



THE NYASALAND POLICE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER No 2/2019

August 2019

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GREETINGS



Greetings to all our members, our friends and families and I take this opportunity to wish you well and trust that you are in good spirit. At the time of writing Summer had clearly arrived in UK with days of some extremely warm weather and then thunderstorms and heavy rain following in many areas with flash floods an accompanying hazard. Plus ca change ~ weather, as ever, is the main concern and occupies most of conversation in UK.

In the six months since taking over as Organiser of the Association, I have been very encouraged by:

1. Contacts with and from members. I would be very pleased to hear from any member who would like to contact me at any time.
2. The response from members to the appeal for donations towards Association administrative costs.
3. Our 2019 Reunion on 11th July on which I have the pleasure to report as below.

Reunion ~ 11th July 2019

Once again the Association Reunion was held at the Holiday Inn, Coventry, it has now been our venue for a total of six years. We were 32 in total, 10 former officers and wives together with widows and adult children of deceased and other officers.

In my address I spoke of the various contacts made with members during the year and my pleasure in meeting up again at Coventry with so many old friends and former comrades. I also listed those who had passed away in 2018. These included **Bill Dodd (1931-2018)** an experienced investigator and prosecuting Officer, **David O'Neil (1932 - 2018)** a strong supporter of the Association and Reunions regular, the last time whilst in the final stage of a terminal illness – a prolific writer of fiction and non-fiction. **Brad Gillies (1934-2018)** served mainly in the PMF and at the Training School, he settled in South Africa where he worked in security. **John Pritchard (1933- 2018)** after Nyasaland, he continued police service in Papua New Guinea and following law studies in Australia eventually became Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions in Canberra, **Eric Bult (1926- 2018)** mainly remembered as Staff Officer to the Commissioner and **Les Antrobus (1932-2018)**, a skilled technician who worked in the Comms branch mainly in HQ Zomba.



Following the main course, I spoke of the great work done by Founder Member Christopher Bean who managed the Association for some twelve years and on behalf of members he was presented with a photobook of his time in Nyasaland and his time managing the Association. Barry Thorne in proposing the toast to the 'Nyasaland Police Association and Members' recalled his early days in the Force with good humour and due deference.

Much to the surprise of those assembled I sang my composition of a ditty about joining the force followed by Kathy Carr, with her usual poetic vein, giving an excellent rendition of yet another new ode to the Nypol Lads.

There followed the usual raffle, conducted by Liz Bean and Vanessa Farmery with prize-winners well distributed and, in keeping with modern technology, Tony Drynan in Perth Australia, was able to join the the occasion via SKYPE.

So concluded another another very enjoyable Reunion and the good news is that the next will be on 9th July 2020, at the same venue with prices unchanged.

Note: The ten former officers attending (by age) were Jon Dennison, Boyd Pendennis, Mike Tadman, Mick Thacker, Barry Thorne, Terry Young, Don Hargreaves, Christopher Bean, Ken Wilkinson and Bob Carr, can you identify them in the picture below?



*If not, they are (L-R) Standing: Terry, Mike, Don and Barry.
Seated: Jon, Ken, Christopher, Boyd, Mick and Bob.*

Sadly this year – 2019 – we have lost two of our staunch supporters:

Malcolm Llewellyn CPM died on 11th March 2019 aged 94. An outstanding officer, held in the highest esteem by all who knew and worked with him. He joined after war time service in the Royal Navy and is remembered, in particular, for his work in the Police Training School. On return to Wales he spent some 30 years in the teaching profession.

Dot Farmery (wife of the late Doug Farmery and mother of Vanessa) died on 8th August 2019. Their time in Nyasaland, from late 1959 to 1969, was a time of great political transition but they always considered it the best time of their long and happy life together and highly valued the friendships they made in Africa. Following Doug's passing in 2011, she regularly attended the Reunions with Vanessa until serious illness made this impossible. After a number of years of several progressive and painful illnesses, she took the decision to follow the Dignitas route and died in Switzerland.

Ken Wilkinson

*Nyasaland Police Association
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