

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 6th February 2025 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway – Chairman, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Tim Russell, Tracey Merritt, Sue Chewter + 4 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Julie Yeates, Dave Godfrey, Rick Bourne, Diane Matthews, Pat Brace, John Davie, Garry Griffiths, Alex Dawes, Andy Dawes, Milena Hajncz.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by our Chairman. We were asked to remember the following branch members who had passed away since our last meeting: Lt Col Peter Currie, Mike Burrows, Wilf Locock.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy.
Proposed: Avril Mitchell, Seconded: Tim Russell
2. Matters Arising: 4.1. Typo, VE-Day not D-Day
3. Chairman's Report
 - 3.1. Ian wished everybody a Happy New Year and hoped all had a good break and are well.
 - 3.2. Ian reminded everyone of our new meeting format (rotating formal, social and Speaker meetings each month) and earlier start time which we hope will encourage more people to attend.
 - 3.3. Ian attended the County AGM with Joe and Ian P, the speakers were extremely interesting and we collected two awards – a 2nd place Shaw Cup (for proficiency) and a 1st place Howard Memorial Cup (for donations to Poppy Appeal outside of the closed period). Ian is having them framed at the moment.
 - 3.4. We received a lot of positive feedback from the Black-Tie Dinner so we are planning ahead with this year's which will be on 25th October.
 - 3.4.1. We will look to have a summer event in 2026. We are aware that many people would prefer not to have a 3-course dinner, so will tailor the event to include a buffet/charcuterie board/sharing platter instead.
 - 3.4.2. We may offer the opportunity to join the October dinner for dancing only after the formalities.
 - 3.5. VE80 in May, the club are running a full weekend of events and the Branch are attending Milestones Museum with a recruiting and information stall. We hope members will attend.
4. Treasurer's Report for the period ending 5th Feb 2025

O/Bal	£3379.09 cr
Receipts	£ 382.00 - membership fees Jul-Sep 2024
Payments	£ 749.33 – Remembrance and Dinner expenses
C/Bal	£3011.76 cr

Pending commitment - cheque 1546 £740.26 to the Poppy Appeal, proceeds from the Oct BT dinner

BFI Qtr ending 31/12/24

O/Bal	£40.34 cr
Receipt	.15 – interest
C/Bal	£40.49 cr

BPT Qtr ending 31/12/24

O/Bal	£19,797.64 cr
Receipt	£ 678.05 – rent and interest
C/Bal	£20,475.69 cr

Julie has two vouchers from Venture Photography which have been donated as prizes for the VE80 event. We suggested the Club take them for a raffle or auction at the VE80 event.

Proposed Joe Karmazyn, Seconded Steve Stork

5. Poppy Appeal Report
 - 5.1. Tim thanked the Poppy Appeal team of Chris Beadle, Diane Matthews, Tracey Merritt and Avril Mitchell without whose efforts the Poppy Appeal would not have happened.
 - 5.2. The Black-Tie dinner raffle raised £165 and tickets sales proceeds £740.26, Remembrance Raffle was £290.50 and Church Collection £649.83. Other donations received are Newnham PC £287.50,

R+P Bourne £195, D Matthews £160 for Dated pins, Skittles evening raffle £160, G Mars £193 from his Masonic Lodge, Funeral donation from the Tanner Family £596.80.

5.3. Totals for the Poppy Appeal 2024-2025 are:

Old Basing: Cash £12,650.67 + Contactless £7,455.05 + QR £304.50 = £20,410.22

Hook: Cash £10,380.07 + Contactless £13,970.50 + QR £167.00 = £24,517.57

Making a grand total of £44,927.79

6. Membership Report

6.1. We currently have 431 members, down from last month. 26 unpaids which Tracey will chase up. If letters required Avril will send them.

6.2. Tracey will notify HO of any deceased members.

7. Club Report:

7.1. Mark asked whether a decision has been made about the laid-up standards in the corridor. We need to discuss in committee. The WS Standard can be removed and Avril will arrange to pass it to County for use in training.

7.2. The Six Nations Rugby is being broadcast in the club.

7.3. There is a new tv in the bar with a 'bulletin' feed, any items of interest can be added if you email the club secretary.

7.4. The NYE Disco was a success and has been booked for this year.

7.5. There is a Quiz on 5th April

8. Band Report

8.1 The Band currently have few engagements so is rehearsing ready for the start of the Spring bookings in May. Approx 18 members turn up regularly.

8.2. The Band's person of the year awards night is 22nd March, this is also their 40th Anniversary event. All welcome but please buy tickets before 2nd March.

8.3. Marie Seel was given band's person of the month for January.

8.4. The band hope to hold a concert in QMC in November, details to follow.

8.5. Upcoming events are 22nd March Awards Night, 10th May VE80 at Milestones, 11th May Basingstoke Festival of Transport, 1st June Tadley Treacle Fair, 14th June Sherfield Village Fete.

9. Correspondence

The Feb Hampshire Link, Jan Membership ENews, The Feb Central News

A note of the Mayors Charity concert 1st March at the Anvil.

Lt Gen Sir James Bashall, former RBL Nat President is giving a talk at Kingsclere RBL 4th, all invited, tickets available to order.

10. Events and fund raising

10.1. As previously mentioned, VE80 10th + 11th May, the Black-Tie dinner 25th Oct.

10.2. The Events Committee meets on the first Tuesday monthly in the bar, all welcome to join.

11. A.O.B:

11.1. Steve Slack asked whether we will have a stall at the Festival of Transport. This is not likely this year as it is on VE80 Weekend.

11.2. Tim Russell is the new County Recruiting and Retention Officer and his goal is to get Branch Recruiting Advisors in place throughout Hampshire, securing the longevity of branches. Tim is keen to hear from anyone who feels they could take on the role.

11.3. The cost of a Branch gazebo was discussed. Steve Stork suggested we contact Odiham Airbase and enquire about a long-term loan from the QM. We do have a link into Worthy Down who lend us items. We do have an excess of BPT money that we could use to buy our own.

11.3.1 The size of gazebo was suggested as 4m x 3m which would be a useful space but still compact enough to go in a car boot.

12. The next meeting will be on 6th March at 7:30pm. Committee Meeting is 20th Feb at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:37pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman