

**Patron; His Majesty King Charles III**



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION  
"Supporting the  
Armed Forces Community"

**The Royal British Legion**  
**Torrevieja Branch BR3456**



**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Location: Oasis, San Luis**

All figures quoted are correct as of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 unless otherwise shown.

Unless any one person objects it is intended to **voice record this meeting** (to better facilitate the preparation of the AGM minutes). If you do object, please advise the Secretary or Chairman **prior to the commencement of the meeting**.

**AGENDA**

Position	Name	Attendance	
		YES	NO
Presiding Member	Graham Knight (GK)	√	
Chairman/BCS 1	Jack Kemp (JK)	√	
Vice Chairman/Membership Sec	Tim Mayren (TM)	√	
Secretary	Trish Carruthers (TC)	√	
Treasurer	Dave Lockhart (DL)	√	
Poppy Appeal Organiser	Hellen Lovell (HL)	√	
Poppy Appeal Assistant	Ian Carruthers (IC)	√	
Branch Community Support	Pamela Twissell-Cross MBE (PTC)	√	
Social Member	John William Featherstone (JWF)	√	
Assistant Social Member	Brenda Isobel Sigurdsson (BIS)	√	
Standard Bearer	Danny Kay (DK)	√	
Youth Member/Social Media	Erin Mayren (EM)	√	

1. Chairman

1.1 The Chairman welcomed the Honoured Guests, Branch Members and Visitors to the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

1.2 The Chairman opened the Torrevieja Branch AGM.

- He asked all Members and Guests to stand to receive the Standards.

- Exhortation.
- Period of Silence.
- Please be Seated.

1.3 Apologies for absence read by the Secretary:

Casey Colebrook, Ruth & Paul Bonner, Stuart Espin, Mike Fowler, Chris & Pat Hatch, Peter Kemp, Dave & Sam Livingstone, Andy McDonagh, Ian Nixon, Dave Parry, Dan Rossie, Kyle Rossie, Maurice Simpson BEM & Maud Simpson, Murry Small.

1.4 Secretary annotate the minutes with Committee Members Present which are listed above, number of Members in attendance was 28 Members, See Annex L.

1.5 The Chairman confirmed the minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the Chair confirmed that the minutes were distributed by email and were also made available for viewing at the meeting and added to the electronic database on Office 365. Request a Proposer and Seconder that the minutes are a true reflection of the meeting.

Motion: That the minutes are true reflection of the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Proposed by: Barry Price    Seconded by: Danny Kay    Against: Nil

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

2.1 The Chair Introduced the new Branch Committee and explained the make-up of the current Committee who were all new Committee Members less for Danny Kay and Tim Mayren. He asked each Member to provide a brief introduction.

- Committee Member Self Introduction.

2.2 The Chair then explained the difference between a Co-Opted Positions and an Elected Position. He also explained that some members of the Committee are appointed for the skill set, example being the Branch Treasurer.

2.3 The Chair explained that in accordance with the Membership Handbook (MH) that himself and Tim Mayren would end the period of Co-Opted Chair and Vice Chair at this meeting.

2.4 The Chair covered previous twelve months in his Annual Report of 2025 which is attached at Annex A. At the end of his report he opened the Floor for Questions from the Members in attendance. No questions were presented from the Members.

3. Committee Members Reports for 2025

- 3.1 Co-Opted Vice Chair Report – See Annex B.
- 3.2 Elected Secretary Report – See Annex C.

3.3 Appointed Treasurer Report.

- Current Branch Account Balances.
  - General Purpose Fund (GPF) = € 863.16
  - Poppy Appeal = € 3,681.23
  - Total Balance as at 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025 = €4,544.39

3.4 The Chair then covered the Adoption of Branch Annual Accounts for 2024/2025 – See Annex D

Motion: That the Branch Annual Accounts are a True Reflection, submitted and approved by the Branch Committee and Audited with no adverse comments made.

The Chair confirm that the Annual Accounts had been submitted to District, and the Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) again with no adverse comments.

Proposed by: Linda Baker Seconded by: Barbera Dewhurst                      Against: Nil

**Continuation of Committee Members Reports.**

3.5 Appointed BCS Report – See Annex E.

3.6 Elected Membership Secretaries Report – See Annex F.

The Membership Secretary presented a Branch Welcome Pack to Jane Palomba.

- **Afternote: It was noted that additional Welcome Packs are required which will be presented at the next General Branch Meeting.**

3.7 Appointed PAO Report – See Annex G.

3.8 Elected Social Members Report – See Annex H.

3.9 Elected Webmasters Report, covered by the Branch Chair – See Annex I.

3.10 Appointed Youth Members & Social Media Report, the Vice Chair explained that to be a Youth Member of TRBL as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 you either needed to be a Member of a Legion Band or a Youth Standard Bearer.

3.11 Appointed Lead Standard Bearers Report – See Annex J.

4. All Members will be given an opportunity to put their names forward for the Executive Positions of Chair and Vice Chair for 2026, Nominations and Seconds. This was a Nil Return from Members via email and those in attendance at the AGM.

5. Chair then explained the format to be followed in accordance with the Membership Handbook and that both himself as Chair and Tim Mayren as Vice Chair would be elected to the positions.

6. The Chair introduce Mr Graham Knight and handed over the AGM so that Mr Graham Knight could perform the duties of Presiding Officer for the Affirmation for the Executive Officers. The Affirmation was conducted with all Branch Executive Officer accepting their respective Elected and Appointed Positions.

7. The Presiding Officer conducted the Charging of the Lead Branch Standard Bearer with the Branch Standard for 2026. Mr Danny Kay was Charged with the Torrevieja Standard for another year.

8. The Presiding Officer was then given the opportunity to address the new Branch Committee and Members before handing the AGM over to the new Branch Chair.

9. Incoming Chair look forward to 2026 – See Annex K.

10. Nominations for District Vice-Chair 2026 – 2029 – Nil Return.

11. Nominations to join the District Committee for 2026 – Nil Return.

12. Delegates for the District and National Conference for 2026 - Linda Baker and the Branch Chair.

13. Motions for the District and National Conference for 2026 – Nil Return.

14. The Chair asked Mr Graham Knight to Present Two Branch Chairman's Certificates of Appreciation.

- Mrs Barbra Dewhurst – Commitment to the Poppy Appeal over many years and always having a positive response for requests for help.
- Mrs Jane Palomba – Commitment to the Branch as a new member which has been an extremely positive start and one for all members to follow.

15. The Chair announced that the third Certificate of Appreciation is for the Branch Member that had recruited the most Branch Members since the last AGM. The award will be presented at the next General Branch Meeting to Mr Bob Lovell. The Chair also stated that this award was not available to Committee Members, as Bob had stood down as Chair, he was deemed eligible for this Chairman's Certificate of Appreciation.

16. The Chair confirmed that the next General Branch Meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

17. The Chair confirmed that the provisional AGM for 2026 is currently scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> October 2026, this will move the AGM out of the very busy period of Remembrancetide.

18. The Chair Closed the AGM.

- Recovery of Standards.
- The Business of the Meeting Concluded.
- Kohima Epitaph.

*Signed Electronically*

**Trish Carruthers**

**Branch Secretary**

**Torre Vieja Branch (BR 3456)**

**The Royal British**

**Registered Charity No. 219279**

**Spanish NIF N8261536J**

[Torre Vieja Branch Web Page](#)

[Torre Vieja Branch Facebook Group Page](#)

*"Service not Self"*



*Torre Vieja Branch (BR - 3456)*

*"Supporting the  
Armed Forces Community"*

Attachments:

- Annex A: Branch Chair Report.
- Annex B: Branch Vice Chair Report.
- Annex C: Branch Secretaries Report.
- Annex D: Branch Treasurers Report.
- Annex E: Branch Community Support Report.
- Annex F: Branch Membership Secretaries Report.
- Annex G: Branch Poppy Appeal Organisers Report.
- Annex H: Branch Social Members Report.
- Annex I: Branch Webmasters Report.
- Annex J: Branch Lead Standard Bearers Report.
- Annex K: Branch Chair Look Forward Report.
- Annex L: Presiding Members Address.
- Annex M: AGM Attendance.

## **Chair's Branch Annual Report for 2025**

### **Introduction**

Dear Members and Honoured Guests,

I am pleased to present my report for 2025. Despite the challenges we have faced, I am determined to deliver an upbeat and positive account of our year. While there was a real risk that our Branch could have been reclassified as a District Supported Branch, or even disbanded entirely, we have persevered. For those who are new to our Branch, you might not know that we are the oldest Branch in Spain District North.

### **Our History and Legacy**

The Torrevieja Branch of the Royal British Legion was established on 24th April 1989, predating the official formation of RBL Spain North by seven years in 1996. At that time, Torrevieja and several other Branches were formally inaugurated. As the oldest Branch within Spain District North, we share our borders with the Gran Alicant and Orihuela Costa Branches. Our long history makes it all the more important that we never allow this Branch to fold. Next year will mark our 37th anniversary—a significant milestone for us all.

### **Reflection on Previous Reports**

Upon reading last year's AGM report from the Chair, I was disappointed by the language used towards the previous Committee Members and Members. This year, I wish to begin on a much more positive note. The previous Branch Committee Members have my utmost praise and gratitude for their dedication and service to the Torrevieja Branch of The Royal British Legion, I was however very disappointed to see them leave the Branch and join neighbouring Branches. Tim, during his Membership Secretaries report, will provide details of our membership numbers, including those we have lost and gained. Apart from Danny, Tim, and myself transitioning from President to Chair, we have an entirely new Committee. I would like to extend my personal thanks to all of you who have volunteered for your Committee appointments. Danny and Tim are now in their fifth year serving the Committee, truly embodying the principle of "Service not Self".

### **Branch Administration and Committee Changes**

A major question for many Members will be why the Branch was placed into District Administration. Some of you attended the meeting I held in this very room, where I provided an update on the situation. I also sent letters to all Members explaining the circumstances and followed up with further updates.

The Branch was placed into Administration by District after six Committee Members resigned over a two-month period. The remaining Committee Members, under the direction of Bob Lovell as Vice Chair/Chair, acted entirely in accordance with the Membership Handbook and formed a new Committee. Ordinarily, the resignation of six Committee Members including the Chair, Treasurer, PAO, and two BCS Members would have resulted in the Branch becoming a District Supported Branch, possibly even facing closure. That would have been unacceptable for the oldest Branch in SDN. However, the District Chair, Mr Paul Kane, decided to investigate the circumstances surrounding these resignations. I am pleased to say that, discreetly, the stood-down Committee

continued to work hard to ensure we were ready to resume normal operations when Administration was lifted. If the Committee had not taken that course of action, it would have led to our Remembrance Events, Ceremonies being unacceptably affected or even cancelled, and the Poppy Appeal also affected by the Administration.

After eight weeks, the investigation concluded with absolutely no case to answer. The Committee was reinstated by the District Chair and elected/appointed into their current positions.

Unfortunately, the stress and pressure during this period took its toll on all of the Committee Members and one unfortunately subsequently stepped down. It was not surprising given the circumstances.

With the agreement of the Committee and the District Chair, I was asked to step down as President and take over as Branch Chair for an interim period, with Tim as Branch Vice Chair. These two co-opted positions conclude tonight.

### 2025 in Review

To summarise, 2025 has been a particularly challenging year for the Branch, but it has nonetheless been a positive one overall. Our engagement with the Mayor of Torre Vieja and his team, as well as the support of Jean Paul and Graham Knight, has been invaluable. These connections help keep the Royal British Legion present in the public eye. Notable events this year included:

- Armed Forces Day (AFD) – While a District event, the administration was led by the Branch Committee, not the District.
- Armistice Day, Parade of Standards, Church Service, Wreath Laying Ceremonies, and the Social Lunch – All attended by Torre Vieja VIPs and Members. These events reflected well on both the Mayor and his team, as well as your Branch Committee.

### Branch Events

- 80th Anniversary of VE Day, held here at the Oasis
- 80th Anniversary of VJ Day (with a grant from RBL London, this was a free event for all attendees) held at Silverstones
- Remembrance Sunday at The Club in Quasada

All these events were positive occasions, raising money for the Poppy Appeal, keeping the Branch visible in the community, and supporting Branch membership. I want to thank all Members who attended any of these events, as well as both past and present Committees for their efforts.

### Conclusion and Thanks

The remaining activities and events will be discussed in the reports from the Branch Committee Members. I have aimed to give you an overview of how successful the Branch has been during an exceptionally difficult year. I would like to thank all Members for your ongoing support to the Royal British Legion, and especially to the oldest Branch of TRBL in SDN. Thank you.

I will now open the floor for any questions.

## Vice Chairman's Annual Report

As many of you are aware, I have recently assumed the role of Vice Chair. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the committee for choosing to co-opt me into this role. Serving as Vice Chair is an honour, and I am particularly appreciative of the strong working relationship I have developed with Jack. My commitment is unwavering: I aim to fully support the committee and, most importantly, to advocate for the interests of our Branch Members. Thank you all for your continued trust and support.

## Secretaries Annual Report

### Introduction

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Branch Committee for their trust in me. I appreciate being co-opted onto the Branch Committee, which was then followed by a formal election process after the lifting of District Administration.

### Background and Experience

My professional background is in the National Health Service (NHS), where I served in various roles for over 38 years. Throughout my career, I developed and applied a wide range of administrative and technical skills. These include calendar management, scheduling, handling correspondence, and utilising office software for daily operations.

Although some time has passed since I was last actively engaged in these tasks, I kindly ask for your patience as I become familiar with the systems currently used by The Royal British Legion, particularly Office 365 and the Membership Administration Portal.

### Looking Ahead

I am eager to get to know the Branch better, as this will help me build my confidence and efficiency while also supporting improved communication within the organisation. I look forward to working closely with both branch members and the newly formed committee. Together, I believe we can manage and deliver successful events.

### Objectives for the Coming Year

My main goal for the upcoming year is to leverage my strong communication skills and technical proficiency to ensure smooth operations and foster positive working relationships within the Torreveja Branch of The Royal British Legion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, TORREVIEJA BRANCH - BR3456**  
**BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

**For the Financial Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Period 18/06/25 to 30/06/25)**

<b>Petty Cash (includes 50 Euros Cash Float – (MB )</b>	<b>59,79 Euros</b>
<b><u>Bank Balance</u></b>	<b><u>2.885,80 Euros</u></b>
<b><u>TOTAL (Bank Reconciliation – Agreed 30/06/25)</u></b>	<b><u>2.945,59 Euros</u></b>

**FUNDS**

<b>1). General Fund</b>	<b>275,67 Euros</b>
<b>2). Poppy Appeal (from 20th December 2024)</b>	<b>2.669,92 Euros</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>2.945,59 Euros</u></b>

**Branch Receipts – (from 18/06/25)**

Nil

**Branch Expenditure – (from 18/06/25)**

**Bank Charge – Quarterly Fee – period 01/04/25 to 30/06/30** **60,00 Euros**



**Geoffrey J. Thomas**

**Branch Treasurer**



**Torre vieja Branch BR3456**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2025**

**Chairman**

## Branch Community Support Report

### Introduction

I would like to provide an update on the current state of Branch Community Support within the Torrevieja Branch. As many of you know, I previously served alongside Jack on the District Committee. At Jack's invitation, I became a member of the Torrevieja Branch and subsequently joined the Branch Committee.

### Transition into the Role

Although I am new to this particular role within the Branch, I bring prior experience as the District Community Support Coordinator. However, after being out of the position for a few years, my training had become outdated.

### Training and Requalification

To address this, I have completed the mandatory online training. Additionally, I am scheduled to undertake my BCS TEAMS Training Sessions on the 24th and 25th of November. By completing this training, I will be requalified and able to formally assume the duties of Branch Community Support (BCS). I was able to move my training dates forward from December to November due to the urgency of this post. Upon completion, I will receive my BCS email account and a name badge, both of which will be issued from the UK.

### Interim Support and Ongoing Activities

In the interim, the Branch has not been without BCS support. Jack, having completed the necessary courses following the resignations of Mark and Julie Benton, Jack has been diligently looking after Branch Beneficiaries, with Home and Hospital Visits and both Telephone and Technical Buddy Support. He has also supported some Beneficiaries from the District at the request of the District Community Support Coordinator, Billie.

Furthermore, Danny and MaryLou, two of our Branch Standard Bearers, have fulfilled the Ultimate Act of Homage by attending funerals as Standard Bearers, accompanied by other Committee members.

### Team Expansion and Volunteer Opportunities

I am pleased to report that Sue Pullar, a Branch member, has volunteered to join me in delivering this vital service and will begin her training shortly. We continue to welcome additional support from Branch members who are interested in assisting with activities such as:

- Telephone/Technical Buddy support;
- Home or Hospital Visiting.

### Acknowledgements and Looking Ahead

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Jack Kemp, our Chair, for covering the BCS role during this transition period. I look forward to supporting both the Branch and our Legion Beneficiaries as we move forward together. Thank you for your attention, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

## Membership and Retention Secretary's Annual Report

### Introduction

I have now completed four years serving as Membership Secretary. During this time, I have worked closely with every member of the Branch Committee. My responsibilities have included direct reporting to Pam Wilding, Peter Phillips, John Lord, Bob Lovell, and, currently, Jack Kemp. Over these years, our branch's membership numbers have fluctuated, with both new members joining and some members leaving.

### District Administration of the Branch and Committee Changes

As highlighted in the Chair's Annual Report, our Branch was placed under District Administration. This decision, made by the District Chair, is one I believe was not warranted. The consequence of this action was the departure of several Committee Members. Throughout 2025, a total of thirty-two members left the Branch, with some departures influenced by others choosing to leave. This situation has led me to reflect on the principle of "Service not Self."

### Membership Losses During District Administration

During the period of District Administration, we experienced the loss of ten branch members, which included four committee members. Despite these challenges, the newly formed committee dedicated significant effort to recruiting new members. Their work has been highly effective, resulting in a recruitment rate that has more than compensated for the members we lost.

### Improvements and Initiatives

A major development this year was the implementation of a new branch database. This tool has been invaluable for the committee, significantly improving our operational efficiency and facilitating the membership renewal process.

### Future Plans and Community Engagement

Looking ahead, we are planning to enhance our branch's activities by organizing more social gatherings and "Meet and Greet" events. These initiatives are designed to further strengthen the branch, foster community engagement, and continue our support for local community members and Legion Beneficiaries. Further details on these topics will be provided by John and Brenda.

### Encouragement for Member Participation

I urge every member to actively support our branch's growth by inviting at least two new members each year. Your efforts are crucial to maintaining and expanding our membership base.

### Membership Statistics for the Year

This year, despite losing 32 members, we welcomed 45 new members to the branch. This results in a net gain of 14 members, which represents a 12.39 percent increase in our overall membership.

Ser Number for Branch Records	Recruiting Member/Event	Total Members
*	Recruitment Event	14
1	Jack Kemp	21
2	Bob Lovell	8
3	Pam Twissell-Cross	1
4	Barbara Dewhurst	1
		45

Annex G  
AGM  
18/Nov/25

## Poppy Appeal Organisers Report

### Introduction

The current total for the Poppy Appeal at the bank stands at €3,681.23, with the additional donations today it should bring the total to € 11,700, however it is anticipated that, once all outstanding collection boxes have been gathered, the final amount will be approximately €12,000. This achievement is especially notable given the challenges faced, including limitations in staffing, stock shortages, and complications arising from the timeframe set by District Administration.

### Afternote

The total amount for the Poppy Appeal 2025 will far exceed the amount above of €12,000 with additional donations received since Helen's report. The total will be confirmed at the next General Branch Meeting in January 2026.

### Logistics and Stock Management

The Royal British Legion (RBL) stock is now being delivered by KnightHawk, a shipping company based in the United Kingdom. KnightHawk has generously provided their services at no cost to the Branch. At present, the most recent order is held up in customs, and we are awaiting clearance to proceed with collection.

### Acknowledgements and Reflections

Gratitude is extended to both the Committee and all Branch Members for their ongoing support of the Poppy Appeal 2025 during this challenging period. The experiences encountered this year are considered valuable lessons that will contribute to an even more successful campaign in 2026.

## Social Events Annual Report

### Background and Return to the Committee

We, John Featherstone and Brenda Sigurdsson, previously served as members of the Social Committee. After stepping down from our roles, we had the opportunity to meet with the newly formed committee. The positive atmosphere and the collaborative spirit among the members encouraged us to rejoin the committee. As a result, we officially returned to our positions just one day before the branch was placed into administration. During our earlier tenure, we had successfully organized a number of social events prior to our resignation under the previous Committee.

### Recent and Upcoming Social Functions

Since our return to the committee, we have already taken the initiative to organize two social functions for the branch members:

- First Function: The Armistice after meal, which was held as a commemorative gathering with many VIP's from Torrивieja Town Hall. An event that was enjoyed by all those that attended.
- Second Function: The upcoming Christmas dinner at Silverstones, scheduled for December 22nd. Booking for this event will be place on Facebook this week.

### Communication and Member Involvement

Brenda and I are committed to keeping all branch members informed about future social functions. We will send out emails with details regarding the dates and locations of upcoming events, we will also use the branch facebook and branch Webpage.

### Member Engagement and Venue Suggestions

We actively encourage all members to share their ideas and suggestions for future social events. If you know of a local bar or venue that you think would be an appropriate setting for one of our upcoming functions, please feel free to recommend it to us. Your input is valuable and helps us in making our social gatherings enjoyable and accessible to everyone.

In addition, we are committed to ensuring that the costs associated with our social functions remain as reasonable as possible. Our goal is to make these events affordable so that all members have the opportunity to participate.

We appreciate your continued support. It is truly rewarding to be part of this new committee, where everyone is dedicated and working hard on behalf of the members and the Legion Beneficiaries.

## Webmasters Annual Report

### Overview of Webpage Developments

The Branch Webpage has undergone a comprehensive rewrite, resulting in significant improvements to its overall layout and user experience. This enhancement ensures that members and visitors can access information more efficiently.

### Index Bars and Website Structure

The updated webpage now features clearly organized index bars, making navigation straightforward. The main sections include:

- Branch Home Page
- Information on Who We Are
- What We Do
- Join the Branch or the Committee
- Remembrance
- Branch Community Support
- Poppy Appeal
- Publications: Legion Magazine and RBL Central News
- News and Branch Forecast of Events
- TRBL Strategy 2025 to 2035
- Letters & Additional Information

### Website Maintenance and Usage

Updates to the webpage are made at least once a week by myself or Jack, ensuring that the information remains current and relevant for all users. Despite the valuable content provided, it appears that the webpage is not widely used by members.

### Promotion and Accessibility

To encourage greater engagement, the webpage link is included in several key communications and platforms, such as:

- Minutes
- Welcome Letters
- Facebook Page

### Feedback and Suggestions

All members are encouraged to visit the webpage when possible. If you have any recommendations or suggestions for improvements, please feel free to share them with myself or Jack.

Thank you.

## Lead Standard Bearers Report

### Introduction

Since our last Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Standard Bearers department has seen some significant developments within the Branch. Notably, Bruce Card has joined the team and has undergone full training, resulting in his certification as a Standard Bearer. Additionally, we are grateful for the ongoing support provided by MaryLou Kemp, who assists us whenever her duties with Spain District North permit.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Throughout the past year, the Standard Bearers have performed the honourable duty of representing the Branch and District at various solemn occasions. Their primary responsibility has been to attend the funerals of Veterans and Royal British Legion (RBL) Members, paying respects on behalf of the wider community.

### Events Attended

In addition to ceremonial duties, the Standard Bearers have played a visible role in several high-profile events. These include attending the Poppy Appeal Launch in Benidorm, participating in Armed Forces Day, and marking the 80th Anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day. They have also represented the Branch and District at Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day Parades, providing a dignified presence at these important commemorations. Beyond these formal events, our Standard Bearers have supported the Branch at various social functions, such as events at the Golf Club and The Club Quesada, when requested by the Branch.

### Personnel and Certification Updates

Looking ahead, we hope to strengthen our team further by adding another Standard Bearer next year, contingent upon the recovery of one of our Members who is currently unfit for duty. It is important to note that while Bruce Card has completed his Ceremonial Standard Bearers course in May 2025, the formal certificate had not initially been received from District. The Chairman was therefore requested to follow up and ensure the certificate was sent to the Branch.

### Afternote

Following the Chair's engagement with the District on 19th November 2025, the Chair is pleased to confirm receipt of Bruce Card's certificate. This will be formally presented at the next General Branch Meeting, scheduled for January 2026.

## Chair's Branch Annual Report – Plans and Objectives for 2026

### Introduction

Looking ahead to 2026, the branch has set forth a series of initiatives and activities designed to further strengthen our community and enhance engagement among our members. These plans are aimed at fostering a vibrant and inclusive branch environment.

### Collaboration with Local Authorities

One of our primary goals is to establish stronger collaboration with the Torrevieja Mayor, with Jean Paul facilitating this relationship. We also intend to set up a direct communication link with Graham. Through this partnership, we will organize a series of social events and cultural visits led by Graham, creating more opportunities for members to connect and participate in a diverse array of activities.

### Major Branch Events

At the request of Mayor relayed by Jean Paul, the branch will organize a significant event in Torrevieja, extending invitations to all RBL Branches and Associations. We are considering hosting this event on Armed Forces Day, which is scheduled for Saturday, 27th June 2026. With Graham's support, we will seek the involvement of the Spanish Armed Forces, Veterans, and Emergency Services to ensure the occasion is both meaningful and inclusive for all participants. The British Ambassador to Spain will also be invited to attend, underscoring the importance of the event. I have also asked the Phoenix International School, The Torrevieja Pipes & Drums and The Phoenix International Concert Band to also reserve the date and attend the AFD Celebrations, format to be confirmed, but it will include a Parade of Standards, Serving Personnel and Veterans and possibly an open air Service by the Sea Front. Please keep the day free.

### Monthly Social Lunches

We will maintain our tradition of holding monthly social lunches across the branch footprint. These gatherings are designed to encourage regular interaction among members and strengthen our sense of community. Members are encouraged to suggest local establishments for these lunches by reaching out to John or Brenda with their recommendations.

### Meet & Greets

In addition to our regular lunches, we will host Meet & Greet sessions throughout the branch area. These events are intended to welcome new members and promote membership within the TRBL Torrevieja Branch, ensuring that everyone feels included and valued.

### General Branch Meetings: Location and Timing

We have received valuable feedback from members regarding the location and timing of our branch meetings. As your committee, our primary responsibility is to serve the membership. Therefore, decisions on these matters will be based on the consensus and preferences of our members. I invite those present today to share their perspectives, and I will also be sending a letter to all members to collect further input and ensure everyone's voice is heard.

### Communication and Updates

To keep members fully informed, a quarterly update letter will be distributed by the Branch Chair. Members are also encouraged to regularly visit our Branch Webpage, which, as MaryLou has emphasized, is continuously updated with the latest news and events. For more frequent updates and interaction, members are invited to engage with our Branch Facebook page.

### Recruitment of New Members

The continued growth of our branch is essential for our ongoing success. I encourage every member to help us identify and welcome new members to our branch, ensuring that we remain a vibrant and dynamic community.

### Commitment to Members

In closing, I wish to reaffirm that the Branch Committee is here to serve all members. If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied in any way, please let us know so that we can offer our support. Conversely, if you are pleased with our efforts, your positive feedback is also greatly appreciated. Open and two-way communication is critical for the Oldest Branch in Spain District North to continue growing and improving. We remain fully committed to our motto: "Service not Self."

Jack Kemp  
Branch Chair  
18/Nov/2025

## Presiding Members Address – Mr Graham Knight

### Introduction and Gratitude

Thank you. I must confess, I did not anticipate this moment, nor am I fully prepared for it. Nevertheless, I am sincerely grateful for the invitation to be here this afternoon. It is, as I mentioned earlier, a tremendous honour to be a member of the Royal British Legion. This particular branch stands as one of the oldest and most established associations or charities in all of Torrevieja.

### Personal Connection to Torrevieja and the Royal British Legion

I recall fondly when I first purchased my holiday home here in 1988. At that time, the Royal British Legion had its own bar along the Toretta's area. I wonder if anyone else remembers those days. Over the years, our branch has certainly experienced its share of ups and downs. On a personal note, Torrevieja truly feels like my town. I am completely integrated into the community, living in the town centre and forming strong connections with many local Spanish residents. My involvement in various aspects of the town has spanned several years, deepening my sense of belonging.

### Ideas for Greater Community Involvement

Looking ahead, I am interested in discussing with John the possibility of activities that could help bring our branch closer to the local community and foster a stronger sense of unity. The British Legion has already provided valuable insight during Armed Forces Day and especially on Remembrance Day, which is observed on November 11th. Thanks to John Paul, the event was moved to the principal church in the town centre, which has drawn greater attention to the British Legion and its mission.

I believe there is potential for even more involvement. The mayor has expressed enthusiasm for our branch to engage more actively with the town. I will give this further thought and hope to contribute more ideas in the future.

### Future Plans and Commitment

Regrettably, I will not be able to attend the next meeting on 16th December, as I will be travelling to England to spend Christmas with my family. However, I am optimistic that in the new year, I will return with some suggestions, perhaps organising an excursion in town to better acquaint ourselves with our community, or arranging a meeting with the mayor to enhance our branch's involvement in Torrevieja.

### Conclusion

I look forward to these opportunities and to helping the Torrevieja Branch of The Royal British Legion become even more integrated within Torrevieja.

Thank you.

**AGM Attendance List**

<i>Membership Number</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Surname</i>	<i>Membership Number</i>	<i>Forename</i>	<i>Surname</i>
25829481	Lynda	Baker	26036771	Jane	Palomba
25832447	Robert	Baker	22808734	Barbara Susan	Price
17830796	Bruce	Card	22808371	Barrie	Price
25923130	Ian	Carruthers	26037106	Wendy	Prokopowycz
25923040	Trish	Carruthers	21918559	Brenda Isobel	Sigurdsson
21606377	Barbara June	Dewhurst	25864619	Kay	Smith
1006988	Michael	Elliott	25864613	Stuart	Smith
21919492	John William	Featherstone	170322	Brian Thomas	Todd
21978142	Gerald Gordon	Kay	15548222	Kathleen	Todd
21978273	Rosemary	Kay	19967640	Pamela Sheila	Twissell-Cross MBE
19354089	Mary	Kemp			
19976209	Jack	Kemp			
26189187	Graham	Knight			
20701787	Mark	Knight MBE			
1633170	Jane Elizabeth	Knight			
25883781	David	Lockhart			
25815596	Helen	Lovell			
21607602	Timothy	Mayren			