

OLD BASING & DISTRICT ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BR 1890
Charity 219279

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3rd OCTOBER 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present: George Mars (GM)	President
Ian Greenway (IG)	Chairman
Ian Preston (IP)	Vice Chairman
Julie Yeates (JY)	Treasurer
Avril Mitchell (AM)	Secretary
Tim Russell (TR)	Committee + PAO
Joe Karmazyn (JK)	Committee
Sue Chewter (SC)	Committee
Tracey Merritt (TM)	Committee + Membership Secretary
Andy Dawes (AD)	Standard Bearer
And 16 branch members	

1. The Branch Standard was marched in. The Exhortation was read by our President, George Mars who asked us to remember those who have passed away over the past year and to always remember those who served and those who still serve. The Silence was observed.
2. **Apologies for absence** from Rick Bourne, David Smith, Russell Stait, Rose Salisbury.
3. **Adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM:** Copies of the minutes, accounts and submitted reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and copies were available at this meeting for all to read. These were proposed by AM and seconded by AD. Accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** None.
5. **President's address**

George remarked how wonderful it is to see the so any people present. He remembered years past when the hall would be so full that it was standing room only at the back of the room – handy for the bar though!

 - 5.1. An AGM has aims, these are to reflect on the previous year and to plan for the future. It is heartening to hear how well the Poppy Appeal has done here and reading the various reports there have been some excellent events that have taken place.
 - 5.2. George thanked the Table Officers and Committee for their efforts, a fantastic job done by just a few people. If you can spare a little time to help with Poppy Appeal collections, see Tim and get signed up. Ask your friends to help too, maybe we can also sign them up as RBL members.
6. **Chairman's annual report**
 - 6.1. Ian reported that the Black Tie Dinner last year had been extremely successful and well attended, probably our best yet, despite him and George feeling as though they were in a goldfish bowl on the top table. It is good to see this year's event is fully subscribed as well
 - 6.2. The D-Day 80 event was well attended but we suffered from a lot of other events taking place on the same day. Next year we plan to join Milestones at their VE80 weekend as this will broaden our reach, The club are planning events for here on the same weekend as well.
 - 6.3. The OB+L Carnival was attended by myself and Avril and we had a great day. I found myself chatting to a couple of lapsed members and encouraged them to give us another try, and also signed up some new members.
 - 6.4. Branch committee are costing a Branch Gazebo which we will discuss purchasing, this will be branded to our branch rather than using the County Poppy Appeal one that we currently borrow. It still surprises us that locals do not know about us, so this may be a good publicity tool.
7. **Presentation and adoption of the audited accounts for 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024**

The opening balance 1st July 2023 was £3173.68 credit
During the year we had payments totalling £3969.24 and receipts of £3095.00

Primary expenditure:		Primary Receipts	
Poppy Appeal	£2620.00	Poppy Launch Dinner	£1960.00
Rent	£ 600.00	Branch Subs	£ 560.00
Ceremonial	£ 365.75	Fundraising	£ 555.00
		Old Basing Carnival fund	£ 200.00

The Closing Balance 30th June 2024 was £2299.44 Credit

The BFI Account opened 1st July 2023 at £40.19 credit and closed 30th June 2024 £40.84, increase of 65p interest.
The BPT account opened 1st Jul 2023 at £12532.25 credit and closed 30th June 2024 at £18463.80. Interest of £254.26 was accrued.

The accounts have been audited by County Treasurer, were signed off on 7th August & submitted to HO.
The Accounts are proposed for acceptance by Julie Yeates, seconded by S Stork. Accepted by all present.

8. Poppy Appeal Organiser annual report, Poppy Appeal year 1st Oct 2023 to 30th Sept 2024.

- 8.1. Tim reported on a record-breaking year and thanked all who helped achieve this.
- 8.2. The Black-Tie event was the first of the events and raised 832.45.
- 8.3. Poppy Appeal ran very smoothly, with Chris and Avril at Chineham and Tim in Hook, where more help will be required now there are two sites to manage.
Average per tin for Poppy Appeal collections was an incredible £274.75
Top Collectors were Ian Greenway £1679.25, Tim £1538.37, Joe £1523.03, Avril £1239.21, Dave Godfrey £1116.54 and Shannah Eagles £1015.98. Highest average per tin goes to George with £841.82
- 8.4. Remembrance day was observed wonderfully. We thank our Saluting Officer Wing Cdr Brooks, and Parade Marshall David Godfrey did a sterling job. The Church collection was £601.51 and our raffle raised £233.00. The OBRBL Band donated a further £125, many thanks.
- 8.5. Further donations were David Smith Dance raffle proceeds of £274.00 from two events he holds in November, Diane Matthews selling poppy pins £82.25, Rick Bourne £14.77 from a collection tin in his bookmaker, Christmas Bazaar £15.33, The Band Christmas fayre £16.70 and George Mars brought an AYR Poppy with £45.97 plus a donation from his Lodge of £105.00. Newham PC donated £542.25. Rick Bourne holds regular Golf events and we benefit from the proceeds to the tune of £400. Old Basing Carnival raised £144.50, Hook fair £36.10 and Cheriton Fair £130.85.
- 8.6. QR code donations totalled £83 for Hook and £254 for Old Basing.
- 8.7. I generated £40.10 from Cash4clothes, £84.64 from Leftover Currency, £11 from Vintage Cash Cow, £7.71 Music Magpie and £18.43 from Ziffit, total of £239.87. Finally the Bar Lion held £141.74
- 8.8. I have a roll-call of tributes, without these people none of the above would happen: my thanks go to my poppy team – Chris, Tracey, Diane, Avril without whom there would be no poppy appeal; Rick Bourne for your continued drive in supporting the Poppy Appeal; Kyle and your staff for always promoting what we do, and always with a smile; Tracey, for all the hard work you put in making sure that when food and drink is needed it is there, on time, every time. This should never be taken for granted and I thank you Tracey. My final thanks are to all of the volunteers, who stand with tins and boxes of poppies, who come to me with home units and donations large or small, who are always there - Thank You
- 8.9. Finally, our totals:
Old Basing £14,540.14 + £8,068.50 contactless = £22,608.64
Hook £6,674.21 + 5,087.00 contactless = £11,761.21
A grand total of £34,369.85
- 8.10. I am assured we will have Police Support for our Remembrance parade this year.

9. Other Reports as submitted

9.1. Band Report

- 9.1.1 This year the Band have reviewed all their practices, policies and procedures and their constitution.
- 9.1.2. There have been some changes to the line up with a few long-standing members leaving the band. The Band now has a head count of 31, double the number from early last year.

9.1.3. The treasurer is Steve Court and the role of secretary has been split into 3 roles – Main, events and social events. Helen Dawes, Kirsty Parfoot-Grey and Alex Dawes respectively. The new Chairman is Garry Griffiths.

9.1.4. They have been learning a lot of new music including the RBL March.

9.1.5. The band received a donation of £1000 from Basingstoke Festival of Transport which will go towards new uniforms.

9.1.6. The Band are increasing their use of Social Media platforms, Russ Parrott coordinates this and Alex Dawes helps create content.

9.1.7. Last year saw the band attend over 40 different events and the upcoming season is already well subscribed with two events each month between Oct and to December.

9.2. Golf Report

9.2.1. The 10th Old Basing RBL Armed forces Golf Day was held at Sherfield Oaks GC where major drainage works have vastly improved the course. 23 enthusiastic golfers took part and enjoyed a good, if windy, day. Generous donations of raffle prizes together with entry fee proceeds meant a total of £365 was raised for the Old Basing Poppy Appeal.

9.2.2. Hampshire RBL Golf Texas Scramble was held in April. This is a 4-man team event held at Sherfield Oaks. 8 teams competed with all players receiving wine or chocolate. There was a raffle and the proceeds and entry fees meant a further donation of £400 for Old Basing Poppy Appeal.

9.3. Club Report

9.3.1. We were sad that long-standing member Ron Poole passed away recently. We have said goodbye to a few members this year.

9.3.2. We have held a range of events last year including weekend Breakfasts, Sunday Lunches and Quizzes,

9.3.3. The Flagpole had to be re-erected after the wind blew it down. The floor in the JM Hall has been completely overhauled and refinished and is looking very good. We replaced benches in the garden and thank Fiona, Neil and Neil for keeping the garden in tip-top shape.

9.3.4. We will be purchasing security lights for the car park and a new snooker timeclock.

9.3.5. The Pool and Darts teams are carrying on for another season.

9.4. Membership Report

Our membership at the end of June was 450. The biggest issue is with failed payments – 24 recorded. Tracey is updating email addresses for members so we can try to contact people to resolve any queries.

9.5. Standard Bearer Report

Tim Russell gave an update from the County Standard Bearer competition recently held. He reminded us that the Standard Bearer is often the first impression people have of the RBL.

Andy Dawes took part in his first County Competition this year and did really well. The overall results mean that Andy Dawes is now the Deputy County Standard Bearer for Hampshire RBL, this makes us very proud.

9.6. Events Sub-Committee

The recently formed sub-committee has been established to plan (initially) for our VEDay events next year. We have held 3 meetings so far and plans are taking shape. Our next meeting is 7th October and all are welcome to join if they feel they can help.

10. Election of Table Officers and Committee

Nominations had been received for the following: Diane Matthews for Committee. Proposed by Avril Mitchell, Seconded by Ian Greenway. Elected.

Our Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary remain in post until 1st Oct 2026.

Julie Yeates was re-appointed as treasurer but has given notice that she does not wish to continue after 30th Sept 2025.

Our Committee members are Joe Karmazyn, Tim Russell, Sue Chewter and Diane Matthews.

11. Discussion of Motion for County Conference No Motion Submitted

12. Appointment of Delegates to County Conference and Annual Conference

Joe Karmazyn and Ian Preston volunteered as delegates to Hampshire County AGM. Ian Greenway will attend as a visitor if able to.

Ian Greenway volunteered as delegate to National AGM.

All were proposed by TR, seconded AM, agreed by all present

13. Adoption of Branch Plan

John Davies suggested we change the wording of BCS to BCA, A for Activity.

The plan was adopted, agreed by all present.

14. County Report

14.1. John Davies attended our AGM as an observer. He highlighted the Beacon Branches Initiative which is being brought in. It is a good way to monitor your progress as a branch and should be used as a tool to improve our branch plan.

14.2. John asked that all committee members take the free training the RBL are offering.

15. AOB

15.1. The RBL National President has been appointed, Vice Admiral (Rtd) Paul Bennett CB OBE.

Steve Stork suggested we invite him to visit us.

15.2. Avril has the County AGM cup forms, we agreed that we will enter all competitions we are eligible for.

16. The meeting closed at 8.30pm and the Branch Standard was marched off.

Signed _____ Chairman

Dated _____