

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 5th February 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Ian Greenway (IG) Chair, Joe Karmazyn (JK) Treasurer, Avril Mitchell (AM) Secretary, Tim Russell (TR), Tracey Merritt (TM) Membership + Club Chair, Diane Matthews (DM), Mark Taylor (MT) Club Sec, 8 branch members and guest Wyatt Chappell, Basingstoke ACF.

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Preston, Sue Chewter, Alex Dawes, Garry Griffiths, Andy Dawes, Pat Brace, John Davie, Rick Bourne.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by Tim Russell due to IG running late.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: DM, 2nd: David Rhodes Franklin, accepted by all present
2. Matters Arising: None
3. TR welcomed our guest, Wyatt Chappell from 3 platoon Basingstoke ACF.
4. Treasurer's Report for the period 27/01/26 to 05/02/26
O/Bal £3261.10 Cr
Receipts £0
Payments £0
C/Bal £3261.10 Cr

Still awaiting BPT Statement for Quarter ending Dec 25

Report proposed JK, 2nd MT. Accepted by all present.

JK reported that Lloyds Bank are now applying transaction charges all RBL Branches with traditional Charity accounts. This charge applies to all manual transactions. Charges are not applied for any online transactions.

5. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 5.1. TR received a cheque from Jeanette Edwards, OB PC, £203.20 from the proceeds of the CWG talk at St Mary's.
 - 5.2. There has been no uptake for the proposed trip to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. This was in the Basinga. a further date may be suggested.
 - 5.3. Diary Dates – 22nd March, Cream Tea in the JM Hall, 20th ~June OB Carnival, 5th July Hook Village Show. Volunteers needed to help at all these events please.
 - 5.4. PA Totals to date: Old Basing £26,568.07, Hook £24,528.70, total £51,096.77
6. Membership Report: Currently 466 members (up 8% on this time last year) 67 alleged non-payers on the report of which 25 are mistakes, 42 TM has spoken to and are being resolved.
7. Club Report:
 - 7.1. There is a Race Night 7th Feb, still a few places left if you wish to attend.
 - 7.2. Bar prices annual increase will be applied shortly
 - 7.3. There is a 'Taster' session for the new Food Van, 21st Feb 4pm onwards - all welcome.
 - 7.4. The car park resurfacing should be started in the next few weeks. Will take approx. 1 week to complete.
 - 7.4.1. Steve Brough enquired what product would be used as he heard concerns about road surfacing in the area not being very good. MT confirmed the car park will be stripped entirely, then a layer of AC20 will be applied, the stone will be redressed, then followed by a gravel layer and 100mm Asphalt will be used total.
8. Band Report: There will be a band open day during Band Practice on 5th April – Easter Sunday. All welcome to attend around 10.30 onwards. TR invited to have a PA stall, also any other stalls welcome.

9. Correspondence:

- 9.1. The February issues of The Hampshire Link + Central News which included a note of a new National RBL Group for Gamers. This is not just online gamers but also chess and other board gamers
- 9.2. A newsletter had been received regarding the Basingstoke Heritage Society project researching Old Basing. This was mentioned again tonight for the benefit of those who missed last month's meeting.
- 9.3. Annual conference update for those attending. It is possible to join online by registering on the RBL public webpage.
- 9.4. TR told of the Veteran Friendly GP Scheme. We have a number of local surgeries signed up to it. The scheme is aimed at providing better offerings for Veterans for their unique needs and better access to specialist service referrals when appropriate. If you haven't told your GP you are a veteran please do so as it could benefit you. Note: JD reminded all that the service is not transferable to Hospital services therefore you should also make sure it is known if you do require hospital treatment..
- 9.5. Hospitals do follow the AFC if treating a war-related injury. John Davies will be attending the AFC meeting in Aldershot 10th March and will report back
- 9.6. The RBL Youth Policy, David Godfrey will need to be signed up for this. John Davies (CTO) will liaise.

10. Events and fund raising:

- 10.1 Black Tie dinner 24th October. We already have promises for 10 tickets, only 60 available. Let us know if you want to reserve tickets.
- 10.2 IG put forward the suggestions for summer events end June or early July– either a Barn or Line dance, a Casino evening, Cheese and Wine tasting.
The most promising could be a casino night including cocktails and buffet, poss the food truck. The cost may be an issue so further research will be done. To hire a Casino service is £200 per table – this could be difficult to make a profit. We have costing to purchase certain tables, but this could not be from Branch funds, so may not be possible either. Also would need Croupiers.

11. A.O.B:

- 11.1 Wyatt introduced himself and asked that we re-affiliate with the ACF as the original done in 2015 was not completed as it should have been. We will be delighted to do so. Wyatt suggested that the Cadets are keen to be involved in Branch activities so we will seek to forge closer links. JK and IG will attend their next meeting if possible.
- 11.2 At County conference we were awarded the 2nd place Shaw Cup given for efficiency and a Silver Beacon Branch award for overall branch management, progress and upholding the objects of the RBL.
- 11.3 John Davies asked us if we wish to do a joint venture at Milestones 27th June for Armed Forces Day. We agreed to do so, details to be discussed.

The next meeting will be a Social on 5th March at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 20.50pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman