THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)

199, Borough High Street, London, SE1 1AA

Patron – His Majesty the King

Registered Charity No. 219279

Paphos Branch (BR3692)

(Formed 05 March 2014)

Boundary of operations is Paphos District and Western Sovereign Base Area for BCS and Welfare.
Fundraising only in the Western Sovereign Base Area.

2022 - Noel Rogers Trophy 2nd Place, 2024 - Poppy Appeal Trophy Winner & McCrae Shield Winner,
2025 McCrae Shield Winner & Jellicoe Cup 3rd Place - **2026 Jellicoe Cup Winner, McCrae Shield 2nd Place**

Chairman's Review of the Year

Before I begin my review, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Branch Officers, Dave Secretary and Dave Treasurer, for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I would also like to thank Chris, Ruth and Gill, together with Mary and George, who unfortunately cannot be with us today. Finally, I thank all our Branch members and am particularly pleased to see seven of them here this afternoon.

I am delighted to report that the Branch continues to place great importance on training and development. During the year, Chris Perry completed a Welfare Course in Spain and an Enhanced Safeguarding Course, Janet Baker completed the Royal British Legion Standard Bearers Course in the United Kingdom, and David Rees successfully completed both the updated Treasurer's Course and the Royal British Legion Independent Examiners Course. In addition, all Committee members have remained fully up to date with their Data Protection and Safeguarding training requirements, ensuring that the Branch continues to operate to the high standards expected of the Royal British Legion.

Four days after our 2025 AGM, Dave Rees, Ruth Neighbour, Chris Perry and I squeezed into Dave's car, loaded with Poppy Appeal collection boxes, and spent the day delivering them across RAF Akrotiri, Episkopi and surrounding locations. A temporary delay caused by military drug testing at Episkopi provided an opportunity for an unscheduled visit to the CESSAC, much to Dave's delight. Once deliveries were completed, I met with the Garrison Serjeant Major to finalise arrangements for the Remembrance Service at Happy Valley.

The autumn proved particularly busy. Members attended the Trafalgar Day commemorations, met with the Late Andros Karasavvas regarding his proposed 24-hour Swimathon for the Poppy Appeal, and supported Bonfire Night celebrations at RAF Akrotiri.

The annual Remembrance Service at Happy Valley on 9 November was very well attended. I laid a wreath on behalf of the Branch, whilst D. Perry represented us at Waynes Keep in Nicosia. This was followed by the Armistice Day 457 March at RAF Akrotiri, honouring those who lost their lives during operations in Afghanistan.

The Poppy Appeal collection boxes once again produced an excellent result, reflecting the generosity of both the military and civilian communities. November concluded with two particularly successful events: the 24-hour Swimathon, which raised both funds and awareness for the Legion, and our annual Poppy Dinner, which brought members and guests together following the Remembrance period.

The new year began with our first quarterly meeting at the Paramali Tavern on 10 January. Coincidentally, the date marked both the 85th anniversary of the first flight of the Avro Lancaster and the 110th anniversary of the first recorded speeding fine. One represented a remarkable leap in aviation history; the other served as a reminder that even in 1916 some people were still in far too much of a hurry.

March presented the Branch with some unusual challenges. Following a missile strike near Akrotiri and the subsequent evacuation of civilian personnel from Akrotiri and Episkopi, our Treasurer, Dave Rees, maintained constant contact with the Garrison Serjeant Major and offered assistance from the Branch wherever it was needed. His efforts received formal thanks from both bases, together with recognition from

the RBL Membership Council, the Membership Engagement Officer and the Director of Membership. This acknowledged not only Dave's dedication, but also the strong reputation our Branch has established for supporting the Armed Forces community whenever called upon.

On a far happier note, the 15th of April marked the 103rd birthday of Harry Fenwick. Many of our Branch members were there to help Harry celebrate this remarkable achievement and one that the Branch was proud to acknowledge.

Our second quarterly meeting took place on the 18th of April at the Lemmings Beach Café. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas and heavy rain affected proceedings, but nevertheless the members enjoyed the occasion.

The following day, 19th of April, some of our members supported our branch Padre the Venerable Paul Carr by attending the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Anglican Church in Paphos.

May was another exceptional month. Dave and Chris Perry attended the Royal British Legion National Conference in Brighton, where the Branch won the Jellicoe Cup and finished runners-up in the McCrae Shield. Both Dave and Chris were awarded the Royal British Legion Gold Badge by the National Chairman, whilst a third Gold Badge was entrusted to the Branch Officers for later presentation. These honours reflect many years of outstanding service to the Legion.

On the 23rd of May the Branch commemorated the fifteenth anniversary of the end of combat operations in Iraq, remembering those who served and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The 82nd anniversary of D-Day was marked on the 06th of June, and we commemorated the Normandy landings, remembering that this was one of the most significant events in military history and one that remains forever linked to the freedoms we enjoy today.

Community engagement continued with attendance at Akrotiri Families Day on the 20th of June and Armed Forces Day celebrations on the 27th of June, both of which provided excellent opportunities to raise awareness of the Legion's work and engage with serving personnel and their families.

On 11 July, members gathered once again at the Paramali Tavern for our quarterly Branch meeting. During the meeting, Elaine Nicholls received the third Gold Badge awarded to the Branch at National Conference, ensuring that all three honours had been presented. We also commemorated the 110th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, remembering the courage, sacrifice and endurance of those who fought in one of the First World War's most significant battles.

On the 17th of August we were delighted to learn that Janet Baker has been selected to serve as a Royal British Legion Standard Bearer at the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. This is a tremendous honour both for her personally and for our Branch.

Our team-building event at Tunnel Beach took place on the 29th of August. Unfortunately, thanks to the weather and the well thought out team building exercise the members soon found themselves lost at sea. Yes, there was inevitable confusion that accompanies any group activity involving teamwork and discussion, but nevertheless, good humour prevailed and everyone survived and with the great food a memorable day was enjoyed by all who attended.

The final major event of the year was Party in the Park on the 05th of September, where the Branch once again engaged with the local community, promoted the work of the Royal British Legion and enjoyed an excellent day in good company.

Looking back over the past twelve months, it is clear that this has been another busy and successful year for the Branch. We have supported Remembrance events, represented the Royal British Legion at military and community occasions, provided welfare support when required, achieved success at National Conference, recognised outstanding service within our membership and, above all, continued to uphold the values and standards of the Royal British Legion.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment, enthusiasm and support of our members, committee and volunteers. To each and every one of you, I offer my sincere thanks. Your efforts continue to strengthen our Branch, our reputation and our ability to support both veterans and the wider Armed Forces community. Together, you ensure that our Branch continues to go from strength to strength.