

Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

9th January 2026

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke (CL), Keith Biles (KB), Bob French (BF), Mark Brook (MB), John Maskell Bott (JMB), Sarah Maskell-Bott SMB), Richard Hyslop (RH), Marion Chandler (MC), Hags Hegarty (HH), Jenny Clarke (JC), Lesley Moorey (LM).	
Apologies: None	
Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
Matters Arising: To be added to the minutes, where it had been proposed for the RBL to lead on memorials, that Battle Day last year, the formal parade was cancelled by FIG, but the service has been taken over by the RNA and the RMA.	JC
Chairman's Report: CL was pleased that we had found a venue to hold the committee meetings, which can also host a social event afterwards. CL said that he has arranged a meeting with His Excellency, the Governor, on the 17 th of February 2026 at 10:45 am. This is to outline the origins of the RBL in the Falklands and provide any additional information.	

Vice-Chairman's report:

MB said he still has wreaths available in the container and will order more once he contacts the associations. The G-size wreath used by HE The Governor may no longer be available. An alternative will be offered that can still accommodate an insert.

MB said he has had some additional money. £50 will be added to the total for the Poppy Appeal.

MB said the Poppy Inn is now empty, except for a few items that CL is aware of. The container has now been moved to the FIPAS East yard, and the yard key is available from the FIPAS security office. MB has the key for the container. There will be an invoice from SAAS for the container move. The monthly storage fee is £20, but SAAS is looking to waive it as it is a charity, and they were thanked for this.

KB asked if the container was sound. MB replied that it is his container and that he was happy to lend it to the RBL on the understanding that, once/if the RBL finds a permanent home, it would be returned to him.

MB listed the following items, which are still in the Poppy Inn and belonged to the MOD:

- TV (approx. 38") and DVD Player
- Pool Table
- 2 x 3-seater sofas

There are also 2 fridges in reasonable condition and a fridge-freezer in poor condition.

CL asked if the stereo was still in the poppy Inn or the container. MB said it was in the container, but the speakers were still on the wall. The plaques and memorabilia are also stored in the container.

A discussion was held on how to proceed with the items, and it was decided to either list them on Facebook or donate them.

MB

Treasurer's Report:

HH said that he will be sending £4651 back for the poppy appeal for last year, and the rest will be sent later this year. He accounts stand as:

HH

<p>HH mentioned that he had completed some training on the RBL Community Portal; it was not what he was expecting, but the training was good.</p> <p>HH said he was expecting a couple of invoices and asked that any additional invoices be forwarded to him so he can get the accounts ready for the accountant in June.</p>	
<p>Secretary's Report: JC said she created a Gmail account to correspond with all members and used it to email all members about the social this evening.</p> <p>The MSC1 form has been sent to membership services at the RBL, as JC did not have a contact for the MEO. Membership services have confirmed receipt and forwarded it to the appropriate person.</p>	
<p>Welfare Report: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Membership: JC has created a spreadsheet to store members' information until a formal list is obtained from RBL. An email will be sent to members soon to request information.</p>	JC
<p>AOB: Future of Bar Account: MB and JC are signatories for this account. There is currently £ 2,500 in the account, and £ 2,000 will be transferred to the Poppy Appeal. CL said that the account was created to keep the bar takings separate from the RBL. Following the discussion, all present agreed to keep the account open, as it may prove useful for events such as the Poppy Ball. MB said that the bar has accounts with FIC and Chandlery, which will remain open.</p> <p>Social Calendar and Committee Meetings 2026: The first Friday of each month was decided for holding committee meetings and social events (dates to be sent separately).</p> <p>Kathy Biles has agreed to host a quiz night in March, and this year is the 105th anniversary of the RBL. A tea dance will be held on 16th May in the town hall. An email will be</p>	JC

sent to PWD to confirm the Town Hall's availability.

MB is also happy to host a bingo evening and a quiz; these will be held in June and September. It is unclear whether a licence is required for a bingo evening. It was also decided that in July and August, social evenings only would be held. A music night was proposed, but no decision was made.

CL said he would meet with Marcus Morrison to discuss whether the RBL could run the raft race next year. MC, LM, and JC all said it takes a lot of organising, but are happy to wait and see what information CL finds.

Membership List and Communication:

The most recent membership list we received was from 2023, and a third of the branch members were based in the UK. MB said that there have been issues with communication with those overseas. Hopefully, when we receive the current membership list, this will be rectified, and everyone will receive regular emails.

MC said the details in the Penguin News regarding the RBL are outdated and will not help local membership.

In addition to regular emails, information will be posted on the Facebook page and on both community boards.

FIRBL Byelaws:

LM said she has read the theses and noted a few changes to be made; discussing them will take longer than we have available this evening.

CL agreed to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

AOB:

JC said that The Little Harbour Gift Shop had approached her and requested a Poppy tin.

LM mentioned that there are still poppies at the cemetery, and KB mentioned that there are silhouettes at the cathedral as well. They are currently being stored, and there have been no requests yet to have them moved.

HH has been in contact with the NAAFI manager at MPC to see if access can be granted to veterans again.

JC to contact the treasury regarding the licence

JC to contact Penguin News

JC

MB to add to the list

HH

CL has asked BF if he can update the committee positions on the RBL website.	BF
Date and time of the next meeting: Friday 6 th February 2026 at 6.15 pm	