



Royal British Legion Minchinhampton Branch
www.britishlegion.org/branches/minchinhampton
Annual General Meeting 3rd October 2018 – 7.30pm – The Cotswold Club

Item	Minutes																														
1	Act of Homage – Mr Roger Sims – Reflection – Mr Simon Ritter																														
2	<p>Roll call</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Mrs J Broad</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Mr I Clements</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Mr C Hooker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr K Lander</td> <td>Mrs S Palmer</td> <td>Mr G Palmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr C Riggs</td> <td>Mr D Russell</td> <td>Miss P Selway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs H Sims</td> <td>Mr R Sims</td> <td>Mr P Wood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr S Ritter</td> <td>Mr P Hayward</td> <td>Mrs S Hayward</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Apologies:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr W Allen</td> <td>Mrs C Gooch</td> <td>Mr N Gooch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr I Hartley</td> <td>Mrs K Lander</td> <td>Mr I Lloyd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr G Robbins</td> <td>Mrs R Robbins</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Mrs J Broad	Mr I Clements	Mr C Hooker	Mr K Lander	Mrs S Palmer	Mr G Palmer	Mr C Riggs	Mr D Russell	Miss P Selway	Mrs H Sims	Mr R Sims	Mr P Wood	Mr S Ritter	Mr P Hayward	Mrs S Hayward	Apologies:			Mr W Allen	Mrs C Gooch	Mr N Gooch	Mr I Hartley	Mrs K Lander	Mr I Lloyd	Mr G Robbins	Mrs R Robbins				
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3	<p>Chairman’s Opening Remarks:</p> <p>The Chairman made everyone welcome and proceeded to the formal meeting. The agenda is as published. No items have been put forward by members.</p>																														
4	<p>Adoption of Minutes of the 2017 AGM:</p> <p>Minutes have been circulated – Proposed: Mr D Russell; Seconded: Mr C Riggs. All in favour - none against. Minutes accepted as true record.</p>																														
5	<p>Matters arising from previous minutes:</p> <p>None</p>																														
6	<p>Chairman’s Report:</p> <p>The AGM is always a time for reflection of the preceding 12 Months. Uppermost in our minds is the passing of our President Ken Bucknell on 11th February. He was always proactive and dedicated many years to the Branch and I for one learned so much from him. During my tenure as Chairman he was always supportive and wise. His tales and cheeky smile I am sure are remembered by us all. His funeral on the 24th of March was well attended. I received the following email from his daughter Carol:</p> <p>“Thank you so much for a lovely tribute to Dad yesterday, it was much appreciated. I think everything went well, and that we made him proud (as we were of him). It was good to see so many people at the Golf Club afterwards, and to have the opportunity to chat with many of Dad’s friends. There will be a big gap in our lives, but we have some lovely memories.</p> <p>Kind regards Carol & family”</p> <p>Other passings were Stella Fenton, John Birtwistle and Richard Howell.</p> <p>On Friday November 10th last myself and several members attended Minchinhampton Primary School morning assembly which was themed around “Remembrance”. We paraded the Branch standard and one of their teachers played the last post and Reveille. The Head teacher Nick Moss is very keen to involve the RBL as part of the children’s education and to this end they read poems, sang and</p>																														

	<p>gave interactive presentations. Paul Hayward gave a talk about the origins of the poppy and its relevance to remembrance. He had them eating out of his hand and I was convinced he had been a teacher in a former life!</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday saw the usual gathering at the cross following the church service which was held at the school due to Holy Trinity being re ordered. Following the service at the Cross a poppy cross was placed on the graves of the fallen in the churchyard. There followed, an excellent lunch at the Kitchen.</p> <p>During the year we were entertained at Branch meetings by a diversity of guest speaker namely:</p> <p>Paul Hayward's very enjoyable reflections of his and Sandra's visit to the Falklands – sadly for me I was not at that meeting.</p> <p>Di Wall on local history – always well received</p> <p>James Baker “Life as an Undertaker” which proved there is a humorous side to almost anything.</p> <p>Maxine Relton an artist living in Horsley who regaled us with an insight into Water Colouring and her themed holiday tours to India in support of local Indian communities.</p> <p>Anne Malloy – The Art of Belly dancing. The talk and demonstration were fascinating and caused considerable mirth watching the embarrassment of skittle players trying to transit the lounge. My only concern was whether we would need the defibulator for Charles Hooker!</p> <p>Social events included a Skittles evening and a Dinner at Sophie's restaurant. We also hosted an advice and Information Coffee morning which proved very successful. This was well advertised in advance and we could have hoped for a slightly better attendance. We hope to repeat this event in the future.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the planned trip to Luxembourg had to be cancelled due to not achieving sufficient numbers to make it financially viable. We had commitment from 15 members but in spite of advertising widely outside our membership we failed to attain the 20 needed. This was the second year running where we had to cancel for the same reason. As you will appreciate, not only a considerable amount of work goes into organisation, but we also have to weather the disappointment of those who had committed. Watch this space for next year.</p> <p>The summer saw our annual BBQ, most excellently hosted by Paul and Sandra - the weather was excellent apart from one short sharp shower. Food and drink were in abundance and we all had a very good time. The Branch poppy appeal benefitted by £234.</p> <p>Sadly, in common with many other Branches, we have a declining membership. It is also a concern that some of our meetings are poorly attended especially as we arrange such a wide variety of guest speakers and that we only meet every other month. It often appears that it is the same members who make the effort every time. Although I am well aware that sickness and holidays often imping on attendance, there are some members we rarely see. If anyone is aware of another member who has difficulties with transport or needs a bit of encouragement, please let a member of the committee know.</p> <p>The refurbishment of the club is due to take several months, and I ask for your tolerance if our meetings are disturbed by club members transiting this lounge as it is currently the only access to other parts of the club.</p> <p>Lastly, I would like to thank you our members for your support. We are blessed with a hardworking and effective committee who devote considerable time to the running of the Branch.</p>
7	<p>Secretary's report & Correspondence:</p> <p>Since the last AGM I have reported the changes with the Area Office. Angela Jarvis our Membership Support Officer is now the new Advice & Information Team Leader in Bristol which left a hole for a while. Emma Shepperd is our new MSO and I am</p>

	<p>hopeful that we will get our membership to meet with her in the New Year. A vacancy has arisen on the County Committee for a new vice-chairman and tonight the membership will be asked to vote on this on a special agenda item.</p> <p>We held our first Advice and Information Coffee Morning which proved very successful and hope to do more in the coming year. We hope that Alan and Kyle from Worcestershire Area will come again.</p> <p>We are still awaiting training for the Branch Community Support, but our team has dealt with some referrals.</p> <p>As you will have seen in the Legion Magazine GP90 was a great success which will never be repeated again.</p> <p>Our membership is showing 57 but I know due to the changes this year in the collection method that we will possibly lose a few more. Sadly, due to the age of the membership this will still continue to decline. As we have mentioned already it with sadness that we have lost John Birtwistle, Ken Bucknell, Stella Fenton and Richard Howell along with Eileen Smith a former member. May they rest in peace but never be forgotten.</p> <p>It is with much appreciation on my part for the continued support of all the Committee but more importantly the membership as a whole. I say thank you to all of you.</p>						
8	<p>Treasurer's Report, Presentation and adoption of accounts:</p> <p>Branch account for year ending 30th June 2018 has been cleared through audit and detail provided to members for review and comment. Approved account submitted to Head Office in August 2018.</p> <p>Treasurer's observations on the year as follows:</p> <p>Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership receipts down substantially on previous year • Raffles at Branch meetings continue to be good source of income • Members skittles evening well supported and boost to funds as anticipated • Branch awareness event unexpected source of income <p>Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationery, postage and printing continues to be a high expense for the Branch, although this does include for birthday cards, and publication and distribution of newsletters and meeting documentation • Minimal payment made to speakers as most waived their fee this year • Purchase of projection screen which will remain a Branch asset along with the projector and PA system purchased in previous years • Donation made to NMA <p>Branch Fund Summary</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Total income for year to 30th June 2018</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£495.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total expenditure for year to 30th June 2018</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£518.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INCREASE / DECREASE IN BRANCH FUNDS</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>-£23.26</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>Branch continues to maintain a healthy fund balance, currently £2,334.41 as at 30th June 2018.</p> <p>The accounts had been previously circulated. The membership was asked for adoption of these accounts. Proposed by Mr K Lander and Seconded by Mrs J Broad. The membership was unanimous in adopting these accounts.</p>	Total income for year to 30 th June 2018	£495.00	Total expenditure for year to 30 th June 2018	£518.26	INCREASE / DECREASE IN BRANCH FUNDS	<u>-£23.26</u>
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9	<p>Poppy Organiser's Report:</p>						

	<p>The 2017/18 Poppy Appeal year was given a good start in October 2017 thanks to a small team of runners from Acorn Powell who joined in the Poppy Run at Cheltenham Race Course. The company donated £250 to the Branch Poppy Appeal for the privilege of burning off some excess energy on a bright, crisp Sunday morning.</p> <p>Collections during the Poppy Appeal period leading up to Remembrance Sunday raised an incredible £4,450. My thanks go to all those involved in collecting door to door in Minchinhampton and Box, and in the street on the last weekend of the period. Thanks also to all our local businesses that do a great job in promoting our cause amongst their staff, visitors and customers.</p> <p>I would also ask that, at this time, to spare a thought for the families of our colleagues who have passed away this year, and who, despite their own grief at their loss, have graciously provided us with a legacy from their loved ones. This includes our President Mr Ken Bucknell who was a guiding light to our Branch for many years.</p> <p>The member's barbeque in August was a success with good company and food to help make the occasion run smoothly. The event raised £234 for the Branch Poppy Appeal.</p> <p>At the end of September 2018, excluding any Gift Aid contributions, the Branch Poppy Appeal stood at £5671.28 which is a very good finishing total for the Branch. As this year commemorates the 100th centenary of the ending of WW1, the 2018/19 Poppy Appeal will commence with a Concert on Friday 9th November 2018, featuring the Stuart Singers, supported by the Minchinhampton School choir and the local Scouts.</p> <p>The Poppy Appeal period leading up to Remembrance Sunday will again see collectors out on the door steps around the area and there will be collections in local businesses and in the street.</p>
10	<p>Election of Officers and Committee Members:</p> <p>Chairman – Roger Sims Vice-Chair – Ian Lloyd Secretary - Sandra Hayward Treasurer – Paul Hayward Committee Members, Pamela Selway, Jenny Broad and Ian Hartley BCS Officer – Simon Ritter</p> <p>Standard Bearer – Darrell Russell – Poppy Appeal Organiser – Paul Hayward</p> <p>There being no change in the Committee, no other proposals had been received, the Membership unanimously all agreed to all accept all the appointments.</p>
11	<p>Appointment of Delegates for County/District Conference and Annual Conference:</p> <p>No appointments were made, the Committee will now decide who, if any will be our representation at these Conferences</p>
12	<p>Remembrance Sunday 11th November</p> <p>Full details will be circulated to membership in due course</p>
13	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>As mentioned above a vacancy has arisen on the County Committee for a new Vice-Chairman. The two names which have been put forward were Mr. John Maloney</p>

	<p>and Mr Simon Wilson. Correspondence had been circulated to membership before the meeting with copies of the CV's for each nominee. Ballot forms were handed to each of the membership present, no nominations had previously been received from membership. Each member was asked to vote. The outcome of the vote was in favour of Mr John Maloney. The Branch Chairman signed the Ballot Paper to be returned to the MSO in compliance with the time constraints.</p> <p>Mrs H Sims advised that there will be a waterfall display in the Lady Chapel at Gloucester Cathedral during Remembrance tide.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Date of next meeting and Programme for 2019:</p> <p>To be advised as Secretary awaiting confirmation of dates from Cotswold Club</p>