



ROYAL NAVAL ENGINEERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

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The Society Newsletter

Society set to welcome Technicians

Important tasks

For

All Members:

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

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

Executive Council vote to accept Engineering Technicians to Society.

At the Executive Council meeting it was decided to accept the Technician into the Society.

In a radical change to the Society the Executive Council voted to welcome the new Engineering Technicians into the Society. This will allow access to the Society to the whole of the Engineering Branch of the Royal Navy.

Different levels of membership.

To ensure the level of expertise of members it was decided to have two levels of membership. An Associate membership has been created from the previous level of junior member. This will include any Engineering Technician on entering the Engineering branch.

To gain full membership the Associate member will need to prove that he has obtained a level of ability that would entitle him to enter an Institute at the level of Engineering Technician or above. This equates to the level

that the present Artificer must obtain before he qualifies for the Petty Officer rate.

New Society? Modern Society!

It was the opinion of the Executive Council that the changes made by the Navy Board will have a modernising effect on the Engineering Branch and that the Society needs to move with the times.

Problems will be met by the Society in developing a new and forward looking approach but this is needed by the Engineering branch of the Royal Navy - the people the Society sets out to represent.

Support of Society Members.

The Society must seek to represent its members to the best of its ability. This the Society can do more effectively if it accepts that the changing world needs different solutions. Some of these changes will be hard to accept, however, the Society must ensure that the Artificer or Technician is allowed to reach their full potential - and the Royal Navy can benefit from the high calibre of its personnel.

Branch Development

The Branch Development could be better, if the Royal Navy learnt to consult its highly skilled and intelligent work force about the changes that effect them it would most certainly have the effect of improving the morale instead of destroying it.

Many changes to working practice of the men and women of the Royal Navy are without prior notice or any discussion with those it will effect.

I understand that there was a wide

reaching look at the work and working practices of the work force before any decisions were made. It is at that point that the changes were decided. Now that the decisions have been made major alterations are considered a weakness rather than accepting reality that errors can be made by anyone.

The workforce has not been properly consulted. Perhaps it would be an idea before making such a radical and major alteration to the structure of the whole Royal Navy - excluding Officers

(the only ones so far consulted) - it would be wise to make the changes being suggested more widely known and accept that alterations will need making.

This would have two beneficial effects: first it would reduce the shock impact of the changes and effect on morale, second it may elicit some suggestions and comments that would reduce on waste of both time and money.

Engineering Apprenticeship?

Will the Royal Navy manage to attract Engineering recruits when they can not enter with an assured path to an Apprenticeship?

This Society believes that a combination of being able to enter directly to an apprenticeship or take a more relaxed approach gaining the qualifications over a more extended period allows for the greatest range of appli-

cants. To offer a less structured approach without the title apprenticeship will reduce the attractiveness of choices on offer.

"Fast track" - is not an apprenticeship. To offer what could equal an apprenticeship without the title allows both the applicant and the Royal Navy too much flexibility. The fixed nature of the agreement: to the apprentice by

the Royal Navy to give them a full course which will enable them to be skilled and by the apprentice to complete a course that will give the Royal Navy a skilled person on completion, sets an expectation to achieve success.

An Apprenticeship attracts young men and women of a calibre required for the future Royal Navy.

Executive Council Meeting

Your President is Dave Moran this year with Mark Stevens as the Vice-President.

Dave works in the Dockyard at Devonport and is active in the Plymouth Section of the Society. To find out more about Dave please contact the Ply-

mouth section through our able Managing Secretary Chris Heaver who's address and phone number are on the back of the newsletter.

The other members included the able old gentlemen of the Society, always ready with advice, Mr Bob Crick our

retired General Secretary from the 1970s and 80s and Mr Vic Blackman.

Two section members from each of the active sections of Devonport and Portsmouth take a leading role in the decisions that will shape the future Society.

Meetings of the Society

There are regular meeting of the two main active sections, Devonport and Portsmouth. The Scotland section, which by default will probably be the Faslane Section, at present meets once per year.

If any member wishes to attend a

meeting but is, at present, to far from the main sections they should contact the General Secretary.

If members who contact reach enough members the General Secretary will contact all members in the area and arrange a meeting at a convenient

time and place.

For further information contact the General Secretary, the contact details are printed on the address page of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing some of you in June.

Devonport Section Meetings

The Devonport Section meeting held in the Society Office at 113 North Hill.

The Office is located on the top floor of the building.

The meetings of the Devonport Section

are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (No meeting in August or December). The next meeting 26 October 2004 at 19.00 hours.

These meetings are often lively with discussions ranging over all the interests of the Society members.

For further information about any other event or information about the Devonport Section contact the Managing Secretary, Chris Heaver 01752 32 [93765] 5060 / chris.c.heaver@devonport.co.uk

Portsmouth Section Meeting

The Portsmouth section meetings - at the Grapevine Centre.

The Grapevine centre in HMS Sultan is the point to meet and find out more.

The meetings discuss the future of the

Artificer and what the Society should do. The next meeting is in April.

Help the Portsmouth section represent your views.

The meetings of the Portsmouth section

are held every month on the second Friday.

The meeting starts at 20.00 hours. All members are made welcome. Next meeting — 9 April 2004.

Section Meetings in Scotland

The next meeting in Scotland will be the Annual General Section meeting.

I need to be told by the members if they want a section in Scotland and

were? As your General Secretary I am remote from your location and can only arrange a meeting in the year. This will be the AGM in Faslane Naval Base on Wednesday 1 June 2005.

If you wish to have additional meetings

please contact me. If I get four or more members I will help you get the meetings going.

For further information contact me, the contact details are printed on the address page of the newsletter. I look

The Society and You - News

Asbestoses - There has been some recent enquires by some members on the subject of asbestoses related diseases. A good port of call on this subject is the Royal British Legion. The General Secretary of this Society is looking at the subject in general with a view to publishing an article in the future in the NER (Naval Engineering Review) on the subject at a later date.

If any member has any well founded research or would like to submit an article on this or any other related subject please contact the NER Editor.

Buzz busters - a member of the Society who recently used this line of communication has informed the General Secretary that he found it a useful source of accurate information.

It is good to hear that there is a

good source of information, it should however be remembered that as with any information it is always necessary to be aware that the information may be bias.

Rules - Please have your say in the rules and direction of the Society helping us truly represent you. The best method is always to attend a meeting and put your views. These monthly meetings are open to all members of the Society to take a full an active part.

If you are unable to attend a meeting then contact either the Manager Secretary or General Secretary who will put your views forward at the meetings they attend.

A member of the Society recently helped with some changes to the rules which will be discusses at section meetings in the near future.

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

Managing Secretary
Mr Chris Heaver
01752 342547
man.sec@rnebs.co.uk

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