



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS  
MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
**Menzies Strathallan Hotel**  
**Birmingham**

**Present**

Mr. P. Robinson QFSM	President
Mr. J. Littleton	National Secretary
Mr. C.W. Bailey	National Treasurer*
Mrs. L. Bairsto	No 1 District
Mr. C. Bailey	No 2 District*
Mr. A. Beecroft	No 3 District*
Mr. F. Byrne	No 4 District+
Mr. J. Jackson	No 5 District (Bedfordshire)
Mr. P. Robinson	No 6 District*
Mr. D.G Hayden	No 7 District
Mr. C. Richards JP	No 8A District No
Mr. A. Jones	8B District +
Mr. F. Kinghorn	No 9 District
Mr. H. Martin	No 11 District & Life Vice President
Mrs. W. Garrett	No 15 District (Direct Membership)
Mr. B. Wakefield	PSPC, Editorial
Mr. P. Maguire	NARF News Editor
Mr. F. Byrne	NARF Pensions, Editorial
Mr. Graham Bow MBE	Membership Secretary, Fire Service Charity
Mr. Roy Orringe MBE	General Purposes Committee & Life Vice President
Mr. Jeff Goddard OBE	NARF Pensions
Mr. A. Beecroft	Standard Bearer (Barnsley)
Mr. S. Bairsto	No 1 District Chairman
Mrs. M. Smeed	No 8A District

*Note*

*\*Dual Position*

*+Stand-in*

The President Mr. Peter Robinson opened the meeting and asked everyone to be upstanding for the arrival of The NARF Standard.

*The President asked everyone to remain standing and remember former friends who were no longer with us.*

This formality over, The President introduced the Chief Fire Officer of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service **Vij Randeniya OBE** "who went on to say, thank you very much for inviting him for dinner and to open the Annual General Meeting.

*The Chief Officer went on to say that he gets invited to lots of events and this week he was out six nights. The Chief Fire Officer said that it was a pleasure to sit down at lunch and talk about old times and what was going to happen with The West Midlands in the future and he really enjoyed it. He said that over the last few months he has been busy with the opening of the New Headquarters.*

*The Chief continued, that as a newly promoted Chief he would like us to know how he viewed the Service and the way he hoped it would go forward. He indicated that when he was made The Acting Chief Fire Officer in November, the first thing he did was change the training routine from 0800hrs to 1215hrs the latter beings the first break. This went on 7 days a week since during the past, we had gone soft on training. I do believe, he said, that the service needs to modernised and we are going to face unusual times and changes now, and that when we have come through it, the service will be different to what it is now, and this will happen in three or four years.*

*He went on to say that he believed that there is a tradition that needs to be maintained in the Fire Service.*

*With the opening of the new headquarters, we have had built a "Safeside" facility which has shops, railway lines and roads, and which is used for training of the public in how to look after themselves. He hoped that we will have a NARF meeting at the new headquarters and he will be pleased to show us around this new initiative.*

*The Chief at this point said that he was willing to answer questions.*

### **The President**

After thanking the Chief Fire Officer for his willingness to come and address our Annual General Meeting, Peter expressed his disappointment that without precedent in NARF, no members other than the Council who had been on site since yesterday, had made the effort to attend this meeting. In these highly unusual circumstances, he asked the Council Members present to approve his intention of aborting the necessity of going through an Agenda which would be the duplicate, of what Council had already been through during the immediately preceding Council Meeting. This was acknowledged as being the most appropriate action since the decisions already taken by the Council, would now automatically be the decisions of the failed AGM since there could be no changes attributable to additional voting members.

Peter said it was his great pleasure therefore to declare that the AGM had approved Fred Kinghorn as new President and formally handed over the Presidential Medal by fixing it round Fred's neck to a burst of applause. After a photograph for NARF News, Peter invited Fred to now take over as Chair of the AGM.

Fred acknowledged the honour bestowed upon him and declared that he would serve Council to the best of his ability during his term of office.

The new President then invited Frank Byrne to formally accept the role which Council had approved for him at Council Meeting as Vice President. Frank accepted with applause from members.

It was then left only for the new President to ask the Standard Bearer Alan Beecroft to come forward and formally retrieve the NARF Standard.

Although not anticipated the meeting ended much earlier than had been anticipated.