

Ceremonial Handbook

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ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Foreword

Members should constantly bear in mind, when appearing before the public that the immense prestige of the Royal British Legion is in their keeping. Those involved in the ceremonial procedure must, at all times, strive to ensure continuity and uniformity that their dress, turnout and bearing are of the highest order.

This handbook is designed to give clear direction and guidance on all ceremonial matters.

The Ceremonial Working Group gives guidance to RBL, including the Women's Section, on certain matters of procedure connected with RBL ceremonial, parades and services. (Hereafter RBL includes all branches and the Women's Section.)

This electronic updated edition of the Ceremonial Handbook is a living document; should any member branch or County wish to submit amendments to be made on any aspect of the Ceremonial Handbook they should send their feedback to the Ceremonial Working Group via membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk.

The Membership Council is grateful to all those who contributed to the preparation of this handbook.



Robert Millar
Chair

The Membership Council Ceremonial Working Group

Introduction

This Ceremonial Handbook is intended to provide Counties/Districts, branches, and the general public with guidance and RBL policy on all aspects of RBL ceremonial activity.

It is divided into two sections:

Section A — Internal ceremonial policies

Section B — Ceremonial guidance for the general public

The latest version of the Ceremonial Handbook is available to Counties/Districts and branches via the Membership Administration Portal (MAP). Log in details can be provided by your Membership Engagement Officer (MEO).

Section A (This section is not accessible to the general public)

Section A is divided into four parts:

Part 1 provides information regarding internal RBL ceremonial procedures at County/District and branch events such as the appointing of Officers, the opening of committee meetings and dress for RBL occasions.

Part 2 provides information regarding the Royal British Legion Standard, Standard Bearers, and Marshals with the object of ensuring uniformity throughout RBL.

Part 3 provides information regarding standard drill, parades, procedure and protocol on ceremonial matters.

Part 4 provides internal recommendations on the organisation of RBL ceremonial activities including Standard Bearers' Competitions and external events organised by RBL.

Section B

Section B provides guidelines on the format of public events as well as making recommendations for how such events can be organised. This section is accessible to the general public through RBL's knowledgebase.

Glossary of terms and abbreviations

Used in this handbook:

AGM	— Annual General Meeting	RBL	— The Royal British Legion
DL	— Deputy Lieutenant	RBLWS	— The Royal British Legion Women's Section
MOD	— Ministry of Defence	RN	— Royal Navy
NCO	— Non Commissioned Officer	RNA	— Royal Navy Association
NPM	— National Parade Marshal	SOP	— Standard Operating Procedures
NYSB	— National Youth Standard Bearer	TAC	— Tabulated Action Checklist
RAF	— Royal Air Force	VIP	— Very Important Person
RAFA	— Royal Air Force Association		

Throughout the document:

The term “Women's Section” means the Royal British Legion Women's Section.

“Near relative” is parent, sibling, spouse or partner, children and grandchildren.

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Section A

Part 1: Notes on Internal RBL Ceremonial

Chapter 1: Ceremonial for opening/closing of branch meetings

1. General

Where a branch chooses to include them, the ceremonial procedures outlined below add a dignity and seriousness of purpose to the business of the meeting. It is strongly recommended for all branches to make these procedures a normal part of proceedings. In some cases, minor adaptations may be necessary because, for example, of the limitations of the meeting place.

Note: Where a branch chooses to include them, the ceremonial procedures outlined below add a dignity and seriousness of purpose to the business of the meeting. It is strongly recommended for all branches to make these procedures a normal part of proceedings. In some cases, minor adaptations may be necessary because, for example, of the limitations of the meeting place.

2. Opening Ceremony

- a. Members having assembled, the Chair will strike with his gavel and say: “For those that can, please rise to receive the Standard.” The Standard Bearer marches in (possibly escorted) and takes up position near the top table.
- b. Chair: “Please remain standing for the Exhortation.”

Note: the Chair may mention members who have died recently. (During the Exhortation the standard will be dipped in homage and remain dipped until the silence is ended.)

Chair: “They shall grow not old
As we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We will remember them.”

- c. Members: “We will remember them.”
- d. There shall follow a period of silence, which the Chair will end by striking with the gavel. However, all will remain standing until the Standard Bearer places the Standard in its appointed place, usually behind or at the side of the top table.

(Note: During the Exhortation the Standard will be dipped in homage and remain dipped until the silence is ended.)

- e. Chair: “Thank you. Please be seated. I now declare this meeting open.”

3. Closing Ceremony

- a. Standard Bearer collects Standard, takes up position and comes to the Carry.
- b. Chair: “The business of the meeting being concluded, let us, before we leave, remember our duty to our King and country, to our comrades, and to our branch. Let us be ready at all times to foster the spirit of community and mutual helpfulness to which we are dedicated, never forgetting our solemn obligations as members of the Royal British Legion.”
- c. The first verse of the National Anthem may then be sung. (Standard will dip.)

GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!

(Carry Standard)

- d. Chair: “When you go home, tell them of us and say
for your tomorrow, we gave our today.”
- e. All members remain standing until the Standard Bearer has marched from the room.

Chapter 2: Procedure for installing County/District/branch officers

1. County/District

- a. At the end of the AGM the conducting officer will request the newly elected officers (Chair & Vice Chair) and appointed officers (Treasurer & Secretary) to come forward and stand in front of the top table.
- b. The conducting officer will state: “You have been elected/appointed to posts of great honour and responsibility in this County/District. The performance of your duties will call for tact, dignity, integrity and competence; your fellow members have demonstrated by this election/appointment their complete faith in your possession of these qualities. Your duties must not be undertaken lightly; you are each accountable to your fellow members in justification of their trust in you; and RBL formally calls upon you to fulfil your obligations loyally, conscientiously and faithfully, strictly in accordance with our Royal Charter. Do I have your assurance that, during your term of office, you will do all in your power to foster the interests of this County/District and the Royal British Legion in general, and that you will carry out your duties with diligence at all times?”
- c. The County/District officers will each reply in the affirmative.
- d. Conducting officer: “I now declare you duly installed in your respective offices.”
- e. The outgoing Chair hands over the “Jewel” to the new County/District Chair.

2. Branch

Note: Elections processes must always be carried out in accordance with the rules laid out in the Membership Handbook.

- a. Branches may choose to follow the procedure suggested for County/District or branch.
- b. In many branches, the Chair remains in position until the president is appointed. The president then conducts the election and installation of all other officers. There is a general practice of inviting a prominent RBL member from outside the branch to conduct the election of officers at the branch AGM.
- c. Once the election is completed, the conducting officer will request the newly appointed Branch President to take his seat at the top table and will ask the other newly elected branch officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) to stand in front of the table.
- d. The conducting officer will state: “You have been elected to posts of great honour and responsibility in this branch. The performance of your duties will call for tact, dignity, integrity and competence; your fellow members have demonstrated by this election their complete faith in your possession of these qualities. Your duties must not be undertaken lightly; you are each accountable to your fellow members in justification

of their trust in you; and RBL formally calls upon you to fulfil your obligations loyally, conscientiously and faithfully, strictly in accordance with our Royal Charter. Do I have your assurance that, during your term of office, you will do all in your power to foster the interests of this branch and the Royal British Legion in general, and that you will carry out your duties with diligence at all times?”

- e. The branch officers will each reply in the affirmative.
- f. Conducting officer: “I now declare you duly installed in your respective offices.”
- g. The conducting officer will then vacate the chair, and the newly elected officers will take their appropriate places at the top table and conduct the rest of the business of the meeting.
- h. The outgoing Chair hands over the “Jewel” to the new Branch Chair.

3. Group AGMs

Either procedure may be used for installing officers at Group AGMs.

Chapter 3: Amalgamations, closures and County-supported branches

- 1.** Where branches/Counties/Districts are formally amalgamated, there will be only one Standard bearing the new name. All other Standards should be laid up or passed to the County Parade Marshal for training.
- 2.** For amalgamated and closed branches, the spare Standard Bearer equipment (gauntlets and slings) must be given to the County Parade Marshal for training or passing on to another branch for use.
- 3.** For administration information regarding the amalgamation of RBL branches please refer to the Membership Handbook.
- 4.** Where a branch becomes a County Supported Branch, each branch retains its own Standard.
- 5.** Women's Section should consult with their MEO at Haig House.

Chapter 4: Dress for RBL occasions (Members)

(for Standard Bearers' dress see Chapter 7, for general advice see SECTION B)

1. Formal Parade Occasions

These include Remembrance Services, (Church, Drumhead, War Memorial etc.),

- a. **Dress.** Since they are “formal” occasions it is most desirable that the turnout of members is appropriate, and there would be a general consensus that ideally each RBL member present should wear a dark suit/blazer, or for Women's Section a suit or dress, overcoat (if necessary) hat (preferably), black shoes etc.
- b. **Headdress**

(1) Bowler Hats

- (a) Bowler hats may be worn by Board of Trustees, Membership Council, County/District Officers, and Officers leading contingents. When worn the members should be grouped together at the front of their respective contingents.
- (b) Bowler hats should be removed when marching past the saluting dais, as follows:
 - Remove the hat with the right hand and hold it down by the right side with the right arm straight (as in position of attention)
 - The hat is removed on the command of ‘Eyes Left/Right’ and replaced on the command of ‘Eyes Front’.
- c. **Removal of Hats.** The Patron has decided that, in view of inclement weather frequently experienced on the occasion of RBL parades, many of which take place in the winter, hats will be removed only for the National Anthem, the Last Post and Silence.

2. Formal Social Events

These include RBL dinners, dances, etc., and where practicable, and without being over rigid about dress, it helps our image, if we come to such events appropriately dressed — as indeed we would if attending a formal social function elsewhere. Request advice from the host establishment as to suitable attire.

3. Informal Social Events

These events provide fewest problems as they include sports, competitions, etc. where greater freedom is the norm.

4. Jewels of Office (i.e., badges of office)

- a. RBL Officers attending non-RBL events in their capacity as a RBL officer may wear their “Jewels”. If invited to a non-RBL event in any other capacity “Jewels” of Office WILL NOT be worn.
- b. The wearing of “Jewels” (i.e. badges of office) by many officers attending RBL parades and functions causes confusion in the public eye, so that some people mistakenly think that a “jewel” is standard dress for all RBL members. The consensus rule is that:
 - (1) **National Officers.** National Officers (President, Chair or Vice Chair (if in attendance)) will wear their “jewels” at all RBL national, county/district or branch occasions. Only county/district officers will wear their “Jewels” when attending a County/District organised event, parade or service.
 - (2) **Branch Officers.** At a branch function, only the organising branch officers will wear their “jewels” as will the county/district officers if invited to attend in their official capacity.

5. Badges

- a. **Membership Badge (RBL).** This badge is worn on the left lapel by the position of the button hole. It may be worn upright or in line with the lapel.
- b. **National Awards.** Members who have been awarded the Gold Badge, National Life Membership or National Certificate of Appreciation may wear the appropriate badge instead of the standard membership badge. Only one membership badge is worn at any time.
- c. **Affiliated Unit Badge.** This is a cloth badge which may be worn by uniformed youth organisations on their own uniform when they are affiliated to a RBL branch. The position of the badge is determined by the individual youth organisation.
- d. **Poppy Awards.** These badges may be worn by members to whom they have been awarded but MUST NOT be worn by Standard Bearers when in uniform.
- e. **Standard Bearer (Flag) Badges (RBL & RBLWS).** Both past and present Standard Bearers may wear these badges when not in uniform.
- f. **Veteran Badge.** This badge may be worn by those who qualify. Both Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals may wear this badge on all occasions except Standard Bearers’ Competitions.
- g. **Blazer Badge.** A Standard Bearer MUST NOT wear this badge when in uniform.
- h. **Competition Bars (RBLWS).** Awarded to the winner and runner up at County/District, Regional and National competitions. These are worn on the left lapel by Standard Bearers but are NOT worn in competitions. Once attaining five individual bars at the same level these can be removed and replaced with a five-year bar. These years do not need to be consecutive.

6. Medals.

- a. **Unofficial Medals.** The official rules for wearing medals allow only official awards to be worn. Unofficial purchased medals and foreign medals which do not have the Sovereign's permission to be worn are not allowed. Standard Bearers, Parade Marshals and other officials on RBL duty are bound by this ruling and unofficial medals must not be worn when on RBL duty.
- b. **The wearing of medals.** The following notes are based on the "Guide to the Wearing of Orders, Decorations, Miniatures and Medals" published by the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood:
 - (1) Medals are worn parallel to the ground just above the level of the top pocket of a jacket (or on a pocket insert). The RBL membership badge is worn on the lapel one inch above the medal bar. The medals may be mounted "Court" fashion (sewn to the ribbon which extends behind the medal to roughly halfway down) or "swinging" (where they hang loose from the medal bar). In either case, ensure the bottom edge of each medal is level, and the ribbons do not exceed about one and half inches from the top (medal bar) to the bottom (medal suspender). In some cases the length of the ribbons will vary to ensure the bottom edge of the medals are level. Medals are worn side by side unless there are more than five, in which case, they are overlapped with the first one (to the centre of the body) fully visible and subsequent ribbons being only partly visible. The medals themselves are overlapped in the same way with the obverse (often the Sovereign's head) to the front.
 - (b) On RBL occasions, such as parades and social events, when medals are worn with lounge suits, full size insignia mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert are worn on the left side. One neck decoration, suspended on a miniature width ribbon, of an Order, may be worn under the collar.
 - (c) With overcoats, only those full size Orders, Decorations and Medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket inserts may be worn, on the left side.
 - (d) Full size orders, decorations and medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert are worn with morning dress, when required.
 - (e) When invitations specify decorations with dinner jacket, it is correct to wear miniatures, and only one star (or the badge of a Knight Bachelor) and one neck decoration.
 - (f) With evening dress, one sash and sash badge, one neck decoration, up to four breast stars plus miniature medals on medal bar or pocket insert may be worn.
 - (g) The medals awarded to a deceased service/ex-service person may be worn on the right breast by a near relative (see [Glossary of Terms](#) on page 4). An individual cannot wear more than one group of medals.

b. **Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals**

(1) Standard Bearers, Parade Marshals and Judges are not permitted to wear medals of relatives on their right side.

(2) Standard Bearers may choose to wear their own medals in any level of competition but must be aware that the medals will be judged.

c. **Neck Decoration.** The same rules apply for women where the “neck decoration” from bows and tails is restricted in the same way as men’s neck decorations, but they are worn below the medal bar. Women who have been awarded medals suspended from bows and tails, but which normally fit on the medal bar, wear them in the men’s method with straight ribbons if they have more than one. e.g. a woman with a CBE only, or a CBE and Golden Jubilee Medal will always wear a CBE on bow and tails on their left side and above that their Jubilee Medal from a bow. If they are also an Officer of the Order of St. John, they wear their CBE as before and their OSt.J and Jubilee Medal from straight ribbons, as for men, on the medal bar. In miniature all three will be from straight ribbons on the medal bar. If they are promoted to CSt.J that remains on the miniature bar but in day dress they may only wear one “neck decoration” so would normally revert to their CBE and Jubilee Medal, from either a straight ribbon or bow and tails, in full size above it.

Chapter 5: Operation London Bridge

a. **Flags**

Union Flags will be flown at half-mast from all RBL properties with immediate effect until 8.00am on the day following the day of the funeral (except for Proclamation Day, see below).

On the advice of the College of Arms, any other UK national flags flown alongside the Union Flag when it is at half-mast should also be at half-mast. If any other flag is normally flown on the same stand as the Union Flag, it should be removed.

When flags are flown at half-mast, they are flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole, with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole.

The Rainbow Flag is a well-established symbol of support for the LGBTQ+ community and many local authorities and civic groups will choose to fly the Rainbow Flag to mark Pride weeks and on other occasions to show solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. RBL fully supports member and branch support for, and participation in, national and local Pride events and this includes the flying of the Rainbow Flag according to the protocols.

Any further instructions on the flying of flags will be issued by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Digital, Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS) and flag flying guidance will be published on the GOV.UK website. These instructions will be also available on the RBL website as soon as we receive them.

On Proclamation Day (the day His Majesty The King is proclaimed) flags should be raised and flown at full mast from 11am until sunset. Once Proclamation Day is confirmed, the date will be added to the GOV.UK website, the RBL website will be updated and a further email will be sent to Members to notify them.

b. **RBL Standards & Representation**

A contingent of Royal British Legion Standards led by the National Standard will participate in the state funeral. Arrangements for this are being made separately by the National Parade Marshal.

RBL Standards not attending the state funeral are encouraged to participate in local services they may deem to be appropriate, or as advised by the National Parade Marshal. This is also appropriate for branches and senior local representatives, such as members of the Board of Trustees or County Chairs. The office of your local Lord Lieutenant holds the details of civic arrangements.

Alternatively, please contact your Local Council and offer RBL branch support for commemorations in your local community.

c. **Mourning**

National mourning will be in effect from the announcement of the fall of London Bridge until the day of the funeral inclusive.

The Prime Minister's Office will issue guidance on the implications of National Mourning. This will be shared upon receipt.

Part 2: The Standard, Standard Bearers and Marshals

Chapter 6: Standards of the Royal British Legion

1. **General**

These instructions are issued for the information and assistance of branches and with the object of ensuring uniformity in the handling of RBL Standards on parade and at RBL ceremonies.

2. **The Standard**

The Standard, originally designed in 1923 by Colonel E.C. Heath, the first General Secretary of RBL, is looked upon as the rallying point of the branch, and a constant symbolic reminder to members of the RBL motto “Service not Self”.

3. **Meaning of the Standard**

The Standard is no mere flag, but a dedicated emblem. The fact that Standards are dedicated before being taken into use and are laid up in sacred or public buildings after service, helps to maintain the atmosphere of veneration with which they are regarded. The Standard represents the ideal of service to God, The King and Country. The spearhead reminds us of the pillar of flames, depicted in our church spires. In the dexter (upper left for observer) corner is the Union Flag, which is composed of the crosses of St. George, St. Andrew and St. Patrick, symbolising unity, chivalry and our loyalty to our Sovereign, community and nation. The blue indicates loyalty and fidelity and reminds us of those who died in service, beneath the water and in the air. The gold signifies service — “as gold is tried by fire” and reminds us of all those who gave their lives for our country. The tassels remind us of the beginning and ending of life, and the cord is the golden line along which all good Legionnaires should pass during their brief sojourn on Earth. The golden fringe binds all members together in one great organisation.

4. Specifications of the Standard

Detailed specifications of the Standard are:

Description	Approximate Measurements
Standard	1143mm x 914mm (3'9" x 3')
Jointed Pole	2617mm (8' 7")
Cords/Tassels — Adjustable	2743mm (9')
Slings	1422mm, 1728mm & 1930mm (56", 68" & 76")
Mourning Drapes	153cm x 15cm (5' x 6")
50/75/100th Anniversary Pennant	1116mm x 102mm x 56mm (3'4"x4"x 2¼")
Haig/Lister/Jellicoe Cup and Jellicoe Shield Scroll	279mm x 51 mm (11" x 2")
Haig/Lister Cup Star	63mm (2½")
Date Panel	102mm x 32mm (4" x 1¼")
Women's Section 50/60/65/70/75/80/85 year diamond	165mm x 102mm (6½" x 4")

- a. The Standard is carried on a jointed pole with a spiked finial. Only the National Standard bears the Crown finial. The cords and tassels will be of equal length and level with the outer edge of the fringe when the pole is held horizontal. Cord length may be altered by adjusting at the tassel ends (ensure ends are finished neatly). Cord is attached between the bottom of the finial and the top of the standard using a "Lark's Head Knot".
- b. A photograph of an example Standard with all the honours and awards inscribed is given at [paragraph 11](#) of this chapter.
- c. There are no specific regional standards. The RBL regional winner for that year will display the Regional Pennant on their County/District standard. Women's Section Regional Winner carries their county standard, but does not have a regional pennant. Area/Regional standards are not permitted.
- d. Only one Standard per branch/County/District is permitted on each parade at any one time. (Some overseas branches have two standards per branch due to logistics.)
- e. Advice on the precedence of Standards may be obtained from the RBL National Parade Marshal.

5. Youth Standards

- a. The only Youth Standards permitted are the National Youth Standard and County/District Youth Standards.
- b. Branch youth standards are not permitted.

6. Taking Standards Abroad

- a. If a branch wishes to take its Standard abroad it must apply to the County for permission and the decision of the County Committee must be noted in the minutes for the Branch Standard to travel abroad. For the Women's Section, only the National Chair can give branches permission to take the Branch Standard abroad. To receive written permission from the County/District committee please contact the local MEO.
- b. If a branch/County/District wishes to take their Union Flag in addition to their Standard, additional special permission is required from Head Office. There is only ever one Union Flag on any parade. To receive written permission from Head Office please contact the Membership Compliance & Policy Team.
- c. Failure to gain the requisite permission will invalidate the insurance cover.

7. Insurance

- a. **Formation Standards.** RBL's Property Insurance Policy covers formation standards for all-risks, mainly theft and damage. The policy excludes damage to a formation standard caused through fair wear and tear. Standard Bearers are expected to take all reasonable measures to care for formation standards and store them safely.
- b. **Standard Bearer.** RBL maintains a comprehensive suite of insurance policies, including employer's liability and public liability lines. Standard Bearers and attendees at RBL events, including training sessions, have appropriate insurance should an accident or incident occur. Please report any liability claim (or threat of a claim) to the RBL's Risk and Insurance team immediately at insurance@britishlegion.org.uk

8. Dedication Of Standards

A new Standard must be dedicated before it is taken into use. Suggested orders of service will be found in Section B of this Handbook.

9. Laying Up and Preservation of Standards

- a. RBL Standards, like regimental colours, should be laid up in a cathedral or church provided the church authorities agree. Sometimes this is not possible or practical for various reasons. Alternatively, Standards may be offered to such public places as regimental museums; public museums; town halls; council offices; a local military establishment including a military reserve forces centre; a local heritage centre; any non-commercial local public building e.g., a local school, library etc. Privately-owned businesses such as cafés are not suitable.
- b. If branches have been unable to lay-up a Standard at any of the locations above, it must be placed into the care of the County/District Committee for training purposes or incinerated.

- c. Once a Standard has been laid up, it may not be removed for any purpose. However, if a branch already has one Standard laid up in a church and wishes to have its latest Standard laid up, then the newest Standard may be laid up while the oldest Standard is either incinerated or used for training purposes.
- d. Standards should be hermetically sealed between glass plates to protect them from air and dust. They should be framed and attached directly to a wall, taking care not to expose them to direct sunlight or neon lighting. This will help to preserve the colours and fabric in perpetuity. Formations are advised, when laying up standards, to seek professional advice about their preservation e.g., from museum curators. The formal laying up ceremony and service should precede any measures taken to preserve the standards. The cost of preservation should be borne by the RBL formation.

10. Care of Standards

- a. Travelling to/from events. Unscrew the pole and neatly roll the bunting/100% nylon/ rayon round the pole, avoiding folds and creases and tie loosely with the cords. The Standard and pole can then be covered by the waterproof case.
- b. When not in use do NOT leave the standard rolled up in the carrying case. Suggested method for storing the Standard when not in use:
 - Remove the Standard from the pole
 - Fold the Standard into three, placing the two outside panels over the centre one and hang on a suit hanger.
 - Cover with a dust sheet and hang in a wardrobe.
 - Do not fold or roll Standard up when damp or wet. As soon as possible hang up to dry naturally, not in front of a fire or radiator.



- c. Suggested method for drying a wet or damp Standard:
 - Keep the Standard on the pole un-furled. (Unscrew lower part of pole.)
 - Open wardrobe or cupboard doors and place one end of pole on each door. Allow the Standard to hang freely until dry.
 - When the Standard is dry, remove from pole, fold and hang on a suit hanger, cover with a dust sheet and then place in the wardrobe.



- d. The Washing, Pressing or Dry Cleaning of Standards is NOT recommended at all but if cleaning of the fabric is required, **specialist advice should be taken.**
- e. Store the Standard in a safe and appropriate place which is recorded in the appropriate minutes.

11. Specimen Standards



12. Pennants and Honours

A pennant is attached to the Standard Pole Spike and Honours are stitched to the Standard. Only one pennant is attached to the Standard Pole Spike at any one time.

1	Jellicoe Cup and Shield	Scroll of Award for each Award
2	Haig Cup	Merit Star — one for each mention
3	Haig and Lister Cups	Scroll of Award
4	Lister Cup	Merit Star — one for each mention
5	Maurice Cup (Counties/Districts only)	Scroll of Award — Lettered Maurice Cup and inserted in panel 3.

- a. **Royal British Legion Anniversary Pennants.** For a branch to receive a pennant, a written request must be sent no earlier than two months prior to the anniversary date to the relevant region’s MEA. After the MEA has established the opening date of the branch, they will then provide written correspondence to the branch confirming its eligibility for the Anniversary Pennant. Once written confirmation has been obtained, Anniversary Pennants can be purchased by the branch from **AA Flags** or **Flagmakers** or **Newton Newton**.
 - (1) **Branch 50th anniversary pennant.** To commemorate the Branch 50th anniversary those branches attaining 50 years of continuous existence, subject to Head Office certification and approval, will qualify for a branch anniversary streamer pennant which will indicate the year of formation of the branch and the year of its 50th anniversary (e.g. 1928–1978) in royal blue with figures in gold.

(2) **Branch 75th anniversary pennant.** To commemorate the Branch 75th anniversary those branches attaining 75 years of continuous existence, subject to Head Office certification and approval, will qualify for a branch anniversary streamer pennant which will indicate the year of formation of the branch and the year of its 75th anniversary (e.g. 1922–1997) in gold with figures in royal blue.

(3) **Branch 100th anniversary pennant.** To commemorate the Branch 100th anniversary those branches attaining 100 years of continuous existence, subject to Head Office certification and approval, will qualify for a branch anniversary streamer pennant which will indicate the year of formation of the branch and the year of its 100th anniversary (e.g. 1921–2021) in royal blue with figures in gold and a one inch gold fringe around three edges of the pennant.

b. **Scrolls and Stars**

(1) When appropriate, a scroll may be added to the lower panel of the Standard to denote the award of the Haig, Lister or Maurice Cup, and a star to indicate the Certificate of Merit.

(2) The upper panel is marked to denote the winners of the Jellicoe Cup or Shield.

c. **Women's Section.** The Women's Section Branch 50/60/70/75/80/85 year anniversary honour is denoted by a solid gold coloured diamond motif (with appropriate figure) added to the top right hand corner of the Standard (both sides). Place diamond 4" (10cm) in and down. Only one year's diamond to be displayed at any one time. Women's Section standards do not use pennants.)

13. Mourning Drapes

a. When Standards are draped at funerals or memorial services, the mourning drape (153cm x 15cm) will be tied in a bow just below the spike on the head of the pole.

b. Drapes cannot be carried on any other occasion without the permission of the senior formation taking part.

c. Standards are not to be draped at Conference unless special instructions are issued.

Chapter 7: The Standard Bearer

1. The Standard Bearer

The Standard Bearer is appointed by the branch committee, and it is essential that the person selected is physically strong and well able to handle the Standard under all conditions. Standard Bearers must be given access to a copy of this handbook and encouraged to attend training sessions.

2. Fitness to Carry the Standard

- a. The standard bearer must complete the MS1B, found in the Membership Handbook or via the Membership Administration Portal. For Youth Standard Bearers the physical fitness declaration is included in the Youth Standard Bearer application form.
- b. If a Standard Bearer is deemed to be unfit to carry a Standard by a Parade Marshal despite reasonable adjustments having been made, then they will be stood down.

3. Dress

The following is the dress for all Royal British Legion Standard Bearers when on parade and participating in competitions.

a. Beret

(1) Black or dark navy (to match suit), neat, head band straight and level and in good repair; not more than one inch above eyebrows, join at centre rear, with ribbon neatly knotted and tucked in so not visible, cap badge above left eye and unless anodised or “Staybrite,” polished. No hairs or fluff; right side pulled down to just past headband on the right.

(2) No adornments (hackles, flashes etc.) to be worn on the beret at any time (with the exception of poppies).

(3) Only the current pattern RBL official cap badge is worn.

(4) Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers are permitted to wear head coverings in accordance with their religious beliefs. The head covering should be black or dark navy in colour. The Royal British Legion Cap Badge must be worn on the head covering.

b. **Hair.** (Including facial hair.) Clean, neat, tidy and not touching shirt collar.

c. **Facial Jewellery** (i.e. earrings, nose rings etc.) — a single small plain stud earring in the centre of the lobe of each ear can be worn.

d. **Suit.** Neatly pressed, well fitting, plain, black or navy trousers or skirt suit. Pleats and splits permitted on skirt. Jacket must match trousers or skirt. Skirt regulation length, approx one and a half inches below the knee. Medal loops are permissible on suit jackets.

- e. **Tie.** Official RBL tie (multi motif), neatly into collar, pressed, with no tie pin visible. Single motif ties, 'crest' ties, **MUST NOT** be worn in uniform.
- f. **Shirt.** Freshly laundered, pressed, plain white shirt. **NOT** button down collar. The collar must fit properly round the neck, not gaping, not too tight.

g. **Lapel Badge**

- (1) Official RBL badge denoting the membership status (not tie-pin), polished, in correct position, i.e. normal button hole position.
- (2) Veterans Badge may be worn by RBL and RBLWS Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals who qualify, on all occasions except Standard Bearers' Competitions. It is worn just below and slightly left of the Membership Badge, as you look at it on the jacket (please see picture below).

Veterans Badge placement:



- (3) When a Standard Bearer is on parade with a Standard, he will **NOT** wear the dress type Standard Bearers' flag pole badge which is an 'off-parade' badge entitled to be worn by all present and past Standard Bearers.
- (4) Standard Bearers **must not** wear any other badges on their lapel.
- h. **Medals.** Officially issued campaign and service medals issued personally to Standard Bearers may be worn when in uniform. Where medals are worn with a pocket insert, attach them first. The RBL badge is worn one inch above.
- i. **Socks.** Black or navy with trousers or black stockings/tights with a skirt (not opaque).
- j. **Shoes.** Black, laced, Oxford style shoe with toe cap, 'Bulled' (polished to give an extremely high shine effect) all over. Patent shoes are not permitted. Women's shoes are not always obtainable with toe caps, in that case, no toe cap is permissible.

4. Bearing

Generally smart military bearing.

5. Youth Standard Bearer (RBL only)

Youth Standard Bearers will conform to the same dress code for the Royal British Legion Standard Bearers except:

- a. **Lapel Badge.** Official Youth lapel badge.
- b. **Branch/County/District Level.** Youth Standard Bearers who are members of a uniformed cadet unit may wear their cadet uniform when carrying the Branch Standard for a branch or County/District event. They may wear their cadet uniform when competing in County/District Youth Standard Bearer Competitions. At Regional and National level competitions and events, Youth Standard Bearers must conform to the RBL Standard Bearer dress code.

6. Women's Section Dress

- a. **Beret.** Black or dark navy (to match suit).
 - (1) 'Stiffened' (blocked to height of cap badge) with Women's Section beret badge (obtainable from Head Office) centrally between the eyes; no visible beret ribbon; bottom of beret not more than one inch above eyebrows; beret worn straight — not pulled over to right side.
 - (2) Only the current pattern RBLWS official beret badge will be worn.
 - (3) Shaped hats are not permitted. Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers are permitted to wear head coverings in accordance with their religious beliefs. The head covering must be black or dark navy. Women's Section beret badge must be placed on the head covering.
- b. **Hair.** Clean, neat, tidy and not touching shirt collar.
- c. **Facial Jewellery.** (i.e. earrings, nose rings etc.) — a single small plain stud earring in the centre of the lobe of each ear can be worn.
- d. **Suit.** Neatly pressed, well fitting, plain black or navy trousers or skirt suit. Pleats and splits permitted in skirt. Jacket must match trousers or skirt. Skirt regulation length, approximately one and a half inches below the knee.
- e. **Tie.** Official Women's Section tie; neat and pressed; motif prominently displayed; no tie-pin visible.
- f. **Shirt.** Freshly laundered, pressed plain white shirt. NOT button down collar. The collar must fit properly round the neck, not gaping, not too tight.
- g. **Lapel Badge.** RBLWS Membership badge. Veterans badge may be worn by those WS Standard Bearers/Judges/Marshals who qualify, except in competitions.
- h. **Medals.** Officially issued campaign and service medals only may be worn when in uniform.
- i. **Tights/Stockings.** Plain black. Not opaque or shiny. 20 or 15 denier is ideal.

- j. **Shoes.** Black, laced, shoe without toe cap, 'Bulled' (polished to give an extremely high shine effect) all over. (Patent shoes are not permitted.)
- k. **Bearing.** Smart military bearing.
- l. **Competition Bars.** Awarded to the Winner and Runner Up at County/ District, Regional and National competitions. These are worn on the left lapel by Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals but are NOT worn by Standard Bearers in competitions. Once attaining five individual bars at the same level these can be removed and replaced with a five-year bar. The five years need not be consecutive.

7. All Standard Bearers

- a. **Inclement Weather.** Standard bearers may wear a plain black or dark navy raincoat during a parade in the event of inclement or uncertain weather conditions. The decision to wear raincoats is taken by the Parade Marshal, and as much notice as possible given. A parade may be cancelled or dismissed if there is a sudden downpour and Standard Bearers are not wearing raincoats. Consideration must be given to potential rain damage of Standards. (Refer below for advice/instruction on hot weather.)
- b. **Removal of Headdress.** RBL Standard Bearers do not remove their berets during parades or services (except in church when they are not carrying the Standard). Normally they remove their berets on taking their seat in church and replace them on going forward to receive the Standard. On this, and similar points, there should be consultation with the officiating clergy.
- c. RBLWS Standard Bearers do not remove headgear.
- d. **Wearing of Poppies.** During the Remembrance period it is normal that poppies will be worn.
 - The whole poppy (including stem but not leaf) are worn behind the beret badge.
 - The poppy must NEVER be dismantled with the petals worn behind the badge like a flash.

8. Sling

- a. The leather sling and socket used for carrying the Standard is worn over the right shoulder with the socket in the centre front of the body.
- b. The sling badge worn level with RBL's lapel badge, is a regulation part of the equipment and must be of the authorised pattern. (Note: The Women's Section sling badge is worn four inches from the top of the shoulder.)
- c. All leather, well polished to a dark tan or black colour, and all brass work polished, not lacquered.
- d. There are three sizes of sling available — 56, 68 and 76 inches. Wear the correct size to suit the height and build of the Standard Bearer. This may involve having two slings

available if the Deputy Standard Bearer is of a different build. Carry out the adjustment of the sling with the help of another person and ideally in front of a large mirror. A tailor's chalk or some plain pins are necessary.

- e. The recommended procedure to adjust the sling is as follows:
- (1) Without a sling, the Standard Bearer stands at the Order. Slide the right hand down the pole to the fullest extent of the arm, grasping the pole.
 - (2) Raise the Standard to the second position in the drill movement from the Order to the Carry (i.e. position the carry in Annex A to Chapter 10), steadying the pole in the vertical position with the left hand.
 - (3) The assistant will now place the socket approximately half an inch below the base of the pole and mark the top of the socket on the Standard Bearer's suit, using pins or chalk.
 - (4) Now without the Standard, the assistant will adjust the sling buckle and sling on the Standard Bearer so that the top of the socket coincides with the mark on the suit.
 - (5) The sling and socket will now be in the correct position for the height and build of that Standard Bearer.

9. Gauntlets

White, leather gauntlets. Clean, no marks and in good repair.

10. Escorts

Escorts to Standards when on parade are dressed the same as the Standard Bearer with the exception of white cotton gloves instead of the gauntlets and no sling.

11. Standard Bearer Competitions (see also [Chapter 16.](#))

- a. **The Ashwanden Cup** competitions are held annually for both RBL and Women's Section Standard Bearers; the preliminary stages taking place at County/District and Regional levels where branch and County/District Standards are carried respectively. Representatives taking part in the National competition will carry their County/District Standard. All Branch Standard Bearers should be encouraged to enter the County/District Competition.
- b. **The Elms Cup** competition will be held annually for the National Youth Standard Bearer with the preliminary stages taking place at County/District and Regional levels. The competitor will carry the Branch Standard of the branch of which they are a Youth member at County/District level, and the County Youth Standard (if present) or Branch Standard (if there is no County Youth Standard) at Regional and National level.
- c. For a competitor to progress to the next level of competition they **MUST** have competed in the previous level competition for the current year. If there is only one entrant at a

specific level then that entrant would be deemed the winner and progress to the next level, where they would be judged as normal. All competitors **MUST** be aware of their duties if they enter a competition, i.e. that they must represent their County/Region at the next level of competition. If they are prevented from entering the next level of competition their Deputy can enter in their place.

12. Appointment of National Standard Bearer

- a. The Board of Trustees will appoint the National Standard Bearer and the National Youth Standard Bearer. In the case of the Women's Section, the winner of the Women's Section Ashwanden Cup is automatically appointed the Women's Section National Standard Bearer for the year.
- b. The Standard Bearers placed second and third in their National competition may be invited by Head Office to deputise for the National Standard Bearer when necessary.

13. Arranging Training

Counties/Districts are encouraged to run training sessions for Standard Bearers. Instructors must be fully conversant with the correct drill and procedures. The following notes are given as a general guide for the organisation and running of a Standard Bearers training school.

- a. **Number of Instructors.** The number of instructors required will be dependent on the number of Standard Bearers to be taught, ideally a one-to-one situation is best but in practice to make the hire of a hall worthwhile you will probably be working with larger numbers. In instances of training for Youth Standard Bearers, one-to-one situations should be avoided to prevent any safeguarding issues.
- b. **Venue.** Select a hall that has:
 - A high roof without any obstruction for a Standard at the Carry
 - a level floor with a length of at least twenty paces
 - accessible to all, including those with disabilities
- c. **Health and Safety.** Parade Marshals to carry out health and safety risk assessments, in line with the risk assessment document found in this Handbook.
- d. **Method of Instruction — Static Positions**
 - (1) Using the Ceremonial Handbook as a guide start with the basic positions i.e. Stand at Ease, Stand at Attention at the Order, The Carry, and the Slope. (All of these are carried out in a static position.)
 - (2) Where possible try to use an experienced Standard Bearer to act as a model and give a demonstration of the movement by numbers with the instructor pointing out common faults.

- (3) Once the trainees are competent in carrying out the movement by numbers have the model demonstrate the movement judging the time, then practice the trainees judging the time using the model as a mirror image.
- (4) Once the trainees are competent in the basic movements you can move onto the Dips using the same method of instruction.

e. **Method of Instruction — Drill on the March**

- (1) Leaving Standard Bearers' Competition movements aside, it is essential that Standard Bearers know how to handle the Standard properly when they are on the march. This can be achieved firstly by marching them round and round the hall in single file at the Carry with the instructor calling out the pace and picking out and correcting common faults i.e. poles leaning forwards, forearms not parallel, left arm not being swung straight from front to rear etc. with each individual.
- (2) When it comes to the Slope from the Carry, and the Carry from the Slope, it is easier to use a model to give a demonstration both by numbers, and in proper time up and down the room then practice the trainees individually. When they are competent then march them round the hall and carry out all three movements, with the instructor picking out faults and correcting them as they occur.

f. **Preparation for Standard Bearers' Competitions**

- (1) When practicing Standard Bearers in preparation for a competition, ideally a one-to-one situation is best with the instructor giving the word of command, the Standard Bearer carrying out the movement and the instructor pointing out the faults and correcting them as they work through the competition sequence.
- (2) If a one-to-one situation is not an option the following method can be used, working with three standard bearers at one time: Have one marshal give the words of command and assistant marshals checking for faults (these marshals could be RBL or Women's Section judges this way. This will ensure practice for the assistant marshals as well.

Annex A to Chapter 7

Blocking the Royal British Legion Women's Section beret — hints and tips

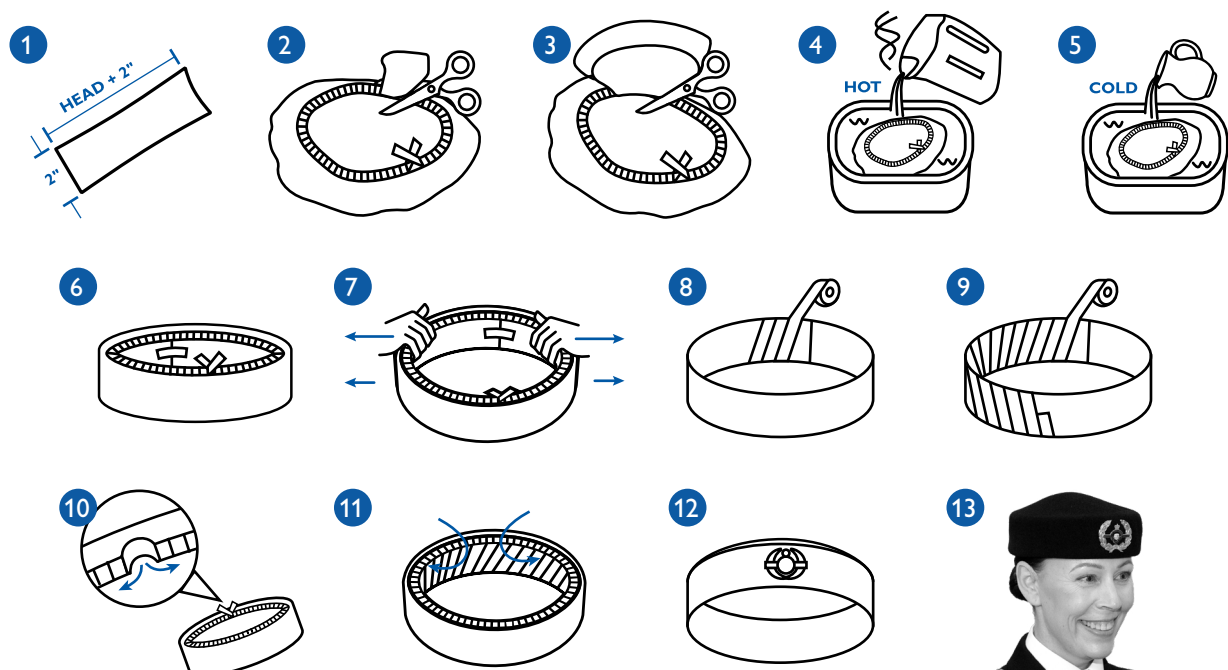
(See fig. on next page)

1. Make yourself a strip of flexible flat plastic that is 2" high and about 2" longer than the measurement of your head. (If you have thin plastic make yourself several strips.)
2. Cut out the small stiff area of material, which is there to act as backing for the badge.
3. Cut out the lining if your beret has one, and tidy the edges, but DO NOT CUT off the leather band that acts as a grip to your head.
4. Immerse beret in very hot water and then into cold water to shrink excess amount of material.

5. Insert a strip into your beret and push outwards to take up all the slack in the beret's material. (Every effort must be made to ensure the strip forms a ring that sits tightly in the Beret so there are no wrinkles showing outside.) This will be larger than the leather band and larger than your head.
6. Fix the plastic to its diameter with sticky back plastic, forming a plastic ring.
7. Remove plastic ring from beret (add any further strips to the inner side of the ring if required to make it sturdier at this stage) and bind the 'joint' with sticky tape. (It would be a good idea to reinsert into the beret after binding the joint to check the ring still sits tightly in the beret.)
8. Bind sticky tape round the full diameter of the ring.
9. Ensure that the ribbon in the leather band is adjusted to the correct tightness to fit your head snugly and tuck the ribbon into the band (you might like to sew a couple of anchor stitches here to hold the ribbon in place).
10. With the plastic ring in place turn the leather band up inside the beret. (This is because it should not be seen on Women's Section beret.)
11. Reduce any further ripples still showing (there should not be any large ones if you have fitted the ring correctly) using steam from an iron.

NOTE — NEVER IRON DIRECTLY ONTO YOUR BERET as this will cause a shine and ruin your beret. Best practice is to use a damp cloth and steam using 'dabbing movements'. NEVER push an iron along the beret.

12. Place your badge central onto the beret with an equal amount of the beret above and below the badge.
13. Place your finished beret on your head and be proud.



Chapter 8: Marshals

1. Selection of Marshals

- a. Marshals should ideally have had some experience of Standard Bearing or have a service background, although we do not exclude other members from the chance to become a Marshal.
- b. All Marshals or potential Marshals are advised to remember at all times that the RBL and RBLWS members and Standard Bearers they are dealing with are volunteers and must be treated accordingly, i.e. with respect.

2. Appointment of Marshals.

- a. **National.** The National Parade Marshal is appointed by the Parade Marshal Selection Panel.
- b. **County.** The County/District Committee is responsible for appointing the County/District Parade Marshal. They should attend the Parade Marshal training course and achieve Grade A. Grade B Parade Marshal can assist. A Deputy Parade Marshal should be appointed in consultation with the appointed Parade Marshal. Parade Marshal training must be renewed every three years, where grades can be upgraded or downgraded.
- c. **Branch.** Active branches are encouraged to appoint a suitable person to act as their Parade Marshal, with responsibility for ceremonial including drill, bearing, turnout and discipline.
- d. Parade marshals must have carried out safeguarding training via the Discovery LMS portal prior to attending the course.
- e. Parade marshals must undergo a DBS check or hold a judicial clearance certificate from their resident country prior to assuming the duties of parade marshal.

3. Dress for Marshals

- a. A Marshal sets an example to those they are to be in charge of, both in terms of personal turnout and bearing. A Marshal's own turnout must be as good as, if not better, than those they are to be in charge of.
- b. Dress for Marshals must conform to the dress regulations for Standard Bearers but instead of gauntlets, white cotton gloves are worn. Sashes or armbands are no part of RBL Ceremonial Dress and MUST NOT be worn on RBL events.

4. Canes

- a. Various styles are available. There is no one recommended type. It is important that the size of cane is matched to the Marshal. Only the National Parade Marshal carries a pace stick; it is their badge of office.

- b. Canes are not carried by Marshals at Standard Bearer Competitions.
- c. See [Chapter 11](#) for drill movements.

5. Selection of the National Parade Marshal

- a. The composition of the National Parade Marshal Selection Panel of the Royal British Legion (the Panel) will be:

- Chair — the National Chair
- Vice Chair — the National Vice Chair
- The current National Parade Marshal
- The current Chair of the Ceremonial Working Group
- Board of Trustee Member (if required, Chair of Membership Council)

- b. **Governance of the Selection Panel**

- (1) The panel is a committee formed by, and may be dissolved by, the National Chair, who may co-opt members at their discretion.
- (2) A quorum of members will be three, which must include the National Chair or National Vice Chair.
- (3) Each member of the panel has one vote, with the Chair having a casting vote if necessary.
- (4) Each panel member may request the attendance of other, non-voting, individuals they believe may aid the panel in making its decisions. The Chair shall have authority to allow or disallow such attendance.
- (5) The panel has the authority to appoint the National Parade Marshal, the Deputy National Parade Marshal, and two Assistant National Parade Marshals.
- (6) The panel will meet at least once every three years.
- (7) The Chair, with advice from the other panel members, will decide whether or not to invite applicants for interview by the panel.

- c. **Rule of Appointment**

- (1) The panel will appoint, for a three year term, the National Parade Marshal, the Deputy National Parade Marshal, and up to two Assistants to the National Parade Marshal (see Paragraph 4 below).
- (2) If necessary, the panel will appoint, for the remainder of a three year term, the National Parade Marshal, Deputy National Parade Marshal and Assistants to the National Parade Marshal, should their tenure be curtailed for any reason.

- (3) The National Parade Marshal may only serve one term of three years other than, if appointed mid-term, they may serve the remainder of that term and, if subsequently re-appointed, serve a further full term of three years.
- (4) A former National Parade Marshal may apply to fill a position as Assistant to the National Parade Marshal.
- (5) Assistants to the National Parade Marshal may serve a maximum of three terms of three years, plus one partial term if appointed mid-term.
- (6) Applications, in the form of Curriculum Vitae, for the position of National Parade Marshal, Deputy National Parade Marshal, and two Assistant Parade Marshals, are to be made by individuals wishing to fill those positions.
- (7) National Parade Marshal and Assistant National Parade Marshal positions will be appointed at staggered times to ensure continuation and not lose all experienced Marshals at the same time.

d. **Eligibility Criteria for DNPM and ANPMs**

(1) DNPM and ANPM must be the following grades:

- *Deputy National Parade Marshal (DNPM)*: Grade A Parade Marshal. Grade A Standard Bearers Judge. Past NPMs may apply.
- *Assistant National Parade Marshals (ANPM)*: Grade A Parade Marshal. Grade B Standard Bearers Judge. ANPMs must achieve grade A status during their tenure of office taking place. Past NPMs may apply.

(2) All applicants must display a high level of knowledge of the Ceremonial Handbook (CHB) during their interview. All applicants must be comfortable with using Office 365 and display a high standard of administration in all aspects of their work. All applicants must display excellent communication skills and be comfortable with working with all areas of the RBL including external and partner organisations. Successful applicants will be expected to work with senior members of the MOD, Government and other organisations and always display the highest level of professionalism.

e. **Timetable**

- (1) Eighteen months prior to the tenure beginning, invitations for applications will be issued to all formations of RBL.
- (2) Fifteen months prior to the tenure beginning, the panel will meet to appoint the next National Parade Marshal, Deputy NPM and two Assistants.
- (3) Immediately following the appointments, the Deputy National Parade Marshal designate will begin shadowing the incumbent National Parade Marshal.

A. Job Description — National Parade Marshal.

B. Job Description — County/District Parade Marshal/Ceremonial Officer

Annex A to Chapter 8

Job description — National Parade Marshal Responsibilities

1. The National Parade Marshal acts with the authority of the National Chair on all matters concerning RBL ceremonial. The policy directions shall be given through the National Chair and Director General.
2. The National Parade Marshal is responsible for organising and overseeing the arrangements for all National Ceremonial Events (except the Festival of Remembrance and Annual Conference), including the participation of Standard Bearers and other Parade Marshals, under the direction of the National Chair or the Director General. The National Parade Marshal is a member of the events planning team for the Festival of Remembrance and plays a major part in ceremonial activities at Annual Conference.
3. The National Parade Marshal will ensure that all participants at National Events are correctly dressed and behave in the best traditions of RBL before and during the event. The National Parade Marshal will also ensure those who cannot reach the required standards are removed from the event.

Tasks. The National Parade Marshal is to:

4. Take an active part in the planning and organisation of all national events involving ceremonial. This includes delegation to the Deputy National Parade Marshal, Assistant National Parade Marshals and other Parade Marshals as required.
5. Supervise the activities of all Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers at national events.
6. Give guidance and advice to the Board of Trustees, Membership Council, Counties/Districts, branches and staff on ceremonial matters. They are to collaborate with the staff to ensure that the Ceremonial Handbook is appropriate and up to date.
7. Promote interest in learning, practising and upgrading Standard Bearer Drills and Ceremonial Procedures throughout RBL in accordance with the Ceremonial Handbook.
8. Maintain registers with RBL Head Office of Standard Bearer Judges and Parade Marshals able to assist at national events.
9. Be a member of Ceremonial Working Group.
10. Co-ordinate the training of Parade Marshals and Standard Bearer Judges at National Level.

Annex B to Chapter 8

Job description — County/District Parade Marshal/Ceremonial Officer

Appointment

1. The County/District Committee appoint the County/District Parade Marshal. This appointment is reviewed annually.
2. To be fully acquainted with the Ceremonial Handbook, and to give appropriate guidance on ceremonial matters when necessary to branches.
3. To be actively involved in the planning and organising of all County/District Events which include ceremonial.
4. To encourage, within the County/District, interest in learning, practising and upgrading Standard Bearing Drills and Ceremonial Procedures.
5. To organise training courses for novice and experienced Standard Bearers/Marshals.
6. To organise specialist training courses for Judges in Standard Bearers Competitions.
7. To contribute to the planning and organisation of the County/District Standard Bearers Competition.
8. To encourage all branches and their County/District to follow the procedures outlined in the Ceremonial Handbook for the induction of newly elected officers.
9. To prepare periodic progress reports as necessary for the County/District Committee.
10. To assist the National Parade Marshal as requested in all matters affecting Ceremonial, Parades, Services and Competitions.
11. To consult with the County/District Ceremonial Officers/Parade Marshals in neighbouring Counties/Districts.
12. To liaise with the MEO about selecting which Standard Bearers are to attend the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall.

Note: Ideally, the County/District Ceremonial and Parade Marshal should be an experienced Standard Bearer or former NCO, setting a high standard of smartness and drill on parade.

Part 3: Ceremonial procedures

Chapter 9: Standard ceremonial positions

1. Ceremonial Positions

There are seven standard ceremonial positions, shown at Annex A to this chapter, namely:

- the Stand at Ease;
- Stand at Attention/the Order;
- the Carry; the Slope;
- the Dip — during a Royal Salute;
- the Dip — as an Act of Homage;
- and the Dip — in Wet or Muddy Conditions.

2. The Stand at Ease

Heels will be 12 inches apart. The left hand will remain at the side, fingers curled but not clenched, the thumb in line with the seam of the trousers/skirt and the pole will be kept perpendicular at the right side (not pushed forward) with the bottom of the pole against, and in line, with the small toe.

3. Stand at Attention/The Order

Heels together, feet at an angle of 30 degrees, left hand will remain at the side, fingers curled but not clenched, thumb to the front in line with the seam of the trousers/skirt and the pole kept perpendicular at the right side; the bottom of the pole on the ground against, and in line with the small toe. The bunting should be allowed to hang naturally and held by the right hand so that it is not stretched; right elbow close to the body; the forearm and wrist parallel to the ground.

4. The Carry

- a. The pole will be held perpendicular in the socket by the right hand, the bunting hanging naturally. The right forearm and wrist will be horizontal to the ground, the right thumb opposite the centre of the mouth and the back of the hand to the front. The left hand will be held at the side and the feet placed as for position of the Attention/Order.
- b. On the march: quick march. The pole will be kept perpendicular and the right hand and arm maintained in position as when at the halt. The bunting will be allowed to fly naturally. The left arm will be swung naturally waist high and normal marching drill movements will apply. Pace normally being 116 steps to the minute (full marching stride 30 inches).
- c. On the march: slow march. As in the quick march except that the left arm and hand will be kept straight down by the side as at the Attention. Normal slow march drill will apply, i.e. pace 30 inches, point toe downwards and slightly outwards, toe touching the ground first, no pause between steps: 65 steps to the minute.

5. The Slope

- a. The pole lies on the right shoulder at an angle of 45 degrees; the right elbow close to the side of the body; the right forearm and wrist parallel to the ground; and the bottom fringe of the bunting as presented parallel to the ground, with the bunting hanging over and covering the pole, the right shoulder and arm, i.e. the pole not showing between the hand and finial. The left arm and feet are as for the Attention. The pole extending directly in front the right side of the body, in line with the right foot.
- b. Slope on the march. Standard and pole held as per 5. a. Left arm is swung naturally, no higher than waist height, or kept still by the left side if slow marching.

6. The Dip — During a Royal Salute

The pole is held in the right hand, the lower part of the pole under the right armpit, the right elbow close to the body, the back of the hand towards the ground. The spike of the pole is held on the ground immediately in front of, and in line with, the right foot. The bunting is normally spread out on the ground and to the right of the pole, but strong wind conditions may make this impossible. If a strong wind is blowing from the right the bunting will be spread on the ground to the left of the pole. The total time for the Dip is 20 seconds.

7. The Dip — As an Act of Homage

As for the Dip during a Royal Salute, except that immediately on completion of the Dip, the head will be inclined slightly downward with the eyes open. The total time for the Dip is 20 seconds.

8. The Dip — In Wet or Muddy Conditions.

The pole is held in the right hand, the lower part of the pole held firmly under the armpit. The pole must be parallel to the ground and extended directly in front of, and

in line with, the right side of the body. The bunting should hang straight down and not touch the ground. In conditions of strong wind, and in a Dip of long duration, the left hand may be brought across, immediately in front of the right hand, to support the pole. The total time for the Dip is 10 seconds.

9. Unofficial Non-Standard Positions

Organisers of parades should avoid where possible unduly long marches for Standard Bearers. Where this is necessary, however, the traditional unofficial measures to ease the arm muscles are acceptable, though not in very public sections of the route. Thus, while on the march, changing the arm holding the pole at the Carry or the shoulder on which the pole rests at the Slope, is acceptable. It is emphasised, however, that it is not an official drill movement or position, and will be used only at the discretion of the officer commanding the parade and the Parade Marshal. Suggested orders for the unofficial movements are:

- **At the Carry:** “Standard Bearers will prepare to change arms—Change Arms.”
- **At The Slope:** “Standard Bearers will prepare to change shoulders—Change Shoulders.”

Annex A to Chapter 9

Standard ceremonial positions



- (1) Stand At Ease (*not shown*) — (2) Stand at Attention/The Order — (3) The Carry — (4) The Slope



- The Dip** (1) During a Royal Salute — (2) As an Act of Homage — (3) Wet/Muddy conditions

Chapter 10: Standard ceremonial drill movements

1. General

- a. In all standard ceremonial drill movements, the Standard Bearer's eyes must look straight ahead except as specified, i.e. they must not follow the movement of the bunting or the pole.
- b. During all drill movement the body must be kept absolutely perpendicular, i.e. the body must not sway to balance the weight of the Standard. A Standard Bearer needs, therefore, to develop strong arm and back muscles.
- c. When two or more Standards are on parade, all Standards will take their timing from, and conform to, the movements of the senior Standard.

2. Rules for Dipping of Standards and the Union Flag

- a. This note is additional to the procedure set out in:
 - Annex G The Dip — as for a Royal Salute.
 - Annex I The Dip — as for an Act of Homage.
 - Annex J The Dip — Wet and Muddy Conditions
- b. The Union Flag and RBL Standards are both dipped for the National Anthem, a Royal Salute and for an Act of Homage (Exhortation, Last Post, Silence). The Standards and Union Flag are dipped when foreign national anthems are played.
- c. The Union Flag and RBL Standards are not lowered for a march past. In the special event of the King or a member of the Royal Family taking the salute at a march past, special instructions will be issued. (Note: The Guards bring their colours to the horizontal (wet conditions) position when marching past the King.)
- d. On a march past, Standard Bearers do not pay compliments (i.e. eyes Left/Right), but Parade Marshals do, and salute.
- e. Marks of Respect — Standards will be Dipped when receiving a Royal Visitor, when the National Anthem is played, when foreign national anthems are played, during the sounding of Last Post and during the Silence. They will be raised on the first note of the sounding of the Reveille. When Standards are not carried, members of RBL will show their respect by standing to attention.

3. Ceremonial Drill Movements

There are 12 standard ceremonial drill movements, shown at Annex A to L of this Chapter, with their associated words of command, namely:

a. **Movements At The Halt**

Movement	Command	Annex
From the Order to the Carry	“Standard Bearer” — “Carry Standard”	Annex A
From the Carry to the Order	“Standard Bearer” — “Order Standard”	Annex B
From the Slope to the Carry	“Standard Bearer” — “Carry Standard”	Annex C
From the Carry to the Slope	“Standard Bearer” — “Slope Standard”	Annex D
From the Order to the Slope	“Standard Bearer” — “Slope Standard”	Annex E
From the Slope to the Order	“Standard Bearer” — “Order Standard”	Annex F
From the Carry to the Dip (<i>Royal Salute</i>)	“Standard Bearer” — “As for a Royal Salute” — “Dip Standard”	Annex G
From the Dip to the Carry	“Standard Bearer” — “Carry Standard”	Annex H
From the Carry to the Dip (<i>Act of Homage</i>)	“Standard Bearer” — “As an Act of homage” — “Dip Standard”	Annex I
From the Carry to the Dip (<i>Wet or Muddy Conditions</i>)	“Standard Bearer” — “As for Wet or Muddy Conditions” — “Dip Standard”	Annex J

b. **Movements on The March**





Movement	Command	Annex
From the Slope to the Carry on the March	“Standard Bearer” — “Carry Standard”	Annex K
From the Carry to the Slope on the March	“Standard Bearer” — “Slope Standard”	Annex L

Annexes:

- A. Movements At The Halt — From the Order to the Carry.
- B. Movements At The Halt — From the Carry to the Order.
- C. Movements At The Halt — From the Slope to the Carry.
- D. Movements At The Halt — From the Carry to the Slope.
- E. Movements At The Halt — From the Order to the Slope.
- F. Movements At The Halt — From the Slope to the Order.
- G. Movements At The Halt — From the Carry to the Dip (*Royal Salute*).
- H. Movements At The Halt — From the Dip to the Carry (*One & Two handed*).
- I. Movements At The Halt — From the Carry to the Dip (*Act of Homage*).
- J. Movements At The Halt — From the Carry to the Dip (*Wet or Muddy Conditions*).
- K. From the Slope to the Carry on the March.
- L. From the Carry to the Slope on the March.






Annex A to Chapter 10

Movements at the Halt — from the Order to the Carry (three movements)

			
<p>Order to Carry</p>	<p>Slide the right hand down the pole to the fullest extent of the right arm; at the same time grasp the socket with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the socket and the thumb to the rear of the socket.</p>	<p>With the right hand raise the Standard smartly upwards to a perpendicular position in centre front of the body, lowering the pole into the socket and keeping the right forearm vertically against, and in front of, the pole to steady it.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side and at the same time raise the right forearm to a horizontal position.</p>





Annex B to Chapter 10

Movements at the Halt — from the Carry to the Order (four movements)

				
<p>Carry to Order</p>	<p>All at the same time, bring the left hand smartly across the body to grasp the socket with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the front of the socket and the thumb to the rear, drop the right elbow so that the forearm is vertically against and in front of the pole to steady it; raise the pole just clear of the socket.</p>	<p>Lower the Standard to the position of the Order. At the same time carry the left hand smartly across the body, the forearm parallel to the ground, grasping the bunting and pole and placing the base of the pole against the little toe of the right foot.</p>	<p>Momentarily quitting the pole with the right hand, raise the right forearm to the horizontal position grasping the pole and bunting on the inside, steadying with the left hand.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side.</p>

Annex C to Chapter 10







Movements at the Halt — from the Slope to the Carry (three movements)

			
<p>Slope to Carry</p>	<p>Slide the right hand down the pole to the fullest extent of the right arm simultaneously bringing the left arm across the body to grasp the pole and bunting.</p>	<p>Raise the Standard smartly upwards to the perpendicular position in the centre front of the body, grasping the socket with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the socket and the thumb to the rear, at the same time lowering the pole into the socket and keeping the right forearm vertically against, and in front of the pole to steady it.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side and at the same time raise the right forearm to the horizontal position.</p>

Note: This movement can also be practised on the March.

Annex D to Chapter 10





Movements at the Halt — from the Carry to the Slope (five movements)

					
<p>Carry to Slope</p>	<p>All at the same time bring the left hand smartly across the body to grasp the socket with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the front of the socket and the thumb to the rear, drop the right elbow so that the forearm is vertically against and in front of the pole to steady it; raise the pole just clear of the socket.</p>	<p>Lower the Standard to the centre front of the body, at the same time grasping the pole with the left hand just above the right hand.</p>	<p>Move the right hand above the left, grasping the bunting and the pole together on the inside.</p>	<p>With both hands still on the pole place the Standard on the right shoulder with the right forearm parallel to the ground.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side.</p>

Note: This movement can also be practised on the March.

Annex E to Chapter 10





Movements at the Halt — from the Order to the Slope (three movements)

			
<p>Order to Slope</p>	<p>Bring the left hand across the body and grasp the pole below the right hand.</p>	<p>Using both hands slope the Standard onto the right shoulder, keeping the right forearm parallel to the ground.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side.</p>

Note: Shoulders to remain steady and square to the front.

Annex F to Chapter 10





Movements at the Halt — from the Slope to the Order (three movements)

			
<p>Slope to Order</p>	<p>Bring the left hand across the body and grasp the pole below the right hand.</p>	<p>Using both hands bring the pole to the vertical at the Order position.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand smartly to the side.</p>

Note: Shoulders to remain steady and square to the front.

Annex G to Chapter 10

Movements at the Halt — from the Carry to the Dip (*Royal Salute*) (three movements)




			
<p>Carry to Dip</p>	<p>On the sounding or singing of the first note of the National Anthem, all at the same time, bring the left hand smartly across the body to grasp the socket, with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the front of the socket and the thumb to the rear; drop the right elbow so that the forearm is vertically against, and in front of the pole to steady it; raise the pole just clear of the socket.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand to the side, at the same time bringing the pole close to the body in line with the right armpit, the right forearm lying alongside the pole and the pole vertical.</p>	<p>Sweep the Standard well to the right, to the width of the bunting (approximately four feet) and lower slowly and with dignity until the hanging bunting touches the ground.</p> <p>Then with a slow sweeping motion carry the pole to the left and downwards until the spike rests on the ground immediately in front of, and in line with the right foot. Take care to avoid dragging the bunting, and ideally the bunting should be well presented, i.e. lie for the most part flat and unwrinkled on the ground, its front edge at right angles to the pole with the tassels parallel to the front edge. The lower part of the pole throughout the movement is held firmly under the right armpit, the back of the hand towards the ground, and the right elbow kept close to the body.</p>

Notes:





1. The timing of the Dip from completion of the word of command until the spike touches the ground is 20 seconds (plus or minus two seconds).
2. If the wind is blowing strongly from the right, present the bunting on the left of the pole by first carrying the Standard to the left.
3. Standard Bearers may bring their left hand smartly across the body to grasp the pole during stage C if required. The left hand is brought smartly back to the left side at the position of attention as the spike touches the ground.

Annex H to Chapter 10

Movements at the Halt — from the Dip to the Carry (one handed) (two movements)

		
<p>Dip to Carry (One Handed)</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the National Anthem, all at the same time, grasp the socket with the left hand four fingers wrapped around the front of the socket and the thumb to the rear. With the right hand raise the standard smartly upwards to a perpendicular position in centre front of the body, lowering the pole into the socket and keeping the right forearm vertically against, and in front of the pole to steady it.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand sharply to the side and at the same time raise the right forearm to a horizontal position.</p>

Optional from the Dip to the Carry (two handed) (two movements)






			
<p>Dip to Carry (Two Handed)</p>	<p>At the conclusion of the National Anthem the left hand may be used as a pivot to give a start to the lift and then returned smartly to the socket to complete the movement as per the one-handed return.</p>	<p>Cut the left hand sharply to the side and at the same time raise the right forearm to a horizontal position.</p>	

Notes:

1. When the Carry is from the Dip (Act of Homage) the above movements will be preceded by an extra movement, namely the smart raising of the head on the cautionary word of command "Standard Bearer" at the first note of "Reveille".
2. The One Handed or Two Handed Carry from the Dip will be accepted in competitions.
3. The Two Handed return to the carry is completed within the same time-frame as the One Handed return.

Annex I to Chapter 10

Movements at the Halt — from the Carry to the Dip (Act of Homage) (four movements)





				
<p>Carry to Dip (Act of Homage)</p>	<p>On the sounding of the first note of the “Last Post” the same three movements will be carried out as for the Dip (Royal Salute) from the Carry (see Annex G).</p>	<p>The fourth movement — immediately on completion of the Dip, i.e. after the spike is on the ground, the head will be inclined smartly downward with the eyes open focused on the spike finial.</p>		

Notes:

1. For competitions, the timing of the Dip from completion of the word of command until the spike touches the ground is 20 seconds (plus or minus two seconds).
2. Standard Bearers may bring their left hand smartly across the body to grasp the pole during stage C if required. The left hand is brought smartly back to the left side at the position of attention as the spike touches the ground.

Annex J to Chapter 9

Movements at the Halt — from the Carry to the Dip (Wet or Muddy conditions) (three movements)







			
<p>Carry to Dip (Wet or muddy Conditions)</p>	<p>First two movements as for the Dip (Royal Salute) from the Carry (see Annex G)</p>	<p>Lower the Standard slowly with the right hand directly to the front of the right side of the body until the pole is parallel to the ground. The lower part of the pole is held firmly under the right armpit and the bunting hangs straight down.</p>	

Notes:

1. In bad weather, or in strong winds, the left hand may be brought smartly across the body to give additional support to prevent the bunting from touching the ground.
2. For competitions the whole movement takes 10 seconds (plus or minus two seconds).
3. Standard Bearers may bring their left hand smartly across the body to grasp the pole during stage C if required. The left hand is brought smartly back to the left side to the position of attention as the pole reaches the horizontal
4. Both hands MAY be used to return to the Carry as indicated Annex H paragraph 2.
5. The bunting must not touch the ground. In competitions, consider the height of the Standard Bearer. A short Standard Bearer may not be able to get the pole to the horizontal and keep the bunting clear of the ground — this is not penalised in competition.
6. Standard Bearers are not expected to hold this position with one hand for any length of time. If necessary, the left hand can be brought smartly across the body to grip the pole just in front of the right hand to give support.

Annex K to Chapter 10

From the Slope to the Carry on the March (five movements)








					
<p>Slope to Carry (On March)</p>	<p>First left foot after executive order — extend right arm fully down pole, and left arm across body to grasp the bunting and pole above the right hand.</p>	<p>Next left foot — raise pole in centre front of body, at the same time dropping the left hand to secure the socket with the thumb to the rear of the socket.</p>	<p>Next left foot — drop the pole in the socket.</p>	<p>Next left foot — move left arm smartly to left side, and at the same time, raise right arm to the horizontal.</p>	<p>Next left foot — swing the left arm to the rear.</p>

Notes:

1. The timing of all movements coincides with the beat of the left foot when marching. The time intervals are the same when movements are carried out at the halt. The traditional method of keeping this interval is to count “one two-three one” etc.
2. All drill movements on the march when carrying a Standard ideally conform with current military practice, i.e. in such movements as halt, right turn, about turn, slow march, quick march, dismiss, etc. Obtain a copy of the current military drill book if possible. An extract from the 1996 edition of the Army Drill Manual giving the timing of words of command on the march is given in [Chapter 12](#).

Annex L to Chapter 10

From the Carry to the Slope on the March (six movements)

			
<p>Carry to the Slope (On March)</p>	<p>First left foot after executive order — grasp the socket with the left hand with the thumb to the rear of the socket, at the same time placing the right forearm alongside the pole, lifting the pole clear of the socket.</p>	<p>Next left foot — lower the Standard to the centre front of the body, at the same time grasping the pole with the left hand just above the right hand.</p>	<p>Next left foot — move the right hand above the left, grasping the bunting & the pole together on the inside.</p>
			
<p>Next left foot — using both hands place the pole on the right shoulder at approximately 45 degrees, and in front of right leg. The right forearm should be parallel to the ground.</p>	<p>Next left foot — cut the left hand smartly to the side.</p>	<p>Next left foot — swing the left arm smartly to the rear.</p>	

Chapter 11: Cane drill

1. General

- a. **Types of Cane.** Refer to 8.4 for types of cane.
- b. **Pace Sticks.** Only the National Parade Marshal carries a pace stick.
- c. **Carrying a cane**
 - (1) When there is more than one Marshal on a parade it is important that all those who are carrying canes all carry them in the same manner. The Marshal in charge of the parade should ensure that all Marshals are aware of how the canes will be carried.
 - (2) It is not mandatory to commence from the shoulder position. It depends on the ability of the marshals to carry out drill on the march in a uniform manner.
 - (3) It may therefore be more practical, and be more visually appealing, if all marshals were to start out at the Carry.
 - (4) Always keep the drill to a minimum and keep it simple.

2. Drill in the static position

When in a static position use the following drill.

- a. **The Stand at ease** (Fig 1 & 1a Annex A).
 - (1) Hold the back of the right hand behind the body in the palm of the left hand.
 - (2) Hold the cane in the right hand, the cane positioned between the crook of the right arm and the body.
 - (3) Keep the body erect “at ease” and square to the front.
- b. **The Attention** — Cane at the Shoulder (Fig 2 & 2a Annex A).
 - (1) Hold the cane vertically in the right hand close to the body.
 - (2) Position joint of first forefinger of the right hand under the knob of the cane and pointing towards the thigh. Ensure the thumb is down and to the front, the remaining three fingers grasping the cane.
 - (3) Ensure the ferrule is in front of the right shoulder.
 - (4) Keep the body erect at “attention” and square to the front.

- c. **The Attention** — Cane at the Carry (Fig 3 & 3a Annex A).
- (5) Hold the cane under the left armpit, with the knob grasped between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand and the remaining fingers extended to the tip of the knob.
 - (6) Keep the right hand down the right side of the body in the position of “attention”.

3. Drill on the March

When on the march use the following drill.

- a. **Quick / Slow March** — Cane at the Shoulder (Fig 4 Annex A).
- (1) In quick time step off as per normal keeping the cane along the right arm and swing the arms from front to rear. Arms to be swung to waist height.
 - (2) In slow time step off as normal keeping the cane into the right shoulder and the arms straight down at the side.
- b. **Quick / Slow March** (Cane at the Carry).
- (1) In quick time step off as per normal keeping the cane under the left armpit with the knob grasped between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, the remaining fingers extended to the tip of the knob. Right arm to be swung to waist height.
 - (2) In slow time step off as normal as above but keep the right arm into the side.
- c. **Quick / Slow March** (Moving Cane from Shoulder to the Carry).
- (1) In quick time as the left foot strikes the ground, force the cane under the left armpit.
 - (2) On the next left foot bring the left hand up to grasp the knob of the cane and at the same cut the right arm smartly to the side.
 - (3) On the next left foot swing the right arm to the rear.
 - (4) In slow time carry out movements under ‘Quick/Slow March (Moving Cane from Shoulder to the Carry)’ then keep the right arm into the side.
- d. **Quick / Slow March** (Moving Cane from the Carry to the Shoulder).
- (1) In quick time as the left foot strikes the ground, grasp the knob of the cane with the right hand.
 - (2) On the next left foot bring both arms to the position of attention, with the cane lying along the right arm with the feral in front of the right shoulder.

- (3) On the next left foot swing arms as for normal quick march.
- (4) In slow time carry out movements at paragraph 1 and 2 then keep both arms into the side.

e. **Saluting — Cane at the Carry** (Static) (Fig 5 & 6 Annex A).

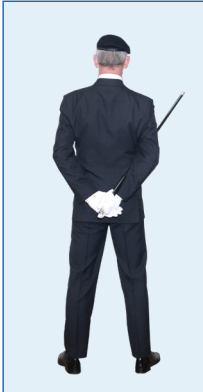

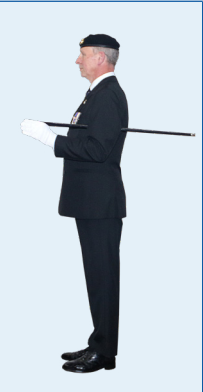



From the position of the Carry bring the right hand up to the Salute and cut the left hand down the side to the position of attention holding the cane firmly under the left armpit.

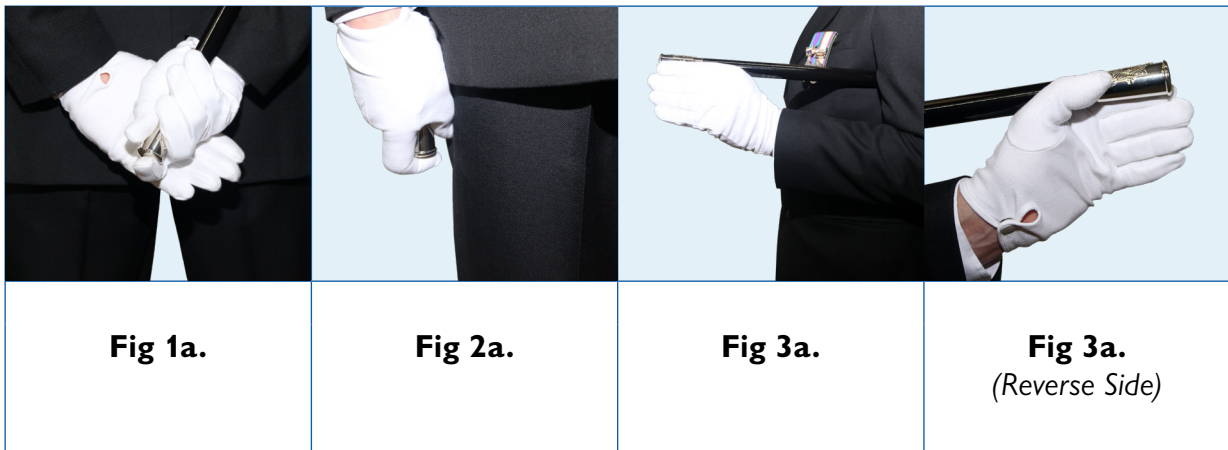
To return to the Carry after the salute cut the right hand down to the side to the position of attention, at the same time return the left hand to the knob of the cane.

f. **Saluting — Cane at the Carry** (On the March):

- (1) When on the march in quick time and receiving the word of command “Eyes Left/Right” or “Left”. On the next left foot bring the right hand up into the “salute”, turn the head and eyes off in the required direction, at the same time cutting the left hand away to the side.
- (2) On receiving the word of command “Eyes Front”, on the next left foot cut the right hand down to the right hand side, at the same time bring the left hand up to grasp the knob of the cane, and turn the head and eyes to the front.
- (3) If the cane is being carried at the shoulder it is moved to the position of the carry prior to the order for “Eyes Left/Right” being given.

Annex A to Chapter 11 Cane Drill

					
Fig 1. Stand at Ease	Fig 2. Attention	Fig 3. Attention Cane at Carry (Side View)	Fig 4. Quick March Cane at the Shoulder	Fig 5. Saluting Front	Fig 6. Saluting Angle



Chapter 12: Table for timing of words of command on the march

- Below are the most frequently used words of command given when RBL Standard Bearers are on the march. The introductory or cautionary words of command have been omitted.

Serial		Word of Command	When Given	
			Quick Time	Slow Time
1		“Halt”	As left heel strikes the ground	As right heel strikes the ground
2		“Mark time”	As the right heel strikes the ground	Over complete right pace
3		When marking time: “Halt” or “Forward”	Left knee fully raised	Right knee fully raised
4		Saluting on the March: “Eyes Left/Right”	On the left foot	On the right foot
5		“Carry Standard” “Slope Standard”	On the left foot	On the right foot

Chapter 13: Saluting

1. Royal Salutes

When a Royal Salute is given only the Sovereign is given the full National Anthem; other members of the Royal Family are given the first 12 bars. Other inspecting officers may be given a General Salute (fanfare).

2. Saluting on the March

- a. In marching past, and well before the saluting point the command “eyes Left/Right” is given as appropriate. Standards will not be dipped.
- b. Hats are removed only by the Parade Commander, the Marching Section of the Board of Trustees or County/District committee as appropriate, and by the Commander of each section. If saluting with a hat, the hat is removed with the right hand and held with the right arm straight down by the right side. The arm is NOT swung. Hats are removed and replaced on the beat of the left foot.
- c. If an umbrella is carried on the march it is placed at an angle under the left arm with the ferrule point towards the ground.
- d. Parade Marshals in uniform will salute.

3. Saluting for the Last Post

The right arm and hand is brought up to the position of the salute on the first note of Last Post. The arm is returned smartly to the position of attention on the last note. If carrying a cane — the left arm is moved to be straight down by the side at the same time as the right hand is brought to the salute, the left arm returning to hold the cane as the right hand is returned to the position of attention.

4. Recording of National Anthem, Last Post and Reveille

- a. Branches are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain music for the National Anthem, and buglers for the sounding of the Last Post and Reveille at special ceremonies. The sequence; the Last Post, Silence, Reveille and National Anthem, is available on RBL's YouTube channel.
- b. The Royal British Legion does not recommend the use of an electronic bugle.

5. Saluting in Church

When Standards are on parade in church, only the Parade Marshal is required to salute.

Chapter 14: Suggested procedures

1. General

- a. This Chapter offers ideas and suggestions on formats for ceremonial occasions. It is a guide and can be adapted to suit local conditions. It includes:

- Dedication Service and Parade for new Branch Standard.
- Procedure For Trooping A Newly Dedicated Standard.
- Procedure for Handing Over the Standard and Charging the Standard Bearer
- Suggested Procedure for Opening/Closing Of County/District Conferences.

- b. The National Parade Marshal is available to offer assistance and advice if required.

Dedication Service and Parade for New Branch Standard. Suggested method and Words of Command for forming up and conducting a parade where the County/ District has been invited to be present. (See Section B, [Chapter 5](#), Annex C and D, for suggested Order of Service within the church.)

2. Formation of A Parade

The parade is formed up in threes facing in the direction of the march, in the following order:

- The Band
- County/District Standard RBL & RBLWS
- County/District Officers
- Massed Standards (Two or Three Ranks depending on numbers)
- The Old Branch Standard with escorts
- Branch officers and branch members
- Other branches and Ex-Service Associations
- Cadet Units
- The Branch Chair (with the New Standard Furled) with escorts.

3. Dedication Service and Parade for new Branch Standard

- a. For the march to the church.

- (1) Once the parade is formed up the Parade Marshal will give the following words of command:

“Parade”—“ Shun”
“Standard Bearers”—“Carry Standards”
“Parade”—“by the centre”—“Quick March”

- (2) Should it be required, the Standards may be brought down to the “Slope” and back to the “Carry” en route, using the following words of command:

“Standard Bearers”—“ Slope Standards”
 (given as the left foot strikes the ground).

“Standard Bearers”—“Carry Standards”

(given as the left foot strikes the ground).

b. On arrival at the church

- (1) The parade is halted outside the church using the following word of command:

“Parade”—“Halt” (given as the left foot strikes the ground).

- (2) The County/District and Massed Standards form a Guard of Honour outside the church door, the Parade Marshal using the following words of command:

“Standard Bearers”—“Quick March”—“Standard Bearers”—“Halt”—“Inwards Turn” (at this stage the parade could be moved into a position in the church yard where they will be able to see the next part of the ceremony).

- (3) The Old Standard is then “Trooped” into the church in “Slow Time” with the Standards “Dipping” individually as the Old Standard passes through them, the Parade Marshal using the following words of command:

“The Old Standard of the Branch of the Royal British Legion, will march off parade for the last time,”—“By the centre”—“Slow March” (band plays appropriate music for the Troop — Auld Lang Syne is often used).

- (4) Once the old Standard is in the church, the Parade Marshal brings the Standards back to the Carry:

“Standard Bearers”—“Carry Standards” (the remainder of the parade is then ushered into the church, passing through the Standard Bearers).

- (5) If a large parade, Standard Bearers may be bought to the order.

- (6) When the whole congregation is in the church the Standard Bearers will reform into two ranks ready to process into church for the service.

c. **For the march from the church via a saluting dais to the reception**

- (1) County/District Standard Bearers make their way to the saluting dais and position themselves either side of it to act as guides for the “Eyes Left/Right” and “Eyes Front” as the parade marches past.

- (2) The parade then reforms in threes facing the direction of the march in the following order:

- The Band
- The New Branch Standard
- The branch officers and members
- County/District Officers
- Massed Standards

- Other Branch Members and Ex-Service Associations
- Cadet Units

- (3) Once the parade is reformed the Parade Marshal will give the following words of command:

“Parade”—“Shun”

“Standard Bearers”—“Carry Standards”

“Parade”—“by the centre”—“Quick March”

- (4) The parade then steps off following the prescribed route to the reception. On arrival at the saluting dais, at the point indicated by the first Standard, the Marshal in charge of the leading detachment (in this case the branch officers and members) will give the word of command:

“Royal British Legion Branch”—“Eye—s”—“Left” (given as the left foot strikes the ground)

- (5) When the detachment then reaches the second Standard after passing the saluting dais the Parade Marshal gives the word of command:

“Eye—s”—“Front” (given as the Left foot strikes the ground).

- (6) Each Marshal in charge of each detachment carries out the same procedure until the whole parade has passed the saluting base, once the rear of the parade has passed.
- (7) County/District Standards may join onto the parade and march back to the reception OR may fall out at the dais and make their own way to the reception.

d. **Further Notes:**

- (1) The furled standard will be carried at the slope at all times while it remains furled.
- (2) Before giving the “Eyes Left/Right”, if carrying their canes at the “Shoulder” working on consecutive left feet the marshals will put their canes under their left arms.
- (3) Standard Bearers DO NOT turn their heads to the Left or Right when marching past.
- (4) On reaching the dispersal area the Parade Marshal will halt the parade and advance them by turning them to the Left or Right, bring the Standards to the “Order” then ask the Branch President if he wishes to say a few words. The Parade Marshal will then give the order

“Standard Bearers”—“Carry Standards”—“Parade Dismiss.”

- (5) If space inside the church is limited, escorts may be dispensed with if wished

- (6) The organisation of the Laying Up and Dedication Service and Parade is the responsibility of the branch. However, this is often done with the help/advice of the County/District. The above provides a suggestion for such an event. If they so wish, the branch may decide not to have the County/District Standards on parade at all and use local cadets as markers at the saluting base.

4. Procedure for trooping a Newly Dedicated Standard.

a. General

- (1) As this is a very public ceremony it must be well planned, and conducted with dignity, so that due respect is paid to the Newly Dedicated Standard.
- (2) The drill on the following page is offered on the guidance of parade commanders and Parade Marshals. It is accepted that local conditions may demand minor variations.
- (3) The whole focus of attention is on the Newly Dedicated Standard,, and the Union Flag is therefore not to be carried.

- b. **Logistics:** The decision to troop will depend on such factors as the weather, space available, whether there is a band, the numbers on parade, etc.

c. Location

- (1) Ideally the trooping ceremony shall take place outside the church immediately after the service and before the March Past. However the need for sufficient space is paramount as the drill procedure will show.
- (2) During the ceremony, to fulfil the traditional purpose and meaning of trooping, the New Standard must pass in front of all those on parade.

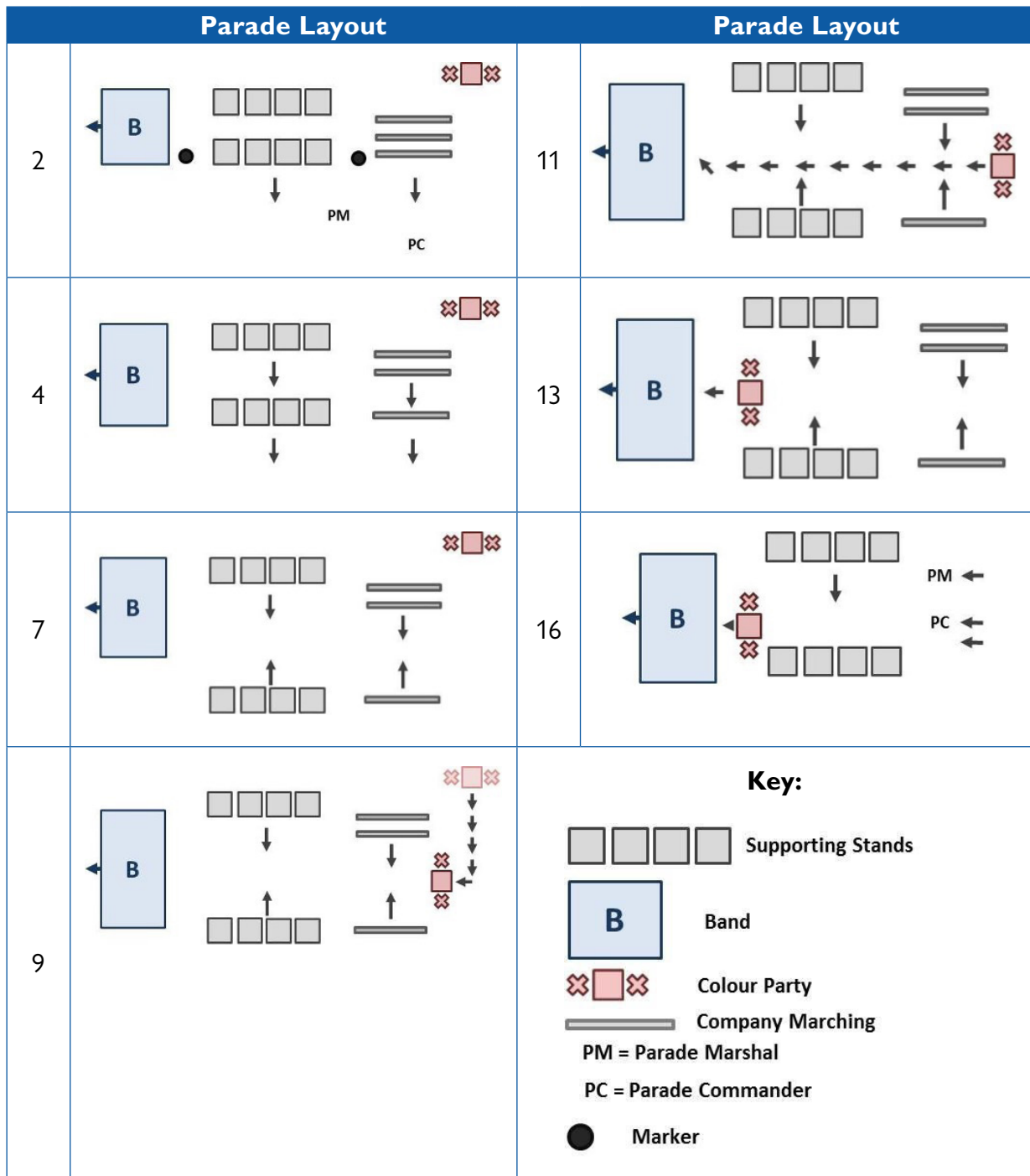
- d. **Timing:** The trooping ceremony should not take longer than 15 minutes.

Annex A to Chapter 14

Serial	Command	Issued by	Action	Remarks
1	“Royal British Legion — Markers”	Parade Marshal	Markers take post facing the Parade Marshal: a. For the Standards. b. For the Company marching.	Meantime the band should have already formed up in three ranks at the head of the parade and the Colour Party should wait one side. The Deputy Marshal should ensure that the Markers are properly spaced and “in line”, allowing as much space in front as possible.
2	“Standards in 2 ranks: Members in 3 ranks: “Royal British Legion — get on parade”	Parade Marshal	Standard Bearers and the Company move smartly to take up position on their markers: Standards at “the order”, and all “at ease” facing the Parade Marshal.	Standard Bearers — front rank in line with Company front rank; and rear rank in line with Company rear rank. Deputy Marshal to check.
3	“Parade — attention”	Parade Marshal	All come to “attention”	Standards at order
4	“On the command — open order march — only the front ranks of Standards and Members will move — taking 5 paces forward. All others will stand fast. Open order march”	Parade Marshal	Front ranks only of Standards and Company marching will take 5 paces forward. Standards still at “the order”.	Five paces necessary to allow for inward Dip of Standards later to salute new Standard. Meantime Colour Party at “the order” takes up a convenient position near the tail of the parade ready to march on when so ordered. Deputy Marshal to check..

5	“Parade — right dress”	Parade Marshal	Eyes Left/Right and dress	Markers to assist.
6	“Parade — eyes front”	Parade Marshal	Eyes front	
7	“On the command — about turn the front rank only of Standards and Members will turnabout — about turn”	Parade Marshal	Front ranks only turn about so that all on parade are now facing inwards towards the gap along which the new Standard will be trooped. The gap for the troop will now be 6 paces wide.	All Standards still at “the order”. Colour Party still near the tail of the parade — brought by Senior Escort to “attention”. Deputy Marshal to check.
8	“Colour Party and Standards — carry Standards”	Parade Marshal	All Standard Bearers carry Standards, including Colour Party.	
9	“Colour Party — march on the new Standard”	Parade Marshal	The Colour Party by a series of wheels as necessary marches on to the parade at “the carry” and “take post” three paces short of the gap in the parade along with the Standard which will be trooped, and at right angles to it.	Colour Party movements controlled by the Senior Escort.
10	“The ABC Branch of the Royal British Legion on parade and ready to troop its Newly Dedicated Standard — Sir”	Parade Marshal salutes and reports to Parade Commander	Parade Commander acknowledges salute and takes over command of the parade. Parade Marshal takes post to the Commander’s right rear.	The Deputy Marshal should be in close liaison with the Bandmaster at this point to ensure the slow march begins on time.

11	<p>“The ABC Branch of the Royal British Legion will troop its Newly Dedicated Standard: Colour Party — by the centre — slow march”</p> <p>At a well chosen moment, depending on the numbers on parade, and allowing for a 20 second Dip: “Standards will honour the new Standard — Dip Standards”</p>	Parade Commander	<p>Band plays a slow march; Colour Party moves in slow time along the gap between the Company on parade, so that the new Standard passes before them.</p> <p>The ideal to be aimed at is that the Dip is completed just as the Colour Party has finished its troop through the Company, and before it passes through the two ranks of dipped Standards.</p>	Standards at carry — Members at attention.
12	<p>“Colour Party halt”</p>	Parade Commander	<p>Given when the Colour Party completes the troop and arrives at the head of the parade immediately behind the band.</p>	<p>Timing is all important and it is better to be too early than too late. Standards at carry — then to Dip.</p>
13	<p>Colour Party stand fast — saluting Standard Bearers — carry Standards</p>	Either by the Parade Commander or the senior escort	<p>Front ranks of Standards and Company marching turn about.</p>	<p>The bandmaster should bring the slow march to a close as soon as musically acceptable after the Colour Party has halted, Deputy Marshal to check.</p>
14	<p>“On the command — about turn — the front ranks only will turn about; all others stand fast — about turn”</p>	Parade Commander	Dipped Standards to the carry.	All Standards now at the Carry.
15	<p>“On the command — close order march — only the front ranks of Standards and Members will move — takings five paces to the rear. Colour Party and all others stand fast. Close order march”.</p>	Parade Commander	Standards still at carry. Front ranks only move — keeping dressing	Standards at Carry.
16				<p>On completion, the parade is now in position to move off as a column, after being turned to the right — marching order — Band, Colour Party, Standards, Parade Commander, Members.</p>



- a. "Company" refers to the body of members on parade.
- b. "Parade" refers to Standards and members.
- c. "Colour Party" refers to the new Standard and Escorts.

5. Procedure for handing over the Standard and charging the Standard Bearer

- a. All Standard Bearers (with the exception of the new and retiring County/District Standard Bearers) stand in position, at the order.
- b. The Chair will call for silence and ask all members to stand. Standards are brought to the Carry.
- c. The retiring Standard Bearer, with the County/District Standard at the Carry, will precede his successor in office into position.
- d. The designated officer will say (as appropriate):

“You have carried this Standard diligently during the past_____year(s) and by your conduct and bearing you have upheld the dignity and honour of the Royal British Legion. The Royal British Legion is most grateful to you for this loyal and devoted service.”
- e. The designated officer shall then take the Standard from the retiring Standard Bearer who will then retire and the new Standard Bearer will take his place.
- f. The designated officer will hand the Standard to the new Standard Bearer and will say:

“The Standard which you are now privileged to carry, having been solemnly dedicated in a sacred place, represents the ideals of service to God and to our King and country. The Union Flag, in the top left hand corner, is symbolic of our unity and our loyalty to the crown, community and nation. The royal blue signifies fidelity, and the gold band recalls all those who have died in the service of our country, and reminds us who remain that we must ever be true to “Service not Self”.

I exhort you to remember always that this Standard is a sacred emblem, and it is now placed in your charge to be cared for in the name of the Royal British Legion. Do you accept this Charge?”
- g. The Standard Bearer replies: “I accept the Charge”, The Standard Bearer brings the Standard to the Carry and will then retire to his designated position.
- h. The members shall remain standing throughout this ceremony.
- i. Depending upon the point in the agenda at which the handing over is carried out, the Standards may need to be brought back to the Order and stood at ease at the end of the ceremony.

Note: Where there is no change in Standard Bearer — the above procedure and wording can be suitably modified.

6. Suggested procedure for opening/closing of County/District conferences

- a. The venue will dictate to some extent the amount and form of ceremonial which is possible to undertake. Close liaison with the County/District Chair and Conference Committee is essential to ensure everyone is aware of what is to take place and agree with it. It is also essential, as with any other event, that the Marshal has visited the venue well before the event to ensure there are no problems for the Standard Bearers in terms of ceiling height, low hanging lights, or other obstructions etc. It is important to ensure that all Standard Bearers have been well briefed regarding the procedure to be followed.
- b. Conference usually commences with:
 - Opening parade of Standards.
 - Exhortation, Last Post, Reveille & Kohima dedication.
 - Short service.
 - Fall out/march out Standards.
- c. Towards the end of Conference, the County/District Standard Bearer will be “charged” with the County/District Standard. This occurs whether or not there has been a change in Standard Bearer.
- d. Conference will end with the National Anthem and the retiring parade of Standards.
- e. **County/District standards.** Who carries which can vary from County/ District to County/District. In some Counties/Districts the Union is carried by the County/ District Standard Bearer with the Deputy County/District Standard Bearer carrying the County/District Standard into Conference, the roles being reversed at the end of Conference. In other Counties/Districts, the County/ District Standard is carried throughout by the County/District Standard Bearer with the Deputy carrying the Union. There is no fixed rule about this, the choice is entirely down to the County/ District.
- f. **Branch standards.** All Branch Standards should be invited and encouraged to attend County/District Conference. There is no laid down precedence for forming up. Often the Standard from the host branch will lead the Branch Standard Bearers with the remainder in alphabetical order.

Chapter 15: Standard Bearers in church/drumhead service

1. General.

- a. In all the following details fully consult and co-operate with the church authorities. They may ask for variations, which, as a matter of courtesy, should normally be accepted.
- b. When carrying the standard, all movements by Standard Bearers in church or at drumhead services are:
 - In slow time when proceeding towards the altar, chancel or piled drums.
 - In quick time when retiring.
- c. When Standard Bearers are in procession, led by the clergy, they march in slow time, stepping short as necessary to adjust to the pace set by the clergy.
 - When marching or halting in church, put the feet down quietly.

2. Handing up Standard at altar

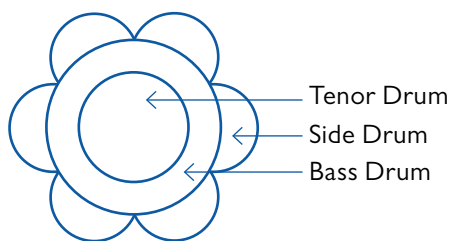
- a. On entering the church the Standard Bearer will proceed in slow time, to the chancel steps with the Standard at the Carry. The Standard Bearer will Dip the Standard for the National Anthem if sung, and then proceed in slow time to the altar steps with the Standard still at the Carry.
- b. The standard bearer will halt at the altar steps, and with the Standard remaining at the Carry, kneel on the right knee, keeping the pole steady. The left arm will remain at the position of attention, while the right arm is at the position of the Carry. As the officiating clergy grips the pole the Standard Bearer will bring the left hand smartly across to steady the socket, at the same time bringing the right forearm and elbow down along the line of the pole to steady it.
- c. Once the Standard is taken by the officiating clergy, the Standard Bearer, still kneeling, brings both arms to the position of attention and reverently bows their head, remaining steady until the Standard has been placed on the altar.
- d. Alternatively — if it is not possible/advisable for the Standard Bearer to kneel, the Standard can be brought to the “Port” position from the Carry (i.e. to an angle of 45 degrees across the body with the top of the Standard to the Standard Bearer’s left) prior to handing it to the officiating clergy. The Standard Bearer remains standing at attention until the Standard has been placed on the altar.
- e. As the officiating clergy turns away from the altar the Standard Bearer raises their eyes to the front, comes from the kneeling position to attention, turns right-about, and marches in quick time to the position as instructed by the Parade Marshal or senior Standard Bearer.

3. Return of Standard from altar

- a. At the appropriate point in the service, the Standard Bearers will proceed to the altar in the reverse order as instructed by the Parade Marshal or senior Standard Bearer. The officiating clergy should previously be notified of the order in which the Standards are to be returned.
- b. The Standard Bearer will halt at the altar steps, kneel on the right knee with arms remaining at the position of attention. (Alternatively the Standard Bearer may remain standing to receive the Standard.)
- c. As the officiating clergy stands in front of the Standard Bearer with the Standard to be returned, the Standard Bearer will bring his left hand smartly across to steady the socket with the thumb to the rear of the socket and guide the pole into it. Before the officiating clergy releases the pole the Standard Bearer will grip the pole at the normal point of the Carry with his right hand, but keeping the right forearm and elbow parallel to, and steadying, the pole.
- d. Their left hand will then release the socket and snap smartly to the position of attention, at the same time as the right arm is brought up at right angles to the pole in the position of the Carry.
- e. The Standard Bearer will then rise to the standing Carry position, turn right-about, and march in quick time to their position as instructed by the Parade Marshal or senior Standard Bearer.

4. Formation of the drumhead

A drumhead is formed with a maximum of six side drums, the bass drum and a tenor drum. It is recommended that a peg be put on either side of the tenor drum on which to rest the top of the Standard pole.



a. Handing up Standard at drumhead

- (1) Normally, only one Standard is placed on the piled drums, other Standards remaining with the Standard Bearers. However, it is acceptable for a RBL Standard and a Women's Section Standard both to be used. If the Standard Bearer delivering the Standard is not provided with a stool on which to kneel they may stand to deliver the Standard.
- (2) In other respects the procedure will, as far as is appropriate, be the same as detailed on the previous page under paragraph 2 for handing up Standard at altar.

b. **Return of Standard from drumhead**

Here the procedure will as far as appropriate, be the same as for the Return of Standard from the altar as detailed above.

5. Funerals

- a. If the relatives wish, make arrangements wherever possible for the branch to be officially represented at the funeral of any of its members. It is important to ensure that the clergy and funeral directors are also informed if this is taking place.
- b. The Union Flag is not paraded at a funeral service; funeral directors normally provide a Union Flag to drape on the coffin, or branches may have their own flag. It is usual practice to place a wreath of poppies on top of the flag.
- c. It is also customary for the Branch Standard and that of the Women's Section Branch (if there is one) to form part of the procession, both into and from the church, chapel or other sacred building. The Standards precede the coffin in the procession and, if space permits, stand abreast of it during the service. The same procedure is followed at the place of interment, and the Standard(s) Dip as an act of homage as the coffin is lowered into the grave.
- d. When the Standard is carried at a cremation the same procedure as at an interment is adopted if space within the building permits. Alternatively, the Standard Bearer can stand six paces inside the entrance to the crematorium, facing the coffin. The Standard(s) Dip as an act of homage as the curtains are closed removing the coffin from view.
- e. In some parts of the country there is also a practice to have the Exhortation, Last Post and the Reveille with RBL Standards present. The sequence normally followed is that, after the coffin is lowered into the grave, (or at a cremation — from view) and the officiating clergy has pronounced his committal oration, there follows:
- The Exhortation and Response.
 - The Last Post (Standards Dip).
 - If an interment, members drop their personal poppies into the grave.
 - The Reveille (Standards return to the Carry on the first note).
- f. Bear in mind that all the above suggestions may only be implemented after full consultation with the family and the officiating clergy.
- g. The Board of Trustees recommend that, if with the consent of the family and the officiating clergy, RBL is officially represented at the funeral, there is no distinction between the funeral procedures outlined above for members/life members or Women's Section members. It is appreciated, however, that because of local conditions and circumstances, the branch may wish to make appropriate amendments. The solemnity, dignity of the occasion and the family's wishes are paramount.

Part 4:

Organisation of Internal Ceremonial Events

Chapter 16: General regulations and organisation of Standard Bearers' competitions

1. Objects

The object of the competitions are to:

- a. Encourage a high standard of turnout and drill by Standard Bearers of the Royal British Legion, the Royal British Legion Women's Section and Youth.
- b. Select a County/District Standard Bearer for each County/District; and the winning County/District Standard Bearer for each Region.
- c. Select the National Standard Bearers.

2. Eligibility

- a. Each competitor must be a fully paid up member of the Royal British Legion/RBL Women's Section/Youth member (as appropriate) of at least three months' standing and must be a member of the branch which made the original entry. Entrants may represent only one branch, County/District or Region in any one competition year.
- b. Youth members must be a minimum of 12 years of age. If a Youth Standard Bearer competitor's 18th birthday is during the months of competing (September to May) they may enter the adult County competition. They must become an adult RBL member upon their 18th birthday. They may not enter the youth competition of that same year.
- c. If the National Youth Standard Bearer turns 18 in their year of tenure, then the runner up competitor becomes the National Youth Standard Bearer for the remainder of that year but will not be officially charged.

This is to ensure that all Standard Bearers can enter competitions regardless of age and are not penalised.

- d. As soon as a member acts as a judge in a Standard Bearers' competition they shall be barred from competing thereafter at any competition level until after the completion of the next national Ashwanden Cup competition. Similarly, as soon as a member competes in a Standard Bearers' competition, they shall be barred from judging thereafter at any such competition level until after completion of the next national Ashwanden Cup competition.

3. Organisation

The competitions shall be organised in three stages, namely:

a. County/District Competitions

- (1) County/District competitions are to be completed by the date of the County/District Conference. The County/District Committee is responsible for the organisation of the competition. Branches are requested to notify their County/District Secretary as soon as possible of the name of their entrant for the County/District competition. Encourage all Branch Standard Bearers to enter the County/District competition. Branches are also requested to notify their County/District Secretary as soon as possible of the name of their entrant for the County/District Youth Competition giving details of the affiliated uniformed youth organisation if their competitor is from such an organisation.
- (2) The winners of the RBL and RBLWS County/District competitions are normally appointed the County/District Standard Bearer for the year.
- (3) The Branch Deputy Standard Bearer may enter the County/District competition if the Branch Standard Bearer is unavoidably prevented from taking part, provided that the details of that Deputy Standard Bearer have been forwarded to the County/District or Area office.
- (4) The winner of the RBL Youth County/District competition is the County/District Youth County Standard Bearer for the year.
- (5) If there is only one competitor in any County Standard Bearers' competition, that competitor will not need to be judged and will proceed to the Regional Competition where they will then be judged as normal.
- (6) RBL and RBLWS Counties/Districts are encouraged to jointly arrange their competitions, sharing venue and judges to minimise expenses.
- (7) Youth Standard Bearers who are members of an Affiliated Uniformed Youth Organisation may wear their youth organisation uniform up to and including County/ District Competition only. Branches are responsible for providing the County/ District with a brief from the Uniformed Youth Organisation stating their standards and form of dress no later than three weeks prior to the date of the competition.

- (8) Counties/Districts are responsible for forwarding this information to the judges as soon as possible but no later than two weeks prior to the competition.
- (9) Counties/Districts must submit their preferred competition dates to the NPM by the 31st March for the ensuing competition year, to ensure that the allocation of judges is cost effective.

b. **Regional Competitions**

- (1) **Eligibility.** Only the winner of each County/District competition is eligible to compete in their respective Regional level. The competition must be completed by the end of March. The winner becomes the Standard Bearer eligible to represent that Region in their respective national competition for that year. The name, address, telephone number, branch and affiliated unit (where applicable) of the County/District Standard Bearer winning the Regional competition is to be notified to the Membership Department immediately the result is known.
- (2) **Regional Areas.** The following table outlines which Regional Competition Counties/Districts must compete:

Region	Counties/District
Ireland	Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland
North West	Isle of Man, Cumbria, Cheshire, Manchester, Lancashire and West Lancashire
North East	South & West Yorkshire, North & East Yorkshire and Northumbria
Wales	North Wales, South East Wales, South West Wales and Gwent
Midlands	Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Birmingham
East Midlands	Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland
South East Midlands	Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire
East Anglia/Essex	Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and Huntingdonshire
South West	Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire
South East	Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Greater London, National District and Overseas

- (3) Youth Standard Bearers who are members of an Affiliated Uniformed Youth Organisation MUST abide by the dress code for RBL Standard Bearers as laid down in The Ceremonial Handbook [Chapter 7](#).
- (4) Membership Council Members and RBLWS Regional Representatives must jointly arrange their competitions, sharing venue and judges to minimise expenses.
- (5) Where the winner of a County/District competition is unable to compete in the Regional Competition the runner up from that County/District may be put forward as the replacement, provided they are appointed by the County/District Committee as their County/District Standard Bearer.

c. **National Competition (Ashwanden Cup/Elms Cup)**

- (1) Only County/District Standard Bearers who win their Regional competition may enter for the Ashwanden Cup/Elms Cup competition. Particulars will be circulated by Head Office to those concerned
- (2) Youth Standard Bearers who are members of an Affiliated Uniformed Youth Organisation MUST abide by the dress code for RBL Standard Bearers as laid down in The Ceremonial Handbook [Chapter 7](#).
- (3) The Board of Trustees/Central Committee expect the winners of the National Standard Bearer Competitions to be able to carry out the duties of the National Standard Bearer throughout the year.

4. Rules

- a. The drill, dress and procedure laid down in this handbook shall be strictly observed at all stages of the competition and shall be the basis on which all competitors shall be judged. Marks shall be allocated to each competitor on the following scale:

Turn Out	1	Neatness of dress and general bearing	10
	2	Maintenance of sling and gauntlets	10
	3	Maintenance of Standard	10
Drill	1	The Order	10
	2	Carry from Order, movement and position	10
	3	Dipping for Royal Salute	10
	4	Carry — Quick March	10
	5	Dipping — Act of Homage	10
	6	Carry — Slow March	10
	7	Dipping — Wet or Muddy Conditions and recovery to Carry	10
	8	Slope from Carry	10
	9	Order from Slope	10
	10	The Slope — Stationary	10
	11	The Slope — Quick March	10
	12	The Carry from Slope — Quick March	10
TOTAL			150

In the event of a tie the procedure for differentiating between competitors is given in this chapter.

b. **Standard to be carried**

(1) RBL Competitions and RBLWS Competitions

- a. Branch Standard carried at County/District Competition.
- b. County Standard carried at Regional and National Competitions.

(2) Youth Competitions.

- a. The Branch Standard is carried at County/District Competitions.
- b. The County Youth Standard (if present) or Branch Standard (if there is no County Youth Standard) is carried at Regional and National Competitions.

5. Judges

- a. Turnout for Judges and Marshals must conform to the dress regulations for Standard Bearers (see [Chapter 7](#)) but instead of gauntlets, suitable white cotton gloves are worn.
- b. Dress and turnout of Judges and Marshals is to be of the highest standards, setting a model for competitors.
- c. Judges and Marshals must ensure they are physically fit and able to carry out their duties to an acceptable standard.
- d. Judges will be appointed from the official register of qualified judges, but will not judge their own county (an exemption applies to Overseas Districts for reasons of practicality), as follows:

Competition Level	The Royal British Legion and Youth	Women's Section
County/District (Maximum of two judges)	National Parade Marshal	County/District Committee
	Grade C, B or A judge	
Regional (Maximum of two judges)	National Parade Marshal	Central Committee Member for Region
	Grade B or A judge	
National (Maximum of three judges)	National Parade Marshal	Central Committee Officers
	Grade A judge	

- e. The official register will be held and maintained by the National Parade Marshal. In the event that a Judge has not judged a competition for three years, they will be given the option to attend a refresher course. Failure to attend a refresher will mean they are deleted from the official register.

6. Marshals and Adjudicators

- a. For competition, a Parade Marshal, a Conducting Marshal, a Dressing Room Marshal and Door Marshals are required. In addition, a minimum of two, but usually three Adjudicators are required.
- b. The Duties of Marshals are given in this chapter.
- c. The Duties of Adjudicators are given in this chapter.

7. Presentation of Trophies

- a. **The Ashwanden Cup** shall be presented at the Annual Conferences of the Royal British Legion and the Women's Section. Similarly, the runners up shall be awarded The Furniss Shield (the Royal British Legion) and the Urwick Cup (Women's Section).
- b. **The Elms Cup** (Youth) will be presented to the winner of the National Youth Competition at Annual Conference.
- c. Recognition of Standard Bearers competing in County/District and Regional Competition could be made by presenting each competitor with a Certificate. A sample Certificate is at Annex A to this Chapter, which may be adapted to suit local conditions.

8. Expenses

Payment of expenses may be made by the relevant formation, subject to prior agreement with the branch or county/district committee.

- a. **Expenses for Standard Bearers** (RBL, RBLWS/Youth)
 - (1) Competitors who participate in the County/District competition will be reimbursed their travel expenses by their branch. Receipts must accompany all claim forms.
 - (2) Winning County/District Standard Bearers, competing in their Regional competition will be reimbursed their travel expenses by their County/District. Receipts must accompany all claim forms.
 - (3) For RBL National Competitions, coach or bus fares, and accommodation and subsistence for a period not exceeding two nights' absence from home, will be reimbursed. In the event that a competitor is also a conference delegate their branch will be required to defray the appropriate pooled fare and any expenses for subsistence in excess of those allowed from national funds to contestants taking part in the competition. No claims for loss of working time can be met. Send expense claims together with hotel receipts and other supporting bills to National Events Team.
 - (4) RBLWS Standard Bearers representing their Region in the National Competition will have their travel expenses reimbursed by their County. Their accommodation, for a period not exceeding three nights absence from home, will be met by RBLWS Head Office on receipt of a claim form and bill, and will be within the amount laid down by RBLWS Head Office. No claims for loss of working time can be met.
 - (5) RBL Youth Standard Bearers representing their Region in the National Competition will have their travelling and out of pocket expenses reimbursed by Central Funds via the Membership Department. Receipts must accompany all claim forms.

b. **Expenses for Judges**

- (1) Expenses for Judges of County/District Competitions will be reimbursed by that County/District. Receipts must accompany all claim forms.
- (2) Expenses for Judges of Regional Competitions will be reimbursed by the respective Counties/Districts. The payment can be made by all Counties within a region contributing, or one County/District pays the whole sum and rotates within the Counties/Districts of that Region. This decision is to be made in conjunction and agreement with your MC representative. Receipts must accompany all claim forms.
- (3) Head Office will reimburse expenses for Judges of National Competitions. Receipts must accompany all claim forms. The cost of accommodation will be within the set amount laid down in SOP42.

9. **Advice for the Organisation of a Standard Bearers' Competition**

Formations are encouraged to share the facilities (venue, judges etc.) for their County/District or Regional Competition to minimise expenses. When organising a Standard Bearers Competition there are certain important considerations to consider. Whether you are having a Novice, Group, County/District, Regional or even National Competition the criteria is the same.

a. **Logistics**

- (1) **Venue.** Choose the venue carefully. Always do a recce of the proposed hall and check the following points:
- (2) **Ceiling or Roof.** Is it high enough to carry a Standard in, and is it free from obstructions?
- (3) **Floor.** Is it level and is it CLEAN? It may be clean on the day of the recce but make sure that it is swept on the day of the competition. Is the floor area sufficiently long enough for all the drill movements? (Drill on the March requires minimum of 15 paces so hall needs to be at least 20 paces.)
- (4) **Lighting.** Is there adequate lighting, both natural and electrical? Find out where the light switches and fuse boxes are in case of emergency. Do you need coins for the meter?
- (5) **Changing Rooms.** As many as required for e.g. male competitors, female competitors, judges & marshals. Are these large enough for the Standard Bearers and all their equipment? Are they clean? Are there coat racks or hooks on the wall? Is there a mirror? You may need to provide coat racks and mirrors.
- (6) **Spectator Seating.** Is the hall large enough to ensure that when the spectators are seated, they are not encroaching on the area to be used for the competition?

- (7) **Toilets.** Toilets should be inspected to ensure the facilities are adequate for the number of attendees. Accessibility of the facilities should also be considered to ensure they can be used by all regardless of gender, transgenderism, or disability.
 - (8) **Catering.** If this is required — is there enough crockery etc. to cope with the numbers attending? Who is going to organise the food and drinks?
 - (9) **Access.** Is the access suitable for disabled persons?
 - (10) **Access Times.** Ensure that the hall will be open at least two hours prior to the designated start time of the competition to allow for the hall to be laid out correctly and enabling competitors to arrive in plenty of time to change and prepare themselves for the competition.
- b. **Announcements.** The Exhortation, welcoming of guests, introductions, health and safety briefing for spectators etc. is all undertaken before the competitors are brought onto the floor for the dress inspection.
- c. **Judges**
- (1) Selected from the official judges register and ideally not the same person(s) who had judged the same County or region the previous year.
 - (2) Must be of the correct level of qualification relevant to the competition stage.
 - (3) Make sure they are notified promptly of the date, time and venue of the competition. It is advisable to provide them with a map of the local area pin pointing the location of the venue. Tell them whether or not you are providing food for them.
 - (4) If RBL & RBLWS are sharing the event, try to have one RBL and one RBLWS Judge.
 - (5) Canes are NOT to be carried by any Marshals in any competition.
- d. **Marshals.** Make sure you have enough Marshals to run the competition efficiently, ideally you require the following: (See [paragraph 10](#) for detailed list of duties).
- Parade Marshal.
 - Conducting Marshal.
 - Dressing Room Marshal — (one per competitor dressing room).
 - Door Marshal(s) — (one per entry/exit point to the hall).
- e. **Adjudicators.** There is a requirement for a minimum of two but preferably three Adjudicators who are usually found from County/District Treasurer, Membership Engagement Officer, County/District Vice Chair, past County/District Chair, and can be from either RBL or Women's Section.
- (1) One Adjudicator will be nominated as Chief Adjudicator.

- (2) The Adjudicators will add up the scores on each of the Judges score sheets and, once they have been cross checked, the Chief Adjudicator will enter the scores on the Adjudicators' Summary Sheet.
- (3) The average mark is calculated and entered on the Summary Sheet.
- (4) When all of the competitors have been through their drill, the Adjudicators will check the final scores.
- (5) If there is a tie, the procedure is as follows:
 - a. If two competitors receive the same total mark for either of the first two places, the decision between them is made by checking the marks already awarded for the tests marked (1), (2) and (3) on the mark sheet.
 - b. If there is a difference for the test marked (1) [drill on the march] that will decide the matter. If these marks are the same for both competitors, check the marks awarded for the movement (2) [slope from the carry], if the marks are still tied, check the marks awarded for movement (3) [dip, act of homage]. If the marks are still tied the competitors will be required to repeat test (1) [drill on the march] and the judges must decide between them.
- (6) The Chief Adjudicator will complete the “Final Results Sheet” and hand to the person responsible for announcing the results.

f. **Equipment and Stationery**

- (1) Have clipboards available for each judge (judges usually bring their own board but it is better to be prepared just in case).
- (2) Up-to-date copy of the current Ceremonial Handbook.
- (3) Have a good supply of:
 - Pens and pencils.
 - Marksheets — (Annex B) sufficient for each Judge to have one per competitor plus two spare.
 - Running order sheets — (Annex D).
 - Certificates (if used).
 - Adjudicators summary sheets (Annex E).
 - Final position sheets (Annex F).
- (4) Water and glasses for:
 - Dressing room(s) (competitors).
 - Marshals.
 - Judges.
 - Adjudicators.

g. **Liaison.** Ensure that branches have been given plenty of notice as to the date and venue of the competition and that this information has been passed onto the competitors.

h. **Health & Safety**

- (1) Risk assessment must be completed and copy kept on file (review copy from previous year and update). See pages 114–122 for risk assessment information and forms.
- (2) Find out location of first aid box for minor items.
- (3) Be aware of the emergency procedures of the location and where the assembly points are.
- (4) Arrange for a trained first aider to be available on site for duration of competition.
- (5) Ensure there is provision of drinking water at the venue accessible to all.

10. Marshals Duties at a Standard Bearer Competitions

a. **Parade Marshal**

- (1) **The Marshal in charge of the competition.** They give the words of command (see Annex C to this Chapter) and brief the competitors prior to the start. All words of command must be clear, brisk and distinct. For Regional Competition the Parade Marshal must be used from within the Region.
- (2) **Give Competitor Brief.** Collect the competitors together in the changing room and read out the sequence of orders they will be given. Put them at their ease and ensure that they all know what is going to happen. This is especially important with new competitors.
 - The sequence of words of command will begin when the competitor is at the “Carry”.
 - Remind competitors of the timing of the command “Halt” (see [Chapter 12](#))
 - As part of the briefing, remind the competitors that having changed they must stay in the changing room and out of contact with spectators until called, and that they must return to the changing room after they have completed their drill test, and stay there until the competition is ended.
 - Remind competitors that during the inspection they will be “At Ease”, but that as each Judge approaches they must automatically come to “Attention” and after each inspection “Stand at Ease”. Ensure that the Judges are also aware of this procedure.
 - Explain the procedure for the announcement of the results. All Standard Bearers will be brought back onto the floor as for the dress inspection but without Standards. As each place is announced (3rd, 2nd and 1st) the competitor concerned will come to attention and take one place forward, returning to the line before the next placing is announced.

- (3) The Parade Marshal must be fully conversant with the job and have the correct sequence of orders written down. Some Marshals find it useful to rule a column for each competitor and tick off each word of command as it is given.
- (4) The words of command must be given in the correct sequence from an appropriate position in the hall.
- (5) Agree with the Senior Judge a signal, usually a nod, when you may give the next word of command.
- (6) Ensure that the Judges have completed their marking of each drill movement before giving the next word of command.
- (7) While on Parade, do not wander around or speak to the spectators.

b. **Conducting Marshal**

- (1) Organises the draw for competitor numbers and fills in the “Running Order Sheet”, giving copies for the Parade Marshal, Dressing Room Marshal and Adjudicators table.
- (2) Brings the competitors onto the floor for the inspection.
- (3) Brings the competitors onto the floor for their individual drill test.
- (4) Brings the competitors onto the floor at the end of the competition for the announcement of results.

c. **Dressing Room Marshal**

- (1) Ensures only the competitors and their one valet are in the dressing room prior to the competition.
- (2) Ensures all valets leave the dressing room at the appointed time prior to the start of the competition.
- (3) Assists Conducting Marshal with the draw for competitor numbers.
- (4) Ensures the competitors do not watch any part of the competition.
- (5) Ensures that no non-competitors enter the dressing room once the competition has started.
- (6) Has all competitors formed up in numerical order ready for the Conducting Marshal to take out for the dress inspection.
- (7) Once a competitor has left the dressing room for his drill inspection, ensure the next competitor is ready for his turn.

- (8) Has all competitors ready to return to the floor at the end of the competition for the announcement of the results.
- (9) Collects the competitor numbers at the end of the competition.

d. **Door Marshal.**

- (1) Ensures that no-one enters or leaves the competition hall while a competitor is on the floor.
- (2) If there is an entrance in the line of vision of the competitor, the Marshal must ensure that they do not stand within the vision of the competitor.

11. Notes for Judges

a. **General**

- (1) A Judge sets an example to those they are judging, both in terms of personal turnout and bearing. A Judge's turnout must be as good as, if not better, than those they are judging.
- (2) Turnout for Judges must conform to the dress regulations given in Chapter 6. Instead of gauntlets, suitable white gloves are worn.
- (3) Unless already appointed, the Judges should agree amongst themselves, who will act as the Senior Judge for the competition. Ensure the Parade Marshal and Officials are aware of who the Senior Judge will be.
- (4) During the competition, the Judges must not converse amongst themselves, unless approached with a query from the Parade Marshal or the Parade Marshal has given an incorrect order or missed out an order.
- (5) The Senior Judge must ensure that the Parade Marshal's sequence of orders are the same as the mark sheets.
- (6) Judging must be in whole marks only, no half marks.

b. **Dress and General Bearing**

Standard Bearers' dress and turnout must conform with the standards as given in Chapter 6. The Judges will be fully conversant with these standards.

c. **Maintenance of Sling and Gauntlets**

- (1) Providing that slings and gauntlets meet the criteria set out in Chapters 5 and 6, no marks will be added or subtracted.
- (2) The leather sling and socket used for carrying the Standard is worn over the right shoulder with the socket in the centre front of the body.

- (3) The RBL sling badge is worn level with RBL's lapel badge. The Women's Section sling badge is worn four inches down from the top of the shoulder.
- (4) All visible parts of the sling must be well polished, including the sides. Colour of dark tan or black and all brass work well polished, not lacquered, with no dried polish visible.
- (5) A brass insert for the pole socket is optional but if used, well-polished and assessed with the sling in the marking schedule.
- (6) Gauntlets: clean, white, with no stains and no broken stitching. Remember to check between the fingers.

d. **Maintenance of Standard**

- (1) **Pole.** Wood and brasses well-polished, not lacquered. No dried or flaky polish and no scratches, marks or dents.
- (2) **Tassels.** Clean and in good repair. Of equal length and hanging level with the outer edge of the Standard fringe when the pole is horizontal. Cord neatly secured inside each tassel. The tassels must match the Standard type.
- (3) **Standard.** Clean, neat and unwrinkled with no loose threads. Take age into consideration. If repairs have been made, they should be neat and tidy. Ensure the Standard is fixed to the pole in the correct position (secured at both top and bottom) and straight on the pole.

e. **Drill Test**

- (1) Judges must be thoroughly familiar with the ceremonial positions and the ceremonial drill movements in [Chapters 9](#) and [10](#) of this handbook. The difference between highly competent competitors is more likely to be in minute details rather than in major movements. Even if you are an experienced Judge it would be prudent to refresh your memory before the competition. Do not carry this handbook on the floor while judging.
- (2) Make allowances, if necessary, for the condition of the floor surface, especially if it is polished.
- (3) Look for correctness of movements, smartness and crispness of execution and for correct timing in each drill sequence. This is the major part of the test and carries most weight.
- (4) Check that the body is kept perfectly upright at all times and that the pole is carried vertically when appropriate.
- (5) Check that the eyes look to the front and do not follow the movements of the Standard.

- (6) Check that the arms are kept close to the side — no light between — no twitching of fingers or unclenching of left hand.
- (7) Check that the pole is carried in line with the right side when marching at the Slope.
- (8) Take into account the smartness of foot drill movements, i.e. quick march, slow march and turning at the halt. Allow for the fact that the competitors may be ex Royal Navy, Army or Royal Air Force and may have come from Regiments with different traditions (e.g. Light Infantry).
- (9) All movements must be carried out in a smart and dignified manner.

12. Recommended procedures to be followed by the Marshals for the competition

a. The Inspection.

- (1) Having ensured the Standard Bearers are formed up in the correct numerical order in single file, the Conducting Marshal will bring them to the “slope” and march them into the hall, wheel them down the centre of the hall, halt them and then advance them.
- (2) This done, the Conducting Marshal will give the word of command “ORDER STANDARDS”. They will then, if necessary, move the Standard Bearers into a position where they are three paces apart.
- (3) The Conducting Marshal will then give the order “STAND AT EASE” and hand over to the Parade Marshal.
- (4) The Parade Marshal will invite the Judges to start the Inspection. Same-sex inspections are best practice and individuals should not be touched during inspections to avoid safeguarding issues.
- (5) At the conclusion of the Inspection, the Parade Marshal will give the order “STANDARD BEARERS SHUN”, “SLOPE STANDARDS”, “RIGHT (LEFT) TURN”, “QUICK MARCH” and the Standard Bearers leave via the entrance they came in from.

b. Drill Phase (Entry) — Option One

- (1) The Conducting Marshal and the competitor (with Standard at the Slope) will stand side by side inside the door nearest to the spot where the competitor will begin the drill.
- (2) The Conducting Marshal gives the word of command “STANDARD BEARER QUICK MARCH”. They both march forward towards the spot, on approaching the spot the Conducting Marshal gives the “UP” and they halt and then turn inwards with the competitor facing up the hall.

- (3) The Conducting Marshal then tells the Standard Bearer in a quiet voice to come to the Order, and then to the Carry in their own time. They will then tell the Standard Bearer to dress their Standard and to make themselves comfortable and put them at their ease. This done, they will ask the competitor if they are ready, on receiving the affirmative answer they will then say “YOU ARE NOW UNDER THE SCRUTINY OF THE JUDGES”. The Conducting Marshal will then turn and march away from the competitor and out of the door.
- (4) Once the Conducting Marshal has left the floor the Parade Marshal will give the first order from the sequence of commands.

c. **Drill Phase (Entry) — Option Two**

- (1) The competitor stands inside the door with the Standard at the Slope.
- (2) The Conducting Marshal stands in front of the spot where the competitor will start the drill.
- (3) The Conducting Marshal gives the word of command “STANDARD BEARER QUICK MARCH”.
- (4) The competitor steps off and halts in front of the Conducting Marshal and turns to face them.

Once the Conducting Marshal has left the floor the Parade Marshal will give the first order from the sequence of commands.

d. **March in for Results**

- (1) Having checked that the Standard Bearers are formed up in single file in the correct numerical order, this time without their Standards, the Conducting Marshal will march them into the hall, wheel them down the centre of the hall, halt them and then advance them.
- (2) The Parade Marshal will give the order “STANDARD BEARERS STAND AT EASE”.
- (3) As their name and position is announced the Standard Bearer mentioned will come to attention and take one pace forward. After a short pause (and before the next position is announced) they will take one pace back into the line and stand at ease.
- (4) At the conclusion of the result giving and any “Thanks”, the Parade Marshal will order “STANDARD BEARERS SHUN”, “STANDARD BEARERS FALL OUT”.

Annexes:

- A. Example of Standard Bearer Competition Certificate. (Signatories for County Competitions are to be the County Parade Marshal and County Chair — Signatory for Regional Competition is to be the Membership Council member only.)
- B. Record of Competitor's Score.
- C. Sequence of Words of Command.
- D. Running Order Form.
- E. Adjudicators' Summary Sheet.
- F. Final.

Annex A to Chapter 16

The Royal British Legion.

Incorporated by  Royal Charter.



This Certificate is presented to

of **Xx** Branch
for gaining **Xth** place in the



**Xx County Standard Bearers
Competition 201x**

Chairman

Parade Marshal

Date

Annex B to Chapter 16

		The Royal British Legion Record of Competitor's Score				
County/District/Region:		Competitor's Number:		Judge's Signature:		
DRILL MOVEMENT NUMBER	SEQUENCE OR JUDGING	DETAIL		MAX PTS. POSS	MARKS AWARDED	
A	TURNOUT	NEATNESS OF DRESS & GENERAL BEARING		10		
B		MAINTENANCE OF SLING AND GAUNTLETS		10		
C		MAINTENANCE OF STANDARD		10		
D	DRILL	THE ORDER		10		
a.		4 correct movements and correct position — pole at toe, arms, left thumb, feet, etc.				
b.		THE CARRY 3 correct movements, and correct position — pole right forearm, left arm, feet				
c.		THE DIP, ROYAL SALUTE 3 correct movements; timing of dip (20 seconds plus or minus 2 seconds) pole in line with right foot, good presentation.				
d.		THE CARRY & QUICK MARCH 2 correct movements; good marching, pace 116 per min, pole vertical; good halt and about turn; good final position				
e.		THE DIP, ACT OF HOMAGE 4 correct movements; timing of dip (20 seconds plus or minus 2 seconds); good presentation of standard, head. (3)				
f.		THE CARRY & SLOW MARCH 3 correct movements; good slow march, pace 65 to min, pole vertical; good halt and about turn, good final position.				
g.		THE DIP FOR WET/MUDDY WEATHER AND RECOVERY 3 correct movements; time of dip (10 seconds plus or minus 2 seconds); pole horizontal. Correct return to carry.				
h.		SLOPE FROM THE CARRY 5 correct movements; angle of pole (45°), right forearm, left arm close, fringe parallel (2)				
i.		ORDER FROM THE SLOPE 3 correct movements, good final position				
j.		THE SLOPE — STATIONARY 3 correct movements, good final position				
k.	THE SLOPE — QUICK MARCH Good marching, pole angle maintained, good halt and about turn.					
l.	THE CARRY FROM THE SLOPE 5 correct movements, pole angle maintained on setting off, 5 movements each on successive beats of the left foot, pole vertical, good halt and about turn, good final position (1)					
TOTAL				10		

Annex C to Chapter 16

		Sequence of Words of Command	
1.	Standard Bearer	“Order Standard”	
2.	Standard Bearer	“Carry Standard”	
3.	Standard Bearer	As for the Royal Salute “Dip Standard”	
4.	Standard Bearer	“Carry Standard”	
5.	Standard Bearer	“Quick March”	
6.	Standard Bearer	“Halt”	
7.		“About Turn”	
8.	Standard Bearer	As for the Act of Homage “Dip Standard”	
9.	Standard Bearer	“Carry Standard”	
10.	Standard Bearer	“Slow March”	
11.	Standard Bearer	“Halt”	
12.		“About Turn”	
13.	Standard Bearer, As for Wet or Muddy Conditions	“Dip Standard”	
14.	Standard Bearer	“Carry Standard”	
15.	Standard Bearer	“Slope Standard”	
16.	Standard Bearer	“Order Standard”	
17.	Standard Bearer	“Slope Standard”	
18.	Standard Bearer	“Quick March”	
19.	Standard Bearer	“Halt”	
20.		“About Turn”	
21.	Drill on the March, Standard Bearer	“Quick March, Carry Standard”	
22.	Standard Bearer	“Halt”	
23.		“About Turn”	
24.	Standard Bearer	“Fall Out”	

Annex D to Chapter 16

	The Royal British Legion Standard Bearers Competition	
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County/District/Region:

RUNNING ORDER

No.	Name	County/District/Branch
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

Annex E to Chapter 16

County/District/Region:	POSITION																
	AVERAGE																
	Two Judges Combined Total																
Adjudicator Summary Sheet	TOTAL	150															
	Carry from Slope Quick March	10															
	Slope Quick March	10															
	Slope from Order	10															
	Order from Slope	10															
	Slope from Carry	10															
	Dip Wet Weather	10															
	Carry Slow March	10															
	Dip Act of Homage	10															
	Carry Quick March	10															
	Dip Royal Salute	10															
	Carry from Order	10															
	Order from Carry	10															
	Dress Inspection	30															
	Competitor Number																
		Max Score	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 1	Judge 2	

Annex F to Chapter 16

	The Royal British Legion Standard Bearers Competition	
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County/District/Region:

Final Positions

Position	Name	County/District/Branch	Total Marks
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
4th			
5th			
6th			
7th			
8th			
9th			
10th			

Chapter 17: Preparation of check lists for major RBL events

1. General

- a. For organising every RBL event which includes ceremonial, a great deal of careful planning has to be done by someone whether an individual or a committee. Such events include Remembrance Services, Dedications, Rallies, Festivals, Conferences, Parades, Funerals etc.
- b. It is essential that those who are responsible for such planning do not have to begin from scratch each year but have a file or check list to refer to, where experience gained is recorded and borne in mind when planning the next year.
- c. The use of the TAC list and flow chart is very flexible. By using the TAC list technique, complex events can be broken down into easily managed planning stages.
- d. Often the first TAC list being constructed identifies the stages of an event, which can in turn be developed into detailed TAC lists dealing with each particular stage. This will permit multifunctional, concurrent planning activity, to be undertaken by individuals responsible for each stage of the event, enabling the event co-ordinator to oversee the planning of the whole event by using the initial TAC list.

2. TAC lists

- a. What is known as the “TAC list” technique is recommended for such planning of an annual or frequently repeated event, i.e. “Tabulated Action Check List”.
- b. TAC list can be used as a management tool for:
 - Analysing and Solving Problems
 - Analysing any task
 - Planning projects and events
- c. The value in using the TAC list technique is that it:
 - Serves as reminder of jobs to be done
 - Highlights specific details
 - Establishes the time span
 - Provides a planning framework
 - Enables the allocation of duties
 - Serves as the basis of a flow chart
 - Serves as a planning record
 - Is easier to follow than a traditional report

An example of a blank TAC list is given at Annex A.

3. Procedure in planning any RBL event

- a. Write down all the items that have to be attended to or organised as they occur to you — in any sequence. Add to the list as necessary, so that ideally nothing is forgotten, however trivial.
- b. Re-arrange the items, tabulating them in a proper sequence so that the urgent ones are dealt with first. Note that some will inevitably overlap time wise.
- c. Allocate each a time-band, i.e. a start date and a date by which that item must be completed in the planning programme.
- d. Allocate to each item the name of the person or group who has the responsibility to see it completed, and in the remarks column the relevant contacts, which have to be made (e.g. local council, police, band, VIP guest, etc.).
- e. You now have a TAC list for that RBL event — a planning action programme with all the necessary items in sequence.
- f. You can now use this TAC list to prepare a Gantt chart (see Annex B) or diagram on which you plot each item as a bar with a “start” and “end” date against the calendar.
- g. If everything has gone well and as it was planned you should now have a kind of blueprint for planning the same RBL event next year. However, you are more likely to have to modify it and adjust timings/dates etc. in the light of experience. You may also have to add items you did not think of in the original planning.
- h. Keep the TAC list and Gantt chart in a file for reference in planning the same event (conference, church service, dedication, funeral, festival etc.) in future years thus avoiding waste of time and effort.
- i. It is important to debrief following the event and to note any learning points/observations on the chart for future planning.

4. Gantt Chart

An example of a Gantt chart can be found in Annex B. The main advantage of using a Gantt chart for planning purposes is that it enables the planner to illustrate what jobs can be undertaken concurrently and also helps to highlight tasks that must be completed before any further work can be undertaken.

- a. It is important to bear in mind that the task durations represent the elapsed time. This is the total amount of time required to complete a task, considering delays and the effort being devoted to other tasks. For example, it may only take a few hours to plan a Remembrance Day programme and parade, however, it may take two weeks to obtain the agreement of your project team or committee and local agencies (church, police etc.). Therefore, two weeks is the total elapsed time to complete the task.

- b. It is important to note that a Gantt chart does not necessarily show the linkages or dependencies between tasks, so this must always be considered.
- c. The use of the TAC list and flow chart is very flexible. By using the TAC list technique, complex events can be broken down into easily managed planning stages.
- d. Often the first TAC list being constructed identifies the stages of an event, which can in turn be developed into detailed TAC lists dealing with each particular stage. This will permit multifunctional, concurrent planning activity, to be undertaken by individuals responsible for each stage of the event, enabling the event co-ordinator to oversee the planning of the whole event by using the initial TAC list.

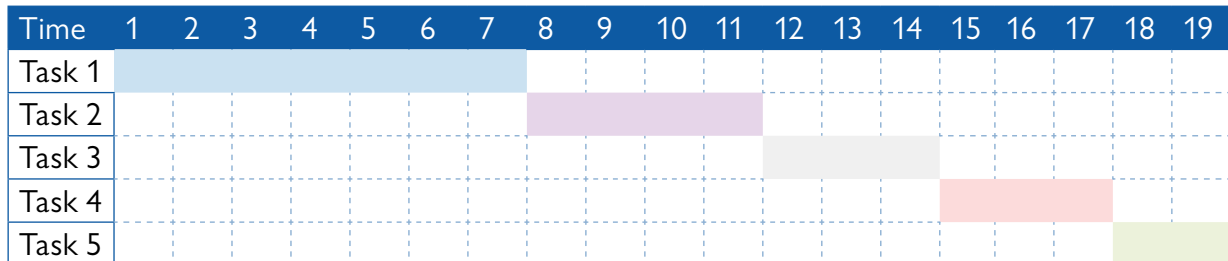
Annexes:

- A. Blank TAC List.
- B. Flow Gantt Chart.

Annex B to Chapter 17

Flow (Gantt) Chart

A Gantt Chart is a bar chart picture of the collection or network of tasks to be completed. In a Gantt Chart, the task durations are represented by the length of the bars as shown in the example below:



The Chart is useful as a:

- Communication Tool,
- Way of Summarising Tasks,
- Way of Displaying Start and End Dates,
- Method of Showing the Relative Timing and Phasing of Different Tasks.

It is important to bear in mind that the task durations represent the elapsed time. This is the total amount of time required to complete a task, considering delays and the effort being devoted to other tasks. For example, it may take only a few hours to plan a Remembrance Day programme and parade. However, it may take two weeks to obtain the agreement of your Project Team or Committee and local agencies (Church, Police etc.). Therefore, two weeks is the total elapsed time to complete the task.

It is also important to bear in mind that a Gantt Chart does not show the linkages or dependencies between tasks.

Chapter 18: Equal opportunities policy

1. RBL is committed to ensuring that the principle of equal opportunity is applied in all areas of its operation, as everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect in the workplace, regardless of race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marital status, socio-economic status, age, nationality, ethnic origin, disability, citizenship, political persuasion, religion, belief, or other relevant factor.
2. Address any queries on RBL Equal Opportunities Policy to the County/District Office.

Chapter 19: Data protection

Where personal data is lost, destroyed, altered, disclosed without authorisation, or accessed unlawfully, this may constitute a personal data breach. If you suspect that a personal data breach has occurred, you must notify the Data Protection Officer as soon as possible and without undue delay. The Data Protection Officer will review the information provided and advise on the appropriate next steps.

Individuals have a number of statutory rights in relation to their personal data under the UK GDPR. These “individual rights” include:

- The right to be informed about how their personal data is collected, used and shared.
- The right of access to their personal data (commonly known as a Subject Access Request).
- The right to rectification of inaccurate personal data, or to have incomplete data completed.
- The right to erasure (also known as the “right to be forgotten”).
- The right to restrict processing of their personal data in certain circumstances.
- The right to data portability, allowing individuals to receive their personal data in a commonly used format or request that it is transferred to another controller.
- The right to object to certain types of processing, including direct marketing.
- Rights in relation to automated decision making and profiling, including the right not to be subject to a solely automated decision that produces legal or similarly significant effects.

If you receive such requests, please forward the details to the Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@britishlegion.org.uk.

Section B

Chapter 1: Dress for RBL occasions

The following guidance is given to RBL members attending RBL organised events such as local Remembrance parades or RBL organised social events. Whilst these rulings do not apply to the general public, those attending the events may wish to abide by the guidance provided. In particular, information is provided on how to wear medals and what medals are considered acceptable for Ceremonial events.

Formal Parades

These include Remembrance Services, (Church, Drumhead, War Memorial etc.), Parades, Dedication of Standards, Funerals, etc.

Since they are “formal” occasions it is most desirable that the turnout of members is appropriate, and there would be a general consensus that ideally each RBL member present wear a dark suit/blazer [or for Women’s Section a suit or dress, overcoat (if necessary) hat (preferably)], black shoes, etc. A person in a brightly coloured outfit on such a formal occasion seems out of place.

Removal of hats

The Patron has decided that, in view of the inclement weather frequently experienced on the occasion of RBL parades, many of which take place in the winter, mens hats will be removed only for the National Anthem, the Last Post, and the Silence.

Formal social events

These include: RBL dinners, dances, etc., and where practicable, and without being over rigid about dress, it helps our image, if we come to such events appropriately dressed — as indeed we would do if attending a formal social function elsewhere. If in doubt, request advice from the host establishment as to suitable attire.

Informal social events

These events provide fewest problems as they include sports, competitions, etc. where greater freedom is the norm.

Badges

Veterans Badge



The HM Armed Forces Veterans Lapel Badge was launched in May 2004 by the then Minister for Veterans, to raise the profile of veterans by assisting the wider public to recognise them.

This badge may be worn by all those who have served in HM Armed Forces, including Volunteer and Regular Reserves. To apply for a Veteran Badge, please use the link [here](#) to be directed to the relevant contacts.

It may be worn by Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals on all occasions except Standard Bearers' Competitions.

RBL Membership badge



This badge is worn on the left lapel by the position of the button hole. It may be worn upright or in line with the lapel.

Members who have been awarded the Gold Badge, National Life Membership or National Certificate of Appreciation may wear the appropriate badge instead of the standard membership badge. Only one membership badge is worn at any time.

The Membership badge can be purchased online at the Poppy Shop.

Affiliated Unit Badges



This is a cloth badge which may be worn by uniformed youth organisations when on parade. The badge is sewn on their own uniform when they are affiliated to an RBL branch. The position of the badge is determined by the individual youth organisation. If there is a youth organisation that would like to become affiliated with an RBL branch and wear the youth affiliation badge, please contact Membership Services at:

membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk.



Standard Bearer (Flag) Badges (RBL & RBLWS).

Both past and present Standard Bearers may wear these badges when not in uniform.

Medals

RBL's Policy

RBL's internal policy for wearing medals only allows for official awards to be worn. The term 'official' describes any medal authorised by the King, or his predecessors. Only these medals are allowed to be worn on a service uniform. A list of official medals can be found on the MOD Medal Office website [here](#).

RBL does not campaign on petitions to forge new medals.

RBL Standard Bearers, Parade Marshals and Judges are not permitted to wear medals of relatives on their right side. When carrying the standard, the medals will obstruct certain movements. Standard Bearers are permitted to wear their own medals in any competition, but must be aware that these medals will be marked so must be polished, smart, and correctly positioned.

How to wear your medals

The following notes are based on the "Guide to the Wearing of Orders, Decorations, Miniatures and Medals" published by the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood:

Medals are worn parallel to the ground just above the level of the top pocket of a jacket (or on a pocket insert). The RBL membership badge is worn on the lapel one inch above the medal bar. The medals may be mounted “Court” fashion (sewn to the ribbon which extends behind the medal to halfway down) or “swinging” (where they hang loose from the medal bar). In either case, make sure the bottom edge of each medal is level, and the ribbons do not exceed about one and half inches from the top (medal bar) to the bottom (medal suspender) In some cases the length of the ribbons will vary to ensure the bottom edge of the medals are level. Medals are worn side by side unless there are more than five in which case they are overlapped with the first one (to the centre of the body) fully visible and subsequent ribbons being only partly visible. The medals themselves are overlapped in the same way with the obverse (often the Sovereign’s head) to the front.

On RBL occasions, such as parades and social events, when medals are worn with lounge suits, full size insignia mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert are worn on the left side. One neck decoration, suspended on a miniature width ribbon, of an Order, may be worn under the collar.

With overcoats, only those full size Orders, Decorations and Medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket inserts may be worn, on the left side.

Full size orders, decorations and medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert can be worn with morning dress, when required.

When invitations specify decorations with dinner jacket, it is correct to wear miniatures, and only one star (or the badge of a Knight Bachelor) and one neck decoration.

With evening dress, one sash and sash badge, one neck decoration, up to four breast stars plus miniature medals on medal bar or pocket insert may be worn.

The medals awarded to a deceased service/ex-service person may be worn on the right breast by a near relative (see [Glossary of Terms](#) on page 4). More than one group should not be worn by any individual.

Note: The same rules apply for women where the “neck decoration” from bows and tails is restricted in the same way as men’s neck decorations, but they are worn below the medal bar. Women who have been awarded medals suspended from bows and tails, but which normally fit on the medal bar, wear them in the normal men’s method with straight ribbons if they have more than one. e.g. a lady with a CBE only, or a CBE and Golden Jubilee Medal will always wear their CBE on bow and tails on their left side and above that their Jubilee Medal from a bow. If this lady is also an Officer of the Order of St. John they wears their CBE as before and their OSt.J and Jubilee Medal from straight ribbons, as for men, on the medal bar. In miniature all three will be from straight ribbons on the medal bar. If they are promoted to OSt.J that remains on the miniature bar but in day dress they may only wear one “neck decoration” so would normally revert to their CBE and their Jubilee Medal, from either a straight ribbon or bow and tails, in full size above it.

Chapter 2: Parades, Precedence, Protocol and Health & Safety

RBL plays an active role in Remembrance Parades and can help local authorities organise events at a local community level. Below is a series of guidance notes provided to RBL branches in helping them prepare for Remembrance Parades. It is recommended that if you have any queries regarding a local parade that you consult the appropriate local authority as they have the executive responsibility for the parade.

Responsibility for Parades

Refer to the Membership Handbook for information relating to responsibilities for parades.

Recommended Orders of Precedence

Subject to prior consultation and agreement, and assuming that all those listed are participating, the following sequence is recommended for assembly at the local war memorial for a Remembrance Service and wreath laying. It is also assumed that the Lord Lieutenant or their representative is not present (otherwise they would take precedence as the Sovereign's representative).

Normally an acceptable compromise can be reached provided there is adequate consultation beforehand. It is most important to avoid embarrassment.

Health & Safety Notes for All Parades

In the event of extremely hot and sunny weather, the Parade Marshal must ensure that all participants, especially Standard Bearers, are hydrated and kept in the shade and out of the sun for as long as possible. Time the parade for cooler times of the day.

Overseas branches **ONLY** — in countries such as Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Malta, Thailand, Standard Bearers and Parade Marshals may remove their jackets, (shirt sleeve order) **but only** but only if the branch has had this granted and added to their by-laws. Please refer to the Membership Council Overseas Representative.

For the assembly	Notes
Band	Normally the order of parade is that, if a band is available, it would lead, followed by the Standards
Clergy and choir.	
Civic VIPs	*see Note 1
Union Flag	If on parade, the senior RBL Standard must give precedence to the Union Flag
Royal British Legion and Women's Section Standards	Seniority of RBL formations, i.e. National/County, District/Group/branch (normally led by the local branch, followed by other Branch Standards). Members of the Board of Trustees will march behind the Union Flag and the National Standard. Members of the County/District Committee will march behind the County/District Standard. A VIP may be invited to march alongside the Parade Commander. The Branch President would follow with the other officers of the branch, and then the branch members. Dressing of ranks during the march past is all important to give a good impression. It is not necessary that the Women's Section Standards automatically follow the Royal British Legion. They may be integrated in, or beside the Royal British Legion.
Standards of other ex-service association	RNA, Army, RAFA
Regular forces	Regular forces also have an additional order of precedence, which can be found on the public encyclopaedia Wikipedia.
Territorial and reserve forces	Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force
Ex-service contingents	Preferably in one group, but may be in columns by service and corps, normally with RBL leading though there may be variations
Uniformed public services	Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance services. St John, Red Cross etc.
Youth organisations	Uniformed organisations take precedence over non-uniformed organisations
The general public	Who is invited to participate in the public Remembrance event

Wreath Laying	Notes
Civic VIPs	*see Note 1 for more detail
Representatives of Regular forces	Regular forces also have an additional order of precedence, which can be found on the public encyclopaedia Wikipedia.
Representatives of Territorial and reserve forces.	
Representatives of Ex-service associations	Including RBL & RBLWS.
Representatives of Uniformed public services	Police, Fire brigade, Ambulance services
Representatives of Uniformed voluntary services	St John, Red Cross etc.
Representatives of Cadet forces	
Representatives of Youth organisations.	
The general public	

Precedence at Local Authority Parades

If it is a parade organised by the civil authorities, for example for dedicating or re-dedicating their war memorial, or a special Remembrance ceremony, then it is not a RBL parade. The Cenotaph parade and service on Remembrance Sunday, for example, are organised by a Government Department, and not RBL. Thus Standards are not carried, unless they are specifically invited by the civil authority to parade and the sequence of contingents is a matter for the organising body.

Precedence at RBL Organised Parades

RBL Standards and Women’s Section Standards take precedence, and are followed in order by Royal Naval Associations, Army Regimental or Corps Associations and Royal Air Force Association Standards. The same sequence applies to adult marching contingents. When service and other youth contingents are on parade it is recommended that service cadets lead those contingents in the traditional sequence, followed by other uniformed organisations (Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides, St John, Red Cross etc.) and finally any non-uniformed youth organisations. Group Colours and Standards of youth organisations at the head of the youth contingents on parade.

The Union Flag dips with all RBL Standards for the Royal Salute and for the Act of Homage.

Precedence including Royal Personage/Lord Lieutenants

The only person whose precedence is absolute above all the recommendation above is His Majesty The King. If the Lord Lieutenant is formally invited as the Sovereign’s Representative to an event within their County/District, they have precedence. If the Lord Lieutenant attends in uniform they must be honoured as the representative of the Sovereign: and even if they are in civilian clothes, it is prudent to recognise the dignity of their appointment.

Lord Mayors, Mayors and Council Chairmen, however, within the precincts of their City Halls and County Head Office have precedence.

Since there are normally several Remembrance Services in each County, often occurring simultaneously, there is an obvious problem for all local dignitaries, and especially the Lord Lieutenant. They should be formally invited only to major events and services in their own County. They may also wish to attend services in each of the larger towns in turn. Such an annual rota would need to be co-ordinated, by RBL Membership Engagement Officer in the light of the wishes of the Lord Lieutenant, and in consultation with Group Secretaries.

Lord Lieutenants at social events

When a Lord Lieutenant is invited in their own right to a social, rather than a formal ceremonial event, they are unlikely to be in uniform. Nevertheless, because of their office their presence must be specially recognised by receiving them properly, escorting them, and noting their presence by special welcome — for example at the beginning of a speech.

On social occasions, such as dinners, when anyone is making a speech or proposing a toast and the Lord Lieutenant is present the speaker must take care that the ‘salutation’ or ‘preamble’ to their speech has the correct protocol sequence e.g. “Chair (who comes first) then ‘Lord Lieutenant, Lord Mayor (or Mayor, or District Council Chair)”, and the other distinguished guests in the official sequence given above if they are individually listed.

On those rare occasions, such as dinners, when several Lord Lieutenants attend the same event (e.g. a funeral of a VIP) the Lord Lieutenant of the County within which the event takes place has precedence, followed by the others in date order sequence of their appointment.

Note 1: A Simplified Order of Precedence for Civil VIPs on RBL Occasions

The precedence of all other Civic VIPs may vary in your local area depending on local traditions, the relationship between host and guests, and the requirements of courtesy and hospitality. Bearing in mind the points made above, and assuming that a member of the Royal Family is not present, the following simplified Table of Precedence would normally apply for those who might attend a RBL event: however there may be local variations, for example in such places as Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, etc. If you are unsure of your local arrangements it is recommended that you make contact with some of the other organisations that can be consulted.

Civic VIP	Notes
Lord Lieutenant	A Vice Lieutenant or DL they may appoint in their place
Archbishop	Canterbury or York — special occasions
The Prime Minister or a Secretary of State	
Bishop or Moderator	Attending as a guest and not conducting a service.
Lord Mayor and other Mayors and Chairs of Councils	
Recorder of the Borough	
High Sheriff	
Lord Chief Justice	(Frequently attends in Northern Ireland)
Privy Councillors	
Senior Officers of the Military Forces	
Judges	
Head of the Civil Service/ Senior Civil Servants	
Chief Constable	
Supporting representatives including other military officers, other Royal British Legion officers and other dignitaries (including MPs)	

The spouses of VIPs are accorded the same precedence as their husband or wife when both attend a function, and even if they are unaccompanied, it may be desirable to accord them their spouse’s precedence. If the VIP is female, their spouse is similarly recognised.

It is most important that those VIPs listed above be formally met and escorted to their places, or where appropriate, conducted to a room where they are temporarily entertained and briefed as necessary pending the assembly of all the guests for a more formal announcement and entry.

Note 2: Additional Sources of Advice

If specific problems arise, the event organisers can seek the advice of the following, as appropriate:

- The RBL Membership Compliance & Policy Team.
- The staff of the corporation, borough, or council where the event is to be held, and where normally there is an officer conversant with protocol.
- When the Lord Lieutenant is invited — their clerk to the Lieutenancy.
- When Royalty is present. National Head Office must be informed.

Guidance on protocol can also be found in:

- Protocol and Ceremonial Guidance Notes issued by County/District Hall or a County/District Directory (if issued).
- Various specialist manuals on 'Etiquette' (e.g. Debrett's).

Note 3: Checklist for Organising Parades and/or Services of Dedication

The following notes are given as a general guide to the various tasks which need to be considered when a parade or service is organised. The list can apply equally to a branch or County/District and would be a starting point for any branch or Local Authority involved in Remembrance Parades.

Before the Event:

- Who is responsible for organising the event? Local Council or RBL.
- Police involvement/agreement to the plans.
- Initial planning needs to be done well in advance to allow time to inform/invite all involved personnel in writing.
- Decide what type of event it will be — parade only, parade and service, type of service etc.
- Decide on a suitable date (remember to check that it will not clash with another event within the County).
- Check that the venue will be available on the date required.
- Discuss order of service, hymns etc. with the minister.
- Consider arrangements for the printing of the service sheets.
- Consider suitable place(s) for forming up/dismissing the parade.
- Decide on the route for the parade and the site for the saluting base.
- Will the parade pass war memorials or any other important structures or persons where a compliment on the march is to be paid.
- Are there any obstructions/overhead obstacles etc. to be negotiated — if so note location.
- Agree who you want to be the Inspecting Officer, and what other VIP guests you wish to invite.
- Agree other invitations to be sent out i.e. other RBL and RBLWS Branches, ex- service associations, cadet units, etc.
- Book the band, ask them for a pace of approx. 114–116 paces to the minute. Make sure the band is fully aware of what is going on so that they know what music is required. Are they required to play in the church for hymns, Last Post, National Anthem etc. Make sure they are aware of the route of the parade and whether or not they are wheeling off at the saluting base or not.
- Will sound equipment be required — if so, who will assemble and monitor this.
- Arrange for first aid cover (i.e. St. John Ambulance, Red Cross etc.)
- Arrange a date for the rehearsal and ensure all appropriate personnel are informed/available.
- Collection — agree with the church whether it will go to the Poppy Appeal, the church or be shared.
- Arrange for the Risk Assessment Form to be completed and by whom.
- Publicity

Venue:

- Assembly point.
- Ensure there will be sufficient space for the size of the parade assembling.
- Ensure there is a safe place for persons alighting from coaches.
- Parking facilities — ensure there will be sufficient.
- Obtain permission, in writing, in advance, if you want to use business or commercial parking areas.
 - If there are gates — ensure they are not locked/blocked on the day of the event
 - Access time.
- Ease of access for people with disabilities.
- Facilities (i.e. toilets).

Contacts:

- Check list of names, addresses and telephone numbers and update as necessary.

Parade:

- Parade orders — send to all organisations taking part.
- Band.
- Parade Marshal to arrange Assistant Marshals as required — and ensure to fully brief them.
- Special procedures may be required if a Colour Party is on parade.
- Check timings for the parade.
- Walk the route and check for obstacles etc. (things can change from first recce). Do this second check as near as possible to the event i.e. the previous day.
- Carry out all movements, static or on the march, at the Carry or the Slope. Remember to allow room for the swing of the pole.

The Church:

- Check for obstructions in the church.
- Check for any church customs to be observed.
- Order of Service — service sheets/programmes required — who will be producing?
- Assistant Marshal at church to liaise with ushers regarding seating and the smooth running of that side of the event.
- Prepare seating plan for the church:
- Keep the front two pews free on either side for VIPs and County Officers.
- Keep appropriate seating free for Standard Bearers.
- National Anthem/Last Post/hymns etc. — who will be playing these — have they been briefed?

If for Laying up/Dedication of new Standard:

- Check with the Minister that the church will accept the Standard for laying up.
- Has the new Standard been obtained.
- Has the new Standard been checked on receipt to ensure it is correct and complete.
- Ensure all the relevant people will be at the rehearsal — i.e. Clergy, Branch President, Branch Chair and Standard Bearer and Parade Marshal(s).

- If sufficient space — will the old Standard be trooped off parade? If so remember to request suitable music from the band. (Auld Lang Syne is often used.)
- If sufficient space — will the new Standard be trooped?

Refreshments/reception after service:

- Venue arranged.
- Catering — what and who.
- Sufficient crockery, cutlery, tables, chairs etc.

Note 4: Health and Safety Considerations

The Royal British Legion has a duty under the law to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the safety of RBL members and members of the general public, who are involved in, or who attend, events planned and organised by RBL. To this end, organisers of RBL public and closed events are responsible for carrying out a risk assessment prior to the event and maintaining a written record.

When planning an event follow the principles in the H&S Standards and guidance relating to risk assessment (HS108 and HS108a).

Ensure that they have copies of the up-to-date editions of the above documents which can be obtained from the County/District Office.

For ease of reference the “RBL Event Risk Assessment Record” from RBL SOP 59 is attached at Annex A to this chapter, however, check to ensure there has been no changes to the form in the current SOP.

Annex:

A. RBL Event Risk Assessment Record.

A guide to parade risk assessments

The majority of parades you plan to do will present low risks to health and safety, if managed well. This form will help you **STOP...THINK...PLAN** before a parade and identify if a more detailed assessment is required.

Step One	✓ Those hazards that may be present & evaluate their risk (H/M/L) using the Calculating Risk Information on page 2 (Risk Assessment Form)
Step Two	Against each hazard description ✓ read the recommended/possible control measures column. Consider these as possible controls for your parade if deemed suitable.
Step Three	Monitor agreed arrangements & communicate findings of the assessment to relevant persons involved i.e. planning the parade, volunteers, contractors, council etc.

✓	Risk H/M/L	Hazard Description	Recommended/Possible Control Measures
		Electrical equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually inspect identified free from damage • Suitable for environment (e.g. outdoors use — wet weather) • Portable appliance tested (PAT test) — (could be venue dependent) • Cables secured/taped down
		Slip/Trip/Fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visually inspect location identified free from hazards • Remove trailing cables etc., use tape if necessary or cable covers • Portable appliance tested (PAT test) — (could be venue dependant) • Cables secured/taped down
		Weather conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency plans for extreme events e.g. high winds; avoid use of marquees • Personal responsibilities for care and clothing • ‘Safe Place’ identified as shelter for participants, if required • Provision of shade and shelter • Provision of additional water • Consider cancellation in extreme weather conditions
✓	Risk H/M/L	Hazard Description	Recommended/Possible Control Measures
		Personal safety/ security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities discussed with ‘other’ parties i.e. Police, Council • Means to communicate between volunteers • Effective communication channels between all • Plan for emergency situations in place including comms plan and assembly point
		Manual Handling/ personal abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loads minimised in size and weight • Sufficient people to share duties • Personal abilities considered dependent of the task • Plan movements • Provide information on safe lifting practices
		Lack of emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Johns required/considered for longer events/ parades • Accident/incident reporting process known • Liaison with Police, Local Council • Plan for evacuation and emergency situation

Risk assessment record continued:

		Use of young persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with suitable adults — safeguarding procedures in place • Restrictions on manual handling • If required, parental/guardian approval obtained • Lost children areas, required and/or considered
		Vehicles & pedestrian segregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi-Viz for stewards managing roads, parades, or car parks • Liaison with Local Council, Highways Division and Police Authority • Rear parade vehicle considered • Barrier protection for members of the public and parade members • Suitable number of volunteers to assist • Communication equipment required, two-way radios
		Road works within the highways division, parade moves across a highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Highways Division to clarify no planned road works are within parade route • Develop a simple parade plan, recording the parade, start time and finish time
		Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other agencies involved — what risks may they introduce? • Is food being served? Do the suppliers have insurance cover/are they registered with the Local Authority?

Annex to Note 4

Risk assessment record

Part 1

<p>EVENT TITLE (National, County/District, branch)</p>	<p>..... First time event <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat event <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Location of Event Date of Event</p>	<p>.....</p>	
<p>Details of RBL Member who completed this Risk Assessment</p>	<p>Name: RBL Appointment: Telephone: Special qualifications (if any):</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Details of Participants and Types of Visitors (Invitation or Open Access) (Members, guests, visitors, general public)</p>	<p>.....</p>	
<p>General Description of Event (Outline only. Attach programme if necessary)</p>	<p>.....</p>	

PUBLIC EVENT	Police Consulted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Station: Officer: Date:
	Local Authority Consulted	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Office: Local Officer: Date:
CLOSED EVENT	Name of Venue: Contact Name: Telephone: Venue Instructions Provided: Health & Safety Instruction Provided: Police Consulted: Event Telephone Number: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
First Aid Requirements	Name of First Aider: Telephone: Nearest Hospital: Telephone :	

<p>Level of Staffing</p>	<p>Total Number (Estimate): RBL Staff: Volunteers:</p>	<p>..... </p>	
<p>Staff Roles/Tasks (Attach list if necessary)</p>	<p>..... </p>		
<p>Maximum Numbers Expected</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>Will Excess be Refused Entry?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Wet Weather Programme (Attach copy of programme)</p>	<p>..... </p>		
<p>Provision of Water Details of how and where</p>	<p>..... </p>		
<p>Excessive weather contingency such as (Excessive Heat, Cold, Rain, Snow etc.)</p>	<p>..... </p>		
<p>Emergency Procedures such as (Evacuation of the area or Major Accident)</p>	<p>..... </p>		

Part 2

Hazard	Description of hazard	Who at risk	High	Med	Low
Step 1		Step 2	Step 3		
Hazard	Description of hazard	Who at risk	High	Med	Low
Step 1		Step 2	Step 3		

ACTION LIST (Step 3)	
HIGH Risk Hazard	Action Taken (Step 4)
MEDIUM Risk Hazard	Action Taken (Step 4)

LOW Risk Hazard	Action Taken (Step 4)

Risk assessment completed by:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Chapter 3: Dates and procedures for flying flags

The Government’s Department for Culture, Media and Sport is responsible for issuing the rules for hoisting the Union Flag on government buildings. Individuals, local authorities and other organisations may fly the Union Flag whenever they wish, subject to compliance with any local planning requirement. RBL branches are encouraged to use the following guidelines when flying the Union Flag. Refer to www.gov.uk to check the dates each year.

Days specified for flying the Union Flag

There are designated days each year when the Union Flag should be flown on all UK Government buildings. While there is no formal definition of a government building for this purpose, it is generally accepted to mean a building owned or used by the Crown and predominately occupied or used by Civil Servants or His Majesty’s Armed Forces.

Although these regulations apply to government and other public buildings, there would be no objection, in principle, to a County/District/branch choosing to fly their Union Flag on some (or all) of the dates listed below, or all year round.

Fixed Dates	
01 March	St David’s Day (in Wales only, guidance note 1))
13 March	Commonwealth Day (second Monday in March)
17 March	St. Patrick’s Day (in Northern Ireland only)
09 April	His Majesty’s Wedding Day
23 April	St George’s Day (in England only, guidance note 1)
06 May	Coronation Day
17 June	Official Birthday of His Majesty The King
21 June	Birthday of The Prince of Wales
17 July	Birthday of The Queen Consort
08 September	His Majesty’s Accession
11 November	Remembrance Day
14 November	Birthday of His Majesty The King
30 November	St Andrew’s Day (in Scotland only, guidance note 1)

Non-Fixed Days	
March (second Monday)	Commonwealth Day
June (first, second or third Saturday)	Official Celebration of His Majesty’s Birthday
November (second Sunday)	Remembrance Day (guidance note 2 below)
To be determined	The day of the opening of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty (guidance note 3 below)
To be determined	The day of the prorogation of a Session of the Houses of Parliament by His Majesty (guidance note 3 below)

Guidance for flying the Union Flag

The Department of Culture Media and Sports provides guidance to government buildings which may also be followed by RBL branches:

1. Where a building has two or more flagstuffs the appropriate national flag may be flown in addition to the Union Flag but not in a superior position.
2. Flags are flown at full mast all day.
3. Flags are flown on this day even if His Majesty does not perform the ceremony in person. Flags are only flown in the Greater London area.
4. The Union Flag is flown alongside the European flag. On government buildings that only have one flagpole the Union Flag takes precedence.
5. If The King is to be present in a building, you must contact the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Architecture and Historic Environment Division, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ. Telephone 020 7211 6000; facsimile 020 7211 6210

Guidance for flying the Union Flag at half-mast

The occasions on which the Union Flag is to be flown at half-mast (half-mast means the flag is raised to the top and then lowered to a flag’s width) are:

- From the announcement of the death of The Sovereign, except on Proclamation Day, when they are flown at full mast from 11am to sunset.
- The funeral of members of the Royal Family, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case — when received Head Office will inform Counties/Districts.
- The funerals of foreign rulers, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case — when received Head Office will inform Counties/Districts.
- The funerals of prime ministers and ex-prime ministers of the United Kingdom, subject to special commands from His Majesty in each case — when received Head Office will inform Counties/Districts.
- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport will inform you of any other occasions where His Majesty has given a special command — when received, Head Office will inform Counties/Districts.

Chapter 4: Funerals

When RBL Standards are attending any funeral, it is also customary for the Branch Standard and that of the Women's Section branch (if there is one) to form part of the procession, both into and from the church, chapel, or other sacred building. The Standards precede the coffin in the procession and, if space permits, stand abreast of it during the service. The same procedure is followed at the place of interment, and the Standard(s) Dip as an act of homage as the coffin is lowered into the grave.

When the Standard is carried at a cremation the same procedure as at an interment is adopted, if space within the building permits. Alternatively, the Standard Bearer stands six paces inside the entrance to the crematorium, facing the coffin. The Standard(s) Dip as an act of homage as the curtains are closed removing the coffin from view.

In some parts of the Country there is also a practice to have the Exhortation, Last Post and the Reveille with RBL Standards present. The sequence normally followed is that, after the coffin is lowered into the grave, (or at a cremation — from view) and the officiating clergy has pronounced his committal oration, there follows:

- The Exhortation and Response
- The Last Post (Standards Dip)
- If an interment, members drop their personal poppies into the grave
- The Reveille (Standards return to the Carry on the first note)

The above suggestions may only be implemented after full consultation with the family and the officiating clergy.

The Union Flag is not paraded at funeral services. Branches may keep a Union Flag to drape the coffin. Where this is done it is normal to place a wreath of poppies on top of the flag.

Standard Bearers may be invited to the wake at the request of the deceased's family. However, this should not be expected and is at the family's discretion.

Representing RBL Members

If the relatives wish, arrange wherever possible for branches to be officially represented at the funeral of any of its members. It is important to ensure that the clergy and funeral directors are also informed if this is taking place.

The Board of Trustees recommends that, if with the consent of the family and the officiating clergy RBL is officially represented at the funeral, there is no distinction between the funeral procedures outlined above for members/life members or Women's Section members. It is appreciated, however, that because of local conditions and circumstances, the branch may wish to make appropriate amendments. The solemnity, dignity of the occasion and the family's wishes are paramount.

Representing Ex-Service Members of the Armed Forces

Where possible, arrange for Branch Standards to be available for the funeral of Ex-Service Members of the Armed Forces. It is strongly recommended that RBL branches recommend to the family that they also contact the appropriate Royal Navy, Army (Regimental/Corps), or Royal Air Force association if the Branch Standard Bearer is unavailable.

Chapter 5: Suggested orders of Service

1. In all cases the following Orders of Service are suggestions only. Undertake full consultation with the clergy well in advance of the event as part of the planning process.
2. The following suggested Orders of Service are attached at the Annexes shown below:
 - Annex A — Dedication of a new branch
 - Annex B — Laying Up of old Standards
 - Annex C — Dedication of new Standards
 - Annex D — Combined Laying Up/Dedication Service
 - Annex E — Act of Remembrance, Commitment, Dedication
 - Annex F — Remembrance Sunday or 11th November service
 - Annex G — Modern suggestions
3. Only one verse of the National Anthem is normally sung. The second verse is only usually sung in the presence of the Sovereign.

Annex A to Chapter 5

Dedication of a new branch

Processional hymn

During the singing of the hymn Standards may be received at the altar.

Then shall the officiating clergy say:

Brethren, we are met together in the presence and House of God to take part in the hallowing and dedication of the Branch of the Royal British Legion and to witness thereby to the noble ideals and great purposes, inspired by Almighty God, which animate the members of RBL — such purposes being the succour of those of our brethren who are still serving in our military forces and those who have served and who have fallen out by the way of life, the care of the widows, orphans and other dependants of those who served, the fostering of brotherly love and comradeship amongst all its members, the remembrance of the ideals for which we served, and of our fellow citizens who have laid down their lives for us: and also the preservation of true loyalty and devotion to our King and country at all times, and in all places.

The first lesson:

Wisdom of Solomon (Apocrypha) 3. 1–9

- 1 *But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them.*
- 2 *In the sight of the unwise they seemed to die: and their departure is taken for misery.*
- 3 *And their going from us to be utter destruction: but they are in peace.*
- 4 *For though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality.*
- 5 *And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded: for God proved them, and found them worthy for himself.*
- 6 *As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt offering.*
- 7 *And in the time of their visitation they shall shine, and run to and fro like sparks among the stubble.*
- 8 *They shall judge the nations, and have dominion over the people, and their Lord shall reign forever.*
- 9 *They have put their trust in him shall understand the truth: and such as be faithful in love shall abide with him: for grace and mercy is to his saints, and he hath care for his elect.*

Psalm or hymn

Then shall all stand for: an act of thanksgiving

Clergy — *Let us give thanks to God that, all down the ages He has called men and women to serve Him here on earth, and has given them strength to respond to His calling. Let us thank Him for the Prophets and Heroes of the Old Testament, and for the Apostles, Martyrs and Saints of the Christian Church.*

All — *Thanks be to God.*

Clergy — *Let us thank God for those who brought the Christian faith to Britain and for all who have gone forth from these islands to other parts of the world, in the name and for the sake of Christ.*

All — *Thanks be to God.*

Clergy — *Let us thank God for all His servants, known to us or unknown, who have fought the good fight and finished their course with faith; especially for those who have laid down their lives for a free and just world.*

All — *Thanks be to God.*

Clergy — *Let us thank God. He has called us in our turn to serve Him in our time and generation: and that He gives us for an encouragement the example of the past, with the promise of His help for the future.*

All — *Thanks be to God.*

Clergy — *Wherefore seeing we also are encompassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.*

Then shall all kneel and join together in saying:

An act of repentance

O GOD our Father who has called us to Thy service, we confess that we have not always listened to Thy call; that we have often heard it and not obeyed. Forgive us, we beseech Thee, all our neglect of our duty, to Thee and to our neighbours; and help us to follow where Thou wilt lead us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The clergy shall then declare God's Promise of forgiveness:

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall all say:

The Lord's Prayer

OUR Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

Second lesson:

St Matthew 6: 24–34

- 24 *No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*
- 25 *Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*
- 32 *(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek;) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

Hymn or psalm

The address

Then shall members of the branch stand

Act of dedication

Clergy — *Let us dedicate ourselves to the service of God and our ex-Service comrades in this our own day and generation, saying together;*

Members — *O God, the Father of us all, we Thy servants desire this day to offer ourselves unto Thee for Thy service and the service of our fellows;*

Thou knowest, O Lord, our unworthiness for our task;

Take possession, we beseech Thee, of our hearts and minds, our bodies and our wills, and use us for Thyself, Let us never be unwilling to spend ourselves and be spent in Thy Service; And grant us the knowledge of Thine abiding presence with us, to help us serve Thee all the days of our life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn (During the singing the Standards will be returned)

*Eternal Father strong to save
Whose arm has bound the restless wave.
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.
O mighty Saviour, strong in power
Our soldiers shield in dangers hour
From fear and failure, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoever they go.
And guard them when they guard the right
And give them victory in the fight.
Eternal Spirit, to thy care,
We trust our men who brave the air,
Be thou their guard in daring heights
Be thou their guide in distant flights;
O hear our cry and answer prayer
For those in danger in the air.
O Trinity of might and love
Relieve and succour from above.
This world for which the Saviour died,
And grant that through the Crucified,
This world may ride to nobler things
Till Christ be crowned the King of Kings.*

All remain standing for the act of Remembrance

Exhortation

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: “We will remember them.”

Bugler sounds the “**Last Post**” (Standards Dip)

The silence

Bugler sounds “**Reveille**” (Standards return to the Carry)

The blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; Be of good courage; Hold fast that which is good;

Render to no man evil for evil; Strengthen the fainthearted; Support the weak; Help the afflicted; Honour all men; Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. Amen.

The National Anthem (Standards Dip)

*GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King.*

(Standards return to the Carry)

The Standards will precede the members of the Branch in procession following the clergy from the place of service. The congregation is requested to remain in position until the clergy and RBL members have passed.

Annex B to Chapter 5

Laying up of old Standard

Placing a Standard in the keeping of the Parish Church

Notes:

1. The Union Flag is not carried at this service.
2. Authority for Laying Up Standards. Permission for the installation of memorial tablets or plaques, and the hanging or laying up of RBL Standards, Regimental Colours and Battle Honours, their subsequent transfer or removal — comes under Church Faculty Law. This means that prior approval is necessary from the relevant church authorities. Seek approval through the local clergy. Note that Standards and Flags may, with approval, be laid up in most Protestant Churches, but it is understood that this would be unusual in Roman Catholic Churches which follow a different tradition in such matters.
3. The advice of RBL's National Chaplain is that when a RBL Standard is to be laid up in a church, remove its predecessor, if any, in advance of the ceremony. This avoids churches being overfilled with Standards, yet maintains continuity; and since permission has already been given for the original Standard, the authority for the laying up of its successor should be much simpler to obtain.

Processional hymn

During the singing of the hymn — The Standard Bearer with the Standard at the “Carry”, accompanied by two Escorts, will move forward to within six paces of the chancel steps.

The exhortation

The officiating clergy or a senior member of RBL shall recite:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: *“We will remember them.”*

Act of Remembrance

Buglers sound the **“Last Post”** (Standards Dip)

The silence

Buglers sound: **“Reveille”** (Standards return to the Carry)

The President or Chair of the branch will step forward take the Standard and hand it to the officiating clergy saying:

I commit this Sacred Standard of The Branch of the Royal British Legion to you as vicar of the Parish of For safe keeping in this Holy Church for evermore.

Clergy — *I accept the charge.*

Officiating clergy — *May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

All — *And rise in Glory.*

Hymn

Annex C to Chapter 5

Dedication of new Standard

Notes:

1. The Union Flag is not carried at this service.
2. “To dedicate” means “to set apart for some special use”. Thus a RBL Standard is “dedicated” so that it symbolises the principles and objects of RBL.
3. The Standard to be dedicated will remain furled until the officiating clergy unfurls it, just before it is dedicated.
4. While furled it will not be dipped but held at “The Order” during The National Anthem, Exhortation and Silence.

Hymn

During the singing of the hymn the Standards will process into the church and take up position. The Colour Party with the New Standard furled and at the slope will move forward towards the chancel steps.

The Exhortation

The officiating clergy or a senior member of RBL shall recite:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: “We will remember them.”

Act of Remembrance

Buglers sound the “**Last Post**” (Standards Dip)

The silence

Buglers sound: “**Reveille**” (Standards return to the Carry)

Then shall the furled Standard be delivered to the officiating clergy.

Clergy says:

BRETHREN, we are met together in the presence (and House) of God to take part in the hallowing and dedication of the Standard of the Branch of the Royal British Legion established in this place; and to witness thereby to the noble ideals and great purposes, inspired by Almighty God, which animate the members of RBL — such purposes being the succour of those of our brethren who are still serving in our military forces and those who have served and who have fallen out by the way of life, the care of the widows, orphans and other dependants of those who served, the fostering of brotherly love and comradeship amongst all its members, the remembrance of the ideals for which we served, and of our fellow citizens who have laid down their lives for us: and also the preservation of true loyalty and devotion to our King and country at all times, and in all places. To this end I call upon the members of RBL and the whole congregation here present, to offer humble prayer to Almighty God, that He will bless this Standard now to be dedicated to His Glory, and that He will inspire the members of RBL to carry out with a single heart and devoted purpose the high aims for which they are joined in fellowship.

Or alternatively

GRANT, O merciful God, that with malice towards none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as Thou givest us to see the right, we may strive to finish the task which Thou has appointed us, to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for the widow and the orphan; to do all that may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Clergy — *Our help is in the Name of the Lord. People* — *Who hath made heaven and earth.*

Clergy — *The Lord be with you.*

People — *And with thy spirit.*

The Standard Bearer, with the furled Standard at the “Slope” will come forward alone and the Standard being brought to the “Order” kneel on the right knee: the Escorts will remain at the chancel steps.

Prayers

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,

For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever. Amen.

O Lord God of our fathers, Who didst lead his people through countless sufferings, keep us, we beseech Thee, ever mindful of Thy mercy; pour Thy blessing upon the peoples over whom Thy servant Charles, our Sovereign Lord the King, is ruler; unite us in the bond of brotherhood and in the service of our country; that the offering of our life's work may be acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GRANT, we pray Thee, O Almighty God, that all we who here do honour to the memory of our brethren's loyal sacrifice, may be filled with the spirit of their love and courage, and, forgetting all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the Glory of Thy Name, and in the service of our fellow men; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The dedication of the Standard

Then shall the officiating clergy unfurl the Standard, lay his hands upon it and say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart this Standard that it may be a sign of our duty towards our King and country in the sight of God and a symbol of the service the Royal British Legion is called upon to render.

The Standard Bearer will then stand and the unfurled Standard will be taken by the officiating clergy and placed on the altar, drums or table, where it will remain until the conclusion of the service.

We yield Thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that Thou has put it into the hearts of these Thy Servants to join together in the fellowship of the Royal British Legion in this place and to desire to carry out its aims and purposes; Let Thy Fatherly hand ever be over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so guide their meetings that they may set forth Thy Glory, and help forward all the great works to which they have given themselves so that by their witness and their labours the spirit of love and comradeship among those who have served may be advanced in this place, and loyalty and devotion to King and country may be established here on a sure foundation, through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen.

Hymn

The address

Hymn

During the hymn the clergy will take the Standard and return it to the Standard Bearer who will return to join his Escorts at the chancel steps.

Blessing

The National Anthem

(Standards Dip)

*GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!*

(Standards return to the Carry)

The Standard will precede the members of RBL in procession following the clergy from the place of the service. The congregation will remain in position until the clergy and RBL members have passed.

Annex D to Chapter 5 Combined Laying Up/dedication Service

Notes:

1. The Union Flag is not carried at this service.
2. “To dedicate” means “to set apart for some special use”. Thus a RBL Standard is “dedicated” so that it symbolises the principles and objects of RBL.
3. Authority for Laying Up Standards Permission for the installation of memorial tablets or plaques, and the hanging or laying up of RBL Standards, Regimental Colours and Battle Honours, their subsequent transfer or removal — comes under Church Faculty Law. This means that prior approval is necessary from the relevant church authorities. Seek this approval through the local clergy. Note that Standards and flags may, with approval, be laid up in most Protestant Churches, but it is understood that this would be unusual in Roman Catholic Churches which follow a different tradition in such matters. The advice of RBL’s National Chaplain is that when a RBL Standard is to be laid up in a church, remove its predecessor, if any, in advance of the ceremony. This avoids churches being overfilled with Standards, yet maintains continuity; and since permission has already been given for the original Standard, the authority for the laying up of its successor should be much simpler to obtain.

4. The Standard to be dedicated will remain furled until the officiating clergy unfurls it just before it is dedicated.
5. While furled it will not be dipped but held at “The Order” during The National Anthem, Exhortation and Silence.

Hymn

During the singing of the hymn, the Standard Bearer with the old Standard at the “Carry”, accompanied by two Escorts, will move forward to within six paces of the chancel steps. He will be followed by the Branch Chair carrying the new Standard, furled, at the Slope, accompanied by Escorts.

The National Anthem

(Standards Dip)

*GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!*

(Standards return to the Carry)

At the conclusion of the National Anthem the Standard Bearer with the old Standard will move forward alone to the chancel steps, the new Standard remaining in position.

The President or Chair of the Branch will step forward, take the Standard and hand it to the officiating clergy saying:

I commit this Sacred Standard of The Branch of the Royal British Legion to you as vicar of the Parish of For safe keeping in this Holy Church for evermore.

Clergy — *I accept the charge.*

They will then take the Standard and lay it upon the altar to the left.

When the Standard has been placed upon the altar the Standard Bearer will about turn and march forward six paces. Their Escorts will turn inwards and the Standard Bearer of the new Standard will hand the new Standard to the Standard Bearer who will about turn. The Branch Chair and their two Escorts will withdraw to their seats.

Hymn

At the conclusion of this hymn, the officiating clergy, having proceeded to the chancel steps, shall say:

BRETHREN, we are met together in the presence (and House) of God to take part in the hallowing and dedication of the Standard of the Branch of the Royal British Legion established in this place; and to witness thereby to the noble ideals and great purposes, inspired by Almighty God, which animate the members of RBL — such purposes being the succour of those of our brethren who are still serving in our military forces and those who have served and who have fallen out by the way of life, the care of the widows, orphans and other dependants of those who served, the fostering of brotherly love and comradeship amongst all its members, the remembrance of the ideals for which we served, and of our fellow citizens who have laid down their lives for us: and also the preservation of true loyalty and devotion to our

King and country at all times, and in all places. To this end I call upon the members of RBL and the whole congregation here present, to offer humble prayer to Almighty God, that He will bless this Standard now to be dedicated to His Glory, and that He will inspire the members of RBL to carry out with a single heart and devoted purpose the high aims for which they are joined in fellowship.

Clergy — *Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

People — *Who hath made heaven and earth.*

Clergy — *The Lord be with you.*

People — *And with thy spirit.*

The Standard Bearer, with the Standard at the “Slope”, will come forward alone and the Standard being brought to the “Order” kneel on the right knee: The Escorts will remain at the chancel steps.

Prayers

*OUR Father, which art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever.*

Amen.

O Lord God of our fathers, Who didst lead his people through countless sufferings, keep us, we beseech Thee, ever mindful of Thy mercy; pour Thy blessing upon the peoples over whom Thy servant King Charles, our Sovereign Lord the King, is ruler; unite us in the bond of brotherhood and in the service of our country; that the offering of our life's work may be acceptable to Thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRANT, we pray Thee, O Almighty God. That all we who here do honour to the memory of our brethren's loyal sacrifice, may be filled with the spirit of their love and courage, and, forgetting all selfish and unworthy aims, may live together to the Glory of Thy Name, and in the service of our fellow-men; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The dedication of the Standard

Then shall the officiating clergy unfurl the Standard, lay their hands upon it and say:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate and set apart this Standard that it may be a sign of our duty towards our King and Country in the sight of God and a symbol of the service the Royal British Legion is called upon to render.

The Standard Bearer will then stand and the unfurled Standard will be taken by the officiating clergy and placed on the altar, drums or table, where it will remain until the conclusion of the service.

We yield Thee hearty thanks most merciful Father, that Thou has put it into the hearts of these Thy Servants to join together in the fellowship of the Royal British Legion in this place and to desire to carry out its aims and purposes; Let Thy Fatherly hand ever be over them, let Thy Holy Spirit ever be with them, and so guide their meetings that they may set forth Thy Glory, and help forward all the great works to which they have given themselves so that by their witness and their labours the spirit of love and comradeship among those who have served may be advanced in this place, and loyalty and devotion to King and country may be established here on a sure foundation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

During the singing of this hymn a collection may be taken. The Standard Bearer and Escorts will return to their seats.

The address Hymn

During the singing of this hymn the Standard Bearer will return to the chancel steps. The officiating clergy will take the new Standard and return it to the Standard Bearer, who will remain with the Escorts at the chancel steps

The exhortation

The officiating clergy or a senior member of RBL shall recite:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: “We will remember them.”

Buglers sound the “**Last Post**” (Standards dip)

The silence

Buglers sound: **“Reveille”** (Standards return to the Carry)

Officiating Clergy — *May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.*

All — *And rise in Glory.*

Hymn

The blessing

The Standard will precede the members of RBL in procession following the clergy from the place of the service. The congregation will remain in position until the clergy and RBL members have passed.

Annex E to Chapter 5

Act of Remembrance, commitment, dedication

Notes:

1. This procedure may be used at a war memorial, in church or chapel before or after any service, or during the services on Remembrance Sunday or 11th November. It may be appropriate for the rededication of a refurbished war memorial.
2. The essential elements of the Act of Remembrance are the Exhortation, the Placing of the Wreath and the Silence. If practicable, it is also desirable to have the Last Post and the Reveille, preferably sounded by a bugler or trumpeter or a recording of these. In deciding the sequence it is also important to consider the demands made on Standard Bearers who should not have to Dip and Carry the Standard several times.
3. Bearing all these variations and considerations in mind, the following procedure is recommended, subject to agreement with the officiating clergy. We recognise that the spirit of the Act of Remembrance is more important than the format, and modification may have to be made depending on local conditions and resources.

Act of Remembrance

Hymn

“O Valiant Hearts” (which may be split, singing three verses at the beginning, and the fourth verse at the end).

Prayer

“Let us commemorate and commend to the loving mercy of our Heavenly Father, the Shepherd of Souls, the Giver of Life Everlasting, those who have died in the service of our country and its cause.”

Names

The names of those to be commemorated by name may be read.

The exhortation

The officiating clergy or a senior member of RBL shall recite:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: *“We will remember them.”*

Buglers sound the **“Last Post”** (Standards Dip)

The silence

Buglers sound: **“Reveille”** (Standards return to the Carry).

Note: Where a lone piper plays “The Lament” Standards will remain at the Dip throughout and return to the carry on first note of Reveille.

The placing of the wreath(s)

(If there are a large number of wreaths to be laid, bring the Standards to the “Order” before the wreaths are laid.)

Commitment

We pledge ourselves anew to our work in support of the wartime generations and to all those in other conflicts since. We promise to do everything possible to help where there is a need, and to ensure that they may enjoy the years that lie ahead in comfort and dignity and contentment.

Dedication

The Dedication may be either:

*When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today
(Kohima Epitaph)*

or

The Legion of the Living salutes the Legion of the Dead.

Response: *“We will not break faith with you.”*

Prayer

Remember, O Lord, all those who have died the death of honour and are departed in the hope of resurrection to Eternal Life, especially the Officers, Men and Women of our Sea, Land and Air Forces, to whom it was given to lay down their lives for the cause of Freedom and Justice. In that place of light, whence sorrow and mourning are far vanished, give them rest, O Lord, the Lover of Men. Grant this for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Hymn

Last verse "O Valiant Hearts."

Annex F to Chapter 5 Remembrance Sunday or 11th November service

The Act of Remembrance may precede this service if preferred.

If a large number of Standards are present it may be preferred that only nominated Standards are presented at the altar/drumhead, with the remaining being retained by the Standard Bearers.

Hymn

(During the singing of the hymn the designated Standard Bearer(s) will move forward to the chancel steps if the service is in church, or the piled drums or table if at an open air service. Then shall the Standards be delivered to the Chaplain or officiating clergy.)

Readings

THE souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there shall no torment touch them; in the sight of the unwise they seemed to die, but they are in peace.
Wisdom 3, 1–2

AND God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.
Revelations 21, 4

HE that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
Revelations 21, 7

Then shall all join together in saying:

An Act Of Repentance

O GOD our Father Who has called us to Thy service, we confess that we have not always listened to Thy call; that we have often heard it and not obeyed. Forgive us, we beseech Thee, all our neglect of our duty, to Thee and to our neighbours and help us to follow where Thou wilt lead us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The clergy shall then declare God's promise of forgiveness.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then shall all say:

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, which art in Heaven Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil,
For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, Forever and ever. Amen.*

Psalm or hymn

Then shall be read for the LESSON one of the following passages:

Wisdom 3. 1–9; Matthew 5. 3–12; John 15. 9–17; Colossians 3. 12–17; Revelations 21. 1–7

Psalm or hymn

Let us pray

O Lord, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King Charles; and so replenish him with the grace of Thy Holy Spirit, that he may always incline to Thy will, and walk in Thy way; Endue him plentifully with heavenly gifts; grant him in health and wealth long to live; strengthen him that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies and finally, after this life, that he may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who alone givest wisdom and understanding; inspire, we pray Thee, the hearts of all to whom Thou has committed the responsibility of government in the nations of the world. Give to them the vision of truth and justice, teach them to know how best to temper justice with mercy that by their counsels the nations may work together in true brotherhood, and Thy Church throughout the world may serve Thee in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, who by the suffering and death of Thy Son hast shown us that the path of honour may lead us to the Cross and that the reward for faithfulness may be a crown of thorns; help us at this time to learn these hard lessons: give to all who are united with us in the love of liberty such courage and devotion that with dauntless hearts and dedicated will we may fulfil the task entrusted to us: and grant that, laying aside all hatred and bitterness, we may pass through suffering and sacrifice to victory over all the powers of evil, through Him who died and rose again, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GRANT, O merciful God, that with malice towards none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as Thou givest us to see the right, we may strive to finish the task which Thou has appointed us, to bind up the nation's wounds to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for the widow and the orphan; to do all that may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O LORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life until the shades lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in Thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Who has given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, Thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn Address Hymn

(During the singing of this hymn a collection may be taken for the Poppy Appeal) Reception of Standards by Standard Bearers.)

The Exhortation

The officiating clergy or a senior member of RBL shall recite:

*“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.”*

Response: *“We will remember them.”*

Buglers sound the **“Last Post”** (Standards Dip)

The silence

Buglers sound: **“Reveille”** (Standards return to the Carry)

Note: Where a lone piper plays “The Lament” Standards will remain at the Dip throughout and return to the Carry on first note of Reveille.

Blessing

The National Anthem

(Standards Dip)

*GOD save our gracious King,
Long live our noble King,
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!*

(Standards return to the Carry)

Annex G to Chapter 5 Modern suggestions

It is emphasised that this service is only recommended and does not have to be rigidly adhered to. It is not necessary to use the format in its entirety, although you may wish to use certain parts within your current Order of Service.

An Order of Service for Remembrance Sunday

Churches together in Britain and Ireland gathering

All gather in silence

The presiding minister reads one or more of the following sentences:

*God is our refuge and strength;
a very present help in trouble.*
Psalm 46.1

*I lift up my eyes to the hills —
from whence will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.*
Psalm 721.1–2

*This I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning.*
Lamentations 3.21–23

*Those who wait for the Lord shall renew
their strength, they shall mount up with
wings like eagles, they shall run and not
be weary they shall walk and not faint.*
Isaiah 40.31

*What does the Lord require of you but
to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*
Micah 6.8

The presiding minister continues:

*We meet in the presence of God.
We commit ourselves to work
in penitence and faith for reconciliation between the nations,
that all people may, together, live in freedom, justice and peace.*

*We pray for all who in bereavement,
disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror.
We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives,
in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.*

Remembering

An older person says:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.*

A younger person may reply:

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
we will remember them.*

All affirm:

*We will remember them.
The beginning of the two-minute silence may be signalled*

Silence

The completion of the silence may be signalled

The following prayer is said:

*Ever-living God
we remember those whom you have
gathered from the storm of war into
the peace of your presence;
may that same peace calm our fears,
bring justice to all peoples
and establish harmony among the nations,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

The following hymn, or another that similarly expresses hope in God and trust for the future, may be sung:

*O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come, our
shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;*

*Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends
the night before the rising sun.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten,
as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.*

Listening for the word from God

The reader says:

Hear these words from the New Testament

Either one or more of the following are read:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.
Do not let your hearts be troubled,
and do not let them be afraid.*
John 14:27

*The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield,
full of mercy and good fruits, with a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.
And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*
James 3:77–78

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you,
that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.*
7 John 7:5

or the following is read:

*When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he sat down his disciples came to him.
Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against
you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”*
Matthew 5:1–12

Praying together

Prayer is led:

Let us pray for all who suffer as a result of conflict, and ask that God may give us peace:

*for the service men and women who have died in the violence of war, each one remembered
by and known to God;*

May God give peace

God give peace

for those who love them in death as in life, offering the distress of our grief and the sadness of our loss;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all members of the armed forces who are in danger this day, remembering family, friends and all who pray for their safe return;

May God give peace

God give peace

for civilian women, children and men whose lives are disfigured by war or terror, calling to mind in penitence the anger and hatreds of humanity;

May God give peace

God give peace

for peace-makers and peace-keepers, who seek to keep this world secure and free;

May God give peace

God give peace

for all who bear the burden and privilege of leadership, political, military and religious; asking for gifts of wisdom and resolve in the search for reconciliation and peace.

May God give peace

God give peace

O God of truth and justice,

we hold before you those whose memory we cherish and those whose names we will never know

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope now and for ever.

Amen.

All join together in the Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen*

Responding in hope and commitment

Representative and other members of the public come forward to lay wreaths, light candles or offer other symbols of Remembrance and hope, such as single flowers or crosses.

The Kohima Epitaph is said:

*When you go home
tell them of us and say,
for your tomorrow we gave our today.*

A hymn may be sung

The act of commitment is made:

Let us commit ourselves to responsible living and faithful service.

*Will you strive for all that makes for peace?
We will
Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?
We will
Will you work for a just future for all humanity?
We will
Merciful God, we offer to you the fears in us that have not yet been cast out by love:
May we accept the hope you have placed in the hearts of all people,
And live lives courage and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Redeemer.
Amen*

The National Anthem(s) are sung

The following blessing is used:

*God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth
[or to the Church, the State] and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's
servants, life everlasting.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you all and remain with
you always.
Amen*



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