

Edition Date: April 2023

We will remember them

To all whom we have lost this month. Our sincere condolences to family and friends.

Our mission is to safeguard the welfare, interests, and memory of those who are serving or who have served in the Armed Forces

County correspondence can be addressed to Hampshire & IOW MSO, PO Box 317, Southampton. SO45 9BS

COUNTY GROUP MEETING

The RBL Hampshire County group meeting was held at the Old Basing RBL Club on the 18th March. The main purpose of the meeting was to allow the County Chairman, Tim Russell to give feedback and guidance from RBL HQ at Haig House, on membership of the RBL.

Four elements were discussed. They were - an update on membership, a "case for change", The impact on the services and the sharing of best practice amongst branches. Membership Support Officers are now known as Membership Engagement Officers (MEOs) and are part of the Membership Engagement Team. Their role is to support the counties, districts and the branches in an effort to maintain consistency in all activities.

A number of improvements are to be made. This includes improving the membership application process and updating the membership application form. The Membership Handbook is also being updated as is the approach to training. Branch visibility is a part of this. The future of the RBL is important if the support to our armed forces and veterans is to be maintained. Membership (the lifeblood of the organisation) continues to diminish and is of concern. For this reason the approach to membership is to be in three categories - active, partly active and passive.

Branches should be about comradeship, remembrance, and community spirit. The focus for the future is to centre on comradeship and friendship and to strengthen our county / district / branch network. For this to take place communication is the key. Branches are encouraged to make meetings more interesting so as to attract more members. This includes possible activities such as guest speakers, visits and more. Branches are asked to communicate their activities and events through the county newsletter and branch newsletters if they have such a thing.

In this regard, all branch secretaries are encouraged to distribute the County newsletter, the Hampshire Link, via their email lists. If a member of the RBL would like an individual copy sent to them please make contact with the editor (email address on the last page) and supply your email address for inclusion on the distribution list.

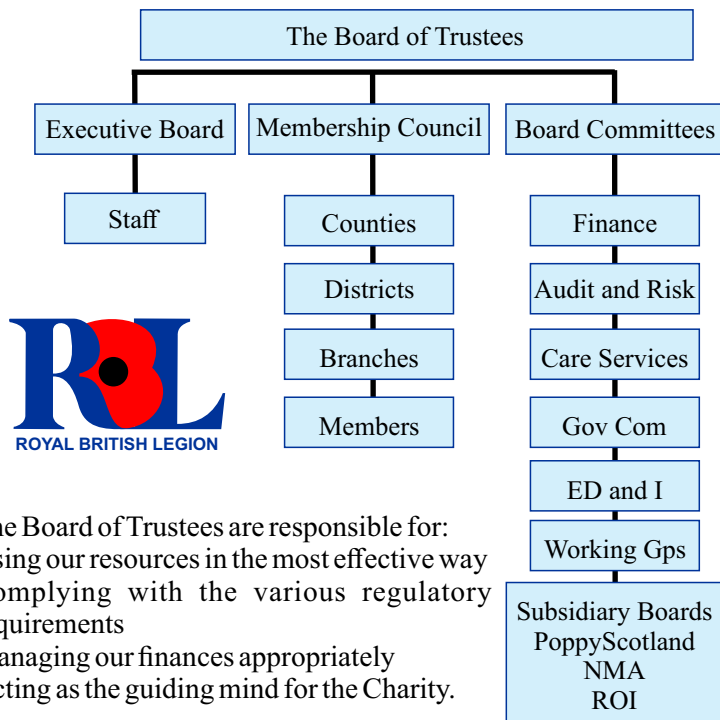
The Charities Act and other legislation dictates that the RBL have an Audit Compliance and Investigation Team (ACIT). based at RBL HQ. This has been established and consists of four members. Their responsibility is to determine if County and Branches are adhering to the regulations laid down in the Charter and Membership Handbook. It includes adhering to the required participation in training of all branch officials, the keeping of risk registers and ensuring that there is a whistle-blower system that is accessible to all. The ACIT team also have responsibility for ensuring that County and branch documents and records are kept up to date as well as ensuring that all members who hold office, have done a relevant training course.

The RBL Board of Trustees (directly accountable for all RBL matters) is also affected. The Board of Trustees has been downsized from 15-16 to 10-12 members. The National Chairman and National Vice Chairman are appointed and are no longer elected. The reason for this is that in the recent past some other charities have experienced irregularities that forced them to close down.



**The armed forces are the nations insurance policy.
If you let the policy lapse, you are not covered when
there is a disaster.
DW**

Governing the RBL - the Structure



The Board of Trustees are responsible for:
 Using our resources in the most effective way
 Complying with the various regulatory requirements
 Managing our finances appropriately
 Acting as the guiding mind for the Charity.

Following an external review (in 2021) the Trustees received 23 recommendations 'to improve Governance and ensure it is fit for purpose for the future'.

Many of these recommendations relate to professionalising and standardising governance procedures. The following have been implemented -

- A Trustee competency framework introducing minimum standards for all members of the Board
- Defined and implemented a Board Induction and Development Plan
- Refined Trustee selection and election process, with implementation of this achieved through 23 process
- Standardised Terms of Reference for all Board committees, including the MC Terms of Reference
- Implemented consistent secretariat support for all Committees
- Agreed purpose of Membership and role of members
- Refreshed delegated authorities
- Agreed definitions for consult / engage / inform descriptors.

Changes to the RBL Senior Management Membership Team

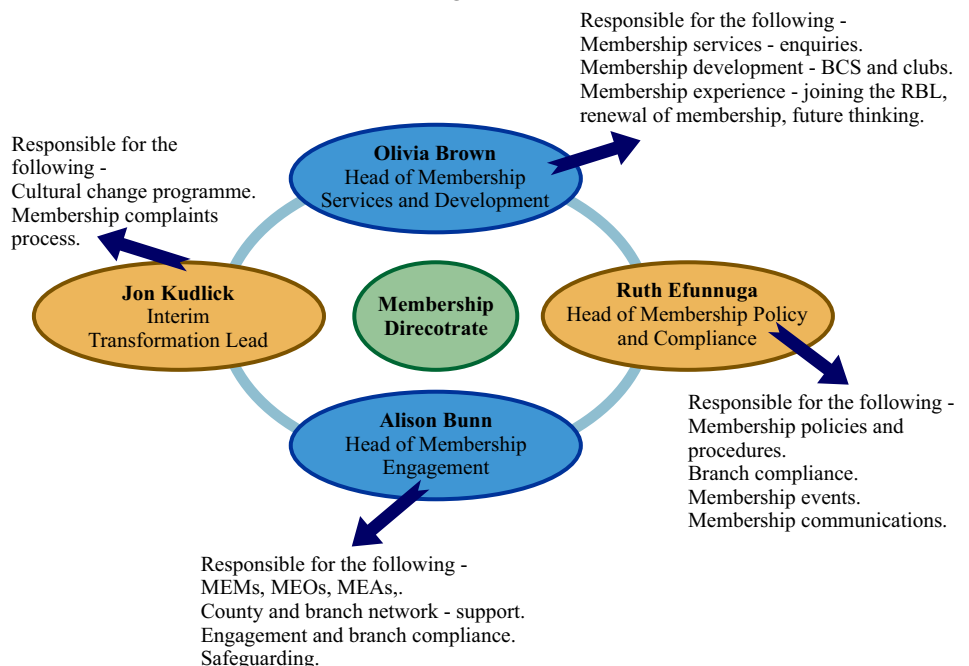
There has been a sizeable shift in the skills and expertise That RBL HQ is bringing into the membership team.

This started with the membership engagement team and the transfer of the MSOs into membership, trebling the size of the membership department overnight. RBL HQ has also conducted a reorganisation of the central services team. This has resulted in the transformation from a membership administration department into a membership directorate.

The changes allow the Membership directorate to:

- Deliver on charitable objectives.
- Provide a united One Legion approach.
- Support cultural transformation.
- Support BAU and future thinking.
- Deliver a better member experience.

The Senior Management Team



Future Thinking

- ☐ Pipeline of younger, diverse members
- ☐ Develop a unique branch offer
- ☐ Effective communications - to join a branch
- ☐ Help with succession planning
- ☐ Generate more active members

Developing future thinking.

- Open a new digital channel.
- Focus on Comradeship / friendship.
- First offer individual membership that is not as committed / involved to begin with.
- Strengthen the county and branch network.

The Senior Service in Everyday Language

As an island nation that still depends upon the sea for 95% of her trade, it's hardly surprising that the Royal Navy and seafaring in general are embedded into our national identity. The sea has also influenced our day-to-day language and many of us unconsciously use maritime expressions.



Have you ever been 'taken aback' when surprised by a sudden change? This expression derives from an unexpected wind shift that could press the sails back against the masts of a square-rigged vessel, causing her to stop or sail astern. Of course,

you may have been 'sailing too close to the wind' to be caught in such a situation. Feeling a bit deflated? You could be 'in the Doldrums', becalmed in an area now known as the Intertropical Convergence Zone where sailing vessels could remain stranded for days.

Have you ever 'let the cat out of the bag' or not had 'enough room to swing a cat'? These expressions have nothing to do with our feline friends but refer to the infamous cat o' nine tails used by the Royal Navy to inflict corporal punishment. Abolished in 1881, the 'cat' was kept in a red baize bag when not in use. In addition to flogging, the culprit might also be required to 'run the gauntlet'; further chastisement from fellow shipmates using rope ends (originally gauntlets) particularly for more personal offences such as theft. Frayed rope ends or rags were also towed astern by ships from the heads (lavatories) for personal hygiene use; the term 'tow rag' is still used as a personal insult.

Have you ever felt 'groggy'? Although now widely used for a range of conditions, this was originally used to describe drunkenness or being 'three sheets to the wind' (sheets being ropes used to control sails). The term grog derived from the navy's daily rum issue and an order issued in 1746 by Admiral Vernon (known as Old Grogam from the coarse material of the coat he wore) for the issue to be watered down. Grog was issued to compensate for harsh conditions and poor-quality food but at least sailors enjoyed regular 'square meals', so called because they were eaten from square wooden plates. These plates had raised wooden surrounds known as 'fiddles' and those who took more than their fair share of rations were said to be 'on the fiddle'. To help stave off scurvy, citrus fruits or juice were served. Due to their availability in the West Indies, these were often limes which led to the sobriquet 'Limeys' for British sailors by our American cousins. 'Limers' was still served during my time in the Service particularly in tropical climes, by now made from a powder with 'enhanced vitamin C'. A cocktail made with dark rum and lime juice is

known as 'An RN'.

A large collection of ships, aircraft or vehicles is sometimes called an Armada from the attempted invasion by the Spanish Armada in 1588. 'Armada' literally meant 'armed' but was adopted by Spanish speaking nations to mean a fleet of warships or navy. A disruptive person in any environment is sometimes called a 'loose cannon', alluding to the danger and destruction wrought by a ship's cannon that had broken free from its restraining tackle, particularly in rough weather. Not to be confused, in an ecclesiastical context, with a 'loose Canon' - with apologies to our branch chaplain! Less common now but you've probably heard children referred to as 'nippers'. In large sailing vessels, heavy physical work such as weighing anchor was performed using capstans. But, as anchor cables were often too large for the capstan drum itself, a continuous rope known as a messenger operated between the forward and after capstans. The larger cable was then attached to the messenger using smaller lengths of cordage known as 'nipping', a task that invariably fell to the youngest members of the ship's company while the stronger sailors manned the capstan bars.

New job? You'd better first 'make your number' with your new colleagues as would a ship joining a fleet or squadron by hoisting her pennant numbers (flags). You may then need to 'toe the line' as sailors mustering on the upper deck would line up with their bare toes touching the caulked deck seems. If you're from the Isle of Wight, you might well have helped seal the decks, thereby earning the sobriquet 'Caulk Head'. Maybe promotion is 'in the offing'? The offing being the nearest part of the sea to the land, so therefore 'near' or 'in sight'.

Do you wear a blazer? Standard uniforms were not introduced for Royal Navy ratings until 1857 but ambitious captains of His or Her Majesty's Ships invariably ensured their boat crews were smartly dressed. In about 1837, the captain of HMS Blazer introduced a smart blue and white striped jacket for his gig's crew and the fashion was adopted ashore, particularly by rowing clubs, so the name stuck. Naval style reefer jackets (so called because they were used aloft for reefing -shortening - sails) most resemble the double-breasted blue blazer of today. Posh, eh? Indeed, POSH is supposed to derive from a label meaning 'Port Out Starboard Home' on the baggage of wealthier passengers travelling to India or beyond. In days before air conditioning, the cooler and more expensive cabins were on the north side of the ship - port (left) outbound and starboard (right) homebound.

Finally, you may have heard the expression 'cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey'. This is said to derive from iron cannon balls being displaced by contraction of their brass holder (a monkey) in very cold weather. There's no record of ammunition being stowed this way in ships and therefore it's probably just a load of.....

Cdr Rob Scott RN, Branch Secretary Droxford & District RBL

The Incident at the Crown Inn, Kingsclere 5th October 1944

On Thursday evening 5th October 1944 ten soldiers of the 3247th Quartermaster Service Corps based near Sydmonton Court went to the Crown Inn for a drink. US Army regimental policemen by the names of Pte Coates, Pte Brown and Pte Anderson saw the soldiers drinking at the Inn and approached them in the pub saying that the Inn was off limits to them and ordered them to return to base. The ten soldiers returned to their base at Sydmonton Court where they took a number of M1 carbines and 100 rounds of ammunition from the armoury and returned to Kingsclere. As Brown and Anderson were leaving the Inn they were confronted by the returning armed soldiers. The returning soldiers also saw from the front of the Inn (through the window) that a military policeman was inside, recognising him because he was wearing a white painted MPs' helmet and opened fire. US Pte Brown (Regimental Policeman) took cover and remained inside the pub.

US Army Pte Coates (a Regimental Policeman) was shot in the neck / throat and killed instantly while sitting on a chair in the pub under the window facing North Street. US Army Pte Anderson (Regimental Policeman) took cover and managed to get out of the front of the Inn and returned fire. The soldiers opened fire on him from the cover of some tombstones in the church yard. He was mortally wounded and within a short distance collapsed and died in the runner bean patch of the next door garden of a Mr Digweed in North Street. The landlady was Mrs Napper aged 64 and was also shot and died of her wounds. Mrs Napper was taken to Newbury Hospital by ambulance and died there.

Sergeant Dudman of the Hampshire Constabulary was first to arrive with some other officers and they spoke to several people who were eye witnesses to the incident. Thereafter Detective Superintendent R Gill arrived from HQ Hampshire Constabulary in Winchester and Superintendent Liddiard from Andover Division assisted him in taking statements from the witnesses. As this was taking place the US Army Military Police conducted a search for the US Army personnel involved and 10 were eventually arrested and detained.

All the soldiers were arrested and underwent a Court Martial. Nine men were convicted of murder and jailed for life - the other got 10 years' hard labour - and all were given dishonourable discharges. The sentence of the tenth man was later reviewed and he was also given a life sentence. Thereafter a local Home Guard army unit was foot patrols in provide

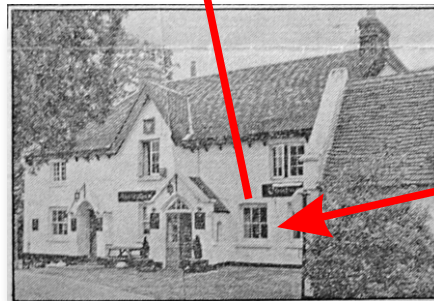


US Army Ground Forces shoulder patch

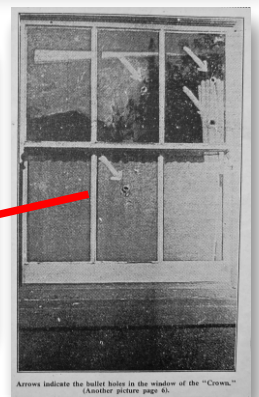
raised to conduct the village to security.



The Crown Inn today



1950 newspaper photo of the Crown Inn



1944 newspaper photo of the window



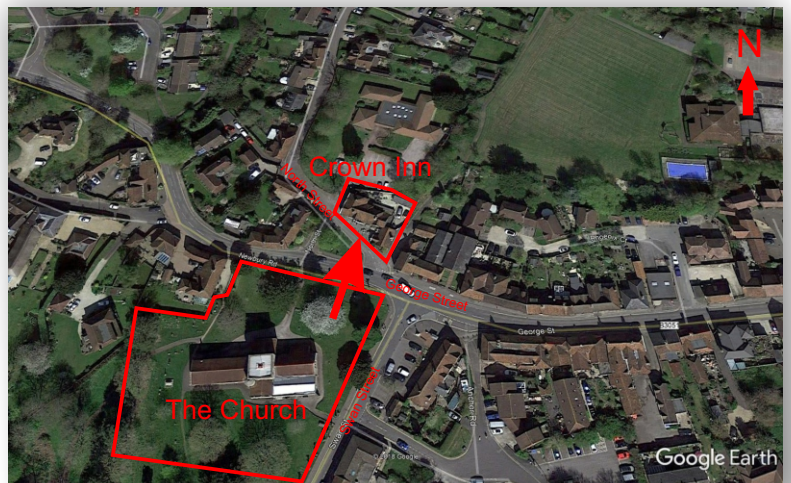
Quartermaster Service Corps collar badge



US Army Generic cap badge



Generic collar badge



Aerial photo, courtesy of Google Earth

Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force 1979 / 80

The Commonwealth raised the Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force (CMF) to oversee the implementation of the Lancaster House Agreement that saw the end of the protracted war in Rhodesia between the government's forces and the Patriotic Front. It was codenamed Operation Aguila and a flash was issued to all those deployed.

David Lloyd served in the Royal Air Force and was deployed to Zimbabwe as part of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe 1979/80. David was based at New Sarum Air Force Base (Salisbury / Harare) and Thornhill Air Force Base (Gwelo). David served as a Senior NCO Air Comms Tech with 33 Squadron, RAF Odiham. He very kindly sent in these photos.

In 1983 David had the opportunity to return to work in Zimbabwe but the country had begun to deteriorate under the new government and so he left for Saudi Arabia and a more lucrative employment.



David Lloyd on deployment in Zimbabwe



Commonwealth Ceasefire Monitoring Force flash



RAF Puma over Victoria Falls

Origin of the poppy as an emblem of Remembrance

The First World War commenced in 1914 and Europe experienced a cold winter over the period of 1914 – 15. The spring of 1915 (April and May) was warmer than usual and had a positive effect on the vegetation of France and Belgium. In the vicinity of Ypres the farmers began to plough their fields close to the front line. Poppies (species *papaver rhoeas*) began to grow on the edges of the ploughed fields. The poppy is an annual plant and flowers during May to August. It propagates itself by seeds that are carried on the wind. When the soil is disturbed, such as when the farmers plough, the seeds are given the opportunity to germinate and grow. Equally the heavy artillery bombardments during the war disturbed the soil and ironically encouraged the poppies to grow. Poppies also grow on the Gallipoli Peninsular and seeds carried by the wind tend to spread far and wide. Poppies also grow in Great Britain and their prolific blooming during the summer months on the battlefields and elsewhere is a reminder of the fallen who were in conflicts that took place.

The idea of using a poppy as a flower of remembrance was started by an American woman, Miss Moina Michael. She was a member of the YMCA, an organisation that provided facilities for soldiers on the Western Front who were resting behind the lines during the war. On the 9th November 1918, two days before the Armistice was declared Moina was on duty at the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries' headquarters in New York. She was working in the "Gemot" reading room in Hamilton Hall where U.S. servicemen who met to say their farewell to family and friends before deploying on overseas service. While there a soldier gave her a copy of the November edition of the "Ladies Home Journal", in which she read Major John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Field". It made an impact and she then began making poppies to wear as a form of remembrance and to raise funds for those who had been wounded.

The tradition of wearing a poppy was spread to all the countries of the Empire and while the tradition is not too common in the USA it is very popular here in the UK. The French wear the blue Cornflower in remembrance of the fallen and purple coloured poppies are used to remember the animals lost in war.



An original Haig Fund poppy

Other News

Copythorne and District Band Night

Branch No 1851. Registered Charity Number 219279



Copythorne & District
Royal British Legion
present



A CONCERT BY HYDE BAND
The Successful 1st Section Brass Band



ON SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023

At 7:00pm

At Copythorne Parich Hall,
Pollards Moor Road, Copythorne SO40 2NZ

Tickets £10.00 per person
available from Bartley Post Office

Copythorne and District are proud to announce a concert by The Hyde Band, a splendid evening of music of all genres from a successful! 1st section Brass Band. The monies raised will be split 50/50 between the Branch and the Band.

There are 165 tickets available so book early to avoid disappointment. Refreshments are included. Tickets are available from Bartley Post Office or by calling Branch Chairman Ginge Kinley on 02380 814732

Kuwait Liberation Medal

The Kuwait Liberation Medal was instituted by the Kuwait government in 1994 and was awarded to both Kuwaiti and Coalition forces who served in the Persian Gulf War's "Liberation of Kuwait" campaign for a period of time between 1990 and 31 August 1993. It was awarded to all participating British forces. British armed forces regulations do not permit the wearing of certain foreign medals alongside British campaign medals if they are for the same campaign and therefore this medal is not worn by British personnel while still serving.



Poppy Appeal Matters



A new CFR has been appointed for South Hants & IOW. Julie Lax has just take up her position recently.

Our North Hampshire County Community Fundraiser, Sarah Ferris, is looking for volunteers for North Hampshire (ph 07742 762988, email SFerris@britishlegion.org.uk) is looking to recruit new PAOs for North Horndean and Lovedean. Volunteers are also required for South Hampshire.

Forthcoming Standard Bearer Training



Hampshire Standard Bearer Training 2023

	EASTLEIGH Pavilion on the Park 1 Kingfisher Drive, Eastleigh, SO50 9LH	ASH Ash Manor School Manor Rd, Ash, Aldershot GU12 6QH
Please arrive ten minutes before training starts to prepare yourself and your Standard.		
January	No Training	Tuesday 10th 19:00 - 20:00
February	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
March	Sunday 12th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
April	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 18th 19:00 - 20:00
May	Sunday 14th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 9th 19:00 - 20:00
June	Sunday 11th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 6th 19:00 - 20:00
July	Sunday 9th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 11th 19:00 - 20:00
August	Sunday 13th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 15th 19:00 - 20:00
September	Sunday 10th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 12th 19:00 - 20:00
October	Sunday 8th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 17th 19:00 - 20:00
November	Sunday 5th 14:00 - 15:00	Tuesday 7th 19:00 - 20:00
December	No Training	No Training
Please note: All Standard Bearer must attend two training sessions a year, and be physically fit enough to carry the Standard, as agreed when they signed the yearly MS1 Form.		
Hampshire Parade Marshal: David Graham E: Hampshire.ParadeMarshal@rbl.community M: 07597 455112		

As per RBL regulations all Standard Bearers must undergo two training sessions per year. This is so that Standard Bearers are compliant with health and safety as well as fitness requirements.

Southampton Branch new phone number

Please be advised that the Southampton Branch & Club have a new contact telephone number. It is 023 80224536. Archie Parsons, Southampton Branch Br1899

County Contact Details

Postal Address for Hampshire County Committee
Hampshire & IOW MEO (or Name), Royal British Legion, 199 Borough High St, London SE1 1AA

RBL Website: www.BritishLegion.org.uk, County Website: <http://counties.britishlegion.org.uk/counties/hampshire>

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/hantscountyrbl/ Facebook Email - Hampshire.web@rbl.community

Poppy Appeal - www.facebook.com.poppy.HampshireRBL

Contact us

It's your newsletter!!!

If anyone has any articles that they would like published in the Newsletter then please contact the editor (Colonel (Retd) Dudley Wall MSM MMM) with any information or articles by the 20th of the month at:

HampshireLinkDW@yahoo.com

ALL LEGION INQUIRIES

(including Welfare requests) should be directed to the national call centre

0808 802 8080

County Personnel

Patron Lt Gen Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

County President Col Andrew King

County Vice President Brian C.N. Soffe

County Vice President Robert G Knight

Chairman Tim Russell Hampshire.Chairman@rbl.community

Vice-Chairman Robert Bartlett Hampshire.vicechairman@rbl.community

Treasurer Ges Brown hampshire.treasurer@rbl.community

Committee members - Melvyn Cole, John Davies, Paul Holyoake, Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Vic Thorn

County Management Board: Tim Russell, Robert Bartlett, Ges Brown, Melvyn Cole

Conference Committee: Chairman Brian Mansi, Secretary Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM, Melvyn Cole, Chris George, Nigel Thomas.

Cups Sub-Committee: Brian Mansi, Avril Mitchell, Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Annual Conference Delegate: Tim Russell

Community Fundraiser North: Sarah Ferris

Community Fundraiser South: Jackie Lax

Regional Fundraiser Manager: Clare Peppiatt

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - North: Jacki Gatfield

Poppy Appeal Coordinator - South: Pat Prior BEM QVRM

Principal Recruiting Officer: VACANT

Training Officer: VACANT

Community Support: VACANT

CCSC: VACANT

Clubs Liaison: Paul Holyoake

Communications Support: Dudley Wall

County Webmaster: Avril Mitchell Hampshire.Web@rbl.community

Youth Officer: Steve Slack Hampshire.CYO@rbl.community

Events Support: VACANT

Parade Marshall: David Graham, Deputy Parade Marshall: VACANT

County Standard Bearer: Pete Pullin, ppullin@britishlegion.org.uk

Deputy County Standard Bearer: Andy Cassidy

County Youth Standard Bearer: Amelie Neal

Ceremonial Support: David Graham, Karen Graham

County Padre: Reverend Mark Christian

Golf Officer: Rick Bourne

Membership Engagement Officer: Pete Pullin, Membership Engagement Manager: Martin Pelling

Membership Council Representative: Gerry Nunn

Public Relations Officer: VACANT

Independent Examiners: Ges Brown, Mike Davis

UK Honours Awards: County President, County M.E.O.

[Errors and Omissions Excepted](#)