Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.

3rd December 2012.

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

"Ginge" Davis
Karen Drysdale
Phil Middleton
Stella Prindle-Middleton
Fred Simpson
Wendy Shelbourne
Robert French
Sue Francis
Ian Davidson
Fr. Peter Norris
Frank Leyland

Apologies for Absence: Rev. Richard, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott, Pam & Dennis Budd, and Marvyn Clark.

1. The minutes of the meeting on 1st October 2012 were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising:

   £200 worth of fishing equipment was purchased out of non-Legion funds and presented to Liberty Lodge.

   The Pinn Inn is now being made available to the Branch on an "as and when" basis.

   The continuation of the "green token" scheme at FIC and payment of the latest cheque is awaiting the return of staff from leave.

   Government House did confirm that they would host a function on behalf of the Branch, and this was held last Monday and was felt to be successful by all who attended.

3. Chairman's Report:

   Battle Day: The Chairman will not be able to attend and the wreath will be laid by the Vice Chairman. Standards will be presented in the Cathedral, and Fred Simpson will act as Standard Bearer. The Standard will be paraded at the Monument, and Peter Biggs will direct.

   Possible change of day of Branch meeting: three members had approached the Chairman with a request that the day of the monthly meeting be changed. After discussion, the meeting agreed to stay with current arrangements – the first Monday in the month.

All account matters have been handed to the new Treasurer.

The Chairman expressed thanks to the staff of Government House, and the Branch President for hosting the reception.

On the previous Saturday the Chairman collected a cheque from CBF at MPA in the sum of £1,164.48 for the Poppy Appeal.

e-mail addresses for committee members have been standardized, which will make it easier to communicate with us and also make transitions between holders of offices a lot easier. Jason Lewis will be co-ordinating this, and will be updating the web-site.

Action: Jason Lewis to update the website with the new committee appointments.

The on-going arrangements for the use of the Pinn Inn are still subject to further talks and the Chairman will be progressing this.

Action: Chairman to finalise more formal arrangements for the use of the Pinn Inn.

The status of the FIDF is still subject to further representations and the Chairman will be seeing the Governor on this matter in the New Year.

A quarterly news latter will be produced, and any matters of interest should be forwarded to Jason Lewis for inclusion.

Action: Jason Lewis to design and produce a quarterly News Letter.

4. Secretary's Report.

Membership cards for the current year are available, and dues to be paid to the Secretary as soon as possible.

Action: The Secretary to contact all members who have not yet received their membership cards and/or who have not yet paid to ascertain their wishes.

The following was read and agreed: Each new member of the Committee has to sign a declaration saying: that they acknowledge their responsibility as Branch managing Trustees and agree to follow in every respect their responsibility as Trustees as contained in the Royal Charter as required by the Board of Trustees and the Charities Act. They also agree that their contact details will be published in the County Directory or Handbook both as a hard copy or digitally, and that they will be vigilant to serve the interests of the Royal British Legion at all times.

Action: The Secretary to ensure that the declaration is duly signed by all Branch committee members.

All Branches can send delegates to the Annual Conference in UK. Whilst the Branch has not in the recent past sent a delegate, it is an opportunity if anyone is likely to be around in UK at the time. This coming year the Conference is to be held 17th, 18th & 19th May, in

Llandudno. Nomination papers have not yet been received, but the Chairman is likely to be in UK at that time, and unless there are any other nominations he is willing to attend and report back to the Branch in due course.

Action: Secretary to process Nomination papers when these are received.

5. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported that we had received two donations for the Poppy Appeal: one of £100 and another of £36. These are in addition to the large cheque from MPA.

6. Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator's Report.

Almost all the Poppy Appeal collecting boxes have been retrieved and are awaiting emptying and counting later in the evening. Boxes still awaited are from: Fox Bay, Hillside, the Airport, Narrows Bar, Padre at MPA, & Port Howard.

Requests have been received for collecting boxes to be placed all year round at the Airport, the Visitors Centre in Stanley, the Globe, Kandy Kabin, and Liberty Lodge.

Action: The Chairman to arrange the recovery of boxes from the West. The Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator to arrange the provision of boxes to those locations that wish for them.

7. Any Other Business.

If any "old stock" of RBL items is still around and being offered for sale it is requested that reference is made to committee members for prices to ensure that the current prices are not being "under-cut". Thus far, the proceeds of the "unofficial" sale of poppy pins has not been obviously received, although this may have been remitted direct to the Poppy Appeal.

Ken and Bonnita Greenland have forwarded the sum of approx. £70 raised from the sale of felt poppies for the Appeal.

It was suggested that a Branch Christmas card be produced and sent to those who have supported the work of the Branch during the year.

Action: The Chairman to obtain approval from Sonia Felton to use her art-work and to produce and send the require number of cards.

For future years, it was suggested that we investigate the sourcing of Christmas cards from the main Legion store for supply as charity cards for sale through local shops.

Action: The Vice-Chairman to investigate availability and report back.

Members of over 70 years of age were reminded that they do not have to pay their annual dues, as these are covered out of Branch funds.

7. Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Monday 7th January 2013 in the Pinn Inn, Hillside Camp.

The Chairman wished all members a very Happy Christmas.

Members were then invited to assist in the counting of the funds collected in the Poppy Appeal.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.