Royal British Legion

Falkland Islands Branch

Committee Meeting Minutes

5th March 2021 – St Piran's Day!

Agenda Item:	Actions:
Present: Chris Locke, Nancy Locke, Becky Rees, Tamsin Harris, Mark Brook, Richard Hyslop and John and Sarah Maskell-Bott, Dave Lewis.	
Apologies: Maeve Daly-Llamosa, Keith Biles, Bob French	
Minutes of the last meeting: The meeting started with attendees singing 'The Song of the Western Men' (Trelawney) as part of an initiative called the Trelawney Shout, hosted in Cornwall to mark St Piran's Day. The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.	
Matters arising: Sarah and John Maskell-Bott reported that they hadn't yet sorted the Welfare training but would on their return to the UK. CBF won't be attending tonight's quiz as he has other commitments in his dairy. With regard to the Poppy Inn bar license, Chris Locke has the necessary paperwork and has asked the Clark to the Court if she could confirm what needs to be completed as there are some anomalies with the form. The application needs to be advertised for two weeks so he's also checking the correct procedure for fulfilling this requirement. Mark Brook said he needed to chase Government House to check they want the usual number of wreaths. He's also chasing others who want them.	**Sarah and John Maskell-Bott** **Chris Locke** **Mark Brook**

In his 40th Anniversary update, Richard Hyslop said there were many events being organised in UK. The Military and Government don't recognise 40th Anniversaries, so he and his team are organising a national event in London to be attended by a sizeable number of people. There'll be a series of events around the country too. Outside this, they'll also use the year to promote the Islands more broadly - life in the islands, the people and the culture. There'll be a school programme and much more. Richard confirmed it was all slowly coming to fruition. There'll be a full programme from January to December. John and Sarah said they'll be in the UK at some stage so can help in any way they can. Chris Locke said he hadn't spoken to Phyl Rendall since he first saw her, but she is keen our Committee and the RBL are involved in events happening within Islands. Richard said he sits on the Falkland organising committee too, so he can keep us and them briefed.	**Chris Locke** **Richard Hyslop**
Chairman's Report: Chris confirmed that this year's annual RBL Conference will be on Saturday 15th May and held via Zoom. They're hoping that next year it will be at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in London. With regard to Hillside, Chris said he had spoken to the MoD last week and they are waiting to finalise the legal part of the handover with FIG before documentation is ready for signature. A paper also needs to be approved by ExCo. He has been told the handover is likely to take place in mid April. The keys are still held by Justin Chamberlain. The Town Hall has been booked for the first two weeks of November for this year's Poppy Ball which will be held on either Friday 5th or Friday 12 November. The date remains to be confirmed until the day of this year's election is	

known which will either be on the first or second Thursday in November. Although four years ago we managed to hold the Poppy Ball the day after the election it was not something we would wish to do again!	
Vice-Chairman's Report: Mark Brook said he had nothing to raise other than to confirm he's continuing with wreath orders. Mark said he hadn't replied to an email from Fiona as he hadn't read it fully yet. Chris Locke said it's about a roll out of a porthole that we can order wreaths and RBL merchandise through.	**Mark Brook** **Mark Brook**
Treasurer's Report: Becky Rees said the Membership fees are going up by £1 from 1st April, to £18. Nancy Locke asked if Becky had been contacted about the increase in bank charges and if so, how it might affect the RBL as a charitable organisation. Becky said she'd only received a generic email that the bank put out thus far and nothing specific to the RBL Branch.	
Secretary's Report: Tamsin Harris said she had nothing to report, but said she felt it appropriate, if the Chair agreed, to read out a roll call of Cornwall based people who lost their lives in the '82 conflict given it was St Piran's Day, the national day for Cornwall. Chris agreed and Tamsin read out the names and where the people came from. Chris said he would also read out the names later that evening in the Poppy Inn as part of the announcements before the Cornish Pasty and Quiz Night started.	
Welfare Report: John and Sarah Maskell-Bott said there was nothing to report.	

Any Other Business: Becky Rees said one of our Branch members has reported that the memorials on the mountains are looking shabby and asked if there was anything we can do to sort them? Chris Locke said we should be involved in this and confirmed that traditionally it's been the MoD who've looked after them. Mark Brook said he had had a message before saying the military memorials are managed through the Command Warrant Officer and other departments in BFSAI. He'd also been told the Museum have certain things to do with the memorials too. Chris Locke said he would contact CBF to report this has been brought to our attention and confirming we're happy to help in any way we can. John Maskell-Bott said he felt any agreement had always been fairly informal, but it was definitely worth talking to CBF. Nancy Locke suggested a campaign for the 40th in which people would be asked to help ensure all the memorials get a good tidy up. It was agreed this was a god idea and that the veterans coming down in 2022 would be appreciative. It would be a good opportunity to reinforce the link between memorials and the local communities. Nancy Locke confirmed she had booked the Town Hall for the Friday and Saturday 15/16 May for 100th Anniversary celebrations of the RBL. She said the committee needed to decide what we're doing and get a mini action committee together to make things happen. An afternoon Tea Dance was suggested, which would then move on to a proper dance in the evening, maybe themed as a 1920s event. It was agreed to get together after Sports Week. John Maskell-Bott said they'd be in town for that weekend so looked forward the event.	**Chris Locke** **ALL**
Date and time of next meeting: Monday 5th April, 1700 Falklands time, 2100 UK time and via Zoom.	