Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.

5th December 2011.

Present: Neil Russell (Chairman)
Sarah Maskell-Bott (Vice-Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
John Clifford

In attendance: John Maskell-Bott

Apologies for Absence: Marvin Clark, Liam Shelbourne.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 30th October were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising:

   The Secretary confirmed that form MS1 has been sent to HQ, however, additional signatures are required when the Welfare Committee has been finalized.

   Sarah Maskell-Bott, and Rev. Kathy Biles have agreed to form the Welfare Committee. An approach is to be made to Pam Lewis to see if she was willing to also sit on that Committee.

Action: Vice-Chairman to approach Pam.
Action: Secretary to arrange for the completion and resubmission of Form MS1 in due course.

   The Governor has accepted the invitation to become Branch President.

3. Vice-Chairman's Report:

   The Vice-Chairman reported that the Legion Magazine was now being received.

4. Secretary's Report:

   A new policy and procedure paper had been received regarding retention of monies from the Poppy Appeal. Funds could only be transferred to the Branch Welfare Fund.

5. Treasurer's Report:

   The funds raised for the Poppy Appeal are likely to be a record for the Islands. Approx. £2,000 has been raised at MPA, £1,150 from Stanley, with more to come from the West, £465 from the Cathedral offertory,

£65 from the Treasure Hunt. The proceeds of the Concert will be split: 1/3 Poppy Appeal; 1/3 Care Home; and 1/3 Branch Welfare Fund.

Post Meeting Note: Advice received from HQ has been to donate all proceeds from the Concert to the Poppy Appeal. This simplifies the accountancy trail and allows HQ to allocate funds as they feel appropriate. Although possible, it was suggested that retaining monies for Welfare was only appropriate when Branches needed extra funds to cover on going commitments.

6. Membership Report:

A total of 20 existing members have paid in full with 16 existing members still to pay. Letters will be sent to follow-up. 8 new members have applied and paid. The income position is:

RBL subs paid:	20@£17.00	£340.00
RBL subs waived	3	£ -
New members	8@£17.00	£136.00
Donations		£ 9.00
Total Received		£485.00
RBL subs awaited	16@£17.00	£272.00

[Expenditure on Stamps: £4.64]

Action: Membership Secretary to send letters chasing subs.

7. 90th Anniversary Concert:

It was reported that all was in place for the Concert. John Underhill, the main sponsor of the event was expected to attend with his wife and son.

8. FIDF Status:

The Chairman reported that clarification was still awaited from HQ.

Post Meeting Note: Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the FIDF are not, at present, eligible for Beneficiary status. However, a way forward has been identified which could produce a positive result. The Chairman has been advised to write to the National President and Director General stating the case for inclusion. In addition a supporting letter from the He the Governor, is his position as Branch President, would be "very helpful".

Action: Chairman to write to HQ to propose FIDF receive beneficiary status.
Chairman to request Branch President to support the proposal.

9. Wreath Laying Protocol:

It is Branch policy that the order for laying wreaths will be as determined by the Parade Orders.

10. AOB:

The Chairman reported that the Welfare Bus has been made available to the Legion to pick-up members to transport to meetings. Further arrangements will be made to provide qualified drivers, and to canvass requirements from the older/infirm members.

Action: Chairman to organize.

Formal congratulations were recorded to Liam Shelbourne on his forthcoming wedding on 1st January 2012.

11. Date of next meeting: As both the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary will be absent from the next regular meeting of the Branch on 9th January, it was suggested that should there be anything of an urgent nature to be decided it could be circulated by e-mail, and the next formal meeting of the Committee would be before the Branch meeting on 6th February 2012.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.