



NARPO DYFED-POWYS BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Notes

If you recall, in my article in the last edition of this Newsletter, I expressed concern about the then forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioners election. My fears – and those of many other people with similar viewpoints – about the apathy surrounding the whole process were well grounded, with the successful candidate Christopher Salmon being elected with a single figure vote. The turn out for the force area was 16.4%, which was the highest in the Welsh region! The post of Chief Constable has already been advertised, when many of us thought that the previous holder of the post (Ms Jackie Roberts) was safe in her position (by the time this Newsletter is published, we may well know who the successful applicant is). Eric Evans, the NARPO President has written a very good article on the subject in his editorial in the current edition of NARPO News. I entirely agree with the sentiments expressed, and despite what I have written, I wish Mr Salmon well in his new post and look forward to meeting him sometime in the near future.

Speaking of NARPO News, I am aware of some misgivings amongst our members of the increased flyers being sent with the magazine. The practice is a valuable source of income for the organisation, but I am bringing the matter to the Regional meeting next month so that the concerns can be aired. I will report back with any update in the next newsletter.



I understand that the monthly coffee mornings in Carmarthen continue to be very successful. I hope to attend the April event, which will be held on the same day as the AGM (further details elsewhere in the newsletter). I have mentioned it previously, but it would be nice if coffee mornings or events of any sort could be organised in other parts of the branch area. If you have any ideas, then Clive and I will be glad to help if we can, as I am sure would your local rep – details of area reps can be found in the Information section of our website - www.dyfed-powys-narpo.org.uk/. As I have written before, due to the size of our area, it is easier to organise events on a local basis, which means local involvement.

It was sad to hear last month of the death of Paul McKeever, the Chair of the Police Federation, who was due to retire only a fortnight later. Under very difficult circumstances, he had represented rank and file officers to a very high standard and it is such a shame that he was unable to enjoy the retirement which he had so richly earned. On behalf of the members of our branch, I posted a tribute to Paul (along with hundreds of others) on the Police Federation website.

My continued thanks to Clive, who bears the brunt of preparing this newsletter. As I have requested in previous editions, any contributions from anyone for inclusion would be very much appreciated, as would any photographs for our website.

I hope to see some of you in Carmarthen in April – Coffee Morning and AGM, and at our October Branch meeting, the venue for which will be decided at the AGM

Phil Hopkins



Reading NARPO President Eric Evans' tribute to Arthur Rowlands in the current edition of the NARPO News reminded me of the one and only occasion when I have been in the presence of Arthur.

Whilst undergoing my initial police training in Bridgend in late 1968, I together with everyone else who was in the training centre at the time – in excess of one hundred officers – was sitting down to my evening meal, when Arthur was led into the dining hall by one of the instructors and addressed the audience. We had not been told that he was coming, and my knowledge of the incident in which he lost his sight was very minimal. Although at the time I was living not so very far from Machynlleth where the shooting took place, I was only twelve or thirteen years of age and the enormity of the incident had somewhat passed me by.

He told us the story of that fateful encounter with Robert Boynton seven years earlier in his North Walian lilt. In that packed dining hall, you could have heard a pin drop, and there were a number of grown men (me included) who were not ashamed to shed a tear.

There were of course three Mid Wales officers involved in the arrest of Boynton. As I can only recall the names of two of the three, I will not mention their names. I am sure that there are several colleagues who can tell me who I have forgotten. Perhaps someone can tell the story of the arrest in detail, which would make an interesting article for the next newsletter.

Phil Hopkins

Secretaries Report, to Annual general meeting with treasurers financial report.

I have great pleasure in presenting the Secretary's report for the calendar year 2012.

Membership - The membership of the branch is 818 (13/02/2013), which is showing an increase from 768 in February 2012, very pleasing to see that membership continues to increase annually. This is due to the new branch activities and word of mouth, the Branch is far more proactive in promoting itself to serving officers and prospective members, due I believe in no small part to the Website. The NARPO Branch presentation to the Pre-retirement Course held at Police HQ in January resulted in 14 new Associate Members joining the branch. Many Associate members have now become full members and only one has declined to upgrade membership on retirement. The new Associate members are: John Rees, Huw James, John Williams, Paul Lewis, David Waters, Jacqui Heighway, Kevin Davies, Paul Williams, Huw Evans, Lorna

McQuilliam, Carol Kendall, David Purdue, Debbie Chodecka and Martin Tavener.

New members and Obituary, (October to February 2012/13 Additional to published newsletters):

New Members welcomed to the Branch:

Mr NM Jones, Pembroke, Mr DG Richards, Welshpool, Mr J LL Morris, Pembroke Dock, Mr C. Clarke, Carmarthen, Ms M. Clayton-Jones, Brecon, Ms CA Evans, Llanelli,



Mr TA Williams, Llandeilo, Mr B Richards, Carmarthen, Mr ET Page, Carmarthen, Mr TL Jones, Llanfair Caereinion.

Obituary:

Mrs Margaret Rogers-Lewis, Mr B. Muckle, (Ex PS 417) Mr KR Evans, Carmarthen, (Ex 237), Mr HB Edwards, Aberystwyth, (Ex 307) and Mr Graham Gray, (Ex DCI)

WEBSITE and EMAIL updates have been made throughout the year. The Website, under the stewardship of our Webmaster, Mr Jeff Davies has moved ahead and is a very useful marketing and informative tool. A counter was added recently and it was found that the site is getting more hits than anyone envisaged, as a snapshot on 13/02/2013 at 7:00pm there were 18 visitors online, 1793 visits in January and 17,627 visits since the site opened. The costs related to the site have reduced to only the web hosting fee (£90) with no other activity fees; this is with grateful thanks to Mr Jeff Davies for his hard work and expertise. The site contains many member submitted photographs, news, member's area and a recently added 'In Memorium' area.

The email circulation system continues to operate, 366 members now receive information quickly by this method especially notices of bereavement, a decision was made this year to restrict circulations to those only of direct interest to NARPO Members.

Treasurers report for the Calendar year 2012

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the Calendar Year 2012, these have been subject of an Accountants Report from Clay/Shaw/Butler of Carmarthen and their Report is available in the meeting, the balance sheet is below:

<u>The National Association Of Retired Police Officers</u> <u>Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2012</u>			
<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
At Bank		Equipment	£742.43
Current	£2,285.18	Travel	£1,094.85
Deposit	<u>£8,982.00</u>	Administration	£1,600.14
Opening Balance		Hospital Gifts	£900.00
<u>Subscriptions</u>		Donations	£220.00
DPP Finance	£10,505.94	Precept	£4,411.83
Invoiced	£259.04	Conference	£354.04
Subs Income		Miscellaneous	£3,069.84
		Newsletter costs	<u>£393.66</u>
Lottery Income	£357.71	<u>Sub Total</u>	12,786.79
		<u>£357.71</u>	
Interest	£4.71		
		<u>£4.71</u>	
Misc	£165.00	At Bank	
		Current	1,831.08
		Deposit	7,986.71
Refunds	£45.00		
		<u>£165.00</u>	
		Closing Balance	9,817.79
		<u>£45.00</u>	
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>22,604.58</u>	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>22,604.58</u>

(NB figures in parenthesis relate to the financial year 2011)

INCOME: of £12,337.40 (£10,172.77) shows an increase in 2012 of £2164.63p, this is made up of:

- ⇒ Income from Subs via DPP 10,505.94 and via Invoice £259.04.
- ⇒ Lottery at Coffee Mornings: £357.71p
- ⇒ Interest £4.71p
- ⇒ Misc. Income: £170 (Sale of laptop and Software)
- ⇒ Transfers and refunds £1045.00p

EXPENDITURE: of £12,786.79 (£11,736.29p) shows an increase of £1050.50p over 2011

NOTES:

Annual Conference expenses £354.04p (£906.99) has shown a decrease, this is mainly due to a delegation of 2 attending. Travelling costs are not shown but absorbed into the normal travelling category in the accounts.

Equipment, these items include: a replacement laptop computer, as the old one was not compatible with the new software in use, also an unforeseen printer failure, required a replacement printer which then necessitated the replacement of the Wi-Fi router to get it working properly, the IT costs of this major work were nil, completed by my Son in Law, free of charge to NARPO..

Administration, this is the cost of running the branch on a day to day basis with the rental costs of telephones and broadband included with other items such as paper, envelopes, postage and printer cartridges.

Misc. Items: these are made up of items not falling into the categories stated and include:

Auditor's fees - 2011, £312.00p (£300.00p).

Meeting Catering – £530.15 (£730.93 last year's figure included Carmarthen Coffee Mornings).

Coffee Morning Costs Carmarthen £1082.70 (357.71p), Narberth: £136.00, Brecon: £70.00p.

Secretaries Additional Expenses, £700 (£650)

Newsletter costs -£393.66 (£575.24) a decrease, due to 3 publications in 2012 of 6 pages each whereas 4 (6 page) publications were made in 2011. (It should be noted that the bulk of this cost is met by NARPO NEC at Wakefield, we only pay for photocopying, not postage). Steps have been taken to reduce this cost as those on email receive an electronic copy and not by post.

Hospital Gifts – £900.00p (£1365.00)

Explanatory Notes:

Income in 2012 has risen but is outweighed by the increase in our expenditure. It is hoped that interest rates will increase soon, income from interest was only £4.71 (For comparison, this figure in 2007 was £209.46) also the increase in Subscriptions in line with pension increase in 2012 (2.2%) will assist plus increased membership.

The costs of the branch have risen with continued use of new technology and the 'one off,' Welfare Course costs, (Some claims are still awaited). There is also the added cost of 'Coffee Morning' Style events which increase outlay and will continue to do so. The outlay has been offset, it was agreed at the AGM in 2011 to introduce a policy of paying for second drinks, and also a lottery with prizes to assist costs. Both have been very successful, the second drink policy is either paid into the lottery box or direct to the Café, and the lottery prizes were supplied at first by the Branch but later have been donated by members, we are very grateful to all the members who have participated and donated prizes, this has meant that the day is very enjoyable and the pressure on the accounts has been lessened.

This deficit is reducing, year on year, in 2011 it was £1563.72 and in 2012 it was £1449.39p a slight reduction. The reserves remaining of £7986.71 are reduced by £1000 which was moved to Current to cover the June Precept payment to NARPO HQ. This was due to the policy of delay by DPP in the payment of the April and May subs late in June we were unable to meet the precept payment without this transfer, we hope to transfer back to recover the status quo, at a later date when conditions improve.

Steps have been taken to ensure that all income is realised, especially the subsidy of the Coffee mornings. As we take on a greater Welfare and Social Role, the financial position will have to be continually monitored, the reserves are still healthy but further action may need to be taken in the future to ensure they remain so.

Welfare Fund: During 2012 the Welfare Fund continues to convene electronically and some retired members have benefited from grants from the fund. The Welfare Fund AGM is scheduled for April 2013.

CONCLUSION: It is pleasing to note that the meeting at Newtown was well attended and received, it shows that the policy of moving the October around the area is successful and I believe that, and the monthly Coffee Mornings and Evening events are instrumental in the increase of Branch membership, as members are now being served nearer to their homes and able to socialise in a convivial atmosphere. The evening events at Badgers in Ammanford and The Thomas Arms Llanelli, receive no Branch Subsidy, This is at their request and grateful thanks to Harry Rees and Gwyndaf Prosser for their hard work organising them.

The Coffee Morning pilots in Narberth and Brecon did not prove successful

and it was decided to stop them and re-evaluate the situation, work is on-going in Pembrokeshire by Mr Graham Thomas and Mr Hugh Colley to hopefully reinstate them at a new venue. The Powys meeting at Newtown debated the situation in Brecon and decided to look at members needs and come back with proposals.

The year has been eventful for the Branch it continues to grow and serve its members

Dates for your diaries

Notice Of Annual General Meeting,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY 9TH April 2013

**The Gremlin Club, Guildhall Square, Carmarthen
Buffet Lunch in the restaurant at 12noon followed by
the meeting, to commence at approx. 1:00pm.**

**Preceded by the Coffee Morning at O&F from 9:45am
to 11:45am**

Carmarthen Coffee Mornings 2013

O&F, Carmarthen on first Tuesday in each month:

5th March, 9th April, (followed by AGM, see above)

7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August. 3rd September

1st October, 5th November, 3rd December

Pint and a Curry, Thomas arms, Llanelli

Wednesday 6th March 2013 at 7:30pm

Ammanford 'Get together' at Badgers

Date to be arranged

POLICE MEMORIAL DAY

St David's Hall, Cardiff 29th September 2013

Tickets are free—Register at www.policememorialday.org.uk

In Service of those who Served**'And Finally'**

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Well this is another newsletter finished, time seems to accelerate these days. Each time I start to think about what to put in it, there seems to be too little to fill six sides (the maximum I am allowed) then I find I have far too much and some items have to be edited out. So apologies that there are no minutes or lottery results, they are on the Website (see below) if you have internet access or if you want them, let me know and I will send them on to you.



Remember please promote NARPO whenever you get the opportunity, be an ACTIVE member, the more members we have the more we can do.

Join us at Coffee Mornings, meetings and other events and make your views known, this is your Branch, we are part of a national framework but at the end of the day the Branch is yours, not owned by the NEC in Wakefield, let us know what you think and what you want from it.

I intend to get the next newsletter out in Mid-Summer, hope to meet a lot of you before that, remember the AGM is at a new time and date.

Kind Regards,

Clive Cowey

Clive Cowey, Branch Secretary/Treasurer



DYFED-POWYS-NARPO.ORG.UK

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 has changed, to sign on the new details are:

Username: member.

Password: 123456.

have a look at it, let me know of any error or inac-

curacies,

If you have any photos to upload or anything of interest to members please send them to me for inclusion.

NB. Don't forget the national NARPO website:

www.narpo.org.uk

there is a great deal of information of interest to all members and answers to many FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) especially in the area of Pen-

sions and other allied matters of interest to members.

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 me and I will get it for you.