

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
The Royal British Legion – Brampton & District Branch
Methodist Church, Brampton
Monday 2 October 2023

The Chair opened the meeting at 1905 hrs and welcomed all.

Tribute: The Chair read the Tribute

Present: Mick Forsdick (Chairman), Carole Rose (Secretary), Siobhan Grehan (Treasurer), Ian Taylor, Steve Rose, Paul Gane, Rosemary Parsons, Brandon Wilgus, Sally Rees, Bert Lewer, John Bridge OBE DL, Tim Thurston, Trevor Stone, Allan Lewis, Carol Barrett, Elaine Sefton, Steve West, Clive Wood, Ian Howkins-Griffiths.

Apologies for absence: Bob Carr OBE (President), Pete Digby (Vice Chairman), Nigel Beet CBE, John Hill, Glen Stringer, Maureen Wigley, Simon Rees, Ian Phoenix-Sisk, Zoe Greenslade, David Parsons, Cecil Deller, Simon Rees, Maureen Wigley, Mervyn Linnell.

President's Remarks.

- The Chair stated that Bob Carr OBE, the President was not well, and the prognosis was not good. He had passed on the Branch's thoughts to the family and the Secretary was to obtain a card to be sent to Bob.

Chairman's Remarks.

- The Chairman welcomed all attendees to the meeting and stated that we had had a good year with growth to the membership, more trips and a better attendance at events. We were not generating income to sustain the branch.
- He emphasised that if people volunteered for the Events Committee they would need to step up, support and be active.
- He encouraged all in the meeting that if they know any veterans, to invite them along to meetings. Also, if they knew anyone who could help to encourage them to do so. You did not have to have served or be a UK National to be a member of the RBL.

Treasurer's Report.

- The Treasurer advised that the Branch had three accounts:
 - The BFI (Branch Funds Initiative) account had opened on 1 July 2022 with a balance of £2,612.48 and closed on 30 June 2023 with a balance of £2,147.26.
 - The Branch account had opened on 1 July 2022 with a balance of £380.55 and closed on 30 June 2023 with a balance of £534.13.
 - The Veteran's Club account (Community account), which had been used to pay for the card machines which would be used at fetes etc., where donations could be made, had opened on 1 July 2022 with a balance of £1,120.50 and closed on 30 June 2023 with a balance of £1,373.36.
 - Copies of income and expenditure for these three accounts and a summary of income and expenditure are enclosed with the Minutes.

Financial Plan.

- A Financial Plan had been drawn up for 2023 – 2024.
- The Financial Year for the Branch runs from 1 July to 30 June.
- The National Financial Year is from 5 April to 4 April.
- AGMs were required to be held from 1 October, therefore we were only working on half a year at a time. Due to this, concise figures could not be predicted.
- A reserve of £2,564.42 was held to cover replacement gazebos, standards and associated equipment and insignia items.
- Trips in the future would be opened up to other local branches (Huntingdon, St Ives, Kimbolton).
- A copy of the Financial Plan for 2023 – 2024 is attached with the Minutes.

Events.

- An Events and Entertainment Committee was formed earlier in 2023, supported by a keen committee and The Hare on The Green.
- Visits in 2023:
 - Battle of Britain Memorial Fight at RAF Coningsby.
 - Suffolk Regiment Museum at Bury St Edmunds.
- The Branch held:
 - A very successful Remembrance Cycle Ride in September.
 - Placement of crosses at individual headstones planned for the end of October.
 - NAAFI Breaks with Quizzes and Bingo.
 - Branch Meetings.
- The Branch attended:
 - Brampton Fete.
 - Brampton Village Show, followed by a social event at the Hare on the Green.
 - Monthly meetings and Open Evenings.
 - Social Events.
- The Branch would be attending:
 - Notcutts Christmas Launch – 26th October.
 - Oktoberfest on The Green – 28th October.
 - Poppy Appeal Events at various locations throughout the District.
 - Remembrance Parade through Brampton – Sunday 12 November.
 - Village Christmas Fayre and Lights Switch On – 2 December.
 - Christmas Social Evening and Grand Draw Saturday 9 December, with raffle ticket sales – now over £600, profits going to the Poppy Appeal and The Royal British Legion.
- For 2024 the following were planned:
 - Monthly meetings – last Monday of the month.
 - NAAFI Breaks – last Friday of the month.
 - Open Evenings.
 - Attending Village Fetes.
 - A Formal Event Dinner to mark the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings.



- For 2024 the following visits were hoped to be planned:
 - Tower of London and Royal Chelsea Hospital.
 - The new MAGPAS HQ at Alconbury Weald.
 - Bletchley Park.
 - Molesworth.
 - National Space Centre.
 - Newark Aviation Museum.
 - Heritage Museum at RF Wyton,
 - Birmingham Military Tattoo – February 2024.
- For 2024 we plan to host:
 - A Classic Car and Vehicle Day on The Green.

Further ideas were invited from the Members.

Poppy Appeal Officer's Report.

- The Secretary gave this on behalf of the Poppy Appeal Officer who had sent his apologies. A copy of the report is enclosed with the minutes.

Election of Officers and Executive Committee. The Chair advised that the following members were elected unopposed:

a.	Chairman:	Mr Mick Forsdick
b.	Vice Chairman	Mr Pete Digby
c.	Secretary	Mrs Carole Rose
d.	Treasurer	Mrs Siobhan Grehan
e.	Branch Community Support Officer	Mrs Sally Rees (Subject to role responsibilities)
f.	Branch Membership Secretary	Mr Ian Taylor
g.	Standard Bearer	Mr Ian Phoenix-Sisk, with support from 42 Regiment
h.	Poppy Appeal Officer	Mr Pete Digby, Mr Glen Stringer assisting
i.	Website	Ms Zoe Greenslade
j.	Media Officer	Not filled
k.	Committee Members	Mr Paul Gane, Mr Steve Rose, Mr Clive Wood, Mr John Hill, Mr Glen Stringer.

The Chair advised that the Branch were looking to make Mr Cecil Deller and Mrs Maureen Wigley Honorary Committee Members.



Branch Matters: With all official business covered, the chair opened the meeting for points from the floor.

- Mr Clive Wood gave an update on the situation with Mr John Hill. He was still in hospital, but had been brought out of the induced coma. It would be some time before he was well enough to be discharged from hospital and the good wishes of the Branch had been passed on to his family,
- Mr John Bridge OBE DL had been invited to take up the post of Branch President, which he had accepted. He made a short speech to the AGM stating that he was looking forward to working with the Committee and the Branch.
- Bugler – the Chair advised that each year a bugler had travelled to Brampton to play at the Remembrance Service at the Church. Historically the Branch had paid his travel expenses but had lapsed over recent years. He proposed that this should be reintroduced and was accepted by those present.
- Branch Profits – the chair advised that as income was improving we were now at a stage where the Executive Committee felt that it was only right that profits were distributed accordingly. To that end at the end of each month this would be distributed as follows:
 - 25% to the Poppy Appeal.
 - 25% to the Central Fund.
 - The remaining 50% would be retained in the Veteran’s (Community) account.This would be written into the Financial Report.
- Evidence of Support from the RBL – Mr Ian Taylor advised that he had become aware of an example of what the RBL does for veterans. An ex-serviceman who was living in Thailand had been taken ill and £20k was required to repatriate him. His son had started a Crowd Funding site and had contacted the RAF Benevolent Fund and RAFA but insufficient funds had been raised. He then contacted the RBL who had stepped in and brought the gentleman home and he was now in hospital in the UK and receiving treatment.

Date of next Annual General Meeting: Monday 7th October 2024 at the Methodist Church, The Green, Brampton.

Date of next Branch Executive Committee and Branch Meeting. The Chairman called a meeting of the Branch Executive Committee at 1900hrs Monday 30th October 2023 in the Hare on the Green, Brampton, with the open meeting starting at 1930hrs.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked Rosemary Parsons for organising the meeting venue and closed the meeting at 2035hrs.

C Rose
7 October 2023

Encl 1. Treasurer’s Report
Encl 2. Financial Plan
Encl 3. Poppy Appeal Officer’s Report