

Minutes of the General Meeting of
The Royal British Legion – Brampton & District Branch,
The Black Bull, Brampton
Monday 25 August 2025

<https://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/brampton-district>

Please note that the RBL Branch telephone (07938 026 504) is held by Carole Rose, Branch Secretary.

GENERAL MEETING

	Present	Clive Wood (Chair), Mick Forsdick (Vice-Chair), Carole Rose (Secretary), Siobhan Grehan (Treasurer), Steve Rose, Paul Gane, Elaine Sefton, Brandon Wilgus, Steve Burton, Ian MacDonald, Stephanie MacDonald, Ian Howkins-Griffiths, Chris Pocock.
1.	Tribute	The Tribute was led by the Chair.
2.	Apologies	John Bridge OBE DL (President), Carol Barrett, Kevin Brown, Gerry Drake, Philip Bell, Sally Rees, Simon Rees.
3.	Chairman's Opening Remarks	The Chair opened the meeting at 1950 hrs and welcomed all to the new venue. He stated that this was the first meeting since 2 June (May meeting). As there had been no further information on the future of the Hare on the Green, the new venue of the Black Bull had been agreed at a meeting with the Manager, Chair and Vice-Chair, and we had a room allocated for the meeting.
4.	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.
5.	Matters Arising	<p><u>Branch Survey.</u> The Chair explained that a shortened version of the survey will be sent out in the near future, once he and the Secretary had reviewed the updated distribution list, with a view to ascertaining who would wish to participate in future events.</p> <p><u>App Development.</u> Input had been received from Zoe Greenslade (ZG) and she had apologised for the delay. She had carried out some work on the App and passed it to the Chair, who had, in turn passed it to the Vice-Chair. The App will require updating and then it would be developed and launched as an additional means of communication.</p> <p><u>Monthly Meetings.</u> As mentioned in his Welcome address, the Chair stated that there had been no further information on the future of the Hare on the Green. Looking to the future, the Executive Committee were in agreement</p>

		<p>that the Black Bull was a suitable venue and that future meetings would be held here, which was endorsed by Committee members. Discussion had taken place with the Manager and dates for future meetings had been agreed, including the AGM on 6 Oct 25.</p> <p><u>Communications.</u> The Vice-Chair had arranged additional methods of communicating information about the Branch in the form of Branch leaflets and photo collages of Branch activities. The information had been placed in prominent public places around Brampton village (Memorial Hall, Institute etc.), as well as local pubs around the District and these had elicited some enquiries.</p> <p><u>NAAFI Breaks.</u> These continued to be a great success at Montague House and there was a good attendance each month. Thanks to the Vice-Chair for organising a presentation of Veterans’ badges at the NAAFI Break in June to residents at Montague House who had served in the Forces. All were extremely proud to have received the badges and a citation. The NAAFI Break on 26 August was well attended and thanks were expressed to the Secretary for organising a Quiz, the prize for which was a Barbecue Pack from Measures Butchers. There would be no NAAFI Break in August, but the September NAAFI break would feature Bingo with a Harvest Festival themed prize.</p> <p><u>5 Jul – Cycle Ride to National Memorial Arboretum (NMA)</u> by Ian Howkins-Griffiths raised £520 for our RBL Branch Fund, so that we can continue to provide essential services and support to our local veterans. Thanks, and congratulations were expressed to Ian H-G by the Chairman.</p> <p><u>6 Jul – Wreath Laying at NMA</u> by RBL Brampton & District Branch. The Chair and 5 members plus supporters had attended a short service followed by a wreath laying ceremony and tours of the NMA.</p> <p><u>Christmas Raffle Tickets</u> To date £520 worth of tickets had been sold. If anyone wished to have books of tickets to sell, please contact Siobhan BramptonRBL.Treasurer@RBL.Community. The Christmas Draw would be held at the Brampton Christmas Fayre on 7 December.</p>
6.	Treasurer’s Report	<p>The Treasurer gave an update of the Branch finances: Branch Account: £4,143.11 Branch Fund Initiative: £2,215.35 Vets Account: £3,840.29</p> <p>The funds raised from the Cycle Ride together with a donation of £1,000 received from a late member’s estate (Derek Scothern) had been placed in the Branch account.</p> <p>A summary of the three accounts and the transactions on the Veterans’ account are attached.</p>

7.	Upcoming Events	<p>The Vice-Chair advised that we had a lot of events coming up over the remainder of the year, a copy of the Calendar is enclosed with the minutes; however, further details were given:</p> <p><u>13 September – Alconbury Weald Heritage Event.</u> The Branch would have three gazebos at the event, one for the Branch items and the sale of Christmas Raffle Tickets, one for the Poppy Cornhole Game and one for Trevor Stone with his Proudly They Served Project.</p> <p>Volunteers were required to assist with this event.</p> <p><u>9 November – Remembrance Parade and Services.</u> We would have the Parade through Brampton again this year and as Upton and Easton are in the District, we would also be attending the Services at these villages. The Vice-Chair had approached the Watch Office at Alconbury Weald for a buffet lunch (paid for by the Branch) for the Executive Committee, so that we could attend the Parade and Service at Brampton in the morning, the Service at Upton in the afternoon and the one at Easton in the evening.</p> <p><u>25 October - Upton Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning.</u> All proceeds from this event would be donated to Branch Funds.</p> <p>The Secretary was to ascertain whether the Oktoberfest would be going ahead this year, and if so, a pitch would be booked.</p>
8.	Members Points of Information	<p><u>24 October – Pickle Night.</u> Ian McDonald provided further information on this event, explaining the history and the format. There were currently 25 people interested but in order for the cost to be kept at £50 for members and £55 for non-members, we would need 75 attendees. The cost would cover a four-course meal, gifts and mementos and an enamel mug. Boaters and cap badge would be provided. A link would be sent to the Secretary for onward transmission for Royal Navy Dress sources for the evening.</p> <p><u>Baseball Caps</u> – The Vice-Chair showed an example of a cap, which has a Brampton and District Logo on the cap front. There were two options: either to purchase these to sell or to give as prizes for any fundraising games that we have. Please advise the Secretary: BramptonRBL.Secretary@RBL.Community if you would like one. If there is sufficient demand baseball caps with Branch logos would be purchased in the future.</p> <p>As September to November is our busiest period and we do not usually have a meeting in August the question as to whether to hold a meeting in August in the future, as opposed to September, was to be raised at the AGM on 6 October. Also, the question as to whether we continue to hold the meetings on a Monday in future, as we may have two months of the year where these would clash with a Bank Holiday, although those two meetings could be rearranged for the preceding or following week.</p> <p>Ian McDonald advised that commencing 1 September he would be part of an extraordinary challenge – pulling a Boer War Field Gun over 1,000 miles from</p>

		John O’Groats to Land’s End in support of Military vs Cancer. This is to raise funds for serving personnel, veterans and their families affected by cancer. It is a cause that means so much to all of us, and every mile we pull is a step toward providing vital support when it is needed most. It’s going to be tough, it’s going to be emotional, but with your help it will be worth every step. Please sponsor this cause if you can – every donation counts, big or small, this is the link: https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/week-6-john-ogroats-to-lands-end-field-gun-pull?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwMarktleHRuA2FbQlxMQABHh5T-vp3sDgfU11am-doyMefGPMv2azOd4P-9jq4wusdrejl4o5B1jiCiqoz_aem_2_R8VQuKec5631Agg5dK4w
9.	Date of Next Meeting	AGM on Monday 6 October at 1900 hrs at the Black Bull.
	Closing	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2030 hrs.

Signed

C Rose

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