

**Royal Military Police Association Birmingham Central Branch  
Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday 9th Feb 2019 at  
The Bulls Head Public House, Bishopsgate Street, Birmingham**

**APOLOGIES:** Paul Brewerton, John & Jennifer Hood, John Duckett, Ralph Mason, Conrad Joseph, Ray Hassell, Neil Stammers, Derrick Griffin, John Yarwood, Fiona Yarwood, Tony Bowdler, Elaine Bowdler, Kerri Lewis, Caitlin Lewis.

**Chairman: Opening Remarks**

The Chairman, Mike Clark welcomed all present to the first Branch meeting for 2019.

**President: RMP Corps Collect**

The Branch President, Terry Freeman, then read **out the RMP Corps Collect**.

**The Chairman then requested everyone to remain standing after the Corp Collect for a 1 minute silence in respect of Alan Dale, the RMPA President who had passed away last month.**

**The Chairman then requested a show of hands as to the minutes of the last meeting held on 1st December 2018 to be a true record - All agreed in favour.**

**Secretary Report**

In the absence of Derrick Griffin, the Chairman stated that there was nothing to report for the Secretary.

**Treasurer's Report as at the 9th Feb**

The Chairman then gave an update on behalf of the Treasurer as follows.

The sale of raffle tickets and table lights from the Annual Lunch last week made £130.00 and £34.00 respectively.

The Bowl that was auctioned made £50.00, making a total from the annual lunch of £214.00, which paid for the wine at a cost of £221.00. Therefore, the cost to the branch was £7.00.

The Branch also paid for 4 guests and subsidised the meal by £5.00 per member, making the overall cost to the Branch of £140.00.

The Chairman also stated that a donation of £25.00 had been made to St Giles Hospice in memory of Alan Dale.

The Branch funds therefore stood at £450.46 being held in the bank as at the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The funds raised of £40.00 from the sale of raffle tickets and £22.00 from the subs, at today's meeting would also be added.

### **Matters Arising; Chairman's comments**

1. As a testament to our growing status as a leading RMPA branch he would like to introduce a new member, Bill Lomas and his good lady wife Margaret and requested if Bill would like to introduce himself.

Bill Lomas then gave a brief over view of his RMP and Civilian Police careers.

2. The Chairman stated that we had a good turnout for our annual dinner. The venue, meal and staff were all superb and that while welcoming one and all and thanking some personnel for their annual efforts, he also wanted to thank Neil Stammers daughter, for her input in organising the dinner, as the Chairman was lead to believe that she did most of organising.

However, there are a few points which had been raised by a member of the Branch, as follows.

- 2a. Last year the organiser was criticised for opening up a separate bank account for the monies to be paid into yet this year's organiser accepted cash and cheques which were held over for almost two full months before being banked. In fact when they were banked there was a discrepancy over an unsigned cheque and cash to the value of £10.00. This was a slight error on the part of the cheque donor but should have been checked and double checked before depositing by those receiving it.

The Chairman then stated that, he proposed that all future events that require payments, should be paid direct to the treasurer. This was seconded by Steve Lee.

All agreed in favour.

- 2b. The Chairman had received copies of E mails between the Vice chairman, Billy Daniels, and Neil Stammers, where Neil had informed Billy that he had not paid sufficient funds for his guests. Billy had already paid the correct amount in full direct to the Branch account, and Neil had previously been informed about Guests and therefore should have known this as he was informed that Billy had paid the funds direct in to the Branch account.

- 2c. The Chairman went on to say that, here had been a little bit of unpleasantness outside of the dining room before the dinner over the seating arrangements. This could have and would have been avoided had Neil Stammers sent a copy of the seating plan to the Vice Chairman as he had requested. Unfortunately Neil had blatantly refused this request which resulted in the confusion on the day.

The Chairman also felt that the seating plan was a bit ad-hoc as Diane was not sat with her stepson and daughter in law and that Neil had distanced himself from his wife, daughter and son in law in order to place himself on the top table.

**2d.** Finally, with regards to the dinner the Chairman stated that the Vice Chairman had criticised the arrangement of the top table as it was. It reminded people of the old fashioned rank structure i.e. RSM down to the junior Sergeant and less important persons furthest from the top table.

Mike Davies and Mike G Foster both made similar comment in this respect.

The Chairman agreed that there is no rank structure within the RMPA and proposed that all future events should reflect this i.e. No top table.

This was seconded by Trevor Bassett and all those present agreed in favour

Diane Smith requested to know if consideration could be given to the Annual meal being held on the date of the Branch Anniversary. The Chairman stated that this would be considered but to be discussed at a later date.

**3.** Diane Smith went on to say that St Georges Day was on the 14<sup>th</sup> April and will be held at St Pauls Church in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham. The Chairman informed all that last year there was a good turn out by the branch and stated that if anyone could attend, that it would be a good event.

**4.** The Chairman added that an anonymous donor had given the sum of £90.00 towards the buffet which will be arranged for the Branch Anniversary meeting next month. The donor insisted they remain absolutely anonymous. On behalf of the Branch, the Chairman thanked the donor for this gift.

**5.** The raffle prize once again had been kindly donated by the Chairman and as previously stated, raised the sum of £40.00.

**6. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was closed at 13:33 hours.**