



NARPO- DYFED POWYS BRANCH

Winter Newsletter – 2017



Chairman's Notes



On a cold wet, miserable November morning, it's difficult to realise that as I am writing these notes (not when you are reading them!), Christmas is but five weeks away. However, switching on the television dispels those thoughts and has done for a few weeks! We are waiting to see our first Christmas tree displayed in a private residence. There are a couple of houses which we drive past regularly which still have a couple of decorations up since last Christmas – saves a job at this time of year I suppose!

At the beginning of October, four members of your committee attended a regional Welfare Seminar in Cardiff. Subjects discussed included an update on NARPO matters by our Chief Executive Steve Edwards, a talk by representatives of the Police Dependents Trust, talks on Scams, Powers of Attorney and care costs.

Those of you who browse the internet and look at the national NARPO website – www.narpo.org - will have noticed a new look to the site recently. A lot of work, consultation and detail has gone into the planning and preparation of this site and it is generally accepted that it is now much easier to negotiate. The website now comprises of three main headings: Life, Work and Leisure. As I have said previously, there is much on the site of interest, with links to many other websites and for those of you with access to the internet, it is well worth a regular visit.

Next year is the Golden Anniversary of the formation of the Dyfed Powys Police – 1st April to be precise. The force are organising a commemorative service to recognise the occasion. NARPO have been offered a very limited number of invitations to the event, to be split among members who were serving in the constituent forces at the time of amalgamation. We are still awaiting precise details of the event and the actual number of invites allocated. We have sought the assistance of the Pembrokeshire Police Association and the Mid Wales Constabulary Association in respect of identifying members from those forces. Carms and Cards do not have their own organisation, so committee members from that area will be assisting in the task.

On a similar theme, the following year (2019) is the centenary of the formation of NARPO. I have mentioned previously that someone has been commissioned to write a history in the form of a booklet, which will hopefully be on sale during the centenary year. I will keep you updated regarding the progress of this, but I am sure that details will also appear in a future edition of the NARPO News. As I have previously reported, there has been little recent history submitted (post 2000) so there is a final plea to the membership to try and remedy this by submitting news items and/or photographs for this period. NARPO have also made an application to have a set of postage stamps produced to commemorate the anniversary, but will not know until sometime in the New Year whether this application has been successful. Again, further information will be provided when it becomes available.

Some of you will be aware that our Treasurer Clive Cowey is currently indisposed, having had an operation on his ankle. Clive has had years of discomfort, which stemmed originally from an accident which he suffered in the Elan Valley whilst a cadet. There are people around who were working that day and who actually remember the incident! I am sure that you join with me in wishing Clive well and hope he is soon up and running (well maybe trotting!)

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter that Vice Chairman Peter Davies has written about his experiences and impressions of his first (hopefully of many) visit to the NARPO Annual Conference. The business of conference and the outgoing President's address in full was reported in the recently published edition of NARPO News. The only motion this year was to do with the passing of a new set of rules for the organisation. The new rules are now fit for the twenty first century and will stand hopefully for many years to come. We also had a brilliant talk from James Ketchell on his life and achievements – from rowing single handily across the Atlantic to climbing Everest with other adventures in between. His time ran out before he had a chance to regale us with stories of his time spent cycling around the world! None of these were NARPO related, but his audience was enthralled and agreed that he was a perfect choice as a speaker. We also had a very interesting panel discussion on the subject of Caring for the Future with some excellent presentations.

From time to time, those of you with access to the internet will receive emails asking you to complete a survey or write a letter to your MP on various NARPO related matters. I urge you to take a few minutes to comply with these requests – they are not sent out lightly and the more responses that are received, the greater the chance of them having an impact.

As I mentioned briefly in the last newsletter, I am standing down as the Chair of the Branch at the next AGM. I have had the honour and privilege of being your Chairman for the last twelve years or so and feel that it is the right time to hand over the reins to someone new. It is unlikely that there will be another newsletter published before the next AGM, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the small group who have ensured the smooth running of the branch during my period as chair:- Clive Cowey as secretary/treasurer and latterly as treasurer, Phil Addicott who took over the reins as secretary from Clive and who also assumed ownership of putting together the newsletter, and Hugh Colley who has raised and maintained the standard of our website to a high level over the last few years. Thanks also to my Vice Chair, Peter Davies and to those committee members (few in number it must be said), who have helped on a local basis. I hope you feel that between us we have together done a reasonable job in the smooth running of the branch. Remember, it is all voluntary.

You will see elsewhere in the newsletter of the success of our website in respect of usage and Hugh Colley's request for items to be put on the site. The website can only be as good as the items fed into it, so it is down to you to keep it going and to maintain the high standard. On a similar note, the same also applies to the newsletter. Despite my many pleas over the years, there have been very few (in fact hardly any) articles submitted for inclusion in these pages. This is not for the want of available stories. I frequently hear of past incidents which would be suitable for inclusion and I am sure that most of you could write a story or two. Get the grey matter into gear and your keyboards or pen and paper rattling and see what you can come up with.

In the Christmas edition of the newsletter last year, I reported on my trip to France to follow Wales in the Euros. Along with my son (and occasionally grandchildren), I have followed Wales throughout their qualifying campaign for next year's World Cup, which is to be held in Russia. They came up short at the very last hurdle against the Republic of Ireland. The one good thing to come out of that result is that I no longer have to even think about whether to make the long trip next summer to watch Wales play in the World Cup Finals! At the time of writing (although again not necessarily when you will be reading this!), Shrewsbury Town are top of their league – life's good!

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Phil Hopkins

Chairman

Bereavements

Mr James Lawson Morgan (Rtd. PC491) 13th November
Mr Arthur Taylor (Rtd. C/Insp.) 21st October
Mr Ted Jacobs (Rtd. PS) 28th August
Mrs Olive Jones wife of Mr John Jones (Rtd PC123) 14th August

AM Visits constituents at Welfare seminar



At the Regional welfare seminar held in Cardiff, mentioned in the Chairman's notes, the Assembly member for Montgomeryshire, Russell George, called in to see three of his constituents who were attending from our branch. He said he was keen to cement a relationship with NARPO and would like to attend a local coffee morning in the future.

WEBSITE UPDATE

2017 has seen the DPP NARPO website (www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk) gain more visitors with over 61,000 visits made to the website during the year so far, compared with fewer than 50,000 visits during the whole of 2016.

While the main purpose of the website is to keep members informed, the huge collection of photographs from times gone by continues to be the most popular section. Many thanks to the NARPO members that have contributed to the success of the website by submitting photos and also to those that have identified former colleagues.

So what's planned for 2018? The current DPP NARPO website was created five years ago and is now very much in need of a 'make-over'. During the next few months we plan to introduce a completely new website based on similar lines to the national NARPO website (www.narpo.org).

In addition, NARPO members of a certain vintage will recall that 2018 marks the Golden Jubilee of the formation of Dyfed-Powys. To commemorate the anniversary, memories and photographs from the pre-amalgamation era will appear on the website - all contributions most welcome!

Please remember that it's **YOUR** website. If you have any suitable photos / articles that can be used, why not send them to me by post (I promise they will be returned!) or preferably scan the photos and send them by email - my home address and email address can be found below.

Hugh Colley
(Webmaster)

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NARPO Golf Day 2017

The fifth annual event was held at Builth Wells on 26th September. This was two weeks later than the previous four competitions, so there was intense watching of the weather forecast in the days leading up to the event, hoping that the weather we have been blessed with in previous years (last year's thunderstorm apart!), would again prevail this year.

We needn't have worried – the day dawned fair and fair it stayed all day – perfect weather for golf. A gentle breeze, somewhat cloudy with numerous sunny spells and mild, meaning shirt sleeves and shorts (for some!) was the dress code. What more could one ask for?



A few unavoidable late withdrawals meant a slight tweaking of the draw, but after coffee, a bacon bap (to be pedantic, an egg bap was produced for the vegetarian among us) and swapping yarns, it was time to tee off. Yours truly, who thought that he had all bases covered, had left his camera in the car, and with no one else in the vicinity to take a photo with a camera, the traditional pre tee off group photo had to be abandoned!

There was one newcomer to the event, Steve Cole, who let slip that he had played the course only six weeks previously. He maintained that he had merely travelled up from Tenby to caddy for his wife, who had qualified to play in a competition at Builth and took the opportunity to play with her in a practice round. The rest of us agreed that the real reason was for him to have a sneak preview of the course in an effort to improve his chances of victory!

The round passed relatively uneventfully. Phil Small was delighted that he was drawn in a different group to me, thus minimising the chance of me hitting him with a golf ball as happened last year!

And now for what I'm sure you've all been waiting for – the results!



This was the fifth event, and there are now five different names inscribed on the winner's trophy. Mike Benbow brought the trophy which he won last year, freshly polished, hoping to be the first person to retain the trophy, but sadly (for him!), it was not to be.

Gary Evans romped home to the winner's enclosure by a clear two points. It was tighter for second place, with the runner up's prize having to be decided on a countback. I am pleased

to report that the runner up was Phil Hopkins. However, Phil Small, the person to miss out, more than made up for this extreme disappointment, by taking the prizes of lowest gross score, nearest the pin and longest drive. Steve Cole had hit a longer drive, but had to be persuaded by the other members of his group that the rough where his ball had ended up did not form part of the fairway – a necessary factor to conform to the rules!

The day concluded with the prizegiving and a meal, during which the stories which had been started over coffee were continued. Everyone agreed that next year's Golf Day should again be held at the same venue, on or around the same date. Huge thanks go to our sponsor, David Jones from Hay on Wye, for his continued support of the event. Thanks also to the management of Builth Wells Golf Club, for allowing the use of their facilities.

Phil Hopkins

NARPO Annual Conference, 2017.

Having served as our Branch's Vice Chairman to Phil for the last 12 years, I was only too pleased to accept the opportunity of attending this year's Conference, for my first ever visit. Consequently, at 9.30am on Thursday, 7th September, I left my home in Carmarthen to begin the long journey to Scarborough. At 3.45pm. I arrived at The Premier Inn, on Scarborough's South Bay, where after checking in I was glad to partake of a revitalising shower, followed by a lovely cup of English breakfast tea; – when in Rome.....

After changing into some 'presentable' clothing, at 6.30pm – due to extremely inclement weather - Phil Addicott and I shared a taxi to the resort's Spa Complex, a 20 minute or so walk away.

We there met up with our Chairman, Phil Hopkins, who introduced me, initially, to several of the other Welsh Forces' delegates. The meal which followed was excellent – and this was made all the more praiseworthy by the fact that it was provided to a total of 410 diners, made up of Officials, Delegates, Observers and Guests/Speakers (for the following day.)

At approximately 10pm I set out to walk back to the Hotel. My level of journey fatigue is evidenced by the fact that I walked passed - without calling in – a pub which is included in the current Good Beer Guide. That, being a member of CAMRA, is nigh on Sacrilege.

A brisk walk the following morning got me back to the Spa Complex - the Conference Venue – in good time for the 9.30 start. It was then, in daylight, that the enormity of the building became evident. It is a fantastic Grade II listed building and is used as a venue for Conferences, Exhibitions and Live Entertainment.

To give just some idea of its size, it has a Grand Hall that seats 2,000, a Spa Theatre seating 600 – and the Ocean Room, which hosted conference, again capable of seating 600.

The Conference itself was opened by the Mayor of Scarborough, followed by the scheduled business – motions/amendments etc. An informative Review of the year was then presented by the CEO, Steve Edwards, followed by the Presidential address by the outgoing President, Ian Potter – whom I greatly admired for the tactful yet firm way he ensured that all the Guest Speakers who followed, adhered strictly to the Timetable.

I will not report on the Content of the NARPO business itself, as I am sure that Phil Hopkins will no doubt wish to do that himself. I am merely giving a personal overview on my first visit to the NARPO Annual Conference, so will conclude with my over-riding opinions on the experience:

I thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and have to say that I was highly impressed with the organisation that had gone into arranging such a big event – congratulations and well done, to ALL involved.

The camaraderie was wonderful to see, hospitality superb, and the overall professionalism in both the organising and running of the event made me feel extremely proud to be a member of NARPO.

In conclusion, I wish to thank both Phil Hopkins and Phil Addicott, whose company helped me to enjoy the event with ease – and not feel like a fish out of water, which might otherwise have been the case. Many thanks guys.

Peter Davies – Vice Chairman

National Police Memorial Day Service

The annual National Police Memorial Day Service is held in each of the four countries which make up the United Kingdom, in alternate years. The 2017 event was held at St David's Hall in Cardiff on Sunday 24th September. NARPO Chairman, Phil Hopkins and his wife Gill were privileged to represent the Dyfed-Powys Branch of NARPO and Phil has compiled the following article containing recollections of what was an emotional afternoon.



A proud Phil with his wife Gill at St. David's Hall

The afternoon commenced with the band of the South Wales Police and Corps of Drums marching through the city centre and into St David's Hall through a guard of honour formed by representatives of most of (if not all) the police forces in the country. We also saw a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as part of the guard. The rain which had threatened had held off until this point then started, so we went into St David's Hall before the fly past by the National Police Air Service.

Before the service started, we were treated to a programme of music by the band and also members of the National Police Orchestra, conducted by John Morgan, a retired Dyfed Powys officer.

The Lord Mayor of Cardiff opened the service and the Book of Remembrance (provided by The Police Roll of Honour Trust) was carried by a serving officer from Police Scotland and dedicated by the Chair of Police Chaplaincy UK. All serving officers in the congregation were then asked to stand and reaffirm their oath of allegiance by Chief Constable Sara Thornton, the Chair of the national Police Chief's Council. Every rank was represented, from Constable through to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. At this point I felt extreme pride to be among such personnel and to have had the privilege of serving my force for almost thirty-four years.

The service continued and there were other connections to the Dyfed-Powys area. Llanelli Male Voice Choir performed musical items and the address was given by the Dyfed-Powys Police Chaplain, the Reverend Tom Evans. Parts of the proceedings were very emotional – four people came up onto the stage, representing the police forces of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and lit a candle in memory of officers from each of the four countries who had passed away on duty. The Welsh representative was a serving police

officer from Gwent, PC Lowri Davies, whose father had been knocked off his bicycle by a stolen car whilst cycling home after his tour of duty in 1990.

The six officers who had died on duty since last year's memorial service were then remembered, including Keith Palmer, murdered outside the House of Commons earlier this year. Another officer, PC Gareth Browning, from the Thames Valley Police, died less than two weeks later, from injuries received when he was hit by a stolen car whilst deploying a stinger device in an effort to stop the vehicle, the incident occurring in November 2013.

At the end of this part of the service the Last Post was sounded by John Morgan on the trumpet. Reminiscent of The Royal Albert Hall at the Service for Remembrance Day, petals fell from the ceiling representing all those who have died, before the Reveille was sounded. The service continued with readings and prayers, from Steve White, the Chair of the Police Federation, Mr Peter Vaughan the Chief Constable of South Wales, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Wales and the Anglican Archbishop of Wales.

The service ended with the singing of the two National Anthems – both sung with fervour. I mentioned the emotions which welled through me at different points of the service. There was pride when all my ex colleagues reaffirmed their oath of allegiance, relief for all officers who return home safely at the end of a shift, deep sorrow for the loved ones of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, especially those who were present at St David's Hall and further pride that the whole event, planned and carried out with precision planning took place in my home country.

SEPTEMBER CPI RELEASED

The Office of National Statistics have released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for September 2017 which shows an increase of 3%. As a result, Police Pensions will increase by 3% as of 1st April 2018.

NARPO SUBSCRIPTION FEES 2018

In line with the above pension increase as from 1st January 2018 the minimum annual subscription will be £20.64 (previously £20.04) this equates to £1.72 per month (previously £1.67)

BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH



On 5th December, 32 members attended the annual Christmas lunch held at The Falcon Hotel Carmarthen. Thanks to our Vice Chairman Peter Davies for this year's arrangements. As usual the meal and service were excellent.

It would be great if similar events were held elsewhere throughout the branch area.

IMPORTANT – CHANGE OF ADDRESS

In order to keep DPP NARPO branch details up to date, could you please ensure that you inform Phil Addicott (Branch Secretary) of address change, telephone number and email addresses as failing to do so could mean missing out on NARPO correspondence including emails.

N.B. It is important that you also inform Police Pensions and Force Lottery (if applicable) of address changes.

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 membership card, any problems get in touch with our Secretary and he will get it for you.

If you are on E mail and havent been recieving notices from me please let me know. Phil Addicott (Secretary)

General Meeting and AGM 2018

Many of you will be aware that the October General Meeting due to be held in Gwbert was cancelled. You may recall the very heavy winds which we experienced at the time. Due to this, an executive decision was taken that for the safety of everyone who intended travelling to the event, the meeting should be cancelled. We were able to notify everybody (except one) who had stated their intention of attending the meeting in good time and that person only had a minimal distance to travel. Apologies to everyone affected, but we felt that it was the correct decision in the circumstances. The date of next year's AGM has not yet been fixed. This is because the Easter holidays coincide with the usual date of the beginning of April. The date will be arranged as soon as possible, and notification will appear on the website then. There will also be email notification giving plenty of notice. 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 membership card, any problems get in touch with our Secretary and he will get it for you.

The Executive and Committee as at 27th March 2017.

President

Mr Mark Collins, Chief Constable, Dyfed-Powys Police

Vice Presidents

Mr Ian Arundale,	Contact via Branch Secretary
Ms Jackie Roberts,	Contact via Branch Secretary
Mr Simon Prince,	Contact via Branch Secretary

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

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Carmarthen coffee Mornings

Dates for 2018 are on the first Tuesdays in the month **except January when it will be held on Tuesday 9th January** at the usual venue of The Falcon Hotel.



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK

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Clive Cowey	narpo36@gmail.com
Hugh Colley	hughcolley144@btinternet.com
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 the online application is available at www.narpo.org or via a link on our website

The member area access details are:

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

