

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 7th September 2023 at 8:00pm

Present: Ian Greenway (IP) Julie Yeates (JY) Avril Mitchell (AM) Joe Karmazyn (JK), Tim Russell (TR) and 11 branch members.

Apologies:

George Mars, Ian Preston.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by our Chairman, Ian Greenway. We have been notified of the passing of John Sadler, a long-time supporter of the RBL.

The minutes of the previous meeting:

Circulated and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: AM, Seconded: CB

Matters Arising:

1. The Poppy Launch dinner, Ian Preston has confirmed a photographer for the event.
2. Rick Bourne has spoken with Andy Murray at the CWGC today and has confirmation that the two graves which do not have WG stones, this is usually because the family do not wish it and there is no possibility to alter this. We can clean them if we wish to, although this is usually carried out by the CWGC. The Church will contact the Diocese to request permission for a CWGC street sign to be erected at the churchyard entrance. The Highways Authority will also need to be contacted.
AM confirmed that she has updated our photo albums with the info Rick supplied and the additional CWG are visible on the QR Reader. The Old Contemptible record is not included.

Treasurer's Report: for 03/08/23 to 07/09/23

Opening Balance	£3133.68
Payments	£ 745.00 (Poppy Appeal, Hall usage + storage fee)
Receipts	£ 656.00 (Poppy Dinner bookings, Branch subs)
Closing Balance	£3044.68

BFI + BPT Quarter end to June

BFI Balance £40.19

BPT Balance £12,532.25

The IE raised two queries on our accounts regarding a donation and the payment of rent monies to the club.

JY has confirmation in writing that the £81.95 donation from L Flynn was intended for the branch, not the Poppy Appeal.

IG informed the meeting that Elwyn Pickering had met with the committee today. We have, with immediate effect cancelled the monthly payment to the club as using BPT money for this is in breach of RBL rules. We will be expected to refund the RBL all misused funds once they have agreed the figure owed.

The club lease agreement is that the club rent the property from the RBL and must provide the branch and WS reasonable use of storage and reasonable use of the hall for branch business.

We can use BPT money for Ceremonial and for welfare cases within a five mile radius of the hall, we just need to find some – there a few nursing homes in the area, also the Parklands hospital.

JY proposed the accounts for acceptance, seconded TR, all agreed.

Poppy Appeal Report:

The Poppy Appeal year ends on 30th Sept so it is a last-minute push to get every penny banked. With this in mind The Bar Lion contained £38.96, Clothing donations raised £11.40.

Lloyds Bank failed to bank the \$20 Tim had, but eventually managed to find the Poppy Appeal account to accept the cash. This has caused us to rethink taking our main PA counts there for banking in November and we may well use the collection service instead.

We will be receiving QR codes which we can use on our Poppy Tins, this will help where we don't have contactless machines.

I have the rotas for Poppy Appeal, please come and put your name down for a few shifts. We have indoor at Tesco Hook and Sainsbury's Hook and outdoor is the Bandstand and M+S at Chineham Centre. We will not be inside Tesco Chineham this year due to the poor location.

Our current totals are Old Basing £13,174.66 contactless £4204.00, Hook £6,689.06 contactless £3971.00, total £28,038.72.

Membership Report:

Our current membership is 404. There are 26 unpaid at today's date.

Club Report:

The Sunday lunch service started and was well attended with 31 covers + 7 takeaways

The new door has been installed from the club to the football pitch. It is off the Jack Morris Hall, by the toilets. IG expressed some concern that this could be an issue when events are taking place in the hall and asked how secure this will now be, should a lock be installed on the hall door. TR also has concerns due to the Poppy Appeal cupboard lock being broken and therefore the assets insecure. There is a history of break-ins at the club. Mark Taylor assured us this should not be an issue as there is CCTV on the new door and the insurance has been updated. IG also raised the point that the Car park was completely full this evening and we struggled to find spaces.

There was a quiz on 1st Sept, well supported with 12 teams taking part. The next event is Karaoke on 30th Sept. and the Rugby is being broadcast in the club too.

Corps of Drums Report:

The Band were busy throughout May to July so very much enjoyed a summer BBQ in August with Jill Prendergast providing the food, Andy and Trevor manning the grill and Alex baked a drum cake which was much appreciated. There was also a raffle and a quiz.

Rehearsals now for the Mayor's charity concert, Anvil 7th Oct where they will play three pieces and a new drum solo. The band are also performing in the Gaberdine Bar in Basingstoke on 22nd October for Basingstoke RBL.

Andy Dawes will be carrying the Band Standard at events where the whole band performs.

Over the last 6 months the band has gained 6 new members, which is really good and encouraging.

Russ Parrott is the Band's Media Coordinator and regularly updates the facebook site, this is proving popular.

Band person of the month was Helen Dawes, a recent recruit who is gaining confidence having not played for a long time.

Garry and Alex are looking into holding more social events for the band such as quizzes, film or games nights, meals out and bowling.

County Chairman report

Tim was at the County Chairman seminar. Charles Byrne gave his outgoing address, he leaves in November and his post is being advertised in the national press.

The Charter Motion which was defeated in May 2023 is being re-presented for discussion with a view to being resubmitted next conference.

TR gave a presentation on camaraderie which went down well. He was not able to use examples given by Sue Chewter and IG but thanked them for submitting the stories.

Correspondence:

The Central News, Membership E-News and the September Hampshire Link, all will go on the notice board.

Events and fund raising:

We have sold or reserved nearly all the tickets for the Poppy Launch dinner.

We are looking for a caterer for our Burns Night dinner. We may try Nicola Leonard who caters our Black-Tie events.

Basingstoke Branch have agreed to holding a joint event for the D-Day 80 in June 2024. IG will meet with Dave Barton to arrange.

The Corps of Drums have been booked for 9th June to perform on Lepe Beach.

A.O.B:

Andy Dawes is attending Standard Bearer training and it is going well.

Diane Matthews asked whether we will have police attendance at our Remembrance Parade this year. TR confirmed that we apply for it, but it is the PC who arrange it.

A Nomination Form for branch committee was produced and several branch members added their names, further nominations can be accepted up to 7 days prior to the AGM. AM has advertised our AGM in accordance with the MMH.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 5th October at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman