

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

Meeting held 24 March 2022 at the Memorial Hall

Attendees	Post
Richard Balding Keith Urch Helen Axon Rick Axon Elaine Balding Susan Urch Simon Mason Pat Phillips Colin Calcutt Tom Heseltine Dave Pollock Sue Colborne Colin Thompson	Chairman Deputy Chairman, BCS Representative, Youth Liaison and Membership Secretary Treasurer Entertainments & Bar Member Raffle Coordinator Padre Deputy Padre Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO)
Item	Action
<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 SC who was dealing with family bereavement. He read the names of those from the Parish of Newent who had lost their lives during WWI and WWII during the month of April and concluded with the Act of Remembrance.	
<u>2. Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from Graham Barton, Adrian Dover, John Celino, Jon & Viv Miles, Jim & Helen Powell, Pat & John Price, Tom Axon and Mary Curtis	
<u>3. Chairman's Report</u> <u>Introduction</u> Good evening and welcome, I hope you are all well and looking forward to summer, once again even with so many apologies it lovely to see so many of you here tonight. I'm going to start my report with an update to the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations: <u>3.a. Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations update – 2-5 June 2022</u> On 2 March 2022, Keith, Graham, Simon and myself attended the 2 nd 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 following itinerary was decided on: <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, including appropriate music (pianist and vocalist).
- **Saturday 4 Jun 22:** Picnic by the Lake, bring your own Picnic, the Bandstand will be playing music throughout the afternoon and there will be a free Pig Roast and Children’s Entertainer.
- **Sunday 5 Jun 22:** Parade and Service – Our Padre is coordinating with the Parade Marshal, NTC and the other local Churches to ensure all are included in this Pentecost/Jubilee service.

There is another meeting scheduled for 13 April 2022, to finalise the itinerary, once again I will keep you updated on all the weekend arrangements at the next meeting.

3.b. Branch Practice Skittles – 10 March 2022

Once again, the Entertainments member Rick arranged a Skittles evening at the Kings Arms on 10 March 2022, not as many turned up this time but I do believe we are getting better, probably because I didn’t bowl?
 Congratulations to Keith who managed the highest score on the night, thanks to Rick for arranging it and for everyone else for supporting.

3.c. Branch involvement in Ukraine Fundraiser – 12 March 2022

The Branch was asked by Newent Town Council (NTC) and the Memorial Hall (MH) to act as an independent body to count the monies donated after the Fundraiser for Ukraine on 12 March 2022. I put out a call to all branch members asking for volunteers to help out, Keith, Graham, Colin and Adrian all volunteered to come along and count money, the event garnered support from the whole town and was for a short notice affair extremely well attended and raised an incredible £1,159.04 on the day, £80.96 after the event and £178 in card donations (before commission) which made a magnificent £1418.00, well done to all the volunteers and supporters on the day and especially to Keith, Graham, Colin and Adrian from the branch. All monies raised from this event was donated by NTC and MH to the Ukrainian relief effort of the British Red Cross. I will attach my written report as sent to NTC to these minutes.

3.d. Branch Committee Positions

As I mentioned last month, 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. So please let me know any thoughts or suggestions on recruiting a Secretary.

3.e. RBL National Elections

It is that time of year again that the branch is asked to vote on the candidates for the National Chair, Deputy Chair and Trustees’, there are 3 candidates each for National Chairman and National Vice-Chairman and 7 for election of Trustees. I have circulated the CV’s and voting details to your branch committee who are looking to see their ideal candidate, once I have all their votes in I will send in the ballot paper with our majority decision and I will update you at the next meeting with our choices. If anybody else would like to see the CV’s of the candidates I would be more than happy to send you the details.

Ents Member

All

Branch Committee

<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><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. Proposer: SM Seconded: TH</p>	
<p><u>5. Reports by Officers</u></p> <p><u>5.a. Poppy Appeal Organiser</u></p> <p>The Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) kindly sat in and gave the members present an update on the Newent & District Poppy Appeal:</p> <p>The Poppy Appeal (PA) for Newent and District currently stood at £8,836.89, which is a fantastic amount in such difficult times, he then went on to inform us of the issues he is facing with more and more people paying by BACs. Basically, if they don't add the correct reference number, he then has to chase individuals up to make sure the donations go in to the Newent & District pot.</p> <p>The PAO said that he and JC had written to Cadburys to see if they would donate an easter egg to raffle for this year's PA, he then went on to state that all raffle/tombola donations for the stall at this year's Onion Fayre would be gratefully received. It was decided that a reminder would be given at July's meeting. The Chairman suggested that the PAO could share the Branch stall at this year's fayre, thereby saving on one of the stall costs, this was gratefully accepted.</p> <p>The Chairman then went on to Thank the PAO on all his tireless work in promoting the PA for Newent & District in such difficult times.</p> <p><u>5.b. 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, caring for other family members and friends.</p> <p>We remember in particular Sue C who recently sadly lost her mother - our thoughts and prayers are extended to her and other family members.</p> <p>You are reminded that your Branch is here to support you and your family; you only need to contact one of the Committee.</p> <p><u>5.b.1. Membership, Branch Community Support Representative and Youth Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>TRBL HQ staff are returning to their respective offices and albeit levels of communications remain restricted, they are much improved</p> <p>We are once again assured by our MSO (Membership Support Officer), Seamus Brennan (SBrennan@britishlegion.org.uk), that communications at all levels will improve significantly during the coming week(s).</p> <p><u>5.b.2. Welfare and Membership</u></p>	<p>All</p> <p>PAO</p>

It has been reported that TRBL HQ continues with its Strategic Review, development and rollout of Branch Welfare related training programmes. I have requested an update from Seamus as to when Branches can expect to participate in the proposed training programmes.

5.b.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.b.2.b. Branch Membership

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

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

5.b.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	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	3
Telephone – How many telephone buddies:	4

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

5.b.4. Youth Liaison

Liaison activities continue to be conducted in accordance with RBL Guidelines.

Communications have taken place 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 suitably reprimanded and, in some cases, excluded from The School.

5.b.5. Community Liaison

With the exception of arrangements for the forthcoming Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in conjunction with Newent Town Council, your Branch Representatives continue to conduct the majority of general business 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.b.6. Other Branch Information

5.b.6.a. Branch Communications OS365

TRBL HQ have again apologised for issues with OS365: it is anticipated that these will be resolved in the near future.

5.c. Treasurer

Treasurer's Report for March 2022.

No expenditure this month.

Income from RBL (National) £24

Total in the current Account £1207.48

There was a short discussion on when to collate and give the money received from the Stolen PA box court order (small amounts received now and again), it was decided to tally up the total and send off to the PAO prior to the end of the financial year.

5.d. Padre

5.d.1. Pentecost/Jubilee Weekend

With regards to the Pentecost/Jubilee Weekend 2-5 June 2022, which St Mary's is working on with NTC etc: At the moment, it looks like the plan is to gather at St. Mary's and then parade in the opposite direction to Remembrance Sunday arriving in the car park/helicopter pad area and being part of an Open-Air service with all the churches involved. The timings to be confirmed.

The Padre also wanted to let members know of the Rotary Club effort for the Ukrainian crisis, which in a nutshell is: A shop and collection point has been opened in town adjacent to the George Hotel, all items donated will go to the Ukrainian Church, Gloucester who are sending shipments out to where it is needed on a daily basis, they have a list of items needed on their door. St Mary's is also looking to develop a welcome hub for refugee's, more details to follow as things progress.

The Padre also informed the members of a lady who is commencing a charity walk in aid of Homeless Veterans and she plans to make a stopover in Newent on the 25 August 2022, she has opened up a just giving page for donations and the Padre will keep us updated on dates, times and further information as he gets it.

5.e. 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:

- **April Skittles – Wednesday 6th, 7pm. King's Arms.**

It is not necessary to let me know if you are coming, just turn up on the night. Please email me with orders for Chips by Monday 4th. Due to the fact that on the previous two occasions we had surplus orders I

Treasurer

<p>won't be taking orders on the night. Chips cost £3.30 per person, please bring the correct change if possible.</p> <p>Trip to the Black Country Museum - Cancelled due to costs of Minibus and Fuel. I hope to reorganise this at a later date</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Skittles - Date to be confirmed. • June Skittles - Date to be confirmed. <p>Trip to The National Arboretum - On hold for now until I can organise cheaper transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July Skittles - Date to be confirmed. • August Skittles - Date to be confirmed. <p>6 August – Branch BBQ -Details to be announced nearer the time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September Skittles - Date to be confirmed. <p>Afternoon/Cream tea – Trioscape - Date to be confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October Skittles – Date to be confirmed <p>27 October - Cheese and Wine - after AGM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November Skittles - Date to be confirmed. <p>Social in Cobblers - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December Skittles - Date to be confirmed. <p>Branch Christmas Meal - Date to be confirmed. (RA to book).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>I will be looking again at the Gloucestershire Minibus Scheme during April.</p> <p>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 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. SC thanked everyone for all their kind thoughts and wishes.</p> <p>6.b. 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>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>7. Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>7.a. The next Meeting will be held on 28 April 2022 at 19:00 hrs in the Memorial Hall. The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 19:51 hrs.</p>	<p>All</p>

Agenda for Meeting of Newent and District Royal British Legion

Branch on 28 April 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.