Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes.

11th January 2016.

Present: Chris Locke (Chairman)
Mark Brook (Vice Chairman and Poppy Co-ordinator)
Annie Bailey (Treasurer)
Bob French (Standard Bearer/Media and Website)
Pam Budd
John Maskell-Bott (Welfare)
Sarah Maskell-Bott (Welfare)

Apologies for Absence: Keith Biles (Secretary) and Kathy Biles (Welfare)

1. The Formal Minutes of the last committee meeting were 27th April 2015 which are available online on the RBLFI website. It was understood that a committee meeting had been held prior to the Poppy Ball in November 2015 but this an informal meeting and no minutes were taken.

2. Matters arising: There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report:

    - The committee welcomed Chris Locke to his first official committee meeting as Chairman of the Falkland Islands RBL branch.

    - The Chair acknowledged the good work of the outgoing Chairman, Liam Shelbourne, thanking him for all that he had done over the past three years, particularly in raising the profile of the branch.

    - The Chairman reported it was his intent to continue the thrust of recruiting new members to the branch, highlighting that to become a member it wasn't necessary to either have been a former member or an existing member of the Armed Forces, indeed anybody who is keen to support the aims and principles of the RBL is more than welcome to join.

    - The Chairman was pleased to report that since his election he had recruited four more members.

    - The Chair also reported that following the committee meeting there would be an informal branch meeting where a presentation of £3,000 would be made to the Branch by Command Warrant Officer (CWO), Callum MacIntyre. This represented the money raised by BFSAI for the 2015 Poppy Appeal. The Chairman informed the committee that he had also invited FITV to report on the work of the Branch and to cover the presentation of the cheque.

- In acknowledging Liam Shelbourne's work the Chairman proposed it would be appropriate to hold a 'dining out' night for him and Wendy. The committee agreed it would also be appropriate to welcome and 'dine in' the new President of the Branch, Commodore D. Bone RN. A provisional date of the 4th or 5th of March was agreed. The Chairman would contact both parties to confirm availability. It was agreed that although the Poppy Inn was licensed for 60 people, the maximum numbers would be held at 40 to ease catering arrangements.

- The Chairman in his aim to increase membership would be looking for support from the membership to arrange social events throughout the year having already been approached by CWO who had offered to run a Quiz Night.

- The Chairman noted that Government House had kindly hosted a Reception on the 5th January to thank Sponsors and guests for their support of the Poppy Ball and the RBL in general over the previous twelve months. The evening was reported in the press and maintains the Chairman's intent to highlight the good work of the organization.

4. Secretary's report:

    - None (apologies received from the Secretary).

5. Treasurer's report:

    - It was reported that £5,843 had been submitted back to central funds representing Stanley's contribution to the Poppy Appeal and it was noted that a further £3,000 would be received (see note 3. above) but the funds would be held in the Falkland Islands account, thus the total for the Poppy Appeal to date stood at £8,843.

    - The Benevolent Fund stood at £4,882 and there was a further £3,000 remaining in General Funds.

    - It was noted that the Standard Bearer, Bob French, required new gauntlets and a base for the Standard which including shipping costs amounted for £420 including VAT. John Maskell-Bott agreed to pay in the UK and be reimbursed from the Falkland Islands account.

6. No Welfare cases to report.

7. AOB

    a) John Maskell-Bott requested approval for the RNA to use the Poppy Inn for their AGM on 1st February which would coincide with the second informal branch meeting of the year. The committee approved this in principle acknowledging opportunities to further recruit members into the RBL. The Chairman agreed to seek approval for the use of the Poppy Inn for this meeting.

b) The Chair noted that the Falkland Island branch website page required some updating and asked Bob French to look into the matter.

8. The next meeting of the Committee to be Wednesday 29th January at 19:30 at the Poppy Inn.

Chris Locke
Chairman.