

**Royal British Legion**  
Falkland Islands Branch  
Committee Meeting Minutes

4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>Actions:</b>
<b>Present:</b> Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Tamsin Harris, Keith Biles, Mark Brook, John and Sarah Maskell Bott, Bob French and Richard Hyslop.	
<b>Apologies:</b> Beccy Rees, Dave Lewis, Maeve Daly-Llamasa.	
<b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> It was agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate account.	
<b>Matters arising:</b> With regard to the Poppy Inn Bar and licensing, Chris Locke said he had sent an email to the Committee expressing his disappointment and concern regarding how the Courts had dealt with our Bar Licence and how the Branch had been treated. However he confirmed that the two occasional licences have been secured and are now in the Poppy Inn. He said this means we're ready for this evening's activities and for Liberation Day. Our Full licence application will be presented on 17 <sup>th</sup> June at the Summary Court. Chris said the Branch had spent £94 on this process and that it was now time to draw a line under what had happened. Mark Brook confirmed the Bar committee would pay the costs.	<b>Mark Brook</b>
<b>Chairman's Report:</b> Chris Locke said the Tea Dance was a huge success with lots of positive feedback. The event was covered by Penguin News, FIRS and FITV. He said he had been asked if the Branch could	

<p>organise another Dance and unless anyone objects, he'd be happy to repeat it. John Maskell-Bott said many parents had praised the children's room. The Committee heard that pensioners haven't stopped talking about it, and that it was felt it had been the best thing for their mental health since lock down. They're now going to do more of this amongst themselves. Chris said he hadn't received a bill from Shorty's yet. He also confirmed he still had some RBL 100 postcards. These helped raise £250 in donations that will go to the Poppy Appeal. Chris said he would take some to tonight's event to see if anyone else wanted to buy one. Mark Brook confirmed he has a receipt from the print shop that he and Chris will deal with.</p> <p>Chris said the new Chief Executive and his wife were hopefully coming to the Quiz Night in the Poppy Inn tonight and that it was important to showcase the Inn in its best light so he can see for himself the community asset it is. CBF's teams are unfortunately not able to make it because of the roads in the wintery conditions.</p> <p>Chris Locke added that having originally been told that the Branch was going to have a formal contract with FIG regarding the lease of the Poppy Inn, it will now be just a letter of agreement.</p>	
<p><b>Vice Chairman's report:</b> Mark Brook confirmed that with Liberation Day coming up, he's given out 12 wreaths and had to use spare stock. He said new stock was now coming at the end of June by boat. He said this had caused a few problems but he'd got around it and all wreaths are in place.</p>	
<p><b>Treasurers Report:</b> No details were received, but it was confirmed that £448 ticket money had</p>	

<p>been paid in from the Tea Dance and this was going in to the Current Account.</p>	
<p><b>Secretary's report:</b> Tamsin Harris thanked Nancy Locke for taking the minutes at the last meeting.</p> <p>Chris Locke confirmed Maeve Daly-Llamosa is standing down as Membership Secretary. Nancy Locke asked if we needed a specific Membership Secretary and if it was felt that we did not, but that we may need a Social Secretary. This to be considered for the AGM.</p> <p>Mark Brook asked if he could have a list of members to put behind the bar at the Poppy Inn and Chris confirmed this was possible.</p>	<p><b>Chris Locke (for AGM)</b></p> <p><b>Chris Locke</b></p>
<p><b>Welfare Report:</b> It was confirmed there was nothing to report. See AOB discussion.</p>	
<p><b>Any Other Business:</b> Keith Biles and Mark Brook are liaising over wreath laying at Liberation day and as Chris and Nancy will be away, it was agreed to find someone to lay wreaths at Fitzroy too. Chris Locke wondered if CBFs ADC who is on secondment from the Merchant Navy, could lay a wreath and said he would approach him. John Maskell-Bott said Pete Betts was in the RFA but he'd never seen him at the memorial event. Chris Locke said he was happy to ask him.</p> <p>Bob French has offered to do the meeting requests for Zoom as he's got the capability now.</p> <p>The Poppy portal is now open and Mark Brook is the one logged in for the Falkland Islands. Dave Lewis and he have talked and as the branch needs more boxes of poppies, they'll get everything ordered.</p>	<p><b>Chris Locke/Keith Biles/Mark Brook</b></p>

The needs of ex-servicemen to be able to get together for fellowship was discussed and it was agreed to sort an event for spring at the Poppy Inn. However a volunteer to organise the event is needed particularly as the Committee will be working on organising this year's Poppy Ball.

**Mark Brook/Dave Lewis**

John Maskell-Bott said the branch needed to write an article laying out what the Legion is all about (looking after people), and explaining what events might be laid on for service people. Chris Locke again said someone needed to lead on this and agreed it was a good idea. He suggested a sub-committee might be the way forward and wondered if John and Sarah would be able to start the process going accepting they will be away from the Islands until November.

**John and Sarah Maskell-Bott**

Nancy Locke reminded people that Poppy Ball planning would be starting as soon and she and Chris were back from the UK.

It was also noted that the Branch needed to decide how many of our evenings are social events and how often we should host an ordinary club night. Chris Locke said he would put a proposal together for next twelve months so we can do some form of forward plan, this will be taken to the AGM.

**Chris Locke (for AGM)**

Chris Locke said he had received an email from HQ asking if we wanted out Standard to appear at the Festival of Remembrance. If yes, they need to know by 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Chris Locke**

Nancy Locke confirmed there'd been a phone call from Gilbert House to ask Chris Locke if he would join the Falkland Islands 40<sup>th</sup> Committee. It was agreed that this was a good thing.

27<sup>th</sup> June is Armed Forces Day and Chris Locke said he wasn't proposing we do anything unless someone wants us to.

While Chris and Nancy were in Fox Bay last month they found a couple of old poppy boxes and a collecting tin. These are now back in the store in Stanley. It was agreed the tin would be replaced.

Richard Hyslop reported that he had had a meeting regarding 'Standing with Giants' and the Air Cadet who is keen to send 100 silhouette soldiers to the islands this year, with more for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There was a discussion about this during which Richard confirmed there would be three civilian silhouettes too and that he was happy to liaise with BFSIA about erecting them and transporting them down. He said they could prove to be a powerful feature and would make a great news story. John Maskell-Bott felt it was not representative of those in the Falklands including sailors who were involved in the conflict. Keith Biles asked where all the silhouettes would be put but no-one had an answer.

**Mark Brook/Dave Lewis**

**Date and time of next meeting:**  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 5pm Falkland time and 9pm in the UK.