LONDON FIRE BRIGADE RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE SIR FREDERICK DELVE SUITE
SOUTHWARK TRAINING CENTRE
ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MAY 2011

16/08/11

The Chairman M. Coffey opened the meeting at 15:05 hours. He invited the meeting to stand and receive the RMA Standard and to observe a one minute silence as a mark of respect for all Fire-fighters, retired and serving, who had **Booked Gone** since last year's AGM. The total of deceased Fire-fighters and Widows of the LFB covering the period between April 2010 and April 2011 is 61, of which 8 were members of the RMA. A list of the deceased was posted within the hall and all members who were present received a copy.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Coleman Chairman of the Authority to address the meeting.

Councillor Coleman welcomed those present. He said that he was delighted to see members of the RMA and staff who work for, and are part of the on-going work of the Authority. It has been a challenging year politically he said, following a general election we have a new Government and a new Minister for Fire, Bob Neil. The Minister is somebody who knows the Brigade well as he was in the 1980s, the leader of the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

Nationally a lot of work has been going on, the National Control project has collapsed, but I am delighted that the LFB has taken the decision to purchase the building built by the Government and the Control will be moving in following the Olympics, which we are in the process of gearing up for. You will be pleased to know as tax payers, that we are on budget and on time with the building projects.

It has been a difficult year regarding the budget, we have managed to get through it without the pressure that other local authority departments have had, and cuts have been made in line with the Governments cuts. Following a review of all Fire Authorities by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, this year and next year we will be ok, but in the following two years the budget will be tight and we shall have to make some difficult decisions. The authority has taken a decision on shift patterns which are now being worked.

I am grateful for the continued support of the RMA, the Brigade and the Authority. I am delighted to see you here today and hope that you enjoy the meeting and reception

Apologies for absence were received from:-
J. Anthony, J. Blott, Sir. M. Bonham, L. Bradby, G. Clarkson, R. Clarkson, P. Cowland, E. Crichton, G. Dobson, M. Dunworth, A. Eatherton, D. Harn, H. Harrison, A. Hickmott, Sir K. Knight, V. Jones, G. Morgan, R. Murray, R. Neil, B. Newstead, R. Peach, A. Poole, L. Powell, L. Robinson, P. Rose, S. Turek.

The minutes of the 2010 AGM held in the Sir Frederick Delve Suite on 18th May 2010 were read, it was agreed that they were a true record.

Matters Arising: None

1. Chairman's Report: M Coffey OBE

The Chairman said that he was happy to report that the RMA has had another successful year which has been very busy. The Secretary in his report will tell you about the events that have taken place over the past year and those that are being planned for the future. I know he said that a great deal of work goes into the organisation of these events and of the Association, not only by the Secretary but by all the members of the Committee and the Branch secretaries who organise regular local meetings and give help and support to their members when needed. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee members and Branch Secretaries for their support and hard work over the past year.

This year will see an interesting Fire Service anniversary. It marks the 150th anniversary of the death of James Braidwood who has been recognised as the father of the modern Fire Service and founder of the LFB. He was killed on the 22nd June 1861 at a fire in Cottons Wharf, Tooly Street; the fire at the time was reported to be the largest fire London had seen since the Great Fire of 1666. His funeral drew large crowds and it was reported that the cortege was over one mile long.

Our previous Chairman told us last year, that this year will see the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack on New York. This year the date will fall on Sunday 11th September the same day as the FFMCT hold their annual service of Remembrance, it is always a poignant service held at the Memorial by St. Paul's and the RMA are always well represented, you are invited to attend a service which I am sure you will find most rewarding.

The FFMCT will be hosting a special reception on the 19th July, when they will formally receive a Royal Charter from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal together with their own Standard which will be blessed. If you would like to attend this very special occasion you will find an application form with today's papers.

In closing the Chairman thanked the Commissioner R. Dobson, and Councillor Coleman, Chair of the Authority for attending today's AGM and for giving the RMA the use of Southwark once again.

2. Presidential Address: R Dobson CBE QFSM Commissioner LFB

The Commissioner said that the RMA and its members were most welcome at Southwark and he hoped that this would continue for many years, it was a pleasure he said to be invited to address the meeting.

With the aid of a visual display the President/Commissioner gave the following report.

He said that the Brigade had encountered another challenging year, a new management structure had been put into place with three new directorates covering the Deputy Commissioner, finance and Contractual Services and Operational Resilience and Training. The Director of Resources Barbara Riddell and the head of Property Nadime Moge have both left the Brigade, Sue Budden has taken over as acting head of Finance and Contractual Services and Susan Ellison-Bunce is now in charge of Strategy and Performance.

The operational side of the Brigade in the past year have dealt with 27,563 fires of which 13,360 were primary fires and the total number of incidents attended was 122,838. The

Presidential Address Cont.:

breakdown of those incidents is as follows 4/6 pump fires:-596, 8/12 pump fires: 43, 15 pump fires:- 1, and 20pump fires:- 3. The most significant of those was a 20pump fire in a Shoreditch night club, 20pump fire in a high rise residential block of flats in Kingston together with a major flooding incident in Brentford.

Community fire safety remains a priority for the Brigade. To date70,000 home fire safety visits have been made, and the 500th Life Course has been completed. There were 61 fatalities during the past year and the trend continues downwards in respect of fatalities and fires thereby confirming that community fire safety is working.

A new SDBA set and 300bar cylinder will be introduced in December with new EDBA sets in August together with new respirators; BA telemetry will be introduced in January 2012. Three new bulk foam units together with a Detection, Identification and Monitoring vehicle, these will be based at Incident Support Centres at Harrow, Barking, Kingston and Beckenham.

Continued progress is being made on the Olympic site and a temporary fire station will be operational during the games with many Fire-fighters volunteering to man the appliances, preparations for both the Games and Paralympic Games are continuing.
A new Fire Station at Walthamstow will open later in the year.

This year the Authority has seen a significant saving of £1 million following the introduction of many green projects.

You will remember he said that industrial action short of a strike, concerning the introduction of revised working times started in August, this was followed by two one day strikes in October and November, this was followed by two options from the Resolution Advisory Panel being put to the membership of the FBU, the members voted in favour of increasing the day shift to 10 ½ hours and the night shift reduced to13 ½ hours and an agreement in respect of this change was signed in January. The new times were introduced in May and the revised start times are: day shift 09:30 and night shift: 20:00. Also introduced is a system of direct standbys where a standby will be ordered the shift before and they will report directly to their standby station at the change of watch, this has significantly reduced the amount of time that appliances are off the run at the change of watch, thereby increasing fire cover. We continue to review these and other arrangements

It is a challenging time regarding the Authorities finances, public spending has been reduced and the Government grant has been reduced by 25% over the next four years, the 20011/12 budget has been reduced by £10 million and we will encounter pressure in the final two years.
The Authority are seeking to outsource training and at present there are three bidders to supply training to the Brigade, further consideration to this option will be taken in November
The FiRe Control project was scraped in December, and as the Chairman said earlier the Brigade have taken over the site at Merton and will move in later in the year. Officers have been asked to consider outsourcing options and a new shift system will be introduced in April next year.

The UK Rescue challenge will take place at the EXCel Centre on the 23rd/24th September; this is the first time that the Brigade have hosted the event. The challenge comprises of four rescue scenarios, extraction, trauma line and USAR plus multiagency water rescue

Presidential Address Cont.:

demonstrations. Teams will compete from many Brigades and I can he said recommend an interesting and enjoyable day out for anyone attending.

3. Secretary's Report: B. Sargent MBE.

The Secretary welcomed the President, Councillor Coleman, guests and members of the Association to Southwark for the 75th AGM in our 81st year.

Sadly he said it was his duty to report the death of Life Vice President Ronald Borrows who passed away last month following a long illness.

Ron joined the NFS in 1941 at the age of 13 as a messenger in Liverpool. In 1948 he completed his basic training and became a full time Fireman with the Liverpool Fire Brigade. Progressing through the ranks he transferred to the Croydon Fire Brigade as a Station Officer in 1964 and on the changeover in 1965 was promoted to ADO and became a member of the London Fire Brigade. In 1967 he was posted to the L Division HQ and climbed through the ranks to become DACO of the L division in 1976. One month later he was again promoted and served as ACO in the Operational Technical Branch for the North Area.

After serving for 41 years in the Fire Service he retired in September 1980. On his retirement he became involved with the RMA and was elected to the post of Treasurer, he undertook the re organisation of the Association and formed the Branch's that we operate today, placing members into the Branch which corresponded to the Division in which they had served, he also, with the help of Jim Syrett the Secretary, collected at the end of each year any money that was carried over from the Branch's and paid it into a central bank account, giving the Association the financial stability and base that exists today, he was also responsible for organising the AGM and the Annual Reunion.

In 1987 he retired from the Treasurers post he handed over the reins to Ron Alsford and moved back home to the Wirrell via Scotland, he was made a LVP for his work on behalf of the Association in 1988.

The re organisation that Ron put into place has lasted for some 30 years, his love of the RMA, LFB, and the Fire Service and the work for the organisations that he represented have seen the test of time his presence on the side-lines and his knowledge will be sadly missed.

On behalf of the officers and membership of the Association the Secretary offered his congratulations to the President, Commissioner R. Dobson who has been awarded a CBE in the Queens New Year Honours List, he said that the award was richly deserved for the Commissioners work with the LFB, and hoped that he and his family would enjoy their day at the Palace when he was presented with his decoration.

Four of our Branch Secretaries have decided to retire following today's AGM. They are Hugh Harrision, Home Counties Branch Secretary, Michael Dunworth, Overseas and Other Counties Branch Secretary and Gary Knight, West Country Branch Secretary. Due to illness Dennis Cebunka has handed over the Kent Branch to Barry Hammond but will continue to be involved with the Association looking after our web site.

All have worked tirelessly for both the RMA and their members for many years, they have been on hand and have looked after their members, and their families when the

Secretaries Report Cont.:

need has arisen. It has been difficult to find replacements for them, and for the Association to continue we need members to volunteer and come forward to fill the positions vacated by members who have served the Association if we are to survive into the 21st century.

Due to the problems of finding volunteers to run the Branch's it has been decided that the Home Counties and Overseas and Other Counties Branch's will be amalgamated and will be administered by Roger Stevenson, the West Country will be taken over by David Ealing, who has recently retired from the Brigade and has moved to Cornwall. He thanked both Roger and David for stepping in and giving their time to administer these Branch's.

I hope he added that our new Branch Secretaries will gain as much satisfaction from their new roles as he had in the role of Secretary, and that they will remain not only members of the RMA but as officers of the Association for many years to come. He then asked that if anyone in the room felt that they were able to give up some of their time to help their colleagues in retirement and take up a position within the Committee they would be welcomed most sincerely. The Secretary said that he would be available at the end of the meeting to take any ones details

Unfortunately he said the retirees were unable to be with us today, a gift in respect of their work on behalf of their members and to the RMA will be presented to them in due course together with a letter of thanks from our Chairman.

He asked the meeting to refer to last year's minutes concerning the annual grant that we received from the Welfare Fund, which, helps with the cost to parade the Standard at retired fire-fighters funerals, be they a member or not of either the Association or Welfare Fund, at ceremonial functions, supplying hospital parcels and to help with the hiring of rooms for meetings and reunions, was reduced by the Executive Committee. This year they have decided to reduce this grant further and the Association will now receive £5k this year. Your Committee has decided that to make up this deficit without raising the annual subscriptions all members will receive with the next issue of the magazine, 2 books of draw tickets each containing 5 tickets at a cost of £1 each. The Committee hope that they have found the correct level of prizes and with this in mind that all members will actively support the draw, and if it is a success, then this could become an annual event and our annual subscriptions will not have to be increased. If anyone would like to purchase tickets they will be on sale from the Treasurer following the AGM and at the Reunion.

The Committee he said would like to record their congratulations to the Fire Fighters Memorial Trust who have been granted a Royal Charter. Their Chairman Gerry Clarkson has asked that the Association be informed of the arrangements that have been made.

The Charter together with a Standard will be presented to the Trust at a ceremony on the 19th July at the Honourable Artillery Company City Road in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. As the RMA have supported the Trust in past, Gerry Clarkson has extended an invitation to all RMA members together with their partners and 2 guests, to attend the ceremony, as the Trust is a Charity, a fee needs to be levied and the cost to attend is £47.50 per person, the invitation letter and reply slip was contained within the papers appertaining to the meeting. I am sure that it will be a memorable afternoon at a ceremony that you would not have the pleasure of attending

Secretaries Report Cont.:

very often the Secretary said, the Trust will make you very welcome and would appreciate your involvement and attendance.

The Trust's annual service of Remembrance will this year be held in St. Paul's Cathedral. The date, the 11th September coincides with the 9/11 disaster in New York and also marks the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Trust. Members are welcome to apply to the Secretary of the Trust for tickets, which are free of charge.

Over the past year the Secretary said that he has represented the Association at various events that the RMA have been invited to. This year he said that he shall be representing the Association again and can confirm that he has attended the Service of Thanksgiving at the National Arboretum Staffordshire on the 8th May.

He will also be attending a Service on the 26th June at The Crown Court Church of Scotland in Covent Garden, to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of James Braidwood the first Superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment.

He was killed at the Cotton Wharf Fire, Tooley Street on the 22nd June 1861. The church is where he worshiped with his family when he came to London from Edinburgh. He was instrumental in forming the London Fire Engine Establishment in 1833 serving for 28 years. As a former surveyor he laid the foundations of fire fighting techniques and introduced uniforms to the service. The Fire Service that we know today is based on his knowledge and the expertise that he introduced 175 years ago. In a pastoral role he retained the London City Mission to act as the Brigade's chaplaincy, and he visited Firemen and their families in their homes. The LCM held that position up to 2004 when the multi faith chaplaincy was appointed by the Authority, the Association continues to have a link with the London City Mission and their representative Geoff Potter is our chaplain and is here with us today.

It has been decided that it would be appropriate for the Association to hold a service at Abney Park Cemetery Stoke Newington on the 22nd June as a mark of respect to a former Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade and pioneer of Fire fighting techniques.

An invitation to a reception at Southwark held by the Master of the WCOFF has been received, and he will be attending the Remembrance Service at Fireman's Corner Highgate on the 3rd June.

The ceremony when the Trust receive their Royal Charter at the HAC, the Annual Service of Remembrance at St. Paul's in September and the Armistice Day Services at Lambeth and at City Hall in November, where LCC employees are remembered for their sacrifice during 2 world wars and other conflicts, and finally the Brigade Carol Service which this year will be held in Westminster Cathedral.

Details of the following events were sent to all members in February and can be found in the magazine and on our web site.

On the 6th June a guided tour to St. Paul's Cathedral followed by lunch, the cost which does not include lunch is £15.00

On the 4th July a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster followed by lunch, the cost, which includes lunch, is £25.00

Secretaries Report Cont.:

A Lunch Cruise on the Thames will take place on the 10th August and will consist of a 3 course meal with ½ bottles of wine and mineral water while undertaking a 1½ hour cruise; the cost is £42.60 and will be followed by refreshments in the Civil Service Club for those who wish to attend.

This year's Battlefield tour will take place from the 30th September to 2nd October and is a departure from World War1& 2. We shall be tracing the footsteps of Wellington's and Napoleon's armies at The Battle of Waterloo.

Travelling by coach via the Channel Tunnel, and together with 2 nights B&B accommodation in the centre of Waterloo, the cost will be £180.00 per person

While on the battlefield theme, the Secretary said that he had been asked to arrange a guided tour to the D Day Normandy Landings in September 2012. With that in mind he said that he has put together a suggested itinerary which can be found with the papers appertaining to the meeting. The cost of the trip which has yet to be confirmed will be in the region of £350 and £400 and will be over 5 days, due to the cost of this trip, members need to confirm their availability and pay a small refundable deposit before August this year, this is to gauge the interest and feasibility of this trip going ahead.

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held on the 29th October at the Charing Cross Hotel, the cost is £70 per person and will include a pre-dinner reception, 4 course meal with ½ bottle wine and live music played by the Joel White Band.

Anyone he said wishing to attend or requires further information on any of these events should contact the Secretary. You will find he said details of certain events with your papers appertaining to today's meeting.

The Magazine continues to grow through the tireless efforts of our editor, but if we are to keep growing and have a magazine that will rival the old Fire-fighter magazine, we require articles from you the membership, it can be on any subject be it fire service related or about your holidays or hobbies, please think positively about putting pen to paper and help to make the magazine a worthwhile read. Any one not receiving a copy should contact either their Branch Secretary or the Editor Keith Sefton.

As the magazine continues to grow so does the selection of trading items thanks to Erik Crichton. Unfortunately Erik is not with us today and consequently we have no trading items here for sale. However if anyone would like to make a purchase the Treasurer will be happy to take your order and the goods will be dispatched to your home in due course, she has flyers displaying all items and current prices.

This year has seen the advent of a new web site with a new address. Dennis Cebunka has spent many hours getting the site up and running and the quality and information on the site which is constantly being updated is testimony to his commitment and is well worth a look at if you have the facilities, he will give a more detailed update later in the meeting.

Positive feedback has been received from members concerning the diaries. The Committee hope that we can continue to issue Diaries to all members and an order for next year will be placed with our supplier later in the year, it is hoped that this will

Secretaries Report Cont.:

continue into the future together with the sending of a Christmas card to all members, this will of course be dependent on the Associations finances.

The following report was given on behalf of the Membership Secretary Jim Geoghegan.

2011 has continued to be a year of uncertainty regarding the RMA's membership. Provisional returns from Branch's indicate that a further slip in membership has occurred.

Previous efforts to increase membership and steady the numbers of existing members has failed to stem the tide of those members for whatever reason, have decided not to renew their link with the Association. The continual unreliability of the postal system could be a contributory factor.

As in previous years it is hope that those who have not renewed their membership this year will do so later in the year and boost our numbers.

Branch Secretaries continue to encourage and generate new member applications, as do the retirement briefing sessions held by the Brigade, but this still does not answer the question as to why established members fail to renew their membership. The Membership Secretary has appealed over the past few years to the membership for their views as to why our numbers have decreased, and has had little response to this request, and asked that if any members is aware of a lapsed member to ask them as to why they are lapsed and let the Association know the reason and we will make every effort to rectify it.

Our current figures as at the 1st May are:

Total Membership	1451
New Members	70
Deceased Members	7
Deceased Widows	1
Deceased Pensioners	61

Comparing our current membership, less new members since May indicates a 7.5% drop in membership this year, which is an improvement on last year which recorded a drop of 13%.

There has been a growing interest for new members to pay their annual subscriptions by bank transfer. This method provides instant injections of funds to the Association and can save time in the queues in the shrinking number of banks that are offering counter facilities. This facility will continue to be available to new members and if existing members wish to change to this method of payment they should contact their Branch Secretary for details.

Our deceased list continues to show many familiar names of our former colleagues. Amongst this year's list is George Brownsea, so long a fixture at the Wimbledon Tennis tournament where he was the organiser of the Brigade's stewards contingent, and Dickie Day, who was known at one point in his career as the shortest professional

Secretaries Report Cont.:

Fireman in the British Fire Service, he retired in 1975 having completing all his service at Manchester Square Fire Station.

In closing the Secretary said that today was a time when as your Secretary he is able to publicly thank on behalf of the membership, the officers of our Association, for without their help it would be very difficult to administer the Association, which, continues to flourish under the stewardship of our Chairman Martin Coffey, albeit that our membership is down. In his first year as our Chairman, he has been active together with his wife Mary, in supporting not only the RMA events but also those that we are invited to attend, he is always on hand to give advice and help with the day to day running of the Association. The Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Standard Bearers, all Branch Secretaries and Committee members have again given their time over the past year to help run an organisation which is dedicated to helping its members and their families in retirement, without their involvement and the support of you the membership the Association would not exist.

He also thanked Bobbie Hussein from the Brigade's Communications Department, who on behalf of the Brigade and Authority has been on hand to help with, and arrange today's event, and finally to the Commissioner and to Councillor Coleman for once again allowing the Retired Members the use of Southwark and for supplying the refreshments following today's meeting.

He hoped that the membership would have an enjoyable afternoon at the Reunion in the Jerwood Space, he hoped that the new venue would be satisfactory and that with the support of the membership our reunion will continue to grow and will last for many years to come, but before leaving for the reunion and following the AGM, he invited those present to take some light refreshments at the rear of the hall with the Chairman of both the Authority and Association and our President the Commissioner.

Finally on behalf of the Association and its Officers he wished everyone a long, happy and healthy retirement and a safe journey home.

4. **Welfare Report-:** No report available

5. **Fire-fighters Charity Report: J. Parry Chief Executive**

J. Parry thanked the Chairman for allowing him the opportunity to address the meeting. He said that he had served with various Fire Brigades for 31 years and was a trustee of the Charity up to last year when he resigned this position to become the Charity's CE.

With the aid of a visual display he gave the following report.

He started by saying that it is your Charity and everyone who has served in the Fire Service and their family has access to it. The Charity help thousands of members each year. Last year a total of 13,000 individuals were given help and from that 418 were from the LFB, the help given ranged from nursing care to rest and re-cooperation to physiotherapy and telephone help and inquiries.

All new appointments to the Charity are professional people with the expertise that we are looking for. We are currently looking to improve Beneficiary Support through the team and we are looking to get injured fire fighters back to work as soon as possible. We

Fire-fighters Charity Report Cont.:

are also looking to improve services to retired fire fighters to help with the quality of life in retirement.

We shall shortly be moving into stress and psychological services, this is due to our Directors background, and we will not go to areas duplicated by the NHS or where we do not have the correct expertise to give support.

Retired beneficiaries make up 30%, you will find on your seat a flyer entitled 'Keep In Touch', he asked for members present to complete the form and hand it back to him at the end of the meeting if you are not in active contact with the Charity. Other areas that the Charity would like to spend more time on is Fire Service support staff, 8,000 of which are based in the UK. The Charity is very appreciative to the DC and to AC Hamm who are to allow the Charity to carry out a fire fighter challenge focused on women support staff based in London on a date yet to be confirmed. I am conscious of the fact he said that the Charity has not in the past given active support to these members and the Brigade.

'Fit For The Future' is a campaign to be developed to communicate with key stake holders, of which you all are. SHOUT magazine was recently moved to an electronic format which has not proved to be successful, and this will change and we shall be reverting to sending hard copies to members but at the same time keeping the electronic format for those who wish to receive it in this way.

Work started at the Little Hampton centre last week. £4.5 million of improvements will take place. A new therapy unit will be built, part of the residential housing will be demolished and the 11 remaining units together with the existing facilities will be upgraded and 14 additional rooms will be added. When work is completed this will mean that all centres will have a clinical led therapy unit. Jubilee House has currently 8 beds with nursing care.

Last year we generated £9 million in income, in total London gave the highest proportion in regular giving, £770K was received from serving, retired members and the public, which we need to concentrate more on in the future.

The Spirit of Fire Awards is not a fund raising event but a time to recognize the support given to the Charity from its supporters and those who generate funds for the Charity and to honour the courage and bravery of the Nations Fire Fighters.

Three years ago the Charities name changed and it is now time to review that change with regards to the volunteer structure which encompasses active home visits.

In closing he said that the Charities business plan was good in terms of being financially driven but the performance management plan was not up to a standard that you would expect from a Fire Service based organisation, our operations should be more clinical and this will be remedied over the next year.

6. Treasurer's Report: Adoption of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010 Given by the Chairman:

The Chairman informed the meeting that the accounts were again in good order; this was due to our Treasurer's continued commitment and good management. He asked the meeting to refer to the statement of accounts supplied by the Treasurer, which was attached to the papers appertaining to the meeting.

He asked the meeting if there were any questions relating to the balance sheet.
There were none

As there were no questions, the Chairman asked that the meeting to adopt the examined accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010, on a vote on a show of hands the meeting accepted the examined report unanimously.

7. Election of Officers for 2011/2012:

The Chairman asked the meeting to refer to the nomination form contained within the papers for the meeting. All members nominated had agreed to stand for the relevant positions for the coming year. He asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. He asked if the meeting would accept the nominations and vote on them en bloc, this was agreed and the motion was proposed by G. Perren and seconded by D. Cebunka, on a show of hands the meeting accepted unanimously the nominations.

Officers & Committee for 2011/2012:

Chairman	M Coffey OBE		
Vice Chairman	Sir K Knight		
Secretary	B Sargent MBE		
Treasurer	Mrs E Stocker		
Membership Sec	J Geoghegan		
Ass Membership Sec	K Sefton		
Committee	C Elve	D Harn	P Efreme
	C Hart	A Poole	G Perren
	F Freeman	E Crichton	K Martin
	Mrs P Royal	R Stevenson	
Welfare Reps	D Harn	N Paulding	
Fire Fighters Charity Rep	A Poole		
Standard Bearers	N Paulding	D Bradbury	
Examiners	A Gilfrin	Mrs. N Dodwell	
Magazine Editor	K Sefton	G Perren MBE	
Chaplain	J Potter		

9. Update on new Web Site D Cebunka:

D Cebunka said that following a request from the Secretary he has researched and set up a new web site for the RMA with the following new address www.lfbrma.org

With the aid of a visual display he then gave the following report:

He thanked the Chairman for giving time to address the membership gathered at the AGM

Web Site Update Cont.:

He told the membership how following his retirement as Branch Secretary of the Kent Branch he was asked by the Secretary if I would look into designing a new web site for the LFB RMA, which he has done.

He said that the Secretary had asked for two major considerations:

1. That it would be live, in the sense that it was updated regularly
2. And secondly that it contained items that the membership would find useful or be interested in

It was a challenge he said that couldn't be refused.

The site envisaged would provide the membership with a tool that could be used to find out almost all of the information any member might require or need in retirement. I also wanted to make sure that the information provided was all in one place, current, regularly updated and looked professional. In that respect I hope I have succeeded in this. The site its self can be seen by anyone on the web by typing in

www.lfbrma.org

You should also note that the new site address has had the **.uk** removed

With regard to updating the web site, I can announce today that I have now totally updated the look of the site and that the new version of our site went live at midnight.

You will also find that because the web site is live, updates to it i.e. content and design, will continue to change and be updated at regular intervals

We have had approximately 800 hits or visits to our site since January when it went live. I am open to suggestions if you think something needs adjusting or is missing let me know and I'll try to accommodate your suggestions.

If you don't have adobe reader, flash player or java on you PC then I suggest that you download these programs as the web site uses these scripts to work and allows you to see the PDF files, 'Roundthread' magazine and pictures on the site. Links on the home page have been added to enable you to down load these programs if you don't already have them installed, they are free and will not compromise your PC in any way.

I have also added a News Update page which will be updated monthly and will include any news concerning forthcoming events, dates, times, change of venue or prices.
I also hope that the new design will speed up the loading of all pages.

I can also confirm today that the login box for an email address and a password is no longer required to access any area of the web site; this was removed two weeks ago due to problems with the login.

All records or copies of these email addresses have been totally erased and are not available in any form from any database.

Web Site Update Cont.:

If you have any questions about the web site I'll be happy to answer them following the AGM.

The main reason for speaking to you today is primarily to make you aware about the easy fundraising site which can be accessed from the Home button and clicking easy fund raising, here you can sign up and help raise much needed funds for the Association.

There is another banner, in the middle and halfway down the page, which will allow you to use the easy search engine and from here you can search the web for anything you like.

The first button I would like to talk about is the easy fundraising button.

When you click on this you will be taken to the easy fundraising site where you will need to sign up and choose to support the London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association, this is completely free and just involves you typing in your email address and choosing a password to use.

When you have signed up you will now start earning donations for the LFB RMA on all purchases you make via the easy fundraising site.

There are over 2000 plus retailers that give donations to fundraisers like us who use the easy fundraising site.

Please remember this will only happen when you go via the easy fund raising site to make your purchase.

Let me explain how it works. If you purchase items on the web, every time you go via the easy fundraising site you will earn a donation from that retailer for the LFB RMA. To make sure the LFB RMA receives all donations all you need to do is register on the easy fundraising site (its FREE) and choose to support the London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association.

Easy fundraising will also send you information about discount vouchers and promotions which will be sent to the email address you supply as and when they become available, and we will still get a donation if you accept the offer.

It can help the LFB RMA with keeping the costs of functions or visits to a minimum and will benefit everyone.

The other button mentioned is the easy search engine.

You can use this search engine straight from the page on our web site, or go via the easy fundraising site (again make sure you've registered), then for every search you make we get a 0.5p donation. Not much I hear you say but, if only 15 of you searched the web (using easy search) once a day for a year this would generate an annual donation from easy search of £25, paid to the LFB RMA, again at NO COST to you.

If you as ex fire fighters and RMA members want to help out your association in a very easy and profitable way, please register and use this facility?

Web Site Update Cont.:

Thank you for listening, enjoy the reunion, and please do remember to sign up on the easy fundraising site it costs you nothing, only a couple of minutes, and by doing so it will benefit every member of the LFB RMA.

10. A.O.B

There being no other business the RMA's Chairman M Coffey thanked everyone for attending, he then invited the meeting to take refreshments with the Chairman of both the Authority and the RMA and the Commissioner/President.

He then closed the meeting at 1640 hours

The 2012 AGM & Reunion will take place at a venue and a date yet to be confirmed