Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.

27th April 2015.

Present: Liam Shelbourne (Chairman)
Keith Biles (Secretary)
Annie Bailey (Treasurer)
Dave Lewis (Poppy Co-Ordinator)
Pam Lewis (Welfare)
Rev. Kathy Biles (Welfare)
Pam Budd

Apologies received from:, Mark Brook, Bob French, John & Sarah Maskell-Bott,

1. The Minutes of the committee meeting of 30th March 2015 and the Branch General Meeting of 6th April 2015 were reviewed and certified as being correct.

2. Matters arising from the last meeting minutes:

   - Although the Branch had decided that they would not mark VE Day, it seems that the MLAs had determined that the day should be marked and that they expected the RBL Branch to organize a bonfire beacon on the evening of Friday 8th May. In view of this expectation, arrangements have been made for a bonfire to be built from pallets supplied by the MoD, on Surf Bay. Light refreshments in the form of hot soup can be supplied, also by MoD. It is anticipated that there will be a brief dedication ceremony starting at 17.15 with the beacon being lit at 17.30. These arrangements are contingent upon subsequent clearance of the site by PWD on the Saturday morning, and confirmation of this is awaited. Reference also needs to be made to the state of the tide on that day which may severely restrict the area available. Any costs incurred by the Branch will be reimbursed by Gilbert House.

   - The Concert following the Queen's Birthday parade was a success with a total of £249.45 collected, out of which £120 for the hire of a coach is to be covered. Thanks of the committee were given to Keith Biles and Dave Lewis for organising and underwriting the transport arrangements, Chris Locke for technical support, Mark Brook and Pam Budd for the refreshments.

3. Chairman's report:

   - A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch by the Chairman at the ceremony marking ANZAC day.

   - Dave Lewis and the Chairman were invited to, and attended Liberty Lodge to meet with the new CBF.

   - A new T.V has been donated to the Branch by Migs Cofre, and thanks of the committee were recorded.

- The bulk order for wreaths for the year has been placed and delivery is imminent.

4. Secretary's report: No items were reported under this head.

5. Treasurer's report:

   - The invoice for membership fees totalling £1,001 has been received, and the funds need to be remitted by 15th May.

   - Bills still outstanding are:
     1914 Committee for wreaths supplied.
     Saddle Computers proceeds from sale of goods.

   - The Family night raised £22.29 net for Branch funds.

6. Any Other Business:

   - A family evening is scheduled for 15th May subject to the agreement of the Club for the provision of bar staff.

   - As the Branch President, Russell La Forte has now relocated out of the Islands, the Committee recommend an approach to the current CBF: Commodore Darren Bone RN, to be appointed as the new President of the Branch. Branch members will be canvassed by e-mail to ratify the committee's recommendation.

   - There is much confusion regarding the changes being mandated by Head Office in both I.T. arrangements and also the requirements regarding the future collection and remittance of membership fees. Clarification will be sought during the Overseas Branch Forum at the forthcoming Conference.

- The next informal meeting of the Branch is scheduled for 7.30 pm on Monday 4th May. A Committee meeting will be held on Monday 25th May.

Keith Biles.
Secretary.