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Proud to support  
Team UK with their  
recovery journey



#### Sir Clive Johnstone award - nominations open

Those of you at Annual Conference in Newport last year will remember Sir Clive's speech and his ask for unity across all parts of what he described (in my view, rightly!) as "the greatest charity." I am delighted to announce a new award in his memory, to be called the Sir Clive Johnstone Award. This has been made possible by some of the people Clive led on HMS Bulwark, who made a generous donation to the RBL in his honour.

The criteria to be considered for the award are simple – we are seeking demonstrations of unity, and those who seek to create, repair or improve it.

It is open to individuals, groups, or teams, and is unique in that it is open for nominations from members, volunteers, and colleagues – possibly even groups that have representatives from all three!

As we are only just launching the Sir Clive




So please think hard about who might deserve this award and why. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating them together in May.

Johnstone award that will be awarded for the first time at Annual Conference in Harrogate, the closing date is 5pm on Friday 28th March.

The judging panel will be myself, the National Vice Chair, the Director General, and Mike Challinor as Chair of the Membership Awards Group.

Thanks



**Jason**

**Jason Coward, National Chair**

[Nomination form](#)



**Another successful Invictus Games for Team UK**

The Invictus Games is an international multi-sport event for wounded, injured and sick servicemen and women, both serving and veterans. The first winter games has just taken place in Canada. RBL was honoured to have supported Team UK once again, in partnership with the Ministry of Defence. Many of the 62 participants overcame adversity, smashed personal bests, made friendships that will last a lifetime, and inspired millions around the world.

[Highlights from the 2025 Games](#)



**Will you join us in Harrogate this May?**

All members have the opportunity to attend Annual Conference in person or online. If you're joining in person, you have until 30th March to register. In-person attendees can network with fellow members, explore the exhibition, march in the parade, and more.

Prefer to join remotely? Tune in to the main business of conference from home as a virtual attendee. Watch the key sessions, vote for motions (if eligible), and ask your burning questions. If you'd like to be a virtual attendee, you have until 22nd April to register.

[Find out more and register](#)



### Sharing the Armed Forces community's experiences and needs with MPs and Peers

RBL's Campaigns, Policy and Research (CPR) team hosted over 60 MPs and Peers at the Speaker's Apartment in January. MPs heard more about the needs and experiences of the Armed Forces community in the UK, and the work RBL does to support them.

Speakers included the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP; Minister for Veterans and People, Al Carns OBE MC MP; and RBL National Chair, Jason Coward. Gemma Barnes, vice-captain of RBL's Team UK, shared her inspiring recovery journey. The event reinforced the need for continued collaboration to ensure the Armed Forces community's voices are heard.

[Learn more about the CPR team](#)



### RBL's Director General addresses the Defence Select Committee

Mark Atkinson, RBL Director General, appeared before the [Defence Select Committee](#) earlier this month to discuss how the Armed Forces Covenant can better support veterans, service members, and their families. His testimony was part of a wider review of the Covenant's effectiveness, impact and future after the Government promised to strengthen the Covenant Duty in their election manifesto.

Mark gave evidence alongside Lieutenant General (Rtd) Sir Nick Pope, Executive Chair of the Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo), to the Committee, a cross-party group of MPs, chaired by Tan Singh Desai MP.

[View the session](#)



## RBL teams up with leading housing and care provider

We've launched a new partnership with Anchor, England's largest not-for-profit provider of retirement housing and care.

We'll develop initiatives to support veterans who feel lonely and isolated in the community; identify those who need support services, like respite care or permanent residential care in Anchor locations not covered by RBL care homes; and will join forces to fundraise for the Poppy Appeal and celebrate the service of the Armed Forces community through our Remembrance events.

[Find out more](#)



## VE and VJ Day: Community Remembrance resources

This year we are commemorating Victory in Europe (VE) Day and Victory over Japan (VJ) Day. To help mark these pivotal moments in your community we are producing exhibition units. We will also have a range of free downloadable resources to enable groups to confidently engage with communities, alongside bespoke resources with an educational focus for adults to engage with young people. You'll be able to order and download resources from mid-March. More information will be available in future newsletters and on the [RBL website](#).

[Contact us](#)



[Latest winter Legion Magazine now online](#)



[Book now for RBL's 2025 Survival Challenge](#)

In preparation for recognising the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day later this year, we highlight some of the pivotal moments of 1945. We look back at last year's successful Poppy Appeal, and feature the first-ever Winter Invictus Games with interviews from the Team UK Manager and competitors. We focus on May's Annual Conference, and speak to RBL's new National President, Paul Bennett CB OBE.

[Read the online version](#)

Your ultimate mission is to survive five days off-grid in the wilderness with our military survival experts. You'll need skills including:

- Natural shelter construction
- Bushcraft and survival techniques
- Night navigation
- Foraging and more

You'll work in a team, network, learn new skills or hone existing ones. All you need is endurance and determination.

Does this sound like you? Places are limited so book now.

[Book now](#)



Standard bearers support Sandown race day

Sandown Park's Grand Military Gold Cup race day took place on Friday 24th January; RBL and Women's Section National Standards, together with our Surrey Standard Bearers, were there. The event champions serving and retired military amateur riders. The Gold Cup itself was first raced in 1841.

Despite the high winds and chilly temperatures HRH The Princess Royal asked



New membership merchandise available

New membership merchandise is now available to purchase from the Poppy Shop. The updated collection features the Tudor Crown on items including jewels, beret badges, ties and more. Members benefit from a 15% discount on all Poppy Shop purchases by entering discount code MEMBER15 at the checkout!

[Browse the collection](#)

to meet the standard bearers.

The race was won by what the Racing Post describes as “the ultimate Corinthian” - Captain Douglas White – who trains, owns and rode Fil D'Ariane to victory.

[Read the race report](#)



## Spitfire Girls - tales of courage inspired by true events

With the imminent 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, an exciting new play about the courageous and barrier-breaking women who flew Spitfires is set to tour England. Spitfire Girls was developed with the support of the National Theatre. Through March, April and May the play will visit Southampton, Keswick, Ipswich, Derby, Eastbourne, Prescot, Lancaster, Chipping Norton, Malvern, and Darlington. RBL will benefit from the tour, with advertisements in the programmes for each show, and bucket collections at all performances. It promises to be a tremendous evening, so check out a theatre near you and [book your tickets today](#).

[Book your tickets](#)

Going back in time



### From the Royal British Legion book 'We Are Legion'

Wheelchair archery was the first sport introduced by neurologist Ludwig Guttman at the Stoke Mandeville Games (the forerunner of the Invictus Games) in 1948. These female archers were competing in 1950.

## Encourage others to join

Our members play a vital role in ensuring that the Royal British Legion can continue to provide support to the Armed Forces community as well as upholding the importance of Remembrance. Share this email with others you think might be interested in Legion membership.

[Join now](#)

If you have any questions about your membership or you want to update your contact details, email our Membership Services team [MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk)

## Quick links

[Membership](#)

[Get support](#)

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## Contact

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The Royal British Legion is the UK's leading Service charity. We provide practical care, advice and support to serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages and their families.

We value your feedback, [please tell us how we did](#).

If you do not wish to receive any further information by e-mail of selected products and services from the Royal British Legion you can [unsubscribe here](#).