Patron; His Majesty King Charles III

The Royal British Legion
Torrevieja Branch BR3456

Minutes of the General Branch Meeting (GBM)
21st July 2026 at 11:00 Hours
Location: Silverstones Montebello

All figures quoted are correct as of 19th July 2026 unless otherwise shown.

The Chair stated that unless any one person objects the GBM would be **voice recorded** to better facilitate the preparation of the meeting minutes. No objections were received from the Branch Members in attendance.

		Attendance	
Position	**Name**	**YES**	**NO**
Chairman/BCS/Webmaster	Jack Kemp (JK)	√	
Vice Chairman	David Longworth (DLW)	√	
Secretary	Trish Carruthers (TC)	√	
Treasurer	Dave Lockhart (DL)	√	
Membership/Recruitment Secretary	Ian Carruthers (IC)	√	
Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO)	Bruce Card (BC)	√	
Poppy Appeal Assistant	**Post Gapped**		
Branch Community Support (BCS)	Pamela Twissell-Cross MBE (PTC)	√	
Social Member	John William Featherstone (JWF)		√
Assistant Social Member	Brenda Isobel Sigurdsson (BIS)		√
Standard Bearer	Danny Kay (DK)	√	
Publicity/Photography	MaryLou Kemp (MLK)	√	

1. Chair & Secretary

1.1 The Chair opened the meeting with the Exhortation.
1.2 The Chair welcomed all Members in attendance and stated how pleased he was to see so many Branch Members at the July GBM, he also stated how nice it was to see some new Members joining the GBM for the first time. He went onto say that the change in time and venue would seem to be a success and hopes that this will continue.
1.3 Welcome and Presentation of New Members and Welcome Packs.
Sue Puller received her Branch Welcome Pack and RBL Membership Badge. Apologies to Sue for the length of time taken to get the pack to her. Chair went on to explain how the the welcome packs work and what was contained within the packs.
1.4 Apologies for absence was read by the Secretary
Dan and Kyle Rossi, Casey Colebrook, Peter Kemp, Mary Jensen,
Michael Koch, Michael Elliott, Rose Kay, John Fetherstone, Brenda Sigurdsson,

Dave Parry, Brian and Kathleen Todd.

1.5 22 Branch Members were in attendance.
1.6 The Chair confirm that the minutes of the GBM held on 21st May 2026 were distributed by email to all Members and were made available for viewing at the meeting. The Chair requested a proposer and seconder for the motion below.

Motion: That the minutes are true reflection of the GBM held on 21st May 2026.

Proposed by: Mark Knight Seconded by: Barrie Price Against:None

2. Chair Matters Arising – Action Table (AT)

Member	Action	Status
All/IC	**Membership drive. Increase in members continue with Membership growth in 2026.**	**Ongoing Target Membership for 2026, 130 Branch Members As a Branch we have now reached 131 Members, adjusting the 2026 Target to 140 Members.**
SP	**Recruitment Drive – Meet & Greet.**	**Ongoing Action SP Once she is established in her new post as Branch Membership Secretary.**
Committee	**Discuss at the next BCM the possibility of holding 1 in 4 GBM during an evening, which will enable those working to attend.**	**On Hold: Review after another 3 GBM at Silverstones to allow for continuity of the new format.**
DLW +1 Committee	**Audit of the Branch Asset Register and report the finding to the Branch Committee.**	**Ongoing: Delayed due to the movement of the Branch Assets. To be completed prior to the next GBM.**
JK/BC	**JK to engage with the District Chairman wrt Poppy Orders for 2026.**	**Ongoing: JK called the District Chair following July GBM, the District Chair Provided an update as follows: All SDN Branch Orders have been approved by the Poppy Appeal Regional Manager (RM) and have been dispatched, item should be with us in 10 Working days, therefore 05th Aug 2026. The delay was caused by a fire at the Poppy Factory. This item will remain on the Action Table until we receive our orders for 2026.**
JK	**Report to the Committee and Branch Members the status of the £ 1,000 Grant for AFD 2026 from the Membership Grants Team.**	**Ongoing: JK has had confirmation from the Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) that the Grant is in hand. JK had to provide the Branch Bank Account details to Grants**

		Team via the MEO for a 2nd time.
JK/DLW/GN	**Armistice Day Church Service 11th Nov 2026.** 	**Ongoing: GN/DLW and Father Richard held a meeting with the Parroquia del Sagrado Corazoón de Jesús (Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) to confirm the booking and outline arrangements.** **Further updates will be provided by JK in due course.**
DLW/Mark Knight MBE (MK)	**Look into the possibility of Branch Polo Shirts.** **New Polo Shirt Logo**	**Ongoing: Feedback from Members received as follows: An Embroidered Branch Logo was the preferred option rather than screen print. Mark Knight MBE is now investigating pricing options and will report back once confirmed. DLW is also looking into a provider in Torrevieja.**
TC	**Spam Email's Issues with sending Branch Minutes and Information.**	**Ongoing: After months of trying to resolve the issue with Gmail Accounts and Branch Emails going to Spam, all Members with Gmail Accounts are requested to follow the link below. This will prevent future emails from the Branch Secretary going into your Spam Box.** **Please note this is a Gmail Issue NOT an issue at Branch level. Please access the link below.** Gmail Prevent Branch Emails going to Spam
JK/GK	**AOB: Jane Knight asked if the Branch had and additional Cultural Visits?**	**Ongoing: GK on behalf of the Branch is looking at suggestions and recommendations for the next cultural visit. Details will be passed once a visit has been organised.**
JK	**AOB: Jane Knight requested the date for the Spain District North Poppy Appeal Launch in Benidorm?**	**Item Close: See Afternote: Poppy Appeal Launch confirmed as 17th Oct 2026, Parade of Standards starting at 11:00 Hours.** **Remove from Action Table after the next GBM.**

3. **Chair's Report – JK**

3.1 **Action Table** – The Chair stated that the Action Table would be covered by respective Committee Members during the respective reports. For the benefit of new members, he explained how the Action Table works.

3.2 **Coopting of the new Branch Vice Chair** – The Chair welcomed the new Branch Vice Chair Dave Longworth (DLW) as he was not available at the last GBM due to his hospital admission. JK also stated what a good start DLW had made as Branch Vice Chair, especially with regards to AFD 2026.

3.3 **Armed Forces Day 27th June 2026** – JK stated that he though AFD 2026 was a very successful event which also included the 15th Anniversary of Operation TELIC. He did state that he was however disappointed by the lack of attendance of Branch Members, but attendance from the public was very good. JK explained that the Branch was still waiting for the Grant previously authorised by the Membership Grants Team. Because of this, the event had not been closed, and that we have been unable to give payment to some outstanding invoices. This issue would also be covered during the Branch Treasurers Report by DL.

3.4 **Move to GBM every two months** – JK explained that as discussed and agreed at last month's GBM we had now moved to GBM's being held every two months followed by a social lunch. Dave Brown asked how often GBM had to be held? JK stated that in accordance with the Membership Handbook Branches are mandated to hold GBM's every Quarter therefore we are fully compliant. Chair went on to explain that, although, we had discussed alternating between venues for meetings the committee felt that at this point it may be too confusing to do so, and, that we should wait until meetings at Silverstones are established then rediscuss additional options.

3.5 **Membership Fee Increase** – JK stated that Membership Fees for TRBL will Increase by £2 from 4th Sep 26, But, as a Branch your committee had decided to reduce Branch Subscription Fee by £2 so Members total payment will remain the same. He stated the Branch could assist the Members with the reduction in Branch Subscription Fees due to the number of Branch Members held. He did state that the Branch may not be in such a position to do the same next year when the Membership Fees will again increase by another £2.

3.6 **Official RBL Member Facebook Group** – JK stated that the new Legion Facebook Group had been created so that members can share their good news stories, share thoughts and ideas, and hear updates from RBL. To join, you need to have a Facebook account. You'll be asked a few questions before joining to verify your membership and agree to the group rules. To join you need to Search on Facebook for *Members of the Royal British Legion*. Branch Members can also access the new RBL Group at the following hyperlink:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/membersoftheroyalbritishlegion/
Any problems please speak to a Committee Member who will be happy to assist.

3.7 **Branch Asset Register Update** – JK stated that due to the move of Branch Assets from one location to another this check was delayed, he thanked several members of the Committee for agreeing to store Branch Assets at their home or workplace, thereby saving the Branch between € 80 to € 100 a month on the hire of secure storage. The Branch Assets would be checked by the Vice Chair plus at least one additional member of the Committee prior to the next GBM. Report to follow from the DLW to the Committee and Branch Members.

3.8 **Poppy Appeal Donation** - JK stated that the working relationship between Orihuela Costa and District Branch was continuing to improve and that the Torrevieja Branch had received a very kind donation of € 168 towards the Poppy Appeal from Orihuela Costa and District Branch.

3.9 **Branch Jewels** - JK stated that the Bar's had been engraved for the Presidents & Chairs Jewels.

3.10 **Remembrance Event** - JK informed those Members present that as per last year a Remembrance Event would be held at The Club Quesada - on 8th Nov 26 from 16:00 to 18:00 hours in aid of RBL Torrevieja Branch Poppy Appel. The Branch will also have a Parade of Standards and Remembrance Speech. All Members are strongly encouraged to attend.

3.11 **Poppy Appeal Event** - JK then stated that with the assistance of Graham Knight, Posh Affaire Big Band had agreed to hold a Concert - on Tuesday 10th Nov 26 also in aid of RBL Poppy Appeal. The event will be held at the Teatro Virgen del Carmen in Torrevieja Tickets will be on Sale very soon. JK expressed his thanks to Graham for his involvement in the organisation of this event.

3.12 **Armistice Day Service** – JK stated that this year we will be moving to a new location for the Armistice Day Remembrance Service on 11th Nov 2026 – See Action Table above.

3.13 **Committee Members Courses Completed.**

- JK Ceremonial Officers Course on 25th May 2026.
- Sue Puller – BCS Cse – on 19th May 2026.
- Dave (VC), Trish (Secretary), Dave (Treasurer), Danny (Lead Standard Bearer), Bruce (PAO), Pam (BCS) and Sue Puller had completed a Branch Management IT Cse – Tue 16th June 2026.

4. Vice Chair's Report - DLW

4.1 Introduction of new to post Vice Chair.

DLW thanked the Chair for his invitation to the committee and stated he would be learning on the job. He gave a brief view of his background, including his work with the Ambulance service in Manchester, his role as a trainer in the Red Cross and as a health and safety officer in the workplace in the UK. DLW also explained he has recently taken on the role of Delgado de Barrio for the area he lives.

DLW failed to inform us that he had also worked volunteering with the proteccion civil here in Spain. Very varied roles.

4.2 Salt Lake Visit, **took place on 2nd June 2026.**

DLW expressed his thanks to Graham for organising the trip to the Salt Lakes. He stated that he and his wife had been meaning to go and enjoyed themselves immensely, many branch members agreed with him.

4.3 Help with storing Branch Assets.

DLW explained that we as a branch were given very little notice and time to vacate our assets from the shed at Oasis. He expressed his disappointment that no members answered the call for help in moving the equipment but appreciated apologies received. He explained the logistics of getting all the equipment out and stored in various locations made a very hectic and stressful day. DWL expressed his thanks to Danny, Bruce and Dave for stepping forward and assisting the Branch and actually storing the equipment at their homes therefore saving the Branch from € 80 €100 a month in storage fees.

4.4 Branch Polo Shirts – See Action Table above.

5. **Secretary's Report – TC**

5.1 Continuation of Spam Mail.
TC explained that the complaints of Branch communication going into Spam mail continues for some members even after marking the mail as not spam.
Several members at the meeting confirmed that they are affected.

TC explained that a member had told her that it is common for GMail recipients to have mail go to spam. Jane noted that the people with G-Mail may just need to add the sec e-mail address to their contacts to remedy this. JK thinks it may be to do the amount of people being sent mail in one go and asks TC to try sending a small distribution list of G-Mail addresses mail separately and see if this works. JK will continue to research, and TC will speak to IT in London for advice. See Action Table above and the hyperlink to hopefully resolve this issue.

5.2 AFD 2026. Thanks to Chair and committee members and Standard Bearers for AFD. TC expressed her thanks to JK for his hard work in the organising of the AFD and to DWL for his help on the day giving out water and making sure everyone was safe. She particularly wanted to thank the Standard Beares for their commitment and strength standing in uniform holding all that weight in the blazing sun unable to take a drink without breaking form and doing the Branch proud.

5.3 Email from Mr Dave Parry.
Mr Parry sent his apologies as he had to return to the UK but askes that he is kept informed about participating in the poppy appeals. TC informed him that either she or Bruce will get in touch as soon as details are known.

6. **Treasurer's Report – DL**

6.1 Financial update.
DL and JK between them explained that we are unable to give a full financial year end (30th June) report due to not having received the grant awarded. DL did produce a report with both the financial year ending and the uncleared transactions clearly presented see Attachment 1. JK continues to chase the grant.

7. **Membership Sectary report – IC**

7.1 Membership numbers.
IC was pleased to report that the branch has achieved the annual goal of 130 members and has exceeded it by 1. The goal will now be reviewed.

7.2 **Membership drive**. IC reported that the upcoming events have been helpful in the past for recruitment, and he hopes for that to continue.

7.3 Stepping down from post.
IC stated that for personal reasons he has had to make the hard decision to step away from the post. He will remain as a branch member and be active on the other side of the table.

JK thanked Ian for all his work as the Branch Membership Secretary and that he was very pleased that Ian will remain a Branch Member.

JK then asked those Members in attendance if anyone would like to consider being Coopted onto the Branch Committee as the new Branch Membership Secretary.

Sue Puller (SP) agreed to take on this appointment.

JK explained to the Members present that it was for the Committee not the Members to Coopt Branch Committee Members and asked those Committee Members present if they agreed for SP to be the new Branch Membership Secretary. All Agreed. SP will start as the new Membership Secretary following a Handover from IP.

Sue was thanked by all those present for taking on the Membership Secretary Appointment.

8. **PAO Report – BC**

8.1 BC gave an update on Poppy Appeal Orders for 2026, he explained that he had not yet received the Poppy Appeal Orders which were placed via Spain District North. JK stated that he would engage with the District Chair for an update. See Action Table above.

8.2 BC stated that he had received € 40.90 donation from AFD 2026.

9. BCS Report – **PTC**

9.1 BCS Update.
PTC explained her role as BCS and pointed out that her telephone number was on the Facebook page for anyone wanting help or wanting to refer someone who need help. PTC explained that you don't have to be a Branch Member to receive help just a veteran in the Armed Forces. She shared that she had recently received a call from someone who thought he was calling Lobster as his phone wasn't working and she was able to assist.

DWL conveyed his personal appreciation to Pam for her visit and support during his recent hospital stay which help enormously.

10. Standard Bearers Report – **DK**

10.1 DK reported he had attended a Wreath Laying Ceremony in May for the Johnson family.
10.2 He thanked Bruce and Mary Lou for keeping him company at AFD.

11. Social Members Report – **JF/BS**

11.1 Social Members Update. JK on behalf of JF/BS stated that the Branch Christmas Meal would be held at Silverstones on 21st Dec 2026, timings 19:30 hrs for 20:00 hrs.

11.2 A question was asked regarding planning coach trips to Alicante or other cities to shop and sight see. Jane mentioned that Mercia was a beautiful place and worth a visit especially for the Christmas lights. To be discussed with JF/BS on their return.

12. Webmaster Report - **JK**

12.1 JK stated that the Branch Webpage was fully Updated as of 19th July 2026. Barbara Price stated that the Forecast of Events listed at Attachment 3 required amending due to the change of location for Sep GBM. JK thanked Barbara and stated he would amend Attachment 3 and the Branch Webpage with the new information from the GBM. – Action Completed.

13. Any Other Business (AOB)

13.1 From the Committee or Branch Members. Jane Knight asked two questions as follows:
Q1 – Could the Branch Chair confirm the date of the Poppy Appeal Launch in Benidorm? – See Action Table above.
Q2 – Is the Branch planning to hole more Cultural Visits? – See Action Table above.

Date and Location for the next meeting.

General Branch Meeting (GBM)
15th Sep 2026 at 11:00 Hours
Location: Silverstones, Montebello

14. The Chairman closed the Meeting.

15. Kohima Epitaph was delivered by the Chair.

Chair
Torrevieja Branch (BR 3456)
The Royal British Legion in
Spain District North

Attachment:

1. Treasurers Report – Liquidity State will be Available at the General Branch Meeting and attached to the Minutes.
2. Treasurers Report – Unreconciled Transactions.
3. Updated Forecast of Branch Events.

Attachment 1
Branch Liquidity State
Dated: 19/Jul/2026

TREASURER'S REPORT
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION TORREVIEJA BRANCH (BR-3456)
DATED: 30th June 2026

For the Financial Year Ending 30th June 2026

Petty Cash:	**€ 0.00**
Bank Balance:	**€ 5,565.51**
TOTAL (Bank Reconciliation/LOMAS – Agreed 30/Jun/2026)	**€ 5,565.51**

BRANCH FUNDS:

1. General Funds	€ 347.89
2. Poppy Appeal Funds Total Bank 2026	€ 5,217.62
3. Total Funds	€ 5,565.51

BRANCH RECEIPTS:

1. Donation GPF (Asia Jardine) RV517	€ 70.00
2. Poppy Appeal Donation (Corner Flag) RV518	€ 95.36

BRANCH EXPENDITURE:

1. Bank Administration/Commission Charges PV362	€ 60.00

David Lockhart
Branch Treasurer
Dated: 21/Jul/26

Jack Kemp
Branch Chair
Dated: 21/Jul/26

"Service not Self"
Torrevieja Branch

Attachment 2
Unreconciled Transactions
Dated 19/Jul/2026

Uncleared Transactions (cannot be consolidated on LOMAS until EOY report is submitted).

Branch Receipts:

LOMAS Ref	Trans Type	Fund	Amount	Description
RV519	Donations	Poppy	56.78	Corner Flag
RV520	Donations	Poppy	40.90	AFD Poppy Boxes
RV521	Donations	Poppy	168	Orihuela Costa Branch VE Day
RV522	Donations	Poppy	13.12	Michael and Lola Ross
RV523	Donations	Poppy	13.63	Lenny and Angie Manning
RV524	Donations	GPF	58.50	AFVBC June 2026
RV525	Donations	Poppy	58.50	AFVBC June 2026
RV526	Donations	Poppy	100	Funeral Attendance
RV527	Donations	GPF	140	AFVBC July 2026
RV528	Donations	Poppy	140	AFVBC July 2026

Branch Expenditure (GPF):

LOMAS Ref	Trans Type	Amount	Description
PV363	Expenses	96.80	Member Expenses - Purchase of Materials
PV364	Expenses	96.22	Member Expenses - Purchase of Materials
PV365	Expenses	26.97	Member Expenses - Purchase of Materials
PV366	Bank Charge	2.40	Sabadell Bank Charge
PV367	Bank Charge	2.40	Sabadell Bank Charge
PV368	Bank Charge	5.05	Sabadell Bank Charge

Current Bank Balance: **6125.10**

Attachment 3
Forecast of Events
Dated 22/Jul/2026

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	REMARKS
12 Aug 26	AF&VBC - Breakfast	Silverstones, Montebello	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	AF&VBC Members/Family/Friends
09 Sep 26	AF&VBC - Breakfast	Silverstones, Montebello	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	AF&VBC Members/Family/Friends
15 Sep 26	Committee Meeting	Silverstones, Montebello	10:00 hrs	Committee Members
15 Sep 26	General Branch Meeting Followed by Social Lunch	Silverstones, Montebello	11:00 hrs	All Members
14 Oct 26	AF&VBC - Breakfast	Silverstones, Montebello	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	AF&VBC Members/Family/Friends
17 Oct 26	Poppy Appeal Lunch (PAL26)	Benidorm	11:00 hrs	Open Event
04 Nov 26	AF&VBC - Breakfast	Silverstones, Montebello	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	AF&VBC Members/Family/Friends
08 Nov 26	Remembrance Event	The Club Quesada	16:00 hrs 18:00 hrs	Open Event
10 Nov 26	Posh Affaire Big Band Concert	Teatro Virgen del Carmen Torrevieja	19:30 hrs	Open Ticket Event
11 Nov 26	Armistice Day	Torrevieja	10:00 hrs	All Members
11 Nov 26	Armistice Day Lunch	Torrevieja	14:30 hrs	All Members
17 Nov 26	Committee Meeting	Silverstones, Montebello	10:00 hrs	Committee Members
17 Nov 26	Annual General Meeting Followed by Social Lunch	Silverstones, Montebello	11:00 hrs	All Members
09 Dec 26	AF&VBC - Breakfast	Silverstones, Montebello	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	AF&VBC Members/Family/Friends
21 Dec 26	Branch Christmas Meal	Silverstones, Montebello	19:30 hrs for 20:00 hrs	Members/Family/Friends