

## **Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)**

Charity number 219279

### **Minutes of the Branch Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 8pm**

**Present:** Ian Greenway – Chairman, Julie Yeates – Treasurer, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Tim Russell – PAO, Tracey Merritt – Membership Secretary, Sue Chewter, Joe Karmazyn, Mark Taylor – Club Chairman, and 4 branch members

**Apologies:** George Mars, Ian Preston, Andy Dawes, Brian Dawes, Rick Bourne, Diane Matthews

**The Act of Remembrance** was carried out by our Chairman. We have been notified of the death of Les Clarke who passed away after a brief illness. Our condolences to his son and daughter-in-law.

#### **The minutes of the previous meeting:**

Circulated and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril Mitchell, Seconded: Mark Taylor

#### **Matters Arising:**

None

#### **Chairman's Report: Ian Greenway**

Ian apologised for missing the December meeting, he had surgery to repair an injury sustained in 1987 in NI whilst serving. He reported the operation went very well and he is fully recovered, no thanks to NHH breakfasts which have not improved!

The Branch had a very good year in 2023, our best in a long time with successful events, particularly the Black-Tie dinner which proved to be our best ever.

Ian expressed his gratitude to the branch and club for marking Remembrance very well and was sorry he was unable to attend. It was disappointing that yet again the police did not support us.

2024 will be a busy year with events already planned for the D-Day 80 commemoration and a Poppy Launch Dinner.

#### **Treasurer's Report: Julie Yeates**

Opening balance 7/12/23	£2493.44 cr
Receipts	£ 354.00 from the RBL BD Jul-Sep
Payments	£ 0.00
Closing balance 4/1/24	£2847.44 cr

Cheque of £545.25 issued 4/1/24 to the Poppy Appeal for the Black Tie dinner proceeds

Cheque of £53.25 issued 4/1/24 for the Club for Remembrance day catering.

BPT and BFI Quarterly statements have not yet been received, Julie is chasing these.

Julie is still awaiting the rent (which has been paid by our club) to be credited to our BPT account.

Proposed JY, seconded TR.

#### **Poppy Appeal Report: Tim Russell**

Tim was pleased that the Poppy Appeal Dance had been a great success, and was very pleased to receive a cheque from the branch for the proceeds, £545.25. The Raffle and Rum raffle raised a total of £689, thanks go to Ian Preston for the generous donation of the Rum.

Collections at Hook Tesco and the new Sainsburys went well with a few new collectors on board. Tim will need a Deputy for Hook eventually.

Tim thanked his Poppy Team, Chris Beadle, Diane Matthews, Tracey Merritt and Avril Mitchell for their outstanding support, without their help the Poppy Appeal would not happen.

The Contactless machines made a huge difference to the amounts collected and we are hoping the gift aid and QR codes will boost this even further.

Tim had individual total cards with him for distribution. The top collectors were Ian Greenway £1679.25, Tim £1538.37, Joe Karmazyn £1523.03, Avril Mitchell £1239.21, David Godfrey £1116.54 and Shannah Eagles £1015.98. To have 6 collectors with totals over £100 is outstanding, however George Mars can claim bragging rights for the highest average of £841.82.

More business boxes went out this year although some did produce a nil return which is disappointing. Old Basing and Chineham sites raised £3525.26, lower due to Greggs no longer supporting the Poppy Appeal, also there are fewer shops in Chineham Centre.

Remembrance day was observed wonderfully well, thanks to saluting officer Wing Cdr Brooks and Parade Marshall David Godfrey for a well organised march. Thanks go to the Band for their generous donation of £125. Tim will be discussing the failure of police support with the Parish Council. There must be an explanation for us not receiving support.

The Church collection was £601.51 and the raffle at the RBL raised £233. My thanks to Tracey and her team for an excellent spread.

David Smith, who many of you may know runs dances here regularly, gave us the proceeds of two raffles from events he held here, a total of £274.00 Diane Matthews sold a bag of Poppy Pins raising £82.25 and Rick Bourne handed in a home collection unit which had placed in a bookmakers which resulted in £14.77 donated.

The Christmas Bazaar was a little quiet but still raised £15.33 and the Band Christmas Fayre £16.70 raised. Finally an AYR poppy from George Mars' lodge contained £45.97 and there was also a donation of £105 from them.

Leftover Currency, Ziffit and We Buy Books are due to send me returns and I have two boxes awaiting collection by Vintage Cash Cow so will include these figures when known.

This evening Tim received a cheque for £542.50 from Nately Scures + Newnham PC.

The totals so far are Old Basing £12024.43 + £8068.50 contactless = £20092.93 and Hook £6555.11 + £5077.00 contactless = £11632.11 making a total of £32,280.29.

Tim called Pat Brace forward to receive his overdue 20, and 25 years Poppy Volunteer awards.

#### **Membership Report: Tracey Merritt**

Tracey reported our current membership stands at 398 with 60 shown as outstanding, although some of these are future renewals, there are also 7 leavers. Tracey will look into all these and try to resolve any overdues.

David Graham reported that he is still awaiting his membership card and has been unable to renew his club membership, although Tracey can renew for him with a temporary card if he wishes. Tim will contact Holly Church.

#### **Club Report: Mark Taylor**

Mark reported that the club was busy over Christmas and New Year with events held that were well supported.

The Quiz was best ever and completely sold out, Buddy and the Beatle on NYE started slowly but livened up and the Christmas Draw was well subscribed.

More events are being planned but are still under discussion at this time.

#### **Band Report: Diane Matthews**

The Christmas events went very well and Carols sound better with new musicians.

The band are practising new tunes for their upcoming events.

### **County Chairman Report: Tim Russell**

The Board of Trustees have been talking to county chairmen last November to gauge what they need to do to get their failed motion from conference back on track and passed by the members. They will be submitting a motion in 2025.

Tim confirmed he is standing down as County Chairman at the end of his term in 2025 and is considering taking on the County Recruiting Officer role.

### **Correspondence: Avril Mitchell**

- The January Link magazine
- The County Annual Conference pack
- The National Annual Conference circular and Annual membership awards letter
- A letter from Jason Coward, National Chairman confirming the election process for 2024 and 2025
- A flyer for the County Golf days for 2024
- An email from HO regarding Dave Lewis who is attempting to obtain grants from branches up to £300. He did this last year under the name of Dave Cutter. Please be vigilant to this and refer any suspicious activity to the MEO, Holly Church.
- An invitation with joining details for the Holocaust Memorial Service 27<sup>th</sup> January at Basingstoke civic offices.
- An email informing us that Les Clarke had passed away. We were thanked for our offer to socialise with Les and Rosemary regretted there was not time to arrange this. We have been asked whether the Standard can be at the funeral once arrangements are known. Avril has informed Andy Dawes who confirmed his attendance.

### **Events and fund raising:**

8<sup>th</sup> June we are holding our D-Day 80 commemoration. Ian Greenway is talking to Basingstoke Branch to run a joint event. We are hoping to get some reenactors or similar to attend.

David Godfrey mentioned that Rick Bourne has asked David's Daughter-in-law to sing some 1940's style songs for us.

The Poppy Dinner was a huge success, our best ever and we will be putting on this year's dinner on 26<sup>th</sup> October. Ian is already touting for big-ticket raffle prizes and we will book the same caterer and DJ as they proved popular.

We will look at the feasibility of a Burns Night for 2025, if we plan to hold this we need to get a caterer booked now.

### **A.O.B:**

Joe raised the matter of Andy Dawes query as to why the accounts were not on the notice board. We believe this is a misunderstanding, the Club Accounts were due to be on their notice board, not the branch accounts.

We further confirmed the previous year Branch AGM minutes will be available a month prior to the AGM and copies available on request.

Tim asked whether we should discuss Andy's question regarding marching on the Standard at branch meetings. It was agreed that we wait until Andy is available to discuss further.

The next meeting will be on 1<sup>st</sup> February at 8pm.

The meeting closed at 9.18pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Ian Greenway, Chairman