

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 1st May 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway – Chairman, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Tim Russell, Sue Chewter, Diane Matthews and 8 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Julie Karmazyn, Tracey Merritt, Steve Brough, John Davies, Dave Godfrey, Rick Bourne, Milena Haczynz

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by Ian. We remembered Don Walker, a long-serving branch and Band member. He was a RN veteran.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: S Stork. Accepted by all present.

2. Matters Arising: None

3. Treasurer's Report: for the period up to 1st May 2025

O/Bal	£2515.50
Receipts	£nil
Payments	£nil
C/Bal	£2515.50

BFI to 31st Mar 2025

O/Bal £41.26 + interest received 20p = 41.46 credit

Commitment of £39.50 for ceremonial expenditure for Andy Dawes.

Proposed Joe, seconded S Stork. Accepted by all present

4. Poppy Appeal Report:

4.1. Tim received a donation of £60.18 from George, The Band gave £80, Rick Bourne gave £455 from the Golf competition.

4.2. Tim has a large amount of good quality used clothing which will be put out for donations at the Club VE80 event, donations to the WS as they will run the stall.

4.3. Next events are VE80 at Milestones, Old Basing Carnival and Hook Village Show.

4.4. We have access to the RBL donation App available for smartphones, so we are no longer reliant on getting contactless units for small events.

4.5. Old Basing £13,647.41 + £7455.05 + £304.50 = 21406.96.

Hook £10,380.07 + £13,970.50 + £167.00 = £24,517.57

4.6. Combined Total £45,924.53

5. Membership Report: Currently 444 members including 18 overdue renewals

6. Club Report:

6.1. There will be indoor Golf on 3rd May, and a full day of VE80 events 10th May

6.2. The new Club loyalty cards are working well, if you have club membership you need the loyalty card for access to the bar, speak to Mark or Tracey if any issues

6.3. We are still recruiting for a Bar Manager since Kyle left.

6.4. Mark removed the laid-up Standards from the club corridor, and they are being stored in the Poppy Cupboard until such time as Tim or Avril can get them to County Parade Marshall (hopefully in June)

7. Band Report:

7.1. The Band are attending VE80 at Milestones and also at the Club, Basingstoke Festival of Transport on 11th May, Tadley Treacle Fair and Sherfield Village Fete. Details of all upcoming events on the Band webpage.

7.2. The Band are sourcing a new summer uniform of white cotton shirts with the RBL logo.

7.3. As discussed at their AGM, the Band are still updating policies and their constitution and are including BOPA cover for younger members. DBS checks are still being completed.

8. Correspondence:

- The May Link
- An invitation to veterans to visit a Military Drone factory in Farnham
- John Davies emailed that Milestones will have a small classic car display should Rick want to take his car there.
- A reminder of the Basingstoke VE80 Flag Raising and Service 8th May. Ian P is expecting to attend.
- An invitation to take part in the St Mary's Church Festival 16th-18th May. Unfortunately, this clashes with Annual Conference and no-one is free to set up a display.
- An invitation to set up a VE80 display in the church for the week 3rd-10th May. Brian Dawes has supplied local WW2 Veteran information and Tim has provided a wreath and some wooden tributes.
- A list of the successful candidates to RBL National roles.
- The membership E-News which is sent to members who have subscribed.
- A reminder that Motions of Urgency to National Annual Conference need to be submitted by 15th May. Pre-submitted questions for the Membership Forum need to be in by 5th May. We do not have anything we wish to raise.
- A notification for Branch Admin fees and New Joiners Fees, do we wish to change them for the year commencing 1st Oct 2025. AM proposed we do not change our fees, Seconded SC, all agreed.

9. Events and fund raising:

- 9.1. Planning is under way for the Black-Tie Dinner to be held 25th October. Tickets will be on sale soon. The Band asked whether they can perform for us again this year.
- 9.2. The Band will be attending the VE80 event at Milestones and will also be at the club during the afternoon.

10. A.O.B:

- 10.1. Brian Dawes asked that we include Michael Crotty with the names on our roll-call at Remembrance. Although Mr Crotty died after the end of WW2, he does have a CWG memorial in St Mary's churchyard. We agree that we should add his name to our roll-call. Brian wishes to find out whether the Church will add him to the war memorial, we are not able to answer this, Brian will enquire (with Rick Bourne).
- 10.2. John Davy asked whether there are any volunteers who can help run Old Basing Carnival. The lack of volunteers put the event at risk of being cancelled. Please get in touch with John if you can help.
- 10.3. Tim attended his local MP forum where he spoke with Luke Murphy about the current RBL campaign for Stop the Service Charge – families being penalised for Visa Fees. Luke showed some interest in this.
- 10.4. We discussed the Motions to Annual Conference and gave our delegate our suggested responses for each. These are: Motions 1,2,3,4,5 AGAINST and 6,7 FOR. If our delegate hears other points during debate that we have not considered he is authorised to use his discretion and vote accordingly.
- 10.5. Diane raised that the RBL have changed the method of buying FoR tickets to a ballot system. This will mean people do not have to stay on hold for hours trying to purchase tickets. This may be an improvement.

The next meeting is a Social and will be on 5th June at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman