



The Society Newsletter

Changing times. Marine Engineering on the move?

Joint Service training in the Electro-mechanical discipline

The new training starts for the new Engineering Technician. There is an announcement that the new training is likely to move to another location remote from the fleet.

Is there a growing belief that effective government is to keep people on the move and off balance? Is this the reason to decide to make changes to the Engineering Technician (ET) course before the first course has finished?

The ET course is being assessed against academic criteria as the location of future training for all Marine Engineers is in the balance. The people who have invested the time and effort checking the needs of the Royal Navy are met by the new course will be unable to verify their

work. The necessary feedback from the fleet could be lost in the move.

The decision to place the Electro-mechanical training of the three services at a single site is a political decision and based on the saving of money rather than the best practice.

There is once more the spectre of a single merged armed force.

The expectation is that the site will be situated well inland remote from any connection with ships. Instruction undertaken by ex-Army or ex-Royal Air Force engineers with little understanding of the difficulties encountered in the marine environment. It must be expected that there will be a drop in the performance of the Engineering Technician.

The new course is undergoing change related to its end goal - it has now being decided that the foundation degree will not be a requirement of the course.

Alterations that are normal in any new course will take on a new dimension with the advent of the tri service private training.

The number of changes being undertaken during the transition to the

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Engineering Technician will make the identification of any problems difficult to correlate.

Recruitment and retention are a major cause for concern. There is now another major cause for concern in the standard and type of training Electro-mechanical engineering staff will receive.

The conclusion: that, regardless of the warnings given, the Government has set the agenda for major problems within the Engineering branch. This has the potential to have far wider effects than the failure of the Warfare branch as the new Engineering branch includes all Engineers.

How do you see the future of the Royal Navy and its Engineering Branch? Let the General Secretary hear your views.

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.

The Annual Executive Council Meeting

The National Executive Council meeting was held in June in Portsmouth.

The Officers of the Society:

President - Mr Tony Worsfold - he is a serving WO in the Plymouth area and is a Trustee of the Society.

Vice-President - Mr Mark Stevens - lives in the Portsmouth Port area and works in London, a Trustee of the Society.

EC General Secretary - Mr Les Dancy - lives in the Portsmouth Port area and works in Southampton.

Society Managing Secretary - Mr Chris Heaver - lives in the Plymouth port area and works within the Dockyard complex.

The Naval Engineering Review Editor - Mr Steve Woodford - lives and works in Abbey Wood.

Also present were two representatives from the two active sections, Portsmouth and Devonport and other Society trustees.

It is always regretted that there is still no representative or Trustee from Scotland, however their view are always represented by those members who have close ties to the area. The General Secretary visits the area regularly.

The Agenda.

The general management of the Society was the first order of the meeting and a report on the preceding years business.

Following this were discussions on a range of issues brought to the attention of the Executive council by the Societies members. These included - The Naval Board Personnel Change Programme, The Engineers Memorial and the future programme of issues to be tackled by the Society.

Comments from serving members and the future needs of serving personnel is always of paramount importance to the Executive Council and the Society and many of those concerns

were heard at the meeting.

There is a serious concern that the views of the members be gathered before the new programme of redevelopment within the Society is completed and therefore a questionnaire is being sent with this Newsletter to inform the Executive Council of the views of as many members as is possible.

Sections at Christmas

Both Sections will be holding a Christmas gatherings to which all are welcome.

The Portsmouth section is holding a Christmas Dinner on 10 December 2006. There will be a social get together in the Cocked Hat Gosport at 8pm on 16 December 2006.

The Devonport Section will be holding their get together at 12 noon on Saturday 16 December 2006 at the Newmarket Inn, 2 Market Way, Plymouth, PL1, where the Man Sec will be 'in the chair' until at least 2 pm. It is also intended to have a second gathering for mistresses at the same time and location on 03 February 2007

Portsmouth Section - Meeting. 2000 - 12 January 2007 Grapevine Centre - HMS Sultan

Asbestos - update

Mesothelioma is a vicious form of lung cancer, caused by as little as one single asbestos fibre. It can lay waiting within a victim for up to 50 years. This asbestos related cancer is still on the rise.

The House of Lords Barker judgement has been reversed and the Compensation Bill was amended.

The Health and Safety Executive report that 236 workers have died from mesothelioma between 1981 and 2000 in Portsmouth alone. Over the whole country approximately 1,900 people die each year and the number is set to rise to a possible 15,000 per year.

In May the Barker decision effectively left mesothelioma sufferers, with little time to live, chasing negligent employ-

ers and their insurers, losing compensation when they could not be found.

The new Compensation Bill will restore the status quo presumed under Fairchild, that a worker who contracted mesothelioma after wrongful exposure to asbestos at different times, by more than one employer or occupier of premises could sue any of them.

It means that claimants will be able to recover full compensation from any relevant employer. No compensation can alter the very real suffering caused by this disease but this reform will mean that people suffering mesothelioma can now receive the full compensation to which they are entitled.

(The Activist—Amicos)

Family members of workers are also at risk—as reported recently in the News, Portsmouth. Clothing that was often taken home to wash could carry the asbestos into the home.

All those who are concerned should contact their GP or NHS direct for advice and guidance. For useful information:

<http://www.mesothelioma.uk.com>

<http://www.britishlungfoundation.com/asbestos.asp?lung=3>

Or follow the links in our Website.

Telephone numbers:

Mesothelioma UK Helpline - 0800 169 2409

British Lung Foundation Helpline - 08458 50 50 20

Royal Naval Engineers Memorial

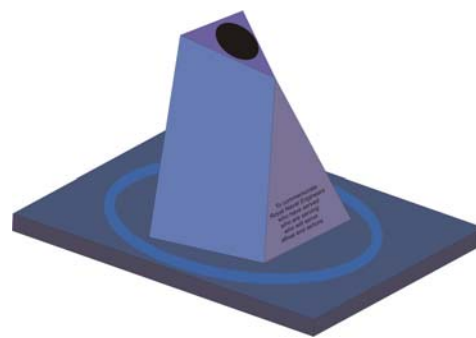
The Engineers of the Royal Navy were often the last out of a ship in distress, many forfeited their lives for the sake of their shipmates. The Society has moved a step closer to the establishment of a memorial to commemorate the many acts of selflessness. Here is the front runner of designs for the memorial.

The present suggestion is to have an RNEBS crest on the top slope, on the front face some simple words and in a ring around the base the Title The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society.

One suggestion for the words is:

To Commemorate,
Royal Naval Engineers.
Who have served,
Who are serving,
Who will serve,
Afloat and Ashore.

The present proposed date for completion is some time in the year 2008 140 years after the first Naval Engi-



neers went to sea.

To have a say please contact the General Secretary.

Preserved Pensions

The Old Caledonian Artificer Apprentice Association (OCAAA) have informed us of the need to claim if you have a preserved pension.

The following is a quote from their website:

We would like you to know that in 1975 a preserved pension was introduced that could be claimed (on reaching the age of 60) by personnel serving at that time.

This award was withdrawn again in April 2005.

So if you served less than 22 years from your 18th birthday but more than 5 years

(this figure reduced to 2 years in 1988) and you feel that you might qualify then you should apply up to 3 months before your 60th birthday to:-

Pensions Supervisor 1

Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency

Mail Point 480

Kentigern House

65 Brown Street

Glasgow

G2 8EX

If you wish to seek further information on this subject either visit their Website - www.oaaa.org.

Important tasks For Members:

- Inform the Managing Secretary of any changes in your personal details and those of your nominee.
- Let the Secretaries know if you have an email address that we can use.
- Attend a Section meeting.
- Get another serving engineer to join the Society.
- Get another engineer to contact the Secretaries

Or

Contact the General Secretary who will pass on your details to the Webmaster of the OCAAA.

**Devonport Section - Meeting.
1915 - 23 January 2007
Shearsby Suite - 113 North Hill
Plymouth**

Society Membership Questionnaire.

Included in with the Naval Engineering Review and Newsletter is a questionnaire that will help to update our records and inform us of your view of the future that the Society should take.

Your views are important and the Society needs your feedback on the services that it should be providing.

Can you please take the time to completed the Questionnaire and return it to the address on the questionnaire.

If you would prefer to complete it on line a form for completion will be on the website shortly.

'The Shearsby Suite'

An affordable meeting / conference facility in Plymouth for up to 12 people.

Newly refurbished with a well equipped kitchen for the preparation of tea, coffee and snacks.

Please Note: It is situated on the fourth floor and is therefore unsuitable for many people with physical disabilities.

- for further information contact Mr Heaver, Managing Secretary - contact detail as given on this page.

The Society and You - News

Time for a new General Secretary.

Les Dancy is seeking a sensible and upstanding member of the Society? To take over from him as General Secretary in the very near future.

The work is not excessive, however, the General Secretary needs to have relevance to the modern Royal Naval Engineer. It is best suited for a member who has just retired from the service and understands the present situation in ships and at sea.

All expenses are paid and there is a reasonable modest honorarium.

If there are any members willing to consider this position and to find out more could they please contact one of the Society Officers listed opposite.

Help to Make the Newsletter.

If you have a dit or story, just to contact other members or promote an idea - contact the Society Newsletter Editor.

Short stories and personal messages are always welcome in the Newsletter.

Society Questionnaire.

Included in the posting this time is a Questionnaire relating to the future development of the Society. It is important to reply to these questions to help keep the Society supplying the needs of the members.

Included is a free entry to a prize draw for £100.

It is also a good method to update the records of the Society and your next of kin statement. The present maximum pay out of death benefit is £1000+. A good insurance on £10 per year. The more members the higher the pay out.

Items for the Newsletter should be sent to:

newsletter@rnebs.co.uk

Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society

Useful RNEBS Addresses and telephone numbers

The RNEBS Offices
Devonport Section
Top Floor
113 North Hill
Plymouth
PL4 8JY

General Secretary
Mr Les Dancy
07816787745
gen.sec@rnebs.co.uk

Managing Secretary
Mr Chris Heaver
man.sec@rnebs.co.uk

Editor Naval Engineers Review
Mr Steve Woodford
ed.ner@rnebs.co.uk



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