



ROYAL NAVAL ENGINEERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

December 2002

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The Society Newsletter

Greetings to All Members

Important tasks for Members to do:

- Tell the Managing Secretary of any changes of address and next of kin.
- Let the Secretaries know if you have an email address.
- Attend a Section meeting.
- Get another serving member to join the Society.

It is with great pleasure that I greet you all with this our first newsletter of a new start.

The General Secretary

Les Dancy

and

The Managing Secretary

Chris Heaver

wish you

Good Health

and

Prosperity



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society has been in existence since 1872, for the promotion of the social, intellectual and general welfare of its members, and conforming with the MOD (Navy) Regulations

New Project from an Old Idea

This is an old idea given new life at the suggestion of one of our long-standing and very active members Mr Vic Blackman.

At the last Executive Council meeting Vic, a life

vice-president, suggested there was a lack of communicate with our members. In the past when members often spent many years away from base ports, there was a quarterly report. Remem-

bering that this had been a useful method of keeping in touch, Vic proposed that we return to this practise.

Thank you Vic.

New Meeting Place for the Portsmouth Section

The Portsmouth section now meets in the Grapevine centre in HMS Sultan.

The meetings of the Portsmouth section have seen an increase in activity recently and are now held every month. They are held on the second Friday of each month. Next meeting 13 December 2002.

The meeting starts at 20.00 hours lasting approximately 90 minutes. Members then adjourn for informal discussion in less formal surroundings!! All members are made welcome.

The sale of the property in Southsea left the Portsmouth section without a permanent meeting place. The new venue remaining at the whim of for-

tune and the security of Naval establishments in the area.

The Devonport section's meetings are held at 113 North Hill, Plymouth on the top floor (also the Society Offices). These are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. No meeting in December. The next meeting 28 January 2003 at 19.00 hours.

Society — Brought up to date.

New Rules are on the Way.

The Executive Council introduced a new set of rules at their last meeting. These have now gone to the sections for checking for any final amendments before final approval, copies of The rules will be available to all members of the Society.

Have your say in the way this Society

is run. Write to the General Secretary for a draft copy. Come to the meetings and put your opinion to the Sections.

We are now at a stage in the life of the Society where its role in the Navy has reached a critical point. If you are a serving member of the Royal Navy it may be your last chance for representation.

“Shouldn't we be a proper Trades Union?”

“The Society needs to become more militant or there will be no real engineers left in the Navy”

“Who listens to the Society?”

Face lift for the Society Offices

The Society Offices and Devonport Section meeting room is to be refurbished.

The Society has recently received a



legacy in remembrance of ERA/A Richard James

Shearsby, Service No. 110692 and our refurbished meeting room in Plymouth will be named 'Shearsby Meeting Room'.

Many members may have known Richard (Society No. 09985), who joined the Navy in 1969. Richard died following a motorcycle accident in Sept 1972.

Richard's father, Ron Shearsby had died of Leukaemia when Richard was 10. His step-father, Mr Clenton died in 1982 and his mother, Veronica Clenton died in 2002.

Richard's mother left the Society one third of her estate.

??The members of the RNEBS should try to Attend meetings !!??

Why? Simply so you can decide what is important, for you.

The present EC has few serving members on it. It should be dominated by serving members telling the General Secretary what is of interest them. At present The General

Secretary undertakes many hours of checking to see if the approach he is taking is the right one for the members of the Society.

Get active—come to a meeting. These are held every month in both

Portsmouth and Devonport.

They can also be held in other areas like Faslane, depending on local interest. A meeting once a quarter would allow another section to be set up.

Managing Secretary — Position available

New Managing Secretary needed

The Executive Council wishes to find a suitable replacement for the present Managing Secretary.

The present Managing Secretary — Mr Chris Heaver — has notified the Council that for a number of reasons he wishes to stand down from the post at the earliest opportunity. The Council is therefore looking for a member of the Society to take up this post.

Chris has done an excellent job of bringing understanding to a difficult situation left by the unexpected death of Mr W Robins a few years ago.

He has since been very active with the problems presented by the failure of the Portsmouth club.

Chris's work has laid the foundations of a modern Society for the future Managing Secretary by putting the records of the Society on to com-

puter.

Any member wishing for more information on this pivotal role in the Society should contact either Chris himself or the General Secretary Les Dancy at the contact addresses supplied on the last page of this newsletter.

Royal Naval Engineers Devalued

The new pay scale means that the Navy no longer values skilled Engineers.

There is a growing sense of unease within the Society that the Lords of the Admiralty are reducing the capability of engineers within the Navy to do no more than replacement rectification.

Semi-skilled engineers can achieve better rates of pay sooner than the skilled Artificer. The Artificer, bear-

ing increasing responsibility and with specialised skills, is still required in today's (and tomorrow's) Navy.

Time for the upper reaches of hierarchy of the Navy to wake up to the very real possibility that ships will not be able to operate far from base because of the lack

of on board skilled personnel.

Although there is a shortage of manpower in the Navy no efforts have been made to attract high class

“Ships will not be able to operate far from base because of the lack of on board skilled personnel.”

Be the New General Secretary — Face a challenge

Make a difference — have a voice.

The General Secretary is a central figure in the operation of the Society. To deal with the range of problems and events that come the way of the General Secretary he increasingly needs a strong personality.

The present General Secretary — Mr Les Dancy — has now been in the position for over ten years, since he

left the Royal Navy in 1992.

He and the Council are looking for new blood and new ideas.

The General Secretary ideally should be able to understand the modern Navy from recent experience, though the post is best filled by someone who is no longer a serving member of the Royal Navy.

To get a better idea of what is re-

quired come to a meeting at the Portsmouth Section or contact Les for general information.

Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society

The RNEBS Offices
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Items for the Newsletter should be send to:

newsletter@rnebs.co.uk

We're on the web
www.rnebs.co.uk

Useful RNEBS Addresses and telephone numbers

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Communication — The Society and You

How can the Society improve it's communication with all it's members? By asking you to help us. Tell us about yourself. We would like a short note from each of you telling us about your Naval career so far.

Part of the purpose for introducing this newsletter is to help us help you. Matters small and large, some appearing minor but of major importance to you may be helped by discussion with us.

One of the Society officers may be able to help by:

Writing to other people involved.

Contacting sources of information

Looking to other members for ideas that could help.

A recent question related to pensions awarded to someone who retired but then signed on to a Full Time Reserve Service commitment. His pension was then rebated. Would this affect any one else?

Another item being looked at is the relationship of pay between the three services. Charge Chiefs ought to be properly called "Warrant Officer II", with the relevant benefits

E-Mail Addresses

If you have an email address let us know. If you would refer to receive items like the report and newsletters by email please tell us.

