

**LONDON FIRE BRIGADE RETIRED MEMBERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE SIR FREDERICK DELVE SUITE
SOUTHWARK TRAINING CENTRE
ON TUESDAY 18TH MAY 2010**

The Chairman G. Clarkson opened the meeting at 1435 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 2009 and April 2010 is 101 of which 15 were members of the RMA. A list of the deceased was posted within the hall and all members who were present received a copy.

Apologies for absence were received from:-

J. Anthony, J. Blott, M. Bonham, L. Bradby, A. Burrell, R. Dexter M. Dix, G. Dobson, N. Dodwell, M. Dunworth, A. Eatherton, C. Elve, R. Fisher, J. Graham, R. Green, G. Gunner, E. Havis, T. Hayes, Sir K. Knight, G. Knight, J. Lee, E. Mann, K. Martin, B. Newstead, A. Poole, L. Powell, L. Robinson, N. Rose, P. Rose, F. Rye, P. Settle, M. Saunders, V. Shawcross, M. Spooner, R. Stevenson, G. White.

The minutes of the 2009 AGM held in Exhibition Hall 1 Barbican Centre on the 13th May 2009 were read, it was agreed that they were a true record.

Matters Arising: - None

1. Chairman's Report:- G. Clarkson CBE

The Chairman said that we as an Association have had an excellent year which has been relatively uneventful. The Branch Secretaries have, throughout the year been serving the membership in the true tradition of the RMA, which he said, is about looking after others, and it seems that in this day and age more emphasis is put on looking after oneself rather than others, your Committee have again worked hard on your behalf over the past year, and I should like to extend my thanks to them for their hard work, I realize that I do not do the work but am on hand to give advice when needed.

As you know this will be my last year as your Chairman as I shall be standing down following today's meeting and I can say that it is with some reluctance that I have come to this decision. I have enjoyed my long association (22 Years) with the RMA as both your President and Chairman and I have found the Association a wonderful organisation to be associated with. It has been both an honour and a privilege to have served a group of men and women who have given their lives to an organization serving others, a group that values traditions and are not self-seeking.

I was delighted to accept an invitation from your Committee for Rose and myself to attend a lunch at the Civil Service Club Great Scotland Yard, where a presentation was made to both Rose and myself, I have written to your General Secretary commenting on the kindness shown to both of us on the day. It was fitting that the lunch was held in an old Fire Station in as room which housed the mess, and is now a private club.

One nomination for the position of Chairman has been received, and I hope that you will accept the nomination later in the meeting. I am sure that Martin Coffey if accepted will make an excellent Chairman and I am sure the he will serve both the membership and the Association conscientiously and efficiently.

Chairman's Report Cont.-:

The Association held another excellent dinner dance last year at the Charing Cross Hotel, which I can highly recommend to the membership, this year's dinner will take place at the same venue on the 30th October.

I am reminded that this year is the 70th anniversary of the Blitz, and you will remember the events that we organised to commemorate the 60th anniversary at the Guild Hall, and I hope that there will be events commemorating the 70th anniversary later in the year. This year will also see the 10th anniversary of the events of 9/11 which took place in New York. This year the date falls on the very Sunday that the FFMCT holds its Annual Service of Remembrance. The Trust is going from strength to strength and they were instrumental in getting the memorial at St. Paul's erected together with the names of 997 Firemen and Women who lost their lives during the war. This has now been extended and is now a National Memorial and the names of Fire-fighters killed in peace time have been added, and through the work of the Trustees Her Majesty the Queen has recently awarded the Trust a Royal Charter.

In closing may I wish you all health and happiness in retirement and I can confirm that I will not be losing touch with the RMA and I together with Rose look forward to being with you all for many years to come.

2. Presidential Address:- R. Dobson QFSM Commissioner LFB.

With the aid of a visual display the President gave the following report. He said that it was again a pleasure to be invited to give an address and report on the Brigade's work over the past year. Firstly though, he said, as President he would like to congratulate the Chairman on his retirement and to thank him for his continued support to the RMA, it was a pleasure to attend the lunch that Gerry mentioned in his report and I am sure that those present had an enjoyable afternoon.

This past year had been challenging for both the Brigade and the Authority, following the recent General and London Borough elections all three parties are committed to public sector spending reductions and now is the time for the Brigade to prepare for these and the future. If there is to be a period of public service constraint in terms of spending the Brigade will not be immune and we are constantly thinking of where savings can be made and the best way to protect front line services.

Talks are on-going over a range of topics with staff and the FBU concerning changes that need to be made over the next twelve months. The most significant of these concerns the shift pattern; it is proposed that the 2-2-4 shift will remain but to change the working hours to 2 equal 12 hour shifts starting at 8am and 8pm. The reason for this is to give more time to operational training and community fire safety during the day shift. At the moment there is a constraint on the time that watches have to complete training and CFS as a result of legislation since 2003, this will also help to maintain the targets that the Brigade have to meet and operational training needed to keep Fire-fighters safe.

In terms of operational challenges this year, may have been in the press. Firstly the tragic fire in Camberwell:- As a result of this fire there is a lot of national attention on the Fire Service and it has brought into question how the new Fire Safety Legislation is understood by the people who are responsible for housing, not only local authorities but residential housing providers who have a responsibility to provide a Fire Risk Assessment on their premises. There are complications with the Housing Act, which makes it a complex piece of legislation and this fire has brought this into sharp focus. Police investigations are on-going as a result of

Presidential Address Cont.-:

the 6 fatalities and are likely to continue through the summer, it is proposed by the coroner that the inquest will take place in September.

The fire spread in a way in which professional Fire-fighters would not necessary expect, it was not contained in the flat of origin but spread both up and down the building and operational tactics employed on the day were being constantly changed, the bridge head, set up two floors below the fire on the 4th floor finished up on the ground floor. EDBA had to be used to gain access to the upper floors via the internal staircase which became severely smoke logged. This was indeed a very challenging incident for the Brigade.

In the Borough of Southwark there were 2 major fires in timber framed buildings. These buildings are becoming more of an issue for the Brigade for 2 reasons; 1. The level of fire protection given to the building during construction; 2. As the building gets older and alterations are made by residents, the structural fire protection can be compromised. So control is needed in both the construction and occupancy of these buildings in the way that they are managed and maintained. These issues are also in the public focus and local Authorities are making the Brigade aware when these buildings are under construction and where they are located, and with this in mind forward planning can be made with regards to fire fighting.

What is significant is that when under construction what normally greets the first attendance is no building just the scaffolding surrounding the site.

With the aid of photographs the Commissioner explained the problems that confronted the crews and the way in which they dealt with the problems at the two incidents.

New fire gear and helmet was introduced in March it is blue and supplied by Bristol Uniforms following extensive trials run by the Authority, everyone is pleased with the uniform and was not as is believed to be the cheapest but the most expensive, and it affords more protection to Fire-fighters with regards to burns.

A new BA set will be introduced in December, the cylinder is to be up rated to 300bar which will afford a longer duration, there is also an option to have telemetry, which I am keen to take up as it will give both wearers and Control Officers better information which will lead to improved safety.

Photographs were again shown to the meeting together with more detailed information about the fire gear and BA set.

A new Fire Station at Harold Hill has been opened, it is the first new station to be opened in 11years and this has improved the fire cover in the area, no existing stations have been closed and Harold Hill is an additional station with 28 new Fire-fighter posts.

Progress has been made by the Brigade concerning the Olympic Games. We are working closely with LOCOG, ODA and the Metropolitan Police to ensure that the Brigade not only have the correct operational response in 2012 but also are able to have an input into Fire Safety in the buildings that are under construction, and the way that the Games are being designed with regards to the athletes accommodation and the venues that are being built. We are pressing for the best fire precaution methods and protection that we possibly can. It is also proposed that we have 3 temporary Fire Stations on the site for the duration of the games with many volunteers willing to serve.

Presidential Address Cont.-:

The Brigade has recently been assessed by the Local Government Equality Standards and has achieved a score of 5, the highest score that can be achieved, we are the only Brigade in the country to receive this score and I am pleased and proud he said of this achievement.

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

Finally, during the last year DC Roy Bishop, AC's Nick Collins, Jon Webb and Andy Barrett together with head of Communications James Flynn have retired, the new DC is Rita Dexter and the new AC's are Andy Hickmott, Jim Knighton and Steve Hamm the new head of Communications is Richard Stokoe.

This year has been as I said a very challenging year and we look forward to the coming year when we shall find out more about our budget.

The Secretary welcomed the President, Councillor Coleman, our honoured guests and members of the Association back to Southwark for this year's AGM and Reunion. He started by thanking the Commissioner and the Authority for allowing the Association the use of Southwark and for supplying the refreshments for the Reunion. Many of us he said refer to this site as our spiritual home, having spent many long hours over many years in classrooms and on the drill ground, learning to become efficient and well drilled Fire-fighters, and he hoped that with our return and the change in format for the Reunion and with the understanding of the membership we can continue to hold our meetings here and further the ties that we have with the Brigade and the Authority for many years to come.

You will by now he said be aware of the problems that promoted the change of venue to last year's AGM and Reunion, and he thanked the membership for their patience and support in bringing the Association back to Southwark, which can be seen by the attendance here today, and as was reported last year times change and we must move with the times and accept and acknowledge the changes that we are faced with.

Sadly he said it was again his duty to report the passing of Life Vice Presidents Bob Hatton and David Millar of ex Branch Secretary Ray Smith and Ex Chief Officer Ron Bullers. They worked tirelessly for their members and the Association, their input and knowledge of the Association was invaluable over the years and they will be sadly missed by us all. Condolences and sympathies were sent to the families from the Association.

Bob Hatton was brought up during the war in South East London where his father was a Fireman during the Blitz being stationed at Old Kent Road. This prompted him to join the Fire Service after completing his National Service in Germany where he met his wife Trudie. He joined the LCC in 1956 and following his basic training was posted to Millwall. During his career he served at many South East stations and received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1976 retiring in 1980 with the rank of Sub O. Following an illness to his predecessor he took over the H Division and Kent Branch and became an efficient Branch Secretary, he was considerate to his members and nothing was too much trouble when they needed his help or advice. He was subsequently made a LVP President of the Association on his retirement as Branch Secretary and continued to attend meetings and voice his opinions on the many topics that were discussed.

David Millar joined the Brigade in August 1938 and prior to this was chauffeur to Admiral Sir Aubrey Smith. He served with both the AFS and NFS during the war and he received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1955, retiring from the Brigade in 1970. He became a member of the RMA and took up the position of Branch Secretary for the A Division in 1988 which consisted of 12 members; he served on various committees for many

Secretary's Report Cont.-:

years and was subsequently made a LVP of the Association. David became a driver to two Chief Officers during the latter part of his career, Sir Frederick Delve and Chief Officer Leete. In a letter to David on his retirement CO Milner said that both CO's held David in the highest regard for his devotion and duty to the LFB.

Ray Smith joined the Essex Fire Brigade in April 1951, following his initial training he was posted to Grays, and served at many stations prior to the changeover in 1966 when he joined the LFB and was posted to Plaistow as a Sub Officer. He served at most of the C Division Stations before settling down at C23 Stoke Newington white watch, from where he retired in February 1978.

He received his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in July 1971 and also received a Chief Officers Commendation for his actions at a fire in Carysfort Road where he rescued and assisted in resuscitating a child from a first floor bedroom.

On his retirement from the Brigade he moved to Cornwall and became part of the RMA and accepted the role of Branch Secretary for Cornwall. He retired from this position 4 years ago and became active in genealogy, researching the history of many families in the Cornwall area.

Following his National Service in the RAF Ron Bullars joined his local Fire Brigade in Walsall in 1954 which had a compliment of two stations. Early in his career as a driver, he upset his Chief Officer by driving his appliance on the pavement while attending a fire call and through the actions of his Chief he was charged with dangerous driving and found promotion hard to come by, on the Chief's retirement he rose to Sub O. virtually overnight, he then discovered that the Home Office was to introduce the accelerated promotion course and following his application he was one of 18 men to attend the first course and he then found promotion easier to come by, he became Stn. O. at Chorley, ADO at North Nottingham then

DO in 1969 in Lancashire, he went on to be the Commander of the training school in Cheshire and in 1974 was appointed Deputy Chief Officer to the newly formed Greater Manchester Brigade and after applying for the Chief Officers position in the LFB his appointment was confirmed in 1980, and he was invited and accepted the position of RMA President. During his time in the LFB he was to oversee the phasing out of hook ladders and he instigated an equal opportunities policy which led to women joining the Brigade as Fire-fighters and in 1982 the first woman joined the Brigade. He oversaw many incidents in his time in LFB, the most notable being the Brixton Riots, the collapse of Ronan Point, the Putney gas explosion where thermal imaging was used for the first time and the Broadwater Farm riots. In 1986 the GLC was abolished and he reorganized the Brigade into 5 Commands, one year later he retired and handed over the reins to our Chairman Gerry Clarkson, and this was the first time that the LFB was under the command of a man who had entered it as a full time professional fireman at the bottom of the ladder.

You will he said all be aware that today is our Chairman's last official engagement. He has served the RMA for 22 years, 5 as President whilst CO, and following his retirement 17 years as our Chairman, a feat which will not be equalled. During his time as Chairman Gerry has been instrumental in streamlining and shaping the Association that you belong to today, under his stewardship he has seen an increase in our membership base and has made sure that our finances are in good shape to see us into the future, the Secretary said that he was indebted for his help in doing this. Rose, his wife who was also with us at the meeting has not only been a help and inspiration to Gerry but also the Association where she attends many receptions and events with him, and without her consideration for the work time and effort that Gerry has put

Secretary's Report Cont.-:

into the Association the Secretary said that he was certain that we would not be in the position that we are today and we all owe not only Gerry but Rose and enormous debt of gratitude.

The Committee recently held a presentation lunch in honour of Gerry's work for the RMA, and at that lunch, the President on behalf of the membership presented him with a Copper, Pot Still Whiskey Decanter suitably engraved together with other gifts as a mark of respect for his work on behalf of the Association.

The Secretary said that he felt that he should on behalf of the membership take this opportunity to publicly thank Gerry and Rose and hope that they do not lose touch with the RMA and continue to support the functions that we organise, and hope that he is just as successful in whatever other ventures he undertakes in the future.

The Secretary told the meeting that another retiree was with us, Norman Paulding, our Standard Bearer and Essex and East Anglia Branch Secretary. Norman will be standing down as Branch Secretary from today and Paul Efreme has agreed to take his place, Norman will however remain as our Standard Bearer and Welfare Representative. Our thanks must go to Norman for the work that he has undertaken on behalf of his members, and the many families that have been encouraged and have acknowledged the dignity in the way that he has represented and conducted himself on behalf of the RMA at the funerals of our members, we must of course not forget to mention Brenda, for without her help and support Norman would not be in a position to represent us, he also thanked Paul for taking over the Branch, and hoped that his association with the RMA will be as long as Normans.

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 the membership on any subject be it fire service related or about your holidays or hobbies. If you are not receiving a copy please contact either your Branch Secretary or the Editor Keith Sefton.

As the magazine continues to grow so does the selection of trading items thanks to Erik Crichton, a selection of all items were on sale.

The Welfare Fund continues to help the Association with financial support in the form of a grant, unfortunately due to the financial climate our grant has been reduced to £8.5 K. The Grant is used to help with meetings and reunions; it also helps with funding for the Standard Bearers to attend the funerals of retired Fire-fighters and ceremonial duties at memorial services around the country, for Branch Secretaries to supply hospital parcels and floral tributes at funerals. Without this support the Association would find it difficult to attend these gatherings and supply the tributes for our members and he hoped that their support to retired Fire-fighters will continue for many years to come.

The following events have been arranged for this year and information was contained within the papers appertaining to the meeting, the Secretary added that if anybody had not already done so and would like to attend or require further information they should return the relevant paperwork or speak with the Secretary after the meeting.

On the 3rd June a visit to the Royal Artillery Museum Woolwhich has been arranged, the cost which includes a guided tour is £6.00.

The Lunch Cruise will take place on the 11th August and will consist of a 3 course meal with ½ bottles of wine and mineral water while undertaking a 1½ hour cruise on the Thames, the cost is £39.50 to date we have 61 members and their partners attending

Secretary's Report Cont.-:

A 4 day WW11 Battlefield tour to trace the route of Operation Market Garden 'A Bridge to Far', Eindhoven to Arnhem will take place from the 30th September to 3rd October. The party will be traveling by coach and together with 3 nights B&B accommodation in the centre of Eindhoven, the cost will be £225.

The Annual Dinner and Dance will be held on the 30th October at the Charing Cross Hotel and will cost is £65 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.

All members should have received notification of the other events in February.

With regards to membership, it was disappointing he said to report on behalf of the Membership Secretary that this year, despite exceedingly encouraging figures of 108 new members; our actual renewals have fallen dramatically. In March of this year, our membership stood at 1710, following this year's subscription round, our actual membership has dropped to 1493. Whilst it is always found that some slow paying members drift back over the year, a near 13% drop is very unusual to say the least.

Branch secretaries are doing their level best to track down members who have lapsed but even the most tenacious have to admit defeat at some point and write those members off for this year.

What has caused this serious reduction in membership? The rise in subscriptions has been in place for more than two years now and standing order take up has been on the increase but still we continue to lose members. It is always possible that the RMA is not catering to the needs of our members, is there a drop off due to the change in the setup of the AGM/Reunion? Are we on the wrong track with our functions and activities?

We cannot fix the problem without a definitive idea of what it is, so please let us know if you feel that there is a problem.

As you will see from the lists posted today, we have said goodbye to some 68 retired fire-fighters and 33 fire-fighter widows (15 of whom were RMA members) you will he said recognise many names on the list and amongst them is the legendary Pat Clohessy, the scourge of the drill square for those of us who joined in the late 60s and early 70s. Few will forget his ability to describe the failings of our foot drill in a few choice words and phrases. Whilst we remember all of these, hopefully we can look forward to a recovery in our membership numbers and a return to a healthy nominal roll in the future

Although the Membership is down this year, the Secretary said that he felt that the Association continues to flourish, many events are organised on behalf of the membership and we continue to organise these events because the membership continue to support us, and he welcomed this support.

Today is a time he said, when as your Secretary, thanks on your behalf, can be passed on publicly to the officers of our Association, for without their help it would be very difficult to administer the Association, and with that in mind, he offered thanks to the Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Magazine Editor, Standard Bearers, all Branch Secretaries and Committee members for once again giving 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 offered his thanks to Trudie Hayes from the Communications Department who

Secretary's Report Cont.-:

on behalf of the Brigade and Authority has been on hand to help with, and arrange today's event.

Finally he said on behalf of the Association and its Officers he wished everyone a long, happy and healthy retirement and an enjoyable afternoon at the Reunion, and a safe journey home.

4. Welfare Report-:

No report available

5. Fire-fighters Charity Report-: B. Hammond.

The Charity he said have recently appointed a new Chief Executive, Jan Barlow who took up the position in February after resigning from the Battersea Dogs Home. It is hoped that with her expertise and knowledge with this Charity, she can make a marked impression on the Fire-fighters Charity in the future.

The Charities finances are both strong and stable; income remains good through donations and fund raising.

It has been proposed that the Charity have 3 therapy centres, and with this in mind the Charity have been looking for a site in East Anglia. Due to the financial climate this has now been put on hold and a plan to update the facilities at Littlehampton to accommodate a 3rd therapy centre is to go ahead, and will benefit all beneficiaries living in the East and South East of the country.

The development will be a single story therapy wing; modifications will be made to the Ronnie Green Wing together with an additional 14 en suite bedrooms, bringing Littlehampton in line with the other 2 therapy centres. To accommodate the new wing sheltered housing in the North Wing will have to be demolished and the South Wing will undergo refurbishment.

Shout magazine is now available on line, this has been done to reduce costs, and members who don't have the facility to receive it on line can obtain a copy on request from HQ.

If members require assistance from the Charity the access line number is **0800 3898820**, the web site is also a good way of gaining information and updates about the Charity and can be found on **Firefightercharity.org.uk**, rest and recuperation packs are also available and will be sent directly to your home address on request.

To increase revenue the centres now offer rental breaks up to 7 days duration and are either self-catering or ½ board, the cost is between £300 & £600 depending on the type of accommodation required.

In closing he thanked the membership for their support over the years and hoped that this support would continue into the future

6. Treasurer's Report-: Adoption of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2009 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.

Treasurer's Report Cont.-:

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 2009, the motion was proposed by D. Cebunka and seconded by G. Perren, on a vote on a show of hands the meeting accepted the examined report unanimously.

7. Presentation to N. Paulding Essex & East Anglia Branch Secretary -:

The Chairman said that Norman had been involved with the RMA since 1990 when he took over the Essex Branch from L. Robinson, he was then asked to organize the Somerset and Wiltshire Branch and in 1995 following a decision by the RMA to have their own Standard, which was dedicated at St. Giles Church he became the RMA's official Standard Bearer, in 2005 following the retirement of J. Bryant the Essex Branch was extended to cover East Anglia. Together with his colleague D. Bradbury, Norman he said has done a magnificent job in representing the RMA with the Standard, giving lasting memories to the many bereaved families of our colleagues as to what the Brigade and the Association meant to them.

The President then presented Norman with a cut glass compote, suitably engraved as a mark of thanks for his work on behalf of the membership of the RMA.

In reply Norman said that he had been overwhelmed by the messages sent to him by his members following his decision to stand down. He recorded his thank to those members, and said that he looked forward to remaining involved with the RMA for many years to come.

8. The Chairman invited Councillor Coleman to address the meeting

Councillor Coleman said that he was delighted on behalf of the Authority to welcome back the RMA to Southwark. He said that he was delighted to be at Southwark with his mother who served for 5 years in the AFS during the war. I am he said happy to welcome you here as Chairman of the Authority a position I continue to hold. As the Brigade have had a challenging year, so have the Authority, the Commissioner alluded to some of the financial constraints that we face, and that they are true, and I can report that the Authorities finances are in a sound and reasonable condition, there is no deficit, and I know that with the support of the Mayor we can see through the challenging times ahead whilst preserving front line services and increasing the safety of Londoners. I am delighted that R. Dobson is the Commissioner for London Fire Brigade, members from all parties have immense confidence in him and his 1st class officer team taking the Authority forward, and I look forward to working with him in the times ahead. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the creation of the LFEPA as part of the Greater London Authority family, and I think that we have benefited as a city from the creation of the Authority, we have taken the lead in National Fire and Emergency Planning issues and I look forward to taking this Authority forward supported by the Commissioner and his Officers. It is right he said that he should thank Gerry for your work on behalf of the RMA and to welcome your replacement Martin Coffey, who retired from the Brigade as I took up my post as Chairman. Finally I should like to thank you all for being here this afternoon.

9. Presentation by D. Rogers Secretary Massey Shaw Association-:

Following a brief introduction on the Massey Shaw the Chairman invited D. Rogers to address the meeting.

He thanked the Chairman for the introduction and said that the Massey Shaw has been undergoing restoration works for the past 14 months. A lottery grant of £1/2 million (£500,000) has been awarded and with other donations it is hoped that the boat will be restored to full operational capabilities on the Thames. Running alongside the restoration is an educational project which will allow us to collate and archive the material that we have about the boat and the river service, and will be stored in the Brigade's Museum.

The Society is run by volunteers and we would ask you as retired members who may have some spare time on their hands to come and work on the boat, which is moored at the South Dock Marina Surrey Quays. No special skills are required but would be an asset if you have any. We also have to collate the material that we have and we would welcome any stories that you may have concerning the boat. This year sees the boat's 75th anniversary; built in 1935 she served the London Fire Brigade for 36 years before being retired.

The Massey Shaw is now part of the London Ships, the others being HMS Belfast, The Golden Hind, Cutty Sark, HMS Wellington and the Robin. They are all connected maritime and naval vessels on the Thames. The consortium is working together to promote London's heritage on the Thames and the Massey Shaw is the only vessel that can travel between the other vessels which will give us a great opportunity in 2011 when the restoration works are complete to operate on the river in the City of London, so please may I ask you to become part of this venture.

I should like to thank those members who visited the Museum this morning, and to invite you to join the Friends of the LFB Museum, which has recently been launched to support the Museum with volunteers and to protect our heritage for future generations.

He thanked the Chairman for allowing him the opportunity to address the meeting.

10. Election of Officers for 2010/2011-:

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 V. Rawson and seconded by G. Perren, on a show of hands the meeting accepted unanimously the nominations.

11. Officers & Committee for 2010/2011 -:

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	H. Harrison	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		

Election of Officers for 2010/2011 Cont.-:

Standard Bearers	N. Paulding	D. Bradbury
Examiners	A. Gilfrin	Mrs. N. Dodwell
Magazine Editors	K. Sefton	G. Perren MBE
Chaplain	G. Potter	

Following the election of Officers the Secretary asked the meeting to accept the Committees decision to elect G. Clarkson to the position of President Emeritus and N. Paulding to the position of Life Vice President of the Association. The motion was proposed by D. Bradbury and seconded by M. Beale, on a vote by a show of hands the meeting accepted unanimously the nominations.

12. A O B-:

A member asked if it will be the norm that all Reunions in the future be dry. The Chairman said that this was something that should be brought up with the General Secretary and that the member should write to him voicing his thoughts, and that we had a debate on this issue last year and it was decided, and I am thankful that the decision was taken, to return to Southwark. We should he said respect the wishes of the Authority, and he said as the outgoing Chairman, that the Authority has been kind to us over the years and that they may in time reflect on their decision and may ease the restrictions placed on us, but that is a matter for them, and politely put to them in due course it may be possible that they can see a way for us to have alcoholic refreshments, as we are he said a group of people who are not immature, and this debate should be for another time.

The Chairman introduced the new Chairman M. Coffey and presented him with an Association tie and cuff links.

In reply the Chairman M.Coffey thanked the membership for electing him as Chairman, he felt privileged he said to be elected and as Chairman he would continue to maintain the high levels of work that the retiring Chairman had achieved over the past 22years. You will agree he said that it will be a hard act to follow but he said he would do his best. I am he said looking forward to working with the General Secretary the Committee and Branch Secretaries who all work hard to provide an excellent service to the membership. I look forward to meeting with you at the Reunion and in the future at our social events and our AGM. He wished everyone a safe journey home and once again thanked all present for their support, and he closed by saying that he was proud to stand as Chairman of the RMA

G. Clarkson 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 1550

The 2011 AGM & Reunion will take place at a venue and date to be confirmed