. During the first two years, progress is closely monitored and subject to satisfactory performance the recruit is rewarded with a PA (Permanent Appointment).

When I joined in 1986, I was asked to list four stations where I would like to be stationed, as I was born and bred in the South Island I nominated stations there. As you can guess, I was posted to Wellington in the **North** Island.

And what are the pay scales for a constable?

Police officers with one to two years' experience earn 52k – 71k New Zealand Dollars (NZD) and those with at least five years' experience usually earn around 76k NZD.

(Note: to convert NZD to GBP divide the figure by two)

Are NZP officers routinely armed?

No, officers are not routinely armed but all I Cars, which are the first responders to incidents, carry 2 x M4 .223 calibre and 2 x Glock 9mm pistols held in a locked cabinet within the vehicle. As **all** officers are trained to use firearms, they can make the decision to draw weapons under certain conditions. However, they must inform a supervisor when they decide to draw firearms and they are then reminded of their personal responsibilities and the use of force.

What is the retirement age for officers and how does the pension scheme work?

Officers can retire after 32 years' service or 55 years of age. Officers contribute approximately 11% of their salary into a pension fund which is invested in the stock market. The officer has the choice of low, medium or high risk investment and on retirement they have the choice of taking the full amount as a lump sum with no monthly pension or taking a smaller amount and receive a monthly pension.

Is there a compulsory retirement age for NZP officers?

There isn't a compulsory retirement age and this probably comes from the NZ policy of not being able to discriminate against age. However, we are required to pass a PCT (Physical Competence Test) every two years which we are encouraged to do by being financially reimbursed (known as Dash for Cash). Recently it has been made mandatory and failure to pass means you can't work front line operationally or deal with offenders, so really you are placed on light duties.

So, do many officers work on after the age they can retire?

Some carry on working and we have a Sergeant on Highway Patrol in Canterbury who is still going strong at 71 and keeps himself extremely fit. Apparently, he married an American lady a few years ago and the deal was that she would stay in NZ until he left the Police and then they would relocate to the USA. He is sticking to the deal but I suspect he's not too keen on moving to the States – a very funny guy and more like a 50 year old!

What are the main Policing Priorities for the NZP?

Road Safety is a high priority as the road traffic casualty figures in NZ are unacceptably high, the biggest contributory factors being speed and alcohol. With the return to school after the summer holiday, we will be conducting speed checks near to schools, including the use of Mufti Cars (Unmarked Cars).

The limits for drink / driving have been lowered recently to 400 mcg of alcohol per litre of breath but if a driver provides a reading of 251 – 400 they incur a 200 NZD infringement fee and 50 De-merit (Penalty) points. If they accumulate 100 or more points within 2 years their driving licence is suspended for 3 months. In addition, the limit for drivers under 20 years is **zero**.

Misuse of Drugs – while there has been an increase in the use of amphetamine recently, cannabis is still the most widely used drug in NZ. Our mild climate and wide open spaces make it relatively easy to cultivate large crops outdoors. We regularly use fixed wing planes and helicopters to overfly the area looking for signs of cannabis cultivation. Once the plantation is found, it means hard work for the officers on the ground that trek and drive for hours to destroy the crop - a long, tiring job.

Four years since the Christchurch earthquake of 2011 – what was the Police role following the disaster?

Everyone can recall where they were and what they were doing at lunchtime on Tuesday 22nd February when the quake struck. It was as if a nuclear bomb had exploded with the ground shaking like jelly and buildings badly damaged or destroyed. One of our officers was making a phone call to the station from Madras Street in Christchurch and shouted that he had just seen the Canterbury TV building collapse in front of him. *(115 people died in that one building).*

This was one of the biggest natural disasters ever experienced in NZ. Police officers and members of the emergency services together with engineers and volunteers from all over the country were deployed to Christchurch. Police officers worked 12 hour shifts which eventually took its toll as the State of Emergency lasted for 10 weeks.

The earthquake caused huge damage to the infrastructure both within Christchurch and the surrounding area with communication links, power, water supply and sewerage systems all lost. The road network in the city was destroyed so transport was also a huge problem for the rescue teams.

Sadly, looters were soon at work stealing from damaged shops and homes so we also had to place a tight security cordon around damaged premises. We were assisted by the army and over 300 officers were flown in from Australia, as they had no jurisdiction in NZ they were sworn in as NZ officers and did a great job.

Within a short time, we realised that the chances of survival were slim and it became an international effort to recover and identify the bodies. Search and Rescue Teams from Australia, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, China, USA and UK took part in the operation.

Kiwis are very resilient and although it will take years to re-build the city, many of us believe that in time we will regard the 'quake as the new beginning. *(A total of 185 people died and many thousands were injured as a result of the earthquake. Up to 100,000 buildings were damaged with 10,000 buildings needing to be demolished.)*

On a lighter note, do you have time for any Interests outside work?

Like many of my staff I'm a keen recreational hunter and there are red deer not too far away to hunt. Also, I dive frequently and again there is very good diving nearby where I catch crayfish which taste very similar to lobster.

When I was a young Constable I played senior rugby and on my section a good number of guys also played, on the Saturday late shift we were the walking wounded. In 1983, I was selected to represent the West Coast against the British Lions at Greymouth, unfortunately I injured my ankle in the week before the match and wasn't considered fit enough to play the full 80 minutes. I spent the whole match warming the bench – over 30 years later and I'm still gutted!

Many thanks to Colin for his time (and patience) in providing an insight into policing down under.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NARPO Golf Day

By popular demand, the Dyfed Powys NARPO golf day is being repeated this year, the details being as follows:-



Venue:- Builth Wells Golf Club
 Date:- Tuesday, 15th September, 2015
 Time:- 11.00 am first tee time
 Cost:- £28 – to include bacon bap and coffee on arrival, eighteen holes of golf, with a two course meal to finish – there may be an additional cost of £2 to cover the cost of prizes. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Phil Hopkins 22,

Adelaide Drive, Red Bank, Welshpool, Powys SY21 7RQ on 01938554302 or 07801865386, or by e mail at : philiphop@yahoo.com

Tuesday 2 nd June	10:00am	Carmarthen Coffee Morning	Clive Cowey
Wednesday 3rd June	7:00pm	Llanelli 'Pint & Curry' evening	Gwyndaf Prosser

Free Member Services

Just a reminder of free services available to all members of NARPO :-

Benefits advice

Computer advice

General tax enquiries

Details of how to access these services are shown on the Member Services section of the NARPO website – www.narpo.org.uk . You may be required to provide your NARPO Membership Number.



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK

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Branch website	www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk
NARPO website	www.narpo.org

The Branch Website is available to you all, the pages are there covering news Obituaries and Photographs. If you have anyone who is interested in joining NARPO all the forms are now on the site.

The member area access details are:

Username: dyfedpowys
Password: branch36440

NARPO News also has many excellent articles and to access services there you will need your membership number, it is on the wrapper of your magazine and your new membership card, any problems get in touch with our Secretary and he will get it for you.

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