

Annual Conference 2025

Motions

Registered charity number: 219279



Special Notes

1. To be eligible for representation at the 2025 Annual Conference, Branches must have complied with the following:
 - a. Have been formed prior to 30 Sep 2024.
 - b. Have submitted their complete year end accounts (for Field Financial Year 2023 - 2024) by 30 September 2024 unless they are a County Supported Branch.
 - c. Have submitted their signed MS1 Form by 31 Dec 2024.
2. Only Branch delegates are eligible to vote at the Conference.
3. Voting will be via an online system for those who join online and on voting pads for those in the auditorium.
4. Delegates are requested to be polite and to treat with respect everyone in attendance at Conference or interacting on related forums.

Motions of Urgency

The deadline for submitting Motions of Urgency for Annual Conference 2025 is 5 PM on Thursday 15 May 2025.

Omissions

The omissions will be shared with the Delegate Pack in advance of Annual Conference 2025.

Motions 2025

Motion 1	
Proposer	Lippe Branch
Charter Motion	That the Youth Forum at the National Conference which was voted by a majority for be upgraded to a Youth Conference, spanning one or two days, with the venue and date to be decided.
Reason for inclusion	Membership is dwindling across all demographics, and the Royal British Legion (RBL) is largely seen as an organization for the older generation. Despite efforts to change this perception, the Legion is struggling to maintain its relevance.
Effect if passed	A standalone Youth Conference for leaders and senior youth members (up to and including 25 years old) would provide a crucial platform for networking, learning, and collaboration. They could hear from guest speakers, participate in open forums and workshops, and learn from other youth organizations. This dedicated conference would foster the relationships and skills necessary for the future vitality of the Legion.
Main argument	The future of the Legion lies with the youth, and strategic planning is essential for this transition. A brief forum at the National Conference, constrained by participants restricted schedules, is not sufficient. The engagement of the youth, as evidenced by the National Standard Bearers, highlights their need and desire for dedicated time and focus.
Statement from Conference Committee	<p>We agree that bringing our County Youth Officers (CYOs) together to network, share best practice and contribute to the work of the Membership Council Youth Working Group would be very valuable. We would want this to have the time and space it deserves and therefore we don't think Annual Conference is the right place for it due to it being an already busy few days.</p> <p>However, as a first step, we aim to use the County Officers Awayday in March to start a discussion with CYO's about the development of the RBLs new strategy and how their work can support it and how we might do more to support to support them in future, which could include some form of mini conference held at some other point in the year.</p> <p>This motion is to be debated at Conference.</p>

Motion 2

Proposer	Lancaster Branch
Motion	<p>This Conference requests that application be made by the Board of Trustees to the Charity Commission and the Privy Council for an Order to amend the 2003 Royal Charter (Version 15 - 30th September 2023) by replacing:</p> <p><u>16. Conduct and business of the Annual Conference</u></p> <p>16.4 All decisions of the Annual Conference must be reached solely by the votes of the Voting Branch delegates who are both present and voting. The quorum for Annual Conference shall be determined by the Conference Committee.</p> <p>With:</p> <p>16.4 All decisions of the Annual Conference must be reached solely by the votes of the Voting Branch delegates who are both present and voting, either physically or via a secure video link, allowing equal rights to virtual and in person delegates, i.e. voting, nominating, proposing and seconding. The quorum for Annual Conference shall be determined by the Conference Committee.</p>
Reason for inclusion	Since the video conference of 2020 and by the current hybrid approach, Annual Conference is accepting votes from delegates not physically located in the Conference Hall. This motion will rectify this.
Effect if passed	Bring the Royal Charter into agreement with current practice.
Main argument	At the 2019 Annual Conference in Bournemouth, Lancaster Branch proposed an investigation into the feasibility allowing delegates to vote via a secure webinar. Covid led to this having been the sole method in 2020 and in a hybrid method in the subsequent years. This motion seeks to rectify the disparity between the current version of the Royal Charter and practice.
Statement from Conference Committee	The Legion is committed to providing equal rights to all delegates. This motion is to be debated at Conference.

Motion 3

Proposer	Lancaster Branch
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Motion	This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees investigate the feasibility of remote voting delegates nominating, seconding and speaking on motions via a secure webinar.
Reason for inclusion	Some delegates, through financial difficulties, work commitments or caring for members of their family, are unable to spend up to four days to travel and attend Annual Conference. This would allow them to take a fuller role in Conference.
Effect if passed	Allow tele-delegates to link in via a secure video link to propose, second and speak on motions at Conference rather than just vote. More Branches would be able to take an active part.
Main argument	<p>This motion does not intend to replace those delegates willing and able to attend in person. Lancaster Branch has been represented in person since 2018 and intends on doing so for the foreseeable future. Nor does it intend to encourage keyboard warriors.</p> <p>Since 2020, delegates have been able to watch and vote online. This will extend their capability to take part in Conference. In the last few years, we have had instances where motions have not been put before Conference as there was neither a proposer nor seconder in the hall, this is intended to allow such motions to be heard.</p>
Conference Committee Decision	This motion is to be debated at Conference.

Motion 4

Proposer	Lancaster Branch
Motion	This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees reduce the minimum number of members serving on a Branch Committee from seven to five.
Reason for inclusion	This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees reduce the minimum number of members serving on a Branch Committee from seven to five.
Effect if passed	The reduced minimum of five committee members would allow more Branches to retain their full status and allow more members to stand for County/National office.

Main argument	<p>The new minimum would be made up of the three mandatory Branch Officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer plus two other committee members. The current is the three officers plus 4 other committee members.</p> <p>As our numbers are reducing, all Branches are feeling the same pressures. This has been eased somewhat by members being allowed to be members of up to four Branches, but the same people are wearing several hats. The same faces are seen at Poppy Appeal seminars, CT training days, standard bearer days etc.</p> <p>This motion wouldn't alleviate the problem, but it would allow more Branches to retain their full status.</p>
Statement from Conference Committee	This motion is to be debated at Conference.

Motion 5	
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Proposer	Addlestone Branch
Motion	The RBL move away from wet signatures to accepting electronic signatures.
Reason for inclusion	Electronic/digital signatures have as much validity as wet signatures and are quicker and auditable. To get remote members to post items or meet takes time and impacts on cut off times for return documents.
Effect if passed	Official documents will be auditable and quicker to process, these are easier to store and can be accessed by all in the event of audits.
Main argument	Wet signatures are taking time to process and can be forged easily with no auditable trail.
Statement from Conference Committee	This motion is to be debated at Conference.

Motion 6	
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Proposer	Worksop Branch
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Motion	This Conference requests that Gift Membership be included as part of the membership strategy.
Reason for inclusion	This would be a new membership recruitment tool where membership could be purchased as a gift in many outlets such as supermarkets or online. This is a significant new tool in the drive to increase membership.
Effect if passed	<p>This is a new in innovative way to introduce veterans and families to join the Legion. This could be a key plank in the legion strategy to strengthen the membership base.</p> <p>Gifting a 12-month membership, providing the opportunity for families or friends to buy membership and present this as a certificate to individuals who might otherwise may not have considered joining.</p>
Main argument	Increase membership and introduce the RBL to a new cohort. In store and online sale of this product, carefully marketed could promote the legion as something available to all not just for veterans.
Statement from Conference Committee	This motion is to be debated at Conference.

Motion 7

Proposer	Frecheville Branch
Motion	This conference requests that consideration is given for a static disabled area to be provided at all future Annual National Conferences during the Parade on Sunday and all and any future RBL ceremonial engagements in line with the RBL'S Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
Reason for inclusion	There is currently no provision for people with mobility needs to feel included in the Sunday parade at the annual conference. If we are really to be an inclusive organisation as set out in the RBL Diversity and Inclusion policy, then adding a designated area at the parade and future events would go a long way to rectifying this issue.

<p>Effect if passed</p>	<p>It would demonstrate that the RBL Nationally recognises that all veterans and members should be able to participate in the Parade at annual conference and any future ceremonial events. Demonstrating to not only to the members but to the general public that we truly are an inclusive organisation. It would also make those with mobility needs feel more included in an activity where they too should be recognised for their service to the Country and to the RBL.</p>
<p>Main argument</p>	<p>Last year I and several other delegates and visitors with mobility needs wanted to participate in the parade. However, there was no provision at the parade for us to take part. When I approached a member of staff to ask why there was no static parade or provisions for people with mobility needs to take part in the parade, I was informed that they have never been asked before so never thought about it.</p> <p>Our branch believes that to comply with RBL Diversity and Inclusion policy we should be providing for everyone the opportunity to take part in the parade at annual conference and any future RBL ceremonial events.</p>
<p>Statement from Conference Committee</p>	<p>We support the motion to include support for people with disabilities and protected characteristics at all Legion ceremonial events and agree the parade can be difficult for people struggling to walk.</p> <p>In response to the issue being raised at the last Annual Conference, chairs and a sectioned off area at the end of parade was available in Newport and is planned for AC25. The Committee has made a recommendation for better comms to make delegates aware of this provision.</p> <p>This motion is to be debated at Conference.</p>