

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 4th April 2024 at 8pm

Present: Ian Greenway - Chairman, Julie Yeates - Treasurer, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Tim Russell, Sue Chewter – Committee, Mark Taylor – Club Chairman and 9 branch members including Crissy Ryan.

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Tracey Merritt, Pat Brace, John Davy, Alex Dawes and Gary Griffiths

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by Ian with an appeal to remember the three veterans killed in Gaza this week carrying out charity work.

The minutes of the previous meeting:

Circulated and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: Diane Matthews

Matters Arising: None

Chairman's Report: Ian was glad to be here tonight following a few busy weeks starting a new job and moving house. He has moved to Bramley but promises to not defect!. He finds it comical that all the time he lived in Basingstoke he worked away, now having moved away he is working in Basingstoke.

Ian has contacted the office of HRH Princess Anne inviting her to our Poppy Launch Dinner, this would be for 25th Oct 2025 since the royal diaries run approx two years ahead.

Treasurer's Report:

There has been no movement on our bank account since 7/3/24. The O/Bal and C/Bal for 7/3/24 to 4/4/24 stands at £2348.94 Cr

We have commitments of £200 balance to DJ Mike Hamilton for the Dinner in Oct. We have issued two cheques today 1538 + 1539 both for Wreaths @ £27.50 each

Still awaiting the BFI and BPT quarterly statements

Proposed Julie, 2nd by Chris Beadle

Poppy Appeal Report:

1. Tim reported not much activity over the past month.
2. This time last year his skittles team had just failed to reach the final, Tim will be speaking to the club about arranging this year's tournament.
3. Tim will have contactless machines for Basing Carnival and Hook Fair.
4. Cheque for £36.25 We buy books and £11 Cash for Clothes not yet banked.
5. Our banked totals have not varied from last month.
6. Old Basing £12945.46 + £8068.50 contactless. Hook £638.11 + £5037 contactless = £32689.07

Membership Report:

Current membership stands at 442 with 20 overdue and 12 becoming due in April

Club Report:

1. The floor has not been sanded due to the cost of the product needed to refinish the boards, they are getting quotes to have this professionally done.
2. The Flagpole will be re-erected and the potholes filled on Saturday weather permitting.
3. There is a quiz on 20th April, all welcome.
4. Ian G wants to liaise with the Club over D-Day 80 planning to ensure we all have the events we wish to.

Band Report:

1. The Band have been learning new material for the upcoming events to widen their appeal and with an increase in band numbers they are also brushing up on drill.
2. The Band AGM is on 7th April at 11.15am. The band will be renewing their constitution and saying goodbye and thankyou to long standing committee members Bill and Jill Prendergast, Diane Matthews and Jim Holley.
3. The Bandperson of the year held 23rd March was a great evening and well attended. The new format worked well and thanks go to Alex Dawes for arranging all the fun elements.
4. The band's focus is now to streamline their admin and structure, continue to grow the band's image and capabilities.
5. Upcoming events include Basingstoke Festival of Transport, Sherfield Fete, Old Basing Carnival, St Mary's Church Fete, D-Day 80 at Milestones and Farnham Carnival.
6. Diane added that Don Walker is very poorly in hospital at the moment and undergoing tests. Maureen Deadman has been visiting.
7. Ian thanked Diane on behalf of the Branch for her 10 years as Band Secretary.

County Chairman report:

1. The Group Meeting held here recently was well attended. There was a lot to feed out to the branches from the County Chairmen's Seminar.
 - 1.1. Janet Talman has made some good improvements to the membership portal which is now working more effectively and contains more accurate information.
2. There is a mediator working with the staff at Haig House.
3. MoU for National Annual Conference deadline has been brought forward from 12 noon on 11th May to 5pm on 9th May due to the number of them expected.
4. A lot of volunteers are pushing for the RBL to be better than they are, we must not forget our core interest is helping veterans. HO need to remember this.

Correspondence:

1. Membership E News, The Hampshire Link, The Central News
2. The National Annual Conference Circular including a list of the motions to conference.
 - 2.1. We debated these and gave our instructions to our Delegate on how we wish him to vote on our behalf. Assuming his delegate application is approved – we are still awaiting this. Motions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 12 FOR. Motions 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 AGAINST. Ian will speak on motions 2 and 7.

Events and fund raising:

1. D-Day 80: New branch member Crissy Ryan from CCF has been speaking with Joe and Ian and liaising with her local Cadet Training Team to discuss kit we may borrow. This has been confirmed as some large tents with nets and a quantity of training rifles with an offer of other items tbc. This has been warmly welcomed by us. Ian has transport to collect the items from Worthy Down stores.
 - 1.1. Ian has items to put together a Cold War display, also some guns he can bring along for 'show and tell'
 - 1.1. Claire suggested Nia who does WW2 reenactment may be useful to speak to.
2. Parking in the field, Tim will speak to the PC about this. We will need fencing – Crissy may be able to help with this.

A.O.B:

1. Andy Dawes informed us the ACF have now sold the Crown Lane land and hut to Basing House and Old Basing unit will be permanently based at Sarum Hill.
 - 1.1. It is assumed that they will access the hut from their site and will not need access from our car park.
2. Andy asked whether the Band have been approached to support out Black Tie Dinner in October – yes, as previously discussed.

3. Andy asked for an update on what we have planned to do with our BPT money. Joe confirmed that he has been in contact with Claire at Basingstoke Veterans Hub and is endeavouring to find out whether we can help them. He invited them to send representation to our branch meeting tonight but they did not seem keen.
 - 3.1. Ian has contacted the Parklands Hospital ward for veterans but has received no response so far.
 - 3.2. Crissy has a lead on care packs being provided for veterans at NNH, we ay be able to fund this.
4. Diane gave a shout-out to David Smith who runs very good dance classes at the club, he recently had some Junior Champs here doing a display and they were excellent.
5. Ian gave info on a Combat Stress event at Sandhurst RM Academy on 18th April. There will be a tour and lunch.

The next meeting will be on 9th May at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9.38pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman