

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 3rd July 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway (IG) – Chairman, Avril Mitchell (AM) – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn (JK), Tim Russell TR, Sue Chewter (SC), Diane Matthews (DM) and 14 branch members.

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Julie Karmazyn, John Davies, Alex Dawes, Garry Griffiths

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by IG.

1. IG welcomed new member Tony Smith who introduced himself, also present for the first time were David Stiles and Jenny Barton. David has volunteered his services as a future guest speaker.
 - 1.1. IG, JK and TR attended Old Basing Carnival. It was a very hot day and there was a high number of people attending so it was worth being there with our information stand.
 - 1.2. IG hoped that everyone is finding the new meetings format enjoyable, we have noticed slightly higher attendance numbers which bodes well.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: SC. Accepted by all present.
3. Matters Arising from the minutes: None
4. Treasurer's Report: for the period up to 3rd July 2025

O/Bal	£2,515.50 cr
Receipts	£ 215.00 – membership fees and a donation
Payments	£ 54.50 – Stall fee + Std Bearer fee
C/Bal	£2,676.00 cr

BPT to 31st Mar 2025, £21,828.37 Cr

Proposed JK, seconded AM. Accepted by all present
5. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 5.1. Milestones VE80 event was quieter than hoped but it was good that we were there and as it was a joint event with Basingstoke RBL the £214 raised went to County Welfare. We also took £162 for the Poppy Appeal on QR codes.
 - 5.2. We will attend Hook Village Show on 6th July; fingers crossed for a good day.
 - 5.3. We are now ordering stock for this year's Poppy Appeal.
 - 5.4. Looking forward, we should be planning an event for VJ80, all suggestions welcome.
 - 5.5. Totals: Old Basing £13,799.46 + £7504.50 + £471.50
Hook £10,380.07 + £13,970.50 + £167.00
Combined Total £46,293.03
6. Club Report:
 - 6.1. VE80 day was successful for the club with a number of new members joining on the day.
 - 6.2. Upcoming events in the club include the Lions Tour televised showings, Bingo and a Halloween party.
 - 6.3. The Carnival Skittles was won by Mark Taylor's team so they are happy.
 - 6.4. The wall cabinets the Standards were displayed in are now empty, a decision is needed on what to do with them. It was suggested we offer them to Hampshire Archives in Winchester. We will discuss at committee.
 - 6.5. There is NO Smoking by the club entrance, please use the marquee area to the side.
7. Band Report:
 - 7.1. The Band have had a great season, performing most weekends since May at carnivals, shows and community events. The new songs have been well received gaining positive feedback.
 - 7.2. The Band have made a connection with the Basingstoke ACF Corps of Drums which is proving valuable for recruitment and joint support is likely in the future.

- 7.3. Approx. 70% of the Band are now RBL members with 5 under 18yrs who could apply for free youth membership.
 - 7.4. The Facebook page is very active and interesting, please share our posts
 - 7.5. Upcoming events are Hale Carnival, Whitchurch Fete, RBL Club open Day, and later in the year the Poppy Launch Dinner and Remembrance events.
8. Correspondence:
- 8.1. The July Link, July Central News, June Membership E-news.
 - 8.2. An envelope addressed to Old Basing RBL which, upon opening, was a thank you card and donation for the Band from Don Walker's daughter.
 - 8.3. A funding request from Basingstoke ACF Corps of Drums asking for help to purchase e.g. CoD T-Shirts and a Flag. We will check, but it is unlikely this comes within the RBL rules.
9. Events and fund raising:
- 9.1. We have booking forms for the Poppy Launch Dinner, please book early as we have reserved nearly one third of the tickets already.
10. A.O.B
- 10.1. Andy Dawes asked whether PA collecting areas have changed, no they have not. Any RBL Band can perform in any area if asked.
 - 10.2. AM asked whether Andy is attending the VJ Flag raising in Basingstoke. Andy said he is not on the Mayoral mailing list. AM has given him the details so he can request to be included in future.
 - 10.3. DM asked whether people know we need a treasurer from October. The post has been advertised on our noticeboards, our Social Sites and is included on the emails sent out to branch members. We have also been asking around for a volunteer. Malcolm asked whether we are compliant. As previously stated our treasurer is in post until October 2025.
 - 10.4. Rick Bourne confirmed he has reminded the Parish Council that they owe us two union flags
 - 10.5. AM had been handed some streamers from the removed Branch Standards, it was agreed they will be added to the Standard when it is Laid-Up in the St Mary's (yet to be arranged)
 - 10.6. The issue of adding Michael Crotty to our war Memorial, this is one for the Diocese to discuss and decide upon.
 - 10.7. Our parish will be without a vicar for potentially 18 months but the Church Wardens and Administrators take over the day-to-day running of the church in the meantime. Rick has started discussing Remembrance with them. IG reminded Rick that we need to see a copy of the Order of Service prior to it being approved for print.

The next meeting is a standard branch meeting and will be on 7th August at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm after which we listened to some very interesting memories from Ian Greenway, about his Army career.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman