Royal British Legion
Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.
1st October 2012.

Present: Neil Russell (Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Liam Shelbourne (Treasurer)
Dave Lewis (Poppy Co-ordinator)
Pam Lewis (Welfare Rep.)
Rev. Kathy Biles (Welfare Rep.)
Marvin Clarke

"Ginge" Davis
Karen Drysdale

Visitor: Rev. Canon Paul Kerr

Apologies for Absence: Rev. Richard & Jen Hines, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott, Pam & Dennis Budd.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 3rd September 2012 were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising:

Concert – 9th November: The identity of the band is still not confirmed. The Community Choir is preparing a piece, and there is a possibility that the FICS children will perform. It was decided that it would be a free concert, with a "retiring" collection for the Poppy Appeal.

Action: The Chairman to follow-up re. the band identity and what their programme is likely to be. Liaison with Shirley Adams-Leach is required. The Secretary has undertaken to provide a "form of words" using poems etc. to intersperse the music, if that is deemed to be suitable and necessary.

(Post Meeting Note: The anticipated choral piece that the Community Choir was going to perform (Jubilate! Jubilee!) will not be in place in time for this concert. Other pieces are being rehearsed, but contact with Shirley Adams-Leach should be made nearer the time)

The position re. the FIDF is still on-going.

The Secretary has started the process of getting permission for the service. It was suggested that some folding chairs be provided for the visiting vets. The Chairman confirmed that Morrisons will supply and fit bench in due course, as a donation.

Action: The Chairman to source folding chairs for the 11th November service at the Cross of Sacrifice.

Membership cards have now been received, and passed to the Treasurer for distribution and collection of dues.

The Treasurer reported back that HQ cannot unilaterally require funds to be remitted at the end of the year, although they may ask for justification if significant balances are being held.

It was proposed that non-Legion funds be used to purchase the required equipment for Liberty Lodge, up to an amount of £200 (Prop. Keith Biles; Seconded Neil Russell – passed *nem con*.), and the Treasurer was authorized to source the necessary equipment.

Action: Treasurer to source the required equipment.

Thanks were expressed to the management of the Narrows Bar for allowing the use of the premises for this meeting. Regrettably, the current management at Hillside Camp is being less than positive about opening the bar in the evenings, an attitude that is likely to continue for the immediate future.

Action: The Chairman will explore with CBF the possibility of using the "Pinn Inn" room at Hillside, and/or a reinstatement of the use of the main bar area.

A request will be made for the "green tokens" scheme at FIC to be for the benefit of the Legion for the month between mid-October and mid-November

Action: The Chairman is to approach FIC to "book a slot" for the next appeal.

The Chairman confirmed that the stone requested by Iain Schickle on behalf of the HMS HERMES Association has been carried back to UK, and arrangements will be made to forward it to him.

The Chairman confirmed that the order for the Branch Shields has been placed and that they will be shipped courtesy of the RAF.

3. Chairman's Report:

The detail of the various functions over Remembrance weekend is still to be confirmed. There is some doubt about whether SAMA will be hosting a Ball on the Saturday night, or when and where the Governor's Reception will take place. The RBL have not been invited to sit on the Government sponsored Committee that is tasked with the organization of this weekend, and our involvement is limited to the Concert on the Friday evening.

Sarah Maskell-Bott, whilst in UK, has done some investigation as to the procedures for obtaining central Welfare funds out of HQ. The process is somewhat bureaucratic, and, surprisingly, it seems to be difficult to obtain any financial support for welfare cases. This topic will be revisited when Sarah returns from UK.

4. Secretary's Report.

The Secretary advised that the nomination of members for the Membership Council was now open, but although there is an Electoral

Region for all Overseas Branches and Districts, any potential candidate for election onto the Council has to reside in mainland Europe. Details of the election process are available from the Secretary.

The Secretary advised the Treasurer that all unissued membership cards has to be returned to HQ by 1st February, and that payment of the total Affiliation fees has to be made by 1st March.

The Secretary confirmed that he had responded to Iain Shickle, thanking him for his donation, and advising that his request for a stone on behalf of HMS HERMES Association was being attended to by the Chairman.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer suggested that in order to attract as many members as possible for the AGM, the distribution of Membership cards, and the collection of dues, could be done at a function to be held at Government House. This was agreed. Suggested dates for the AGM are: 19th or 26th November.

Action: The Treasurer to approach Government House to confirm that the Governor is agreeable to hosting the AGM, and a short reception thereafter, on the dates suggested.

6. Any Other Business.

Marvin Clarke is concerned about the potential for overcrowding at the Cross of Sacrifice on Remembrance Sunday, especially with the large number of visiting Veterans this year, probably wishing to lay wreaths. There was some discussion as to possible changes to the parade order, and Marvin was going to explore potential changes with Major Peter Biggs of FIDF.

Rev. Canon Paul Kerr brought greetings from the Chairman and Officers of the Canterbury Branch of the Royal British Legion. He is the Chaplain to the Branch, and is soon to be the Kent District Chaplain for the Legion.
His good wishes were heartily reciprocated.

7. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Branch will be the Annual General Meeting, to be held on a date to be advised, with at least 21 days notice being given.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.