

Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

AGM Minutes

The Malvina House Hotel / Online

15th December 2025

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Bob French, Keith Biles, Gavin Roberts (on line), Tamsin Harris (on line), Craig Chandler, Marion Chandler, Andrew Leadbetter, Mark Brook, Jason 'Hegs' Hegarty, Phil Middleton, John Maskell Bott, Sarah Maskell Bott, Stuart Walker, Pam Lewis, David Lewis, Jenny Clarke, Lesley Moorey, Wendy McPhee, Kathie Daniels, Andrew Brownlee, Lynn Brownlee, Steuart Barlow, Rebecca Rees, Jeremy Clarke, Richard Hyslop.	
Apologies: Annie Bailey, Ian Barnes, Chris Moorey, Dennis Cheetham, Emma Brook, Simon Browning, Francis Hart.	
In Attendance: Triaghana Smith - Falklands Radio	
Act of Remembrance Chris led the Act of Remembrance. He then welcomed everyone to the 2025 Annual General Meeting.	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last AGM were reviewed page by page and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
Matters Arising: Corrections to 2024 AGM Minutes: Under the list of those present, Keith Biles appears twice. Wendy PcPhee should be Wendy McPhee. Under the list of apologies: Stuart Barlow should be Steuart Barlow.	

Chairman's Report:

Please see appendix 1 – The Chairman's full report.

Chris Locke thanked everyone for attending and confirmed that after months of lobbying, the Branch no longer has access to the Poppy Inn. He said it was time to move on, find a new meeting place for events and get-together and look to the future.

Chris thanked Mark Brook for a successful Poppy Ball that he knows would have taken a lot of work.

Chris said that while working on a cruise ship, a passenger asked about laying a wreath as a Veteran of '82. With the help of the Falklands RBL, this took place and he said this illustrated just what the RBL is all about.

Priorities over the next year to include new membership, improve communications to the community about the RBL and its work including a media campaign, regular monthly meetings, and a reconnection with MPA.

Branch Committee

Vice-Chairman's report:

Mark Brook confirmed the contents of the Poppy Inn are now in a container at Hillside and will be moved to the FIPASS Container yard where the Branch will pay rent. All that's left in the Poppy Inn is a couple of settees, the Pool Table and a TV, which belong to the military.

Mark said he was pleased to secure the use of the Band that played for Liberation Day for a concert held in the Town Hall. Despite the short notice, the event raised several hundred pounds for the Poppy Appeal.

Mark thanked all those who helped with this year's Poppy Ball. He said the feedback had been very positive. The amount raised was down a bit as he charged £50 a ticket, not £55 as in previous years. The profit after expenses is £1,700.

The collecting tins have been out and Mark thanked Marion for helping with them. The tins have to date, raised £2,843. Remembrance Packs were advertised to the schools, and both had Bake Sales and split the proceeds between the Poppy Appeal and the Hurricane Appeal.

<p>Mark confirmed the Branch had provided wreaths to all Associations (30 to 40 wreaths). There were a few short notice requests, but all were dealt with.</p> <p>To note: It appears the national UK RBL didn't know the Falkland Island Branch provides wreaths on request. Mark will be addressing this when he orders more wreaths.</p> <p>Mark ended by confirmed his aim and that of everyone was to keep the Falkland Island Branch of the RBL going. He then thanked the outgoing Committee for their work and support.</p>	<p>Mark Brook</p>
<p>Secretary's report</p> <p>As the outgoing Secretary, Tamsin Harris said it had been a privilege to serve on the Falkland Island Branch committee for 5 years. She added that she had always said if someone local was keen to take the role on, she would stand down. She wished the new Secretary well and thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to support the Branch in a place she very much loves.</p>	
<p>Treasurer's Report:</p> <p>'Hegs' Hegarty confirmed the following account details to the year ending 30th June 2025:</p> <p>He confirmed money sent to the RBL Poppy Appeal the year before last was over £10,000. This year at end of year the amount being sent was £4,651.09.</p> <p>As of this month (December 2025) there is £14,164.64 in the Poppy Appeal account. He added that he wasn't sure how much they have to donate from MPA, but it's hoped the money will be in the account soon.</p>	
<p>Welfare Report:</p> <p>John and Sarah Maskell-Bott said there was nothing new to report, but that they were happy to stay on the committee if appropriate.</p>	
<p>Membership:</p> <p>As there is no Membership Secretary, there was no report.</p>	

Election of officers:

Nancy Locke took over the meeting to run this part of the AGM:

Comments were made about the use of Zoom as an option for people to join the AGM/meetings from other parts of the Falklands. It was felt that online attendance should be reflected in the Branch Constitution. There was also a discussion about who has the right to vote.

Chris Locke confirmed Nancy Locke and Tamsin Harris were standing down from the Committee and thanked them for their commitment and support.

Nominations for Chair:

CHRIS LOCKE m/n 22976510, proposer KEITH BILES m/n 247963, seconder NANCY LOCKE m/n 18442613

MARK BROOK m/n 16141392, proposer STEUART BARLOW m/n 21946424, seconder FRANCIS HART m/n 23334999

Ballot result: Chris Locke - 15 votes, Mark Brook - 12 votes

Chris Locke remains Chair.

Nomination for Vice Chair:

MARK BROOK, m/n 16141392 proposer CHRIS LOCKE m/n 22976510, seconder NANCY LOCKE m/n 18442613

Mark Brook remains Vice Chair.

Nominations for Secretary:

JENNY CLARKE m/n 22086437, proposer REBECCA REES m/n 21909650, seconder ANDREW LEADBETTER m/n unknown

LESLEY MOOREY m/n 26201765, proposer STEUART BARLOW m/n 21946424, seconder FRANCIS HART m/n 23334999

Ballot Result - Jenny Clarke - 13 votes, Lesley Moorey - 11 votes.

Branch Committee

<p>Jenny Clarke becomes Secretary.</p> <p>Nomination for Treasurer:</p> <p>JASON 'HEGS' HEGARTY - proposer DAVE LEWIS, seconded ANDREW LEADBETTER</p> <p>Jason 'Hegs' Hegarty remains Treasurer.</p> <p>The Committee, carried by unanimous vote:</p> <p>Keith Biles, Bob French, John Maskell Bott, Sarah Maskell Bott, Richard Hyslop, Marion Chandler, Lesley Moorey.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>What has happened about the shields, etc, that were displayed in the Poppy Inn? Mark Brook confirmed everything is safely stored in the container.</p> <p>Mark Brook said there needed to be a decision about Branch Accounts paperwork going back to 2012 that are stored in the container.</p> <p>How much is the rental for the Container being used to store items from the Poppy Inn? Mark Brook confirmed it is between £20 and £30 a month.</p> <p>There was a discussion about Military Associations working together to find a single venue as a base. It was agreed it would be worth trying this again (it was tried once before with no interest). There was also a suggestion that a purpose-built community centre should be considered.</p> <p>Mark Brook confirmed that all wreaths arrive in the Falklands via the military flight and at no charge.</p> <p>There was a short discussion about what the RBL can do for the families of serving military personnel.</p> <p>Chris Locke thanked everybody for attending, both on line and those in the room.</p> <p>The AGM closed at 19.42 (Falkland time), 22.42 (UK time)</p>	<p>Branch Committee</p> <p>Branch Committee</p>

Chairman's Address RBL AGM

Monday 15 December 2025

Many thanks to you all for taking the time tonight to come along our AGM tonight.

Similar to last year, the beginning of this year focused very much on continuing to secure the Poppy Inn as our home. As agreed following last year's AGM I made some amendments to our letter to MLA's and sent it awaiting the answer. Unfortunately and much to my disappointment the reply from MLA Leona Roberts was less than positive stating we could no longer have access to the Poppy Inn and that the Synergy building that Colin Summers was happy for us to move into would not be available. After months of lobbying the future of the Poppy Inn had been decided and we were to be left homeless. This was a considerable disappointment as the Poppy Inn had been the focus for the Branch where over the past 10 years I can recall many memorable events. While our new MLA's have stated there is going to be a pause on financial spending and therefore the redevelopment of Hillside may not happen, I am doubtful that access can be renegotiated and must accept it is time for us to move on.

In February we had a great evening in the Waterfront Hotel organised by Wendy McPhee. Many thanks Wendy for organising the evening it was a splendid event and I think for the future is something we could continue with on a more regular basis. Indeed, if there is the support we could hold another event this coming February.

I was away working on the MV Silver Cloud this November so unable to attend the Poppy Ball however I know it was a huge success and my thanks to Mark for the many hours of work this took to organise. I am under no illusion in what is involved in organising the premier event of the Falklands social year so thanks to Mark and everybody who was involved in making the night the success it was. Feel sure Mark will give an update in his Vice Chair report.

To tie this in with Remembrance, while aboard the MV Silver Cloud I gave a talk on the Falklands and what it is like to live in the Islands. My lecture also covered the work of our Branch. After the presentation a gentleman, Mr Roy Packer, came to me and said he was a Sapper during the Falklands Conflict and that he would very much like to lay a wreath at the 1982 Memorial when the arrived in the Islands. This was his first return since the Conflict so a very special time for him. It was a real privilege to be able to escort Ron to the 82 Memorial and stand by him as he laid his wreath at 1100 remembering his three friends who had lost their lives. For me, this is what the RBL is all about and while raising money is important, being able to help somebody on a personnel level is so important and I believe the cornerstone of the work the Branch undertakes.

If the RBL Falkland Islands Branch is to continue to thrive without a physical home we need to develop a strategy for its future and continued involvement within the community. The first step must be to encourage and broaden our membership, publicise our events more widely and improve methods of communication between the Branch, its members alongside those with RBL HQ in the UK.

This has to start with returning to monthly meetings either at a single venue or perhaps spreading meetings and socials at various places. I don't think it matters too much where we meet so long as we meet and while funds from bar takings will not go to the RFL Poppy Appeal (as they did with the

Poppy Inn) we will at least be meeting sociably. Hopefully this will be the start of a new era for the Branch.

I would also very much like to develop our media outputs and hopefully Kathy Daniels as Deputy Editor for Penguin News will be happy to offer us an opportunity to cover an article on the work we do and the place of the RBL FI Branch within our Community.

A radio interview could follow with perhaps a few members also helping cover a FITV article. We also need to reconnect with serving members of the Armed Forces at Mount Pleasant. In the past it was normal for MPA personnel to come into Stanley and join the Branch for a socials or quiz nights. While simple to say, I am aware of the complications in maintaining connections with the MOD through churn. However it is important we try to re-erect this.

If possible I think it would be fantastic if we could organise an 'away day' to MPA for RBL members. I know this would take some organising but it could be a wonderful shared day. Some years back when I was Harbour Master in Mare Harbour I hosted a civilian visit so know it has been done before.

On a less than positive note I was disappointed to read the FIG Press Statement regarding the discontinuation of an official service for Battle Day this year. While the statement says the RBL was consulted along with the Royal Navy I am not aware of any communication. However, it was great to see a non-FIG supported service was conducted with the traditional wreath laying. The RBL must continue to support this event.

Nancy and I were in London on 14th June this year and attended the Liberation Day service at Pangbourne College in the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel. A moving service with beautiful choral singing by the College Choir and a most powerful and heart felt sermon. The 2025 service is on YouTube if anybody wishes to see it. It was a privilege to meet the Captain of RFA Sir Galahad, Capt. Phil Roberts, as he rang Sir Galahad's Bell to start the service. The following day Nancy and I attended the Falkland Islands Association reception in London and met with Russell La Fort the Current Chairman of the Association and his wife Gillian. He was very keen to hear about how the RBL Falklands Islands Branch was doing; as he was a former CBF and President of our Branch. Indeed, some of you may have met them during their visit this November when they came to the Poppy Ball.

A few words of thanks.

Thanks to Mark for all that he does for the Branch but most importantly for organising this year's Poppy Ball.

Thanks to Heggs for all his hard work on sorting the accounts and to Alison Baker who verifies our accounts at no cost. I know this is a thankless task but very much a vital role.

Thanks to Jenny our Standard Bearer who has braved the elements over the year to carry our Standard and represent the Branch at a number of services and Acts of Remembrance.

Tamsin, for holding the strings together as our Secretary for the past 5 years. I know you have offered to stand down if somebody else wishes to stand and know we have two nominations for the position so once again Tamsin many thanks for all your hard work over the years.

Richards for his continued support through the London Office and the Acts of Remembrance he undertakes for FIG but very much under the umbrella of the RBL.

To Nancy for all her hard work as local Secretary and support to me.

To Bob for keeping our web page alive. It is great to see you here in person tonight as I know you are normally in the UK. Thanks for your continued support to the Branch.

To Keith for being the font of all knowledge and keeping us on the straight and narrow. Congratulations on your election today as Speaker of the House.

To John and Sarah for their continued support even while they have been overseas.

In summing up, while I believe the loss of the Poppy Inn is a great shame we must move forward with positivity seeking out opportunities when they arrive. If we can return to a monthly meeting venue I think we will be on the right step to take the branch forward. In the meantime may I wish you all the very best for Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you.