

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

Meeting held 24 February 2022 at the Memorial Hall

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Post</u>
Richard Balding Keith Urch Helen Axon Graham Barton Rick Axon Adrian Dover Elaine Balding Susan Urch Pat Phillips Colin Calcutt Jonathan Miles Tom Heseltine Dave Pollock	Chairman Deputy Chairman, BCS Representative, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary Treasurer Parade Marshal Entertainments & Bar Member Raffle Coordinator Deputy Padre
<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<u>1. Act of Remembrance</u> 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 John Celino who was coping with family illness. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of March and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.	
<u>2. Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from Simon Mason, John Celino, David Sass, Sue Colborne, Viv Miles, Jim & Helen Powell, Pat & John Price, Tom Axon and Mary Curtis	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> Good evening, everyone I hope you are all well and gearing up for the warmer weather to come. It is still quiet at National, County and Branch, so a really short report from me tonight: <u>Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – 2-5 June 2022</u> Several members of the branch committee were invited to attend a Newent Town Council (NTC) meeting on the 8 February, to discuss the proposed plans for this year's Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations taking place over the long weekend of 2-5 June 2022. Those in attendance from our branch were: Dep Chairman, Padre, Parade Marshal and myself, between us I believe we contributed to the proposed overall programme of events, which NTC will be publicising once all the ducks are in a row, so look out on local media publications and websites for latest updates, but once the final weekend line up is known, we'll let everyone know.	

<p><u>Branch Practice Skittles – 10 February 2022</u></p> <p>Thank you to our Entertainments member for organising this event, let's face it we need the practice! Well, I do, as I came last? It was really nice to see a couple of new faces to the area Dinger and Jayne Bell, who although they said it was their first-time playing Skittles appeared to be naturals. I'm sure Rick will let you know more about the night and the next game in February during his report. It goes without saying that it would be good to see as many of you at the next game, just so we can get a larger number of people beating me as possible.</p> <p><u>Branch Committee Positions</u></p> <p>On a serious note, you all know, the branch is once again looking for a new Secretary in order to keep the branch from closing, for the branch to survive it needs at a bare minimum a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer with no exception and I stated at the AGM that I would be standing down as Chairman at the next AGM in October, so the Branch is looking in a perilous position unless we get some interest in taking the branch in to the future. So please let me know any thoughts or suggestions.</p> <p><u>Finally</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Ents Member</p> <p>All</p>
<p><u>4. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record and was agreed unanimously. There were no Matters Arising not covered in other reports.</p>	
<p><u>5. Reports by Officers</u></p> <p><u>5.a. Deputy Chairman/Membership/Youth Liaison/Branch Community Support</u></p> <p>We are continually mindful of our friends and colleagues that are suffering ill health and caring for other family members. Members are reminded that your Branch is here to support you and your family; you only need to contact one of the Committee.</p> <p>Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer</p> <p>TRBL HQ staff are continuing to return to their respective offices albeit levels of communications remain restricted. We are assured by our new MSO (Membership Support Officer), Seamus Brennan (SBrennan@britishlegion.org.uk), that communications at all levels will improve during the coming weeks.</p> <p>Welfare and Membership</p> <p>It has been reported that TRBL HQ continues with its Strategic Review, development and rollout of Branch training programmes.</p> <p>Welfare</p> <p>We shall 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:</p>	

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.

Branch Membership

The Branch Membership now stands at 44 members, a reduction of two members from last month's report. Members are reminded that should they experience difficulty in renewing their membership, they may contact your BCS representative.

Branch Statistics

The Branch has not been presented with any new formal requests for support this period, although 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	6
How many beneficiaries "visited"	2
How many visitors (Branch Community Supporters)	2
Total Welfare Expenditure	NIL
Telephone Buddies:	
Total Number of Calls made by Branch Executive	6
Telephone – How many beneficiaries called	2
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	4

In addition, a small number of other telephone and email communications were made during this period.

Youth Liaison

All liaison activities are restricted and conducted in accordance with RBL Guidelines.

Community Liaison

In accordance with current RBL Guidelines your BCS Representative continues to conduct the majority of its general business via email and telephone. However, at the time of this meeting, we are mindful that Government restrictions are being lifted.

For record of the recent Branch meeting with Newent Town Council to address the planning of forthcoming events for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, and the outcome of an exciting Branch skittles evening, please see your Chairman's Report.

Other Branch Information

BCS (Branch Community Support) Training

Delays continue prior to role-out of all training aids to Branches.

5.b. Treasurer

The new Treasurer was welcomed by the Chairman and stated that 'no transactions occurred over the previous month, so the branch account stays the same as previously recorded at £1,183.48.

All

The Treasurer also stated that the handover was continuing well and she was receiving a lot of help from SU, she will gain more experience once transactions start again.

5.c. Padre

The Padre was unable to attend February’s meeting but sent the following message to our members: *‘Thank you for the kind wishes received over our loss and we’ll be working together on plans for the Parade and Service for the Queen’s Jubilee Celebrations’.*

5.d. Parade Marshal

The Parade Marshal gave a briefed the membership about the meeting with NTC to discuss and plan the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations during the 2-5 June 2022 extended bank holiday. The Branch will be asked by NTC to coordinate the Parade and Church service. The skeleton proposed plan as it stands is:

- **Thursday 2 June** – At moment nothing planned in Newent but Trooping the Colour will go ahead on Horse Guards Parade.
- **Friday 3 June** – Tea Dance style event in Memorial Hall
- **Saturday 4 June** – Picnic by the Lake to include music and local traders/food.
- **Sunday 5 June** – Parade and Service at St Mary’s Church.

A further meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 2 March to discuss progress, as soon as arrangements are confirmed, branch membership will be informed.

5.e. Entertainments and Bar Member

The Entertainments member wanted to thank everyone who turned up to the skittles on 10 February, and explained that unfortunately the planned match against Ebbw Vale on 10 March has been postponed until a later date, but the skittles alley is still booked and another practice session will take place.

Could anyone who wishes to take part please let the Entertainments member know by 7 March, he then outlined the plan of events for the forthcoming year:

- **March** Thurs 10th 19:00 - Skittles Practise., Kings Arms (Chips £3.30 per head).
- **April** Skittles. Tues 12th (10am - 4pm) - Trip to the Black Country Museum, Tickets: Adults - £19.95, 65+ - £17.95 (RA to organise minibus). ***Confirmation of attendance by 24 March meeting.***
- **May** Skittles.
- **June** Skittles. National Arboretum. (ATM Max party of 10, booking for June N/A yet. (RA to organise minibus).
- **July** No Events (R&H Away last 2 weeks)
- **August** Branch BBQ (date to be decided – volunteer hosts, KU & SU) - Summer Holidays
- **September** Skittles. Afternoon tea - Trioscape
- **October** Skittles. Cheese and Wine after AGM
- **November** Skittles. Social in Cobblers. (RA to book).
- **December** Skittles. Branch Christmas Meal (RA to book)

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

All

Ents Member
All

All

<p>with the new RBL branding on please let him know. Ents Members email for contact: rick@axon.org.uk</p> <p><u>5.f. Deputy Padre</u> The Deputy Padre updated those members present on the situation regarding the United Reformed Church (URC): The URC was given 3 weeks' notice that it was to close, it has now closed; the URC has been offered time periods and space in a local Church. The URC held a final service to celebrate its 176-year history prior to closing. It is believed that the Church would now be put up for sale.</p> <p>There were no other officer reports.</p>	
<p><u>6. Any Other Business</u></p> <p>6.a. Unwanted Christmas Gifts The Raffle Coordinator asked if anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts, she would welcome any donations to help with the selection of raffle prizes.</p>	All
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 24 March 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 19:45 hrs.</p>	All

**Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion
Branch on 24 March 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.