



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

Winter Newsletter – 2016



Chairman's Notes



Well, it's that time of year again. The clocks have gone back, Hallowe'en, Bonfire night and Armistice Day have passed and at the time of writing these notes, it's one of those cold, wet November days, when we promised ourselves back in the summer that we would get around to sorting and labelling photographs and similar jobs. It seemed a good idea back then, but not so much fun now. One of these days! This time last year, our then Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Steve Edwards, had been appointed as Chief Executive Officer to replace Clint Elliot, who retired at the end of 2015. Since then, there have been a couple of staff changes. Sarah Chuimana, who had been appointed to fill Steve Edwards role, only lasted in post for a few months, before deciding that the job wasn't for her. Fortunately, Alan Lees, one of the other original candidates who had been graded only marginally behind Sarah, was still available, accepted the offer and took up employment back in June. He is a retired officer from the Wakefield area, who will now hopefully be able to provide continuity. The other major staffing change involves Sue Ward, who has been employed by NARPO for around sixteen years in the capacity of Financial Controller. She decided to retire at the end of this year. Her role was advertised and unfortunately the successful candidate declined to take up the role. The job has been re-advertised and Sue Ward has kindly agreed to continue to complete the 'critical' functions including the monthly salaries/pensions, month end, year-end and bank reconciliations. Most of this work will be done from her home. I am pleased to say that Angela Calvert has kindly agreed to undertake part of the Financial Controllers' workload. Much of the administration work – especially in respect of the Health Insurance and Travel Insurance schemes – have been outsourced to the Police Mutual and so there has been a revamp in the office at Wakefield of job descriptions. On a local level, you may recall that I wrote in the last newsletter about the recent Police and Crime Commissioner elections. You will be aware that Dafydd Llywellyn has been elected as our new commissioner and we wish him well. Of course, since then, the Chief Constable Mr Simon Prince has announced his retirement and his successor has been appointed – Mr Mark Collins, who by the time this newsletter appears will have taken up his new post. Mr Collins spent several years serving in Dyfed Powys, so knows the area and the community, which will stand him in good stead. We as a branch wish him well and your chairman and secretary hope to have a meeting with him early in the New Year. You will probably be aware that the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), by which any increase in our pension is calculated, rose by 1% in the year to September, meaning that we will receive a 1% increase in our pension as from 1st April 2017. There is an attack on the triple lock method of calculating State pension from various quarters, including the influential Works and Pensions committee of the House of Commons, who feel that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of pensioners. This recommendation has been rejected for the time being by ministers, who have also rejected the suggestion that winter fuel payments be reviewed. There is no doubt, however, that these attacks on pensions and benefits will continue. Steve Edwards and Alan Lees in Wakefield are in constant contact with our affiliated organisations, putting pressure in the right places to try and ensure that the most beneficial methods continue to be used to determine police and state pensions. We have already lost out once when the factor used changed from the RPI to the CPI – we do not want a repeat.

I mentioned in the last newsletter about the campaign to right the injustice in widow's pensions. I won't repeat the argument here, but I did say that I would give details of a template letter which could be sent to your MP. Unfortunately, this only applies to those with access to a computer, but this template can be found on the main NARPO website – www.narpo.org - under the News heading (Widows Pension for life). Our representatives in Wakefield (and some of my fellow NEC members) have lobbied in the House of Commons on this matter and have been encouraged by the support which they have received. There is much useful information to be found on the NARPO website above – highlighting any of the subject headings will give many links to other relevant matters. This leads me nicely onto to our own branch website – www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk . Our webmaster, Hugh Colley, continues to do a sterling job, updating the site regularly with photographs and items of news. However, in the main, the output can only be as good as the material which he receives, so please, rack your brain for anecdotes of yore and have a rummage in cupboards and drawers for those forgotten photographs!

I ended my notes in the last Newsletter with details of my impending social sporting calendar and promised to report back in this issue. I did in fact spray balls all over the golf course on our annual D Div police and retired police golf tour and returned home trophy less! One morning of incessant rain saw our number reduced by two, as they made an early return home and only six of the remainder complete the morning round.

Our venture to France for the first week of the Euro 16 football championships was a total success. My son and I both managed to obtain tickets for the Wales England game, which was definitely an added bonus. I did in fact write an article on our experiences, which was published in the recent edition of NARPO News.

By the time you read this newsletter, it will almost be the season to be jolly, so allow me to wish you all a very Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Stay safe and stay warm

Addendum

Since I completed and submitted my Chairman's notes, Dyfed Powys have appointed Darren Davies as the new Deputy Chief Constable.

Mr Davies spent seventeen years in Dyfed Powys, before engaging in a number of roles both in Wales on counter terrorism and serious and organised crime and the Metropolitan police area, having responsibility on a national level for counter terrorism, ports issues, most recently holding the rank of assistant Chief Constable.

We congratulate Mr Davies and welcome him back to Dyfed Powys where, as mentioned in my notes, he joins another former Dyfed Powys officer in the ACPO ranks.

I referred in my notes to the attack on pensions generally. I came across the following article headline in the Daily Telegraph shortly afterwards:-

“Pressure to scrap triple –lock guarantee as pensioners’ wealth rises by nearly 40pc”

This is the the conclusion of a report by the Pensions policy Institute.

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, has stated his intention of keeping the ‘Triple Lock’ until 2020, with no guarantee after that date. In view of the above headline and the views of the House of Commons Works and Pensions Committee, I think that we will be very fortunate to keep the formula in place.

Phil Hopkins - Branch Chairman

Bereavements

Mr Robert Aymer Wildblood (Rtd ACC) : 11th November 2016

Mr Byron Richards (Rtd. PC 662) : 1st November 2016Mr.

John B. Evans (Retired Inspector & later Data Protection Officer) : 22nd August 2016

Mrs Mairwen Dorothy Letty Murphy (widow of the late Chief Supt Graham Murphy) : 21/08/16

Mr. Lewis Glyn Evans (Rtd. PS 223) : 7th August 2016

Mrs Joan Rees the wife of Mr. Terry Rees (Rtd. PS615) : 22nd July 2016

Mrs Rena Williams the wife of Mr Dulais Williams (Rtd. PC273) : 17th July 2016

Mr. Raymond Hugh Smout (Rtd. PS) : 29th May 2016

Mrs Gaynor Mary Smith, the wife of Mr Rory Smith (Rtd. PC 488) : 25th May 2016

New Members

Full Members: Howard G. Jones, Carole Williams, Andrew M. Jones, David Hywel Davies, Rodney Dunville

Associate: Ian D Thomas, Michael Evans, Sean Johnston, Jeffrey Hurford, Julian Bowen, Julian Williams, Clive Fairburn, Keith Gibby, Michael Henry, David Bizby, Anne Inkster, David Walters, Alun David, Simon Wright, Dewi Morgan, Brenig Price, Rose Ann Lloyd, Christopher Skinner, Gary Jones, Steve O'leary.

Foster Carers' Award



At the recent Winter fair held at the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, Colin Finch and his wife Wendy were presented with the Powys Silver Kite award of merit for distinguished and long service as foster carers. They were presented with their award by the Chairman of Powys County Council, Councillor Keith Tampin.

Very many congratulations for this deserved award to Colin and Wendy.

Civic Duties



In May, Tony Brinsden was installed as Chair of Pembrokeshire County Council. Tony has represented Amroth as a county councillor for twelve years.

At around the same time, Mrs Sylvia Perkins – widow of John – was appointed Mayoress of Carmarthen to Councillor Wyn Thomas.

Congratulations to both the above and we wish them every success in their roles.

NARPO Golf Day 2016

The fourth annual Dyfed Powys NARPO Golf Day was held at Builth Wells on 13th September.

The venue is chosen by the players at the previous event and it is always a unanimous decision to hold the following event at Builth. It is more or less a mid way point for everyone and the course is always in excellent condition with very little hold up in play midweek in September.

Although those travelling from the south and west had encountered heavy rain on the way, Builth was swathed in sunshine and all the storms were scheduled to hit the south and east of London. I remarked to the Club secretary that we were always favoured with good weather for this event – big mistake!

Ten of us teed off this year – five regulars were absent due to holidays or other golfing commitments. Our sponsor, David Jones, was also unable to play this year due to an injured shoulder but he did come up to have pre-tournament coffee and to watch us tee off.

So confident was I of the good weather lasting until we had finished our round, that I was about to leave my water proofs in the car. Fortunately, Huw Rees, one of my playing partners, kindly suggested that it may be a good idea to leave them in my golf bag.

I was in the first group, playing with Huw and Phil Small and as we were putting on the second green, a few drops of rain fell. Within thirty seconds, it had turned into a deluge, and the thunder and lightning were only just behind. The second group abandoned their balls and came to shelter with us under some large trees giving quite a good cover. The third and final group we could see sheltering under equally large trees on the second tee. It was quite a spectacular storm and after a few minutes, someone observed that sheltering under trees, holding umbrellas, with six sets of metal golf clubs nearby, was probably the worst thing that we could do. We didn't need telling a second time, so beat a hasty retreat to the nearby clubhouse. The third group were not so fortunate – they were too far (and too old!) to make a speedy return to the clubhouse, so they bravely stuck it out where they were!

After almost an hour, the weather had improved sufficiently to enable us to resume our round and (almost) everyone returned unscathed to the clubhouse.

There were two newcomers to this year's competition, Huw Rees and Mike Benbow, and Mike took the honours with a very creditable thirty five points, one more than runner up Terry Davies. Dylan Jones returned the best gross score. The nearest the pin and longest drive competitions were won by Eric Bailey and Phil Small respectively.

Full credit must be given to Phil Small, as the longest drive competition took place on the eighteenth hole. Only a couple of minutes previously, he had been struck on the side of the head by a golf ball at close range. Fortunately, it was only a short chip shot onto the

seventeenth green, so the ball was not travelling as fast as it could have been. A headache and lump were the sum total of the collision between ball and bone – it could have been much worse! Who, you may ask, was the perpetrator of this heinous act. Look no further, ladies and gentlemen, it was I!

Stories of the day and of time gone by were shared over a drink and a meal after the golf and it was decided to do the same thing again next year, without hopefully, any golfing accidents. In fact the date has already been booked – Tuesday, 12th September 2017 at Builth Wells Golf Club.

Finally, many thanks to our sponsor and fellow member, David Jones from Hay on Wye.

Phil Hopkins

Hospital Gift Fund

As many of you are aware, the Branch operate a ‘Hospital Gift Fund’, which means that if a member has a stay in hospital, or a number of outpatient visits for a particular condition, they are entitled to a small gift from the branch.

I repeat this message at most branch meetings and have given the message in several newsletters during my time as chairman. I make the point that we are only able to assist if we know of the hospitalisation of a member. Officials of the committee often only become aware of such a situation by chance and often some time later.

I would ask that if you become aware of a member who has been in hospital or attended a number of out patient appointments, then please let one of the committee know, who will then pass the information onto the secretary.

DMW Motor Cycle

Some of you, particularly those who served in the old Mid Wales/D Division areas, may remember Peter Griffin (PC 753) and his wife Megan (WPC 147) who served in the area in the mid 1960’s to 1970 when Peter transferred to West Mercia (Megan had already finished in the police to raise their family).

Peter has recounted some of his memories of serving in Mid Wales/Dyfed Powys in an interesting article which can be found in the Further Articles section of the Branch website (for those of you with access to the internet).

Peter recalls the DMW motor cycle and makes the following comment:-

“I am pretty certain that there was not a DMW at Llandrindod but they did have a Land Rover because of the heavy snowfalls experienced every winter.”

I served with Peter in Llandrindod Wells – as did our webmaster Hugh Colley, as we had both been posted there from Bridgend. I am able to say with certainty that Peter is wrong in this respect, as the following tale will show.

Like Peter, I had passed my motor cycle test before joining the police and so I was a valuable asset in that I was able to be sent on rural enquiries on this beast of a machine! Yes, there was indeed a DMW in Llandrindod! At that time, the Land Rover was the only police vehicle in Llandrindod (apart from the patrol cars and the CID vehicle) and it was very rare that you would be allowed to drive the Land Rover – especially as a young probationer!

One day, I was sent on an enquiry which took me up a country lane in Howey, a small village a couple of miles from Llandrindod. As I was driving up the lane, I saw a young schoolboy on a push bike in the road a couple of hundred yards in front of me. In case this lad hadn’t seen me, I eased off the throttle as I approached him. He still didn’t seem to have noticed me, so when thirty or forty yards away from him, I decided that an evasive course of action was necessary, so slammed on the brakes. The inevitable happened due in no small part to the

small wheels of the motor bike – I came off! It was only my pride that was hurt, dismounting the machine in such a fashion in front of this young lad! Fortunately, the vehicle suffered only minor damage and after ascertaining details of this schoolboy, I was able to return to the Station, where I completed the accident report myself – no need for a supervisory officer to attend in those days!

I suspect that this incident weighed heavily on the mind of this youngster and that he was not very impressed with my motor cycle skills, thinking that he could do better, since he joined the Dyfed Powys Police not many years later and ended up riding “proper” motor cycles. This incident occurred around forty six years ago and Ian Mills (for it was he, spending the majority of his service in the Brecon area) and I to this day disagree who was at fault – we still blame each other!

Phil Hopkins

NARPO / IPA CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The annual Christmas lunch was held at The Falcon Hotel, Carmarthen recently with over 30 members travelling from far and wide to enjoy a pre Christmas get together in the company of former colleagues.

The Reverend Martin Spain was called upon to say grace and his inimitable sense of humour drew laughter and a round of applause which set the tone for the day.

Following the excellent meal, the raffle was conducted by Peter Davies (NARPO Vice-Chairman) with the star prize of a Christmas hamper deservedly won by Phil Addicott who journeyed almost 100 miles from Welshpool to attend the event.



Phil Addicott receiving the star prize from Peter Davies

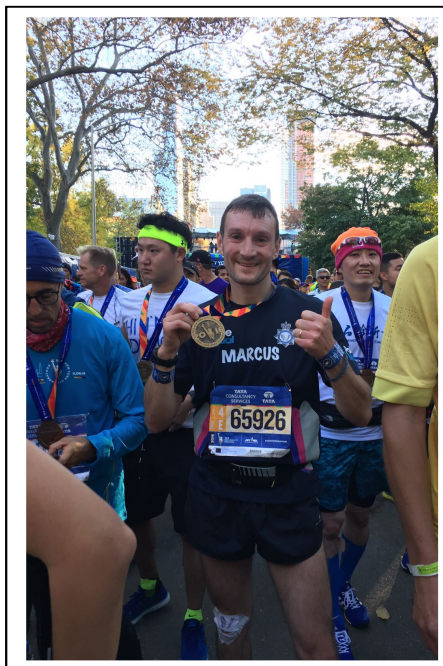
Peter thanked members for attending and especially those that contributed prizes for the raffle. It was unanimously agreed that the proceeds of £100 would be donated to PC Marcus Wright (Newtown) who recently completed the New York Marathon to raise funds for the PC Nicola Hughes fund which will help to establish a homicide counselling service. (Nicola was one of two Greater

Manchester officers who were shot and lost their lives in a routine call to a burglary in Manchester in September 2012).

Many thanks once again to Clive and Pat Cowey for their hard work arranging the lunch.

See next page for full report from Marcus Wright on The New York Marathon

Article from PC Marcus Wright re New York Marathon



Firstly thank you ever so much for the members suggesting and agreeing to donating the £100 from your Christmas raffle. As you know it's been a frustrating time with certain departments within DPP and this is a real bonus to what has been a hard struggle for sponsorship and it means a lot that my efforts have been selected.

The story behind all of this is that I took part in the Run to Remember 2 miles a day for 100 days in 2014 for the PC Nicola Hughes Memorial Fund and again put myself forward for 2016. At a similar time as this was going on I received a circulation that Bryn (Nicola's dad) was looking for one officer from each force to take part in the 2016 New York Marathon to raise money for both the PCNHMF and the National Homicide Service to run a pilot counselling scheme for young people who are suffering the effects of incidents of murder/manslaughter. For several reasons, I wanted to do it straight away, such a worthwhile cause linked to

the police family, as an FLO it is a scheme that could help a family that I may be assigned to in the future and I could think of one where it would have helped in the past and lastly what an amazing personal experience it would be to attempt my first marathon at the world's biggest marathon.

I realise now that it isn't just the training but just how difficult it is raise sponsorship and initial it was a roller coaster experience of false promises and rejections but eventually the Just Giving page came to fruition and with my parents sending countless emails to family, friends and acquaintances my minimum target of £1000 was reached.

Training on the whole went well, a few aches and pains, some physio and the poor timing of trying to build and decorate an extension and look after my four girls over the summer wasn't ideal but in completing a 20 mile run a few weeks before I left I felt as prepared as I could be. You'll see from the photo of me at the finish line that I had 'Marcus' printed on the front of my running top, best money I have ever spent.

On Thursday 3rd November, I met up with a colleague from Merseyside and we travelled down to Heathrow for an early flight on the 4th. I immediately realised what a great group of people were participating and of all different levels of ability. We landed at JFK mid-afternoon on the 4th, registered at the Expo centre before meeting up as a group that evening. What was very poignant was the conversation we had with a New York officer telling us that one of their Sergeants had been shot and killed less than two hours previous.

Saturday 5th November involved an 8am 4 mile warm up jog and we visited the finish line in Central Park or what we hoped would be our finishing point! I then spent the day with a contact of my parents who is from California but studying in Manhattan and got shown the sights without getting lost!

Sunday 6th November an early start of 4.30am for a breakfast of porridge and banana! We walked to the library in New York along with thousands of other people where it was like a military operation getting everyone boarded onto coaches then a good hour or so out to Staten Island. The facilities were amazing at the start, plenty of toilets, refreshments, energy gels, in fairness the Americans know how to host an event.

11am my wave started and I was lucky enough to team up with Inspector Mo Kelly from Cumbria, a very fit fell runner and she had already told me her aim was for under 4 hours to complete the run. The race started on Brooklyn Bridge and both being competitive we

somehow made our way several hundred metres in the queue to about 3 metres from the start getting a good view of the river and Statue of Liberty in the beautiful sunshine. From then on it was all about the clock and maintaining a cushion to hit our goal especially with Insp Brown saying that I would never run sub 4 hours at my first attempt (probably as he hadn't!!). As we hit Brooklyn the first spectators appeared and in no time at all I had my name shouted out, then again, then again.... I honestly never appreciated the support that I'd get and it was truly amazing. The run continued in the same vein through the different districts with the support continuing from name calling, offer of cut up oranges, chocolates etc. from the public. What I hadn't imagined starting at virtually the last wave was the amount of people we would catch up with and the difficulty was trying to weave your way through the masses with Mo giving me regular shoves in the back to force the pace! I hit the half way mark a couple of minutes quicker than my previous best half marathon and at 20 miles I was 12 minutes quicker. In terms of 'the wall' I didn't really experience anything that affected me a great deal apart from heavier legs and then to come up the side of Central Park and recognise the last half mile stretch was a huge boost. The crowds were in their thousands and what felt like a sprint was probably only a fast jog but to see the clock showing 3hrs 54mins as we passed the line was amazing. I never thought for one moment that at the age of 44 running my first marathon that I would get under 4 hours and I'm not too ashamed to say that there were a few tears!

Monday 7th was very much a case of stiff legs and ravenous appetite with the café kindly supplying at least 8 extra rashers of bacon along with scrambled egg and French toast. A visit to the local police station, time for a few gifts to be purchased then check out at 2.15pm and a 7pm flight home.

I've learnt a lot about myself, what I'm capable of and why life is too short to put things in the too difficult or too expensive box. People who I didn't expect to be generous have been, people I don't know have supported me but other areas that I thought would be supportive have let me down. The fact that yourselves, members of NARPO, still members of the police family have considered my efforts and the work of the PC Nicola Hughes Memorial Fund worthwhile means a huge amount to be in donating the raffle money and I am sincerely grateful. I am very proud to say that my total sponsorship is looking at about £2600. Thank you all once again.

Notes from Editor - Insp Brown is Darren Brown from North Powys who also enjoys running.

You can still Donate at Marcus's Just giving web page :
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MarcusWright81>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carmarthen coffee Mornings

Dates for 2017 are on the first Tuesdays in the month.

The Executive and Committee

President

Mr Simon Prince, Chief Constable Dyfed Powys Police

Vice Presidents

Mr Ian Arundale

Ms Jacqui Roberts

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)

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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 the online application is available at www.narpo.org or via a link on our website

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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WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

