

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 6th June 2024 at 8pm

Present: George Mars – President, Ian Greenway – Chairman, Ian Preston – V. Chairman, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Ian Preston, Tim Russell, Tracey Merritt, Sue Chewter + 10 branch members

Apologies: Julie Yeates, Dave Graham, Pat Brace, Brian Dawes, Alex Dawes, Garry Griffiths, John Davey, Milena Hajncz.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by our President, George Mars who reminded us of how daunting it would have been to be part of D-Day in 1944 and reminded us of the sacrifices made for the freedoms we currently enjoy.

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. Adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: Steve Stork

Matters Arising:

1. PAO Report, point 1 - Tim requested the word event be changed to meeting.

Chairmans opening comments:

1. Ian welcomed us all to the meeting. It is clear that the RBL are pushing for a big response to the D-Day 80 commemorations this year and VE-80 and VJ-80 next year due to the diminishing pool of veterans who would have taken part in 1944-45.
 - 1.1. It must have been hellish for all who took part, Ian had family members involved, and a lot of us are old enough to have connections.
2. It was amusing but equally ridiculous the French Border police were checking and stamping the passports of people taking part in the recreated beach landings today.

Treasurer's Report: for the period 10th May to 6th June 2024

O/Bal	£2443.94 Cr
Receipts	£ 25.00 (R Salisbury membership renewal + donation)
Payments	£ 25.00 (£20 membership fee, £5 donation to Benevolent fund.)
C/Bal	£2443.94 Cr

Commitments: £200 to DJ for Black Tie Dinner payable in November, £100 for D-Day 80 event supplies, £15 to Old Basing Carnival for pitch fee.

BPT Account. Julie had the following response to her request for clarity on why we receive part payments into our accounts each quarter.

"I have been advised that receipts are automatically sent out when any payments are made into the account, either rent or interest. This is then summarized in the quarterly statements sent out"

This does not offer much clarity but is what we have to go with.

Report proposed by Julie, seconded Andy Dawes

Poppy Appeal Report:

1. Rick Bourne has given a cheque for £400, proceeds from his Armed Forces and Texas Scramble Golf events this year, and tonight a further cheque for his D-Day Golf tournament making a total of £765.00 this year.
2. Tim has issued several wreaths for D-Day 80 commemorations. Some are still not paid for, in future Tim will require payment with order.
3. Contactless machines are in future being limited to large events, for cost efficiency. Smaller events will be issued an all year round QR code, which works just as well. Avril has made posters of these for display.
4. We have a busy few weeks ahead with stalls at Old Basing Carnival, Hook Fair and Cheriton Fair.

5. Current totals are: Old Basing £13895.29 + £8068.50 contactless, Hook £6638.11 + £5087.00 contactless. Total of £33,688.90

Membership Report: Currently 450 members but with 24 unpaids. Tracey will liaise with Avril to send a reminder to those in arrears.

Club Report:

1. Mark Taylor and Andy Pope have decorated the hall and Bar for D-Day 80 event this weekend, it looks spectacular.
 - 1.1. There will be pizza and BBQ available from 12 noon till 4pm, also Gin and cocktails available.
2. The Club will be purchasing 2 new Union Flags.
3. There will be a New Years Eve event, adults only for a change.
4. The club have replaced 2 garden benches that were overly worn.
5. The European Cup matches are being broadcast in the bar, please do come down and enjoy.
6. There will be a Quiz night early July, date tbc.
7. The Club Snooker table is now in use 7 days a week.

Band Report:

1. May was a good month for the band with two great performances at the Basingstoke Transport Festival.
2. Band Person of the month for May is Luke, the newest and youngest band member.
3. The band welfare committee are producing Safeguarding and GDPR policies, also a welcome pack for new members. The Band constitution will be circulated to band members soon with these policies.
4. Upcoming events in June are Sherfield Fete, Old Basing Carnival, Basingstoke Festival, St Mary's Church Festival, Milestones D-Day 80 event, Farnham Carnival and in July Hale Carnival and Whitchurch Fete. Dates and times on the band webpage/facebook

Correspondence:

1. Hampshire Link, June edition
2. Membership E-News, June
3. Central News, end of May
4. Aspire Leadership Programme Launch information for any considering a table officer, County or MC role.
5. Invitation to the Basingstoke Armed Forces Day event. Ian G and Ian P are attending, Andy is away. Joe may attend if he can get time off work..

Events and fund raising:

1. Ian G is going to Worthy Down 7th June to get stores items for our D-Day 80 event.
2. The menus for the Black Tie dinner are decided and tickets go on sale next month.
3. We will start planning a big event for next year for VE80 and VJ80. Joe, Tracey and Steve Stork expressed interest in being on an events sub-committee. This will be arranged.

A.O.B:

1. Rick asked Tim whether he had or would like an invitation to RAF Odiham Families Day early July, Tim said not yet, and yes please.
2. Ian Greenway asked for a copy of the Band's constitution.
3. Steve Stork asked whether he can use his mobility Scooter on the site of the D-Day event at the club, yes, as it is the Practice Pitch, not the main Football pitch.

4. At last year's Remembrance Parade there was an issue with the horseboxes on our route, making it difficult for us. Tracey has the contact details of the owners and will endeavour to prevent this happening again.
 - 4.1. It would be helpful if there was Police Traffic Control as there used to be. Tim has the name of the new contact, Kate Hope and will try to get this in place. It seems there is a point of failure in the P.C. system that means our requests do not get to where they need to be.
5. Ian gave a brief report on National Annual Conference. Our National President died suddenly just after conference ended which was unexpected and shocking. He was a very nice person and highly thought of.
 - 5.1. Ian confirmed the Ballot results and told of an additional Motion of Urgency we had heard requesting a review of the process for taking Counties into administration. This was from NI as they are in this process and it is not going well.
 - 5.2. The Motion on membership fee increases of £2 per year for 6 years was passed meaning the £5 increase was withdrawn.
 - 5.2.1. Ian raised our concerns as to the cost of collecting membership and was given conflicting information in response, our operating costs are either £6-, £8- or £10- million per annum. We were told that the cost for Novacraft is £1 million, not £4 million per annum. Novacraft provide our telephone helplines and supply membership cards as well as collecting membership fees.
 - 5.3. All four National Standard Bearer roles are now held by females. Tim reported there will be a Hampshire regional Youth SB competition next year as uptake is high.
 - 5.4. Tim had a response from Basingstoke Veterans Hub. At this time they are not in need of funding but will approach us next time they do need help.
 - 5.4.1 Tim is awaiting the correct wording from HO so that we can place an advertisement in local publications, for any veterans to get in touch if we can help them.
 - 5.4.2 We are still pursuing the Veteran's Breakfast idea.
 - 5.5. Rick reminded us that the Band had been on the D-Day 60 parade at the Pegasus Bridge 20 years ago. They were the last band to march over the old bridge and the first band to march over the new bridge, with a veteran from the Oxford Light Infantry - quite an honour.
 - 5.5.1 The Ox and Bucks became the RGJ, Ian's regiment, he has a wealth of stories on this. Their local HQ was the Wheatsheaf pub, Winton Sq.
 - 5.5.2 The first UK servicemen to touch French soil were two glider pilots who landed at Pegasus Bridge.

The next meeting will be on 11th July at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman