Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

General Meeting Minutes.

6th May 2013.

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

Karen Drysdale	Phil. Middleton
Mark Neves	Robert French
Fred Simpson	Msg. Michael McPartland
"Ginge" Davis	Mark Brook

Apologies for Absence: Jason Lewis, Rev. Richard Hines, Dave Morris, Dave & Pam Lewis, Stella Prindle-Middleton, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott.

1. The minutes of the committee meeting on 8th April 2013 were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising:
   - Poppy Ball on Saturday 9th November in the Town Hall, the Army Air Corps band will be available to play. The Chairman had made enquiries about the resident band at MPA, but the turnover of staff there is such that there can be no commitment at this time. We should make an approach nearer the date.

   - The Green Token Scheme at FIC West Store has now been reinstituted.

ACTION: **Vice-Chairman** to follow-up with FIC to see if we can be included in the November session.

3. Chairman's Report:

   An e-mail has been received from Chris Simpkins re. the FIDF status as RBL beneficiaries. The position is fixed by the Royal Charter which precludes the beneficiary status being given to any service personnel who have not received 7days pay, or more, from the Crown. The position has been appealed by ourselves and the Governor, but pending changes to the Royal Charter, there is no further way forward.

   The Chairman had attended the Memorial service at Goose Green for Nick Taylor, and a wreath was laid on behalf of the Legion.

   Following the request at the last meeting for ideas regarding a painting to be produced by Richard Cockwell, although no ideas had been received , a brief discussion was held, and it was suggested that the artist be approached to consider a scene looking west along the waterfront, to include the Cross of Sacrifice, the Cemetery, and perhaps poppies in the foreground, and the hills in the background.

ACTION: Secretary to Contact Richard Cockwell to discuss ideas.

Post-meeting Note: Richard will have a look at what could be possible as suggested, although his first opinion was that it would not "work" as a composition. He will revert in due course.

4. Secretary's Report.

The "Progress Report on Pathway for Growth, Phase 2" has been received from the National Chairman, and is available to any member who wishes to see it.

The Legion's Annual Report and Accounts are available on line and the web address is available from the Secretary. A "hard" copy of the report is also available from the Chairman.

5. Any Other Business:

Pinn Inn: The paperwork relating to our occupation of the Pinn Inn has been received by CoS at MPA and will be with us shortly.

Post-meeting note: Secretary to meet with CoS on Thursday 16th to discuss various matters relating to our occupation.

Landing Day: The RBL wreath will be laid on behalf of the Branch by the Secretary at San Carlos on Tuesday 21st May.

ACTION: Secretary to lay wreath.

The "Falklands Caterer" fund raising event monies collected will be available for collection from MPA next week.

ACTION: Secretary to liaise with Gary Clement to arrange media coverage for a presentation at MPA, and to present a plaque to the "Cats & Rats" Squadron on behalf of the Branch.

Post-meeting note: presentation will take place on Thursday 16th.

Bench at Cross of Sacrifice: The Vice-Chairman reminded the meeting that we were going to arrange the provision and installation of a bench below the Cemetery.

ACTION: Vice-Chairman to contact Morrisons to follow-up on the supply and installation.

ACTION: Secretary to contact Planning Department to determine procedures for this installation.

HMS CLYDE: It was reported that the Snr. Rates' Mess were keen to take part in a social occasion with both the RBL and the RNA when they are in port.

ACTION: Mark Brook undertook to increase contact with the Mess to further this initiative.

Support for Families of serving personnel: Phil Middleton initiated a discussion on the wider issues surrounding the amount of support that the Branch gives to families in the Islands where they have currently serving members of the Armed Forces, and how membership of the Legion could be widened to be more inclusive.

A full and frank exchange of views ensued, and various points were acknowledged by the committee for further consideration

6. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Monday10th June 2013 in the Pinn Inn, Hillside Camp.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.