

Minutes from: Newent and District Branch of The Royal British Legion

Meeting held 28 April 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Keith Urch Helen Axon Rick Axon Elaine Balding Susan Urch Simon Mason Pat Phillips Colin Calcutt Tom Heseltine John Price Pat Price David Sass Mary Curtis	Chairman Deputy Chairman, BCS Rep, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary Treasurer Entertainments & Bar Member Raffle Coordinator Padre Deputy Padre
<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> <p>The Chairman Opened the Meeting at 1900 hrs and welcomed everyone to the Memorial Hall. He asked if we could spare a moment of thought for those who could not be with us tonight and those that were feeling under the weather especially the family of Lionel Buckland who sadly passed away this week (The members present were informed by JP that Lionel's funeral will take place at Aston Ingham Church on 2 May 2022 starting at 2pm). He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of May and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.</p>	
<u>2. Apologies</u> <p>Apologies had been received from Graham Barton, Adrian Dover, Tom Axon, Dave Pollock and Terry Weaver.</p>	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> <p>Good evening and welcome, I hope you are all well and looking forward to summer, once again even with so many apologies it is lovely to see so many of you here tonight.</p> <p>I'm going to start my report with an update to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations:</p> <u>3.a. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations update – 2-5 June 2022</u> <p>On 13 April 2022, Keith, Graham, Simon and I attended the 3rd meeting to discuss the arrangements for the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations taking place over the long weekend of 2-5 June 2022. After much discussion the itinerary stayed pretty much the same as the March meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thursday 2 Jun 22: Reading of the Proclamation and Raising of the Union flag.	

- **Friday 3 Jun 22:** Afternoon Cream Tea and Dance at the Memorial Hall (2 – 4:30pm), including appropriate music – Free event, with a toast to Her Majesty at 4pm. Our parade Marshall has volunteered to parade the standard for the Loyal Toast.
- **Saturday 4 Jun 22:** Picnic by the Lake (11:30 – 4pm), bring your own Picnic, the Bandstand will be playing music throughout the afternoon, there will be a free Pig Roast and Scones. There will also be a Magician and Children’s entertainers throughout the day. Free Parking will be in force for the day and the National Anthem will be played at 3:30pm.
- **Sunday 5 Jun 22:** Parade and Service – Uniformed Parade will assemble from 10am outside St Mary’s Church, stepping off 10:10 – 10:15am to arrive at the main carpark by 10:25am, the Service will be open air and last approximately 1 hour (10:30 – 11:30am).

The final meeting is scheduled for 17 May 2022, to finalise the itinerary, once again I will keep you updated on all the weekend arrangements.

3.b. County BCS Training Course 11 June 2022

The County have finally sent out a course date for BCS training, which will be on 11 June 2022 at Stoke Gifford Parish community hall between 9:30 – 12pm. I have applied to attend but still awaiting a reply to see if I have a place, unfortunately the MSO went on leave as soon as he sent out the Training notification, I will await his return.

3.c. Branch Committee Positions

As I’ve mentioned previously, the branch is looking for a Secretary to join the committee. The Secretary is a mandatory requirement of maintaining a branch. If a Secretary is not found then in all likelihood our branch would be amalgamated with another branch or disbanded, and I have also decided to standdown at this years AGM, so if anyone would like to take on the Chairman’s role I would be happy to show you the ropes. So please if you have any thoughts or suggestions on recruiting a Secretary or Chairman please let me know.

Finally

Don’t forget that as normal if anyone needs help in any way at all please do not hesitate to get in contact, and if we can help, we will.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record this was proposed by SM and Seconded by RA and agreed unanimously by all those present. The only Matter Arising was item 5.c. Treasurers Report and is covered in today’s report.

5. Reports by Officers

5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support

We remain mindful of our friends and colleagues that are suffering ill health, caring for other family members and friends.

We remember in particular past member, Lionel Buckland of Glebe Close who recently passed away: our thoughts and prayers are extended to all family members. More information of funeral arrangements will be available in due course.

You are constantly reminded that your Branch is here to support you and your family; you only need to contact one of the Committee.

5.a.1. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer

TRBL HQ staff have now returned to their respective offices and levels of communications are much improved. Your BCS representative has repeatedly contacted our MSO (Membership Support Officer), Seamus Brennan (SBrennan@britishlegion.org.uk), requesting further information wrt BCS training and safeguarding programmes.

Notice was received yesterday by our Chairman, providing all Branches with a date for training, Saturday, 11th June, in Stoke Gifford, Bristol.

5.a.2. Welfare and Membership

TRBL continues with its Strategic Review: more information should be available in the near future.

5.a.2.a. Welfare

We continue to aid and support our members and veterans, in the first instant, by signposting them to the National RBL Helpline.

The National RBL Helpline telephone number is: 0808 802 8080

The Veteran's Gateway:

https://support.veteransgateway.org.uk/app/answers/detail/a_id/127/~/the-royal-british-legion

Be assured that we will continue to utilise our local knowledge and contacts to support our members.

5.a.2.b. Branch Membership

In accordance with TRBL records, Branch Membership remains at 45 members.

Members are again reminded that should they experience difficulty in renewing their membership, they may contact your BCS representative.

5.a.3. Branch Statistics

The Branch has not been presented with any new formal requests for support this period, although once again, members have kindly provided various levels of support to their colleagues and friends.

In the event that members identify a comrade in need, they are encouraged to contact their BCS Representatives at the earliest convenience.

Branch Statistics for this period are therefore as follows:

Total Number of Welfare visits:	8
How many beneficiaries "visited":	3
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters):	4
Total Welfare Expenditure:	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	

Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	10
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called:	3
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	5

In addition, to the above, a small number of email communications were made during this period.

5.a.4. Youth Liaison

Communications have continued between Newent Community School, Glos Constabulary (PCSOs) and certain businesses regarding anti-social behaviour reported by a couple of members. We have received assurances that those young people involved have been reprimanded and, in some cases, excluded from The School. Glos Constabulary are continuing with their surveillance activities and working closely with the new Head of School.

5.a.5. Community Liaison

With the exception of arrangements for the forthcoming Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in conjunction with Newent Town Council, the Newent Initiative Trust and the Youth Action Group, the majority of general business continues to be conducted via email and telephone.

For further information relating to other HQ/Branch communications and activities, please see your chairman's and other Representative Reports.

5.a.6. Other Branch Information

5.a.6.a. Branch Communications OS365

Your representative is currently awaiting TRBL HQ links to be reinstated but anticipates that this will be in the coming days.

5.a.6.b. Branch Bank Accounts

Your representative has completed the appropriate information and in conjunction with The Chairman and Treasurer, is now a signatory on the Branch Accounts.

5.b. Treasurer

Treasurer's Report for April 2022.

No expenditure or Income this month.

Total in the current Account £1207.48

Today I received confirmation from Barclays that the Mandate Change has been accepted. I can now apply for an "authentication card" in order to access and monitor the account in future.

As mentioned at the last meeting, I intend to raise a cheque for the amount of £22.14 to the Poppy Appeal fund. This is to return the money sent to us by HM Courts for the theft of the poppy box some years ago.

5.c. Padre

5.c.1. Local Ukrainian Refugee Effort

The Branch Padre briefly explained what the latest idea's with respect to any Ukrainian Refugees who get placements in the Newent & District area:

“Newent and Area Ukrainian Hub is a new collaborative venture between local churches, schools and community organisations.

The aim is to support Ukrainian refugees and their hosts throughout the process from host registration to refugee arrivals and during their stay.

The area covered is roughly within a five-mile radius of Newent.

For more information and to get involved please supply your contact details to:

St Mary’s Church

Telephone: 01531 821641

Or use the contact form at: stmarysnewent.org/contact”

5.d. Entertainments and Bar Member

Thanks to everyone who turned up for this month’s Skittles practise. Events Scheduled for the rest of this year are:

- **May Skittles** – 7pm on Wednesday 11th May at the Circle Club. (Free Chips included, I must know the numbers going and who wants chips by Monday 9th May).
- **June Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
- Proposed visit to **Matara** (matara.co.uk) - Date to be confirmed.
 - Matara is a grade II listed Regency home. 14 acres of natural habitat, protecting and encouraging diverse wildlife. Those 14 acres now have a life of their own, continually increasing in richness and natural diversity. You will find woodlands, wetlands, flower meadows and hedgerows.
 - Members will have to make their own travel and lunch arrangements.
 - I will contact them and arrange a visit (probably 2nd week of June) if there is enough interest, please let RA know if you are interested in attending by 9th May 2022.
- **July Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
- **Branch BBQ** – PM 6 August 2022 by kind permission of SU & KU.
- **August Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
- **September Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
 - Afternoon/Cream tea – Trioscape - Date to be confirmed.
- **October Skittles** – Date to be confirmed
 - Cheese and Wine - after AGM 27 October 2022.
- **November Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
 - Social in Cobblers - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).
- **December Skittles** - Date to be confirmed.
 - Branch Christmas Meal - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).

Due to the high cost of transport and fuel caused by previous and current world events I won’t be planning any long-distance trips this year, However I will be looking to see what we may be able to do fairly locally, suggestions are welcome.

The Entertainments member also stated that he still had several Branch mugs available to sell at £5 each and that if anyone wanted a Branch T-Shirt with the new RBL branding on please let him know, Rick needs a minimum

<p>order of 8, please email with sizes. Entertainments Member email for contact: rick@axon.org.uk</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. PP & JP thanked everyone for all their kind thoughts and wishes during their recent illness.</p> <p>6.b. The Raffle Coordinator asked if anyone has any unwanted gifts, she would welcome any donations to help with the selection of raffle prizes.</p> <p>6.c. The BCS Rep gave a brief synopsis of the latest information given by the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund (RAFBF) to help ease financial hardship for Serving and ex-members of the Royal Air Force (RAF). If anyone would like to know more with regards to this service the information will be attached to these minutes.</p> <p>6.d. The Chairman read out the invitation from Newent Town Council (NTC) with regards attendance numbers for both the Afternoon Cream Tea on Friday 3 June and the Uniformed Parade on Sunday 5 June 2022. The full invitation will be attached to these minutes. If anyone is interested in attending either/or/both of these events, could they please let the chairman know by Monday 2 May 2022, so that approximate numbers can be sent in.</p> <p>6.e. DS mentioned that it is the 25th Onion Fayre this year on 10 September 2022, the Onion Fayre committee have asked if the Newent & District Branch of the RBL would assist in organising the opening parade and also take an active part in the parade to include the standard.</p> <p>After some discussion it was agreed that the branch would advise on parade etiquette and protocols, the chairman asked that the Onion Fayre Committee send a formal invite with details of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Onion Fayre Comte. DS</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 26 May 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 20:00 hrs.</p>	<p>All</p>

Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 26 May 2022

1. Act of Remembrance.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising.
5. Reports by Officers.
6. Any Other Business.
7. Date of Next Meeting.