

Editor's Notes

Just a gentle reminder for all branches to consider any motions they might like to present to the County Conference and also who their delegates or visitors might be.

Please see the Diary Notes for all deadlines.

Also please have a look at the articles about the Invictus Games and the Battle Back Centre.



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County Chair's Message

Following the recent County Committee meeting I was concerned to hear the MEO reporting that certain branches still have more than one bank account. RBL Branches are permitted one bank account only.

To all those branches who are compliant thank you, to those who are not currently compliant on this issue let's make this the last time that Lebo has to report on multiple bank accounts being held.

We have vacancies on the County Committee. If you have some additional spare time please think about volunteering some of it to the County Committee. We hold all but two of Committee meetings on MS Teams to obviate travel and cost - we need new faces on the County Committee!!

Editor's Contact: Northamptonshire.Secretary@rbl.community

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ALL THE LATEST INFORMATION

[HTTPS://COUNTIES.BRITISHLEGION.ORG.UK/COUNTIES/NORTHAMPTONSHIRE/](https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/)

TRAINING NEWS

All RBL training (except for Standard Bearers) is available on the Discover Portal which everyone can register on and then book those courses which are mandatory or they wish to do. Some are on-line only whilst others might need you to attend face-to-face.

The following courses are currently available:

- **Safeguarding Adults (mandatory for all BCS staff)**
- **Data Protection (mandatory for all County and Branch Officers)**
- **Branch Management (mandatory for all new branch officers)**
- **County Management (mandatory for all County officers)**
- **Branch Recruiting Advisor**
- **Branch Treasurer (mandatory for all new treasurers)**
- **LOMAS (recommended for all new users)**
- **Secretaries Course (Branch and County)**
- **Branch Community Support (BCS) - New Supporter (mandatory)**
- **BCS Coordinator (mandatory for all Coordinators)**
- **BCS Refresher (to be completed every two years by all BCS staff)**
- **Informal Resolution**
- **Outlook Navigation**
- **Membership Administration Portal (MAP) General**
- **Safeguarding Children**
- **Membership IT Basics**
- **Preparing Motions for Conference (NEW)**

For further details including Course Prospectus, guidance on how to register and book on Discover, please visit the Training for Branches page of our website at <https://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/northamptonshire/training-for-branches/>

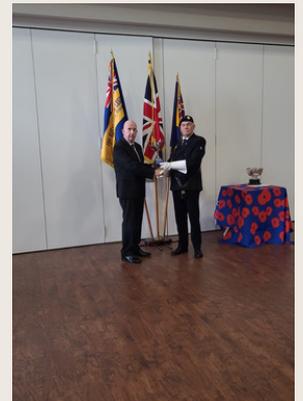
Standard Bearer Training



Training now takes place 17th November,
24th November, 1st December,
8th December and 15th December
at Saxon Hall, off Thorpe Street,
Raunds NN9 6LT
from 6.45 to 8.45pm

Any queries please contact the
County Parade Marshal

Northamptonshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community



**Anyone interested in being a Standard Bearer or Parade Marshal,
please come along to one of our sessions.**



Your County Committee

Full details of the County Committee are available on the County website.



County Committee Meeting 2nd October 2025 - Key Points

- The County Chair thanked all those who had taken part in the VJ Day Service.
- Nick Fall has resigned as County Community Support Coordinator and Steve Thatcher has resigned as County Training Officer.
- Changes are being made to the frequency and location for standard bearer training (see article above).
- The Poppy Appeal Manager confirmed that the latest figures indicate a 5.68% increase across the County for the last Appeal.
- Following changes in the latest Membership Handbook and Royal Charter, all branches (whether compliant or not) may now submit motions and send a delegate to both County and national conferences.
- The new versions of the MS1, MS1CSB and MS1B must be used for this year's returns.

The next County Committee meeting will take place on Thursday 6th November 2025. If you have any topics you would like to be included, please contact the County Secretary

County Committee Vacancies

County Committee - there are currently 4 vacancies on the Committee which are open to all branch members. **As there have been no nominations received to date, the deadline has been extended to 5pm on Friday 12th December 2025, to be submitted direct to the County Secretary by email please.**

County Treasurer - this post is appointed by the County Committee. **Branch nominations should be forwarded to the County Secretary by email as soon as possible** for a suitably experienced member to fill this post as an interim measure until January 2026. The incumbent will then be appointed for a further year.

On the County Committee, there are also two appointed positions which need to be filled from it's members as follows:

- County Community Support Coordinator
- County Training Officer

If these are areas which you feel you might like to contribute to the running of the County, please get in touch with the County Secretary asap to discuss further.

Training and support will be provided for all posts where necessary.

Changes in Policy affecting all Branches

In the September 2025 version of the Membership Handbook, it is now confirmed that the use of an rbl.community account is now **compulsory** for all official RBL correspondence for the following branch posts:

- Branch Chair
- Branch Secretary
- Point of Contact (for County Supported Branches)

Branches who do not yet have these accounts are requested to contact the MEO as soon as possible and request that they be set up. Other branch officials who also send out regular official communications on behalf of the branch should also request access to an rbl.community account from the MEO.

Branch Recruitment

Branch Recruitment resources (leaflets) are now available on request from the County Secretary.

Diary Notes

- 1st December 2025 - Deadline for the submission of branch motions to County Secretary
- 4th December 2025 - County Committee Meeting
- 12th December 2025 - Deadline for Branch Delegate and Visitors Return and Roll of Honour information for County Conference submitted to County Secretary
- 30th December 2025 - Deadline for the submission of MS1s, MS1B and MS1CSB (**using only the new version**) to MEO copy to County Secretary
- 10th January 2026 - County Conference in the Council Chamber.

Opening a new Lloyds Charity Account for Branch Funds

If you are looking to open a brand new Lloyds bank account the application must now go through RBL contacts and not direct through the mainstream Lloyds contact centres / website / branch opening process. Therefore please ensure you follow the instructions below in order to make sure you are given the correct Charity Account which has no monthly charges.

Once the decision has been agreed by the Branch Committee (and minuted) the Branch Treasurer should email the MEO with the following information, which the MEO will pass on to Branch Accounts:

- Branch name and Branch Number
- Name of person opening the account
- Email address
- Contact phone number

This will then get forwarded on to our contact at Lloyds and the bank opening team will phone the Treasurer directly via the number given.

Lloyds will then take the branch through the account opening process via a phone call to ensure the correct product (treasurer account) is opened that does not incur any charges.

During this process, the branch will be able to opt-in for online banking if they want to. Please make sure you request for dual authorisation to be applied for any payment.

At the end of the process, Lloyds will ask you to provide a letter from Head Office signed by a trustee stating you are a branch of RBL (please get back in touch with the MEO for Branch Accounts to provide this).

Sponsoring Invictus Games Competitors

It is estimated that each UK competitor in the 2027 Invictus Games will cost £26,500 which includes items such as kit and equipment, accommodation and food, travel costs, training events (some of which will take place at the Battleback Centre), coaches and volunteers.

The RBL Women's Section has already agreed to sponsor the cost of accommodation to the tune of £300,000 and all Counties and Branches are now being asked to consider using any "spare" branch funds which they might have to assist with the sponsorship of competitors in the 2027 Invictus Games.

Branches that wish to donate from legacy (if eligible), CCLA (if eligible) or BFI balances:

- 1. If not using LOMAS:** Please send in the usual form to Branch Accounts with authorisations and the clear instruction it is intended for Team UK. (BPT BFI not eligible). Please note the cash will not be paid out to you to be paid back to us, we will process an internal transfer only. The Team UK team will be notified of any income you kindly donate and you will receive a notification of thanks from them in return.
- 2. If using LOMAS:** Select the Internal Transfer option (as opposed to Deposit or Payment) in the Lomas Module - Transfer options already include Poppy Appeal, the NMA and Care Homes and will be updated to include Battleback and Team UK as options to select from; donations to either of these causes are welcome.

Branches that wish to donate from cash balances in their local bank accounts:

- 1.** Please send in cheques to Haig House finance team by post with a cover letter clearly marked the funds are for the Invictus Games Team UK designated fund. Or alternatively if using online banking make your payment to our main Lloyds bank account sort code 30 11 75, account number 01200110, name Royal British Legion and ensure the reference field contains your branch number and Invictus Games Team UK, e.g. "BR1234 Invictus Games donation". Without a reference, the money will not be able to be correctly identified and sent to the Team UK fund pot.



The Battle Back Centre

The Battle Back Centre Lilleshall was established by the Royal British Legion in 2011 to support wounded and injured service personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Their aim is to help ensure the best possible recovery for the Armed Forces community, whether it's returning to duty or successfully transitioning to civilian life. As well as continuing to support wounded, injured and sick service personnel, more recently they have expanded our service with the introduction of wellbeing courses for veterans.

Centred around adaptive sport and adventurous training activities, such as wheelchair basketball, archery, mountain biking, climbing and caving, Battle Back helps build camaraderie as well as the chance to connect through shared experiences.

The programme is designed to help grow confidence and improve motivation as well as the ability to deal with stress. Delivered alongside expert coaching, it also helps to develop positive thinking – focusing on what someone can achieve instead of what they cannot.

If you'd like to find out more about our Battle Back Centre please get in touch with our team on 01952 815 670 for serving personnel or on 01952 815681 for veterans.

Again, you can contribute towards the running of the Battle Back centre from Branch funds.

Branch News

RBL Rushden Branch have just published their November 2025 which you can read on their website at:

<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/rushden/newsletters/>

RBL Wappenham Branch

Laying Up, Dedication of
New Standard and
Remembrance Service
combined on 9th
November 2025



RBL Desborough Branch

Remembrance Sunday



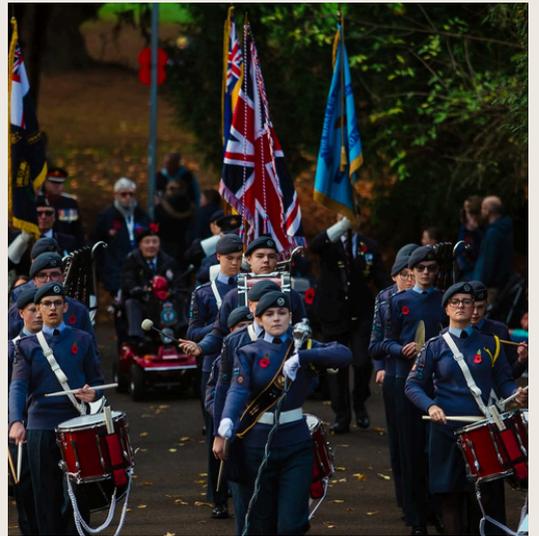
RBL Finedon, Irthlingborough & District Branch

Remembrance Service Finedon



RBL Rushden Branch

Remembrance Sunday





Left - Branch Standard Bearer
Mark Tabernor-Stokes
at the Royal Albert Hall

Below - The Rushden Serve Branch
minibus with their Poppy livery



Peter Cook's 100th Birthday
- with Lynne Baker



Poppy table
at
Rushden & Diamonds
Football Club