Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

General Meeting Minutes.

1st July 2013.

Present: Liam Shelbourne (Chairman)
Neil Russell (Vice Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Dave Morris (Treasurer)
Robert French (Media)
Rev. Kathy Biles (Welfare Rep.)

Mark Brook
Fred Simpson
Wendy Shelbourne
Mark Neves
"Ginge" Davis

Apologies for Absence: Dave & Pam Lewis, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott, Rev. Richard Hines.

1. The minutes of the committee meeting on 10th June 2013 were confirmed as correct.

2. Matters arising:

- The A5 sheet for the FIC green token scheme will be produced before its requirement in November.

ACTION: **Vice-Chairman** will produce an A5 sheet as required, print and forward to the Secretary in due course for lamination.

- Richard Cockwell has not been in touch further, but there needs to be a follow-up to ascertain progress in finalising the scene to be painted.

ACTION: **Secretary** to contact Richard Cockwell to progress.

- The Licence to occupy the Pinn Inn has been signed by us and was forward to UK by registered mail on 21st May. The licence will run for 2 years from the date of signing in UK.

ACTION: **Secretary** to contact the MOD Estates office to ensure that the Licence has been received and that all is well.

- The amendment to the Commander BFSAI Alcohol Directive covering the operation of the RBL bar is in process of being issued formally. A copy of the full current Directive will be issued to us in due course.

ACTION: **Chairman** to write to Chief of Staff thanking him for his assistance in finalising the establishment of the RBL at Hillside.

- The Vice-Chairman has contacted Morrisons who have confirmed that they are happy to pay for the bench, and will arrange shipping if we can go ahead with choosing what we want. The Secretary has contacted Planning Dept., and the AG's chambers to progress the formal allocation of space for this use. The Crown Counsel who is handling matters for the Lands Committee requires a formal request for land allocation, plus a sketch map with approximate measurements.

ACTION: **Secretary** to contact PWD to see if they will assist in the production of a plan of the site.

Vice-Chairman to progress the sourcing of a suitable bench, and to liaise with Morrisons.

3. Chairman's Report:

Following a visit to HMS ARGYLL, they have presented the Branch with a wooden plaque, which will eventually be hung in the Bar area.

4. Treasurer's Report:

We have received the cheque for £1,500 from MPA being the result of the Cooking Competition, this will be applied to the Poppy Appeal account.

We have also received a payment of £115 from Liberty Lodge in payment for the wreathes supplied to them. Only two invoices for wreathes remain outstanding.

5. Secretary's Report:

A message has been received from Sarah M-B detailing the progress being made in her treatment, and this was made available for any member to read. Flowers will be sent by the Secretary on behalf of the Branch.

ACTION: **Secretary** to arrange for flowers to be sent to Sarah.

Notification has been received from RBL HQ regarding the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall in November. Any branch member who wishes to obtain tickets should contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

Some consideration will need to be given in the near future as to the Branch policy regarding administration fees to be changed alongside the annual affiliation fee. At present this is zero, and this is recorded by HQ. If a change is anticipated, then we will need to notify them so that their records may be changed.

6. British Legion Club Formation:

A draft Constitution, as recommended by the Branch Committee, was circulated to members. It was agreed that a maximum sum of 15% of the net trading surplus of the Bar would be retained by the Club for

special purposes and as a reserve for future expenditure; and a minimum of 85% would be remitted to the Poppy Appeal account of the Branch.

The Constitution of the British Legion Club was adopted by the meeting unanimously on a motion proposed by the Vice Chairman, and seconded by the Treasurer.

A Management Committee of the Club was elected:
Chairman: Fred Simpson
Treasurer: Karen Drysdale
Bar Manager: Mark Neves
Committee Member: Mark Brook

Responsibility for the existing stock and cash were assumed by the new Committee. A set of by-laws for the running of the Club, within the Constitution, will be developed by the Management Committee.

ACTION: Branch Chairman to write to all current members of the Branch confirming that they are members of the British Legion Club, unless they wish otherwise.

7. Any Other Business:

- An e-mail has been received from the Director General confirming that if we wish to proceed with our application to extend "Beneficiary" status to members of the FIDF, there are extensive and detailed procedures we shall have to comply with, including the development of a Charter Motion to be presented at the next Annual Conference. There was an extensive discussion on the subject, which gave rise to the following motion:
"The Falkland Islands Branch do not support the production of a Charter Motion to recognize the service of FIDF members and their eligibility for beneficiary status."

  The motion was carried (9 for, Nil against, 2 abstentions).

ACTION: Chairman to write covering letter to Director General, advising the motion and explaining our reasons.

- Vinyl badges have been sent by HQ for use on the sign board at Liberty Lodge to reflect the substantial contribution the Legion have made to its building cost.

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Branch will be held on Monday 5th August 2013 in the Pinn Inn, Hillside Camp.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.