Royal British Legion
Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.
6th August 2012.

Present: Neil Russell (Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Liam Shelbourne (Treasurer)
Rev. Kathy Biles (Welfare Rep.)

In attendance: Ginge Davis
Major Ian Davidson (Retd)

Apologies for Absence: Marvin Clark, John Clifford, Rev. Richard Hines, Dave & Pam Lewis, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott, Fred Simpson.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 7th May 2012 were confirmed as correct.

2. There were no matters arising

3. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Liam Shelbourne for representing the Legion at the Liberation Day ceremonies and at the Reception at Hillside Camp.

He also thanked Keith Biles for the donation and the involvement of "Heroes Welcome".

It was reported that the memorial cross on the top of Tumbledown was broken, not it was thought through any vandalism, but just the effects of weather. The wood is rotten.

Action: The Chairman is to contact Gary Clements of SAMA to report the condition and to ascertain who is responsible for repairs/replacement. In need Keith Biles will contact the Scots Guards Association for assistance.

Post meeting Note: Gary Clements has confirmed that action is in hand to refurbish the cross, and that further contact with the Scots Guards Assoc. at this stage is unnecessary.

The Military band visiting for Remembrance weekend has been booked for the Friday night (9th November) to perform at some function for the Legion. It was suggested that, if possible, we try to repeat the same sort of concert that was held for the RBL 90th Anniversary, in the Cathedral.

Action: The Chairman is to contact Shirley Adams-Leech to see if a choir could be put together for the event, and also approach the Cathedral Council to obtain their approval to use the Cathedral for the concert.

Post meeting Note: The Cathedral Council at their meeting on Monday 20th August agreed to the use of the Cathedral on this date for that purpose.

We understand that there has been a new Civil-Military Liaison Officer appointed, and questions were raised as to who this was. If further information becomes available it will be disseminated.

It has now been definitively confirmed that FIDF personnel have no beneficiary status within the RBL, unless there was previous service in the main Armed Forces. Notwithstanding this ruling, there is a continuing dialog with Head Office.

Action: Chairman to continue his efforts to have this decision reversed.

The provision and installation of the bench next to the Cemetery wall has not been progressed.

Action: Keith Biles will make the necessary enquiries with PWD to see how this project can be taken forward.

4. Secretary's Report.

He reported that tickets for the UK Remembrance Service at the Albert Hall were available, but in very limited supply. Members were referred to the main Web site for further details.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The branch still maintains sufficient balances in various bank accounts to enable its work to be continued. In view of the solvent position, it was proposed (Neil Russell) that annual branch subscription be discontinued with effect from November this year. The motion was seconded (Liam Shelbourne) and passed *nem con*.

Action: Treasurer to ensure that subscriptions for next year (starting in November) do not include a portion for Branch Administration.

In view of some measure of uncertainty regarding the continuing use of Hillside Mess for branch meetings, and the change in policy regarding the provision of refreshments, it was suggested that alternative premises be investigated. The Chamber of Commerce is one suitable location, but there may be difficulties regarding the provision of a drinks licence. Another site suggested was within the old Beauchene Complex.

Action: Keith Biles is to contact the owner of Beauchene to explore the possibility of renting one or other of the units in the Complex.

Post Meeting Note: Initial contact has been made with Colleen Alazia to explore possibilities.

Keith Biles is also to clarify the position regarding obtaining an additional drinks licence for the Chamber of Commerce premises.

It was suggested that now would be a good time to place a bulk order for wreaths for stock, and to restock our supply of associated items (badges, shields pennants etc.) It was proposed (Keith Biles) that up to £1,500 be spent on such a bulk order (seconded: Neil Russell) and the motion was passed *nem con*.

Action: Treasurer to place bulk order of up to £1,500 for wreaths and associated items.

5. Any Other Business.

The monthly charity collections by FIC (green tokens) that have been allocated to RBL have not been received.

Action: Treasurer to chase.

It was reported that Phil Middleton had sold approx. $^{1}/_{3}$ of the First Day Covers that were produced for the 90th Celebrations. This should produce about £400.

Special mention was made of the very smart turn-out of Liam at the wreath laying at the Liberation Memorial service, notwithstanding the terrible weather on the day.

We have received thanks from Crewe Branch for the words and poem we provided for use at their memorial service. Their News Letter was commended as a good example for us to emulate.

6. Post meeting, a welfare related matter was bought to the attention of the committee. The Welfare Rep in the UK was contacted to provide advice.

6. Next Meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Branch will be on Monday, 3rd September 2012. at 7.30 pm.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.