

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 3rd April at 7:30pm

Present: George Mars – President, Julie Karmazyn – Treasurer, Avril Mitchell – Secretary, Joe Karmazyn, Tim Russell, Sue Chewter, Diane Matthews + 11 branch members

Apologies: Ian Greenway, Ian Preston, Tracey Merritt, Mark Taylor, Malcolm Brunsden, Andy Dawes, Alex Dawes, Garry Griffiths.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by Tim Russell (acting chairman)

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: Avril, Seconded: Steve Stork

2. Matters Arising: None

3. Treasurer's Report for the period ending 3rd April 2025

O/Bal	£3011.76 cr
Receipts	£ 244.00 – membership fees
Payments	£ 740.26 – Poppy Appeal
C/Bal	£2515.50 Cr

Proposed: Julie Karmazyn, Seconded: Diane Matthews

4. Poppy Appeal Update:

- The final tin from last November's appeal has now been collected – roadworks prevented us getting to the venue to collect. This, added to the Bar Lion and all outstanding monies meant I banked £1104.55.
- Upcoming events we will attend are Old Basing Carnival 21st June and Hook Village Show 6th July.
- The new Poppy Appeal Manager for North Hants is Christine Hayward, we hope to meet her soon.
- PAO's have been asked to provide feedback on the School's packs – they obviously heard me grumbling about them!
- The Falkland's conflict was 43 years ago. This matters because after this years VE80 and VJ80 there will need to be a new focus for commemorations – any new ideas welcomed please.
- PA Totals YTD: Old Basing £13,014.96 + £7,455.00 Ctl + £304.50 QR
Hook £10,380.07 + £13,970.50 Ctl + £167.00 QR

Full Total of £45,292.08

5. Club news: There is a quiz on 5th April, also check out the Club notice board for VE80 events

6. Band news:

- The Annual Awards night/40th Anniversary celebration was a huge success.
- The Band AGM is 6th April. This is a members-only meeting.
- We hope to have a new annual Christmas show at the RBL, possibly with Carols. Details still being confirmed.
- The band will be at Milestones 10th May, Basingstoke Festival of Transport 11th May, Tadley Treacle Fair 1st June and Sherfield Village Fete 14th June.

7. Correspondence: The HO and County Newsletters which will be placed on the notice board

8. Events and fund raising: Joe asked for Volunteers to help at Milestones as we have two days to cover. We are having an events committee meeting 8th April if you wish to come along.

9. A.O.B:

- Diane Matthews suggested to the Club that they get a Defibrillator. Tracey will look into this. David Rhodes Francis stated he is able to train people on their use.
- Chris Beadle has made an upgrade to one of our Bar Lion collecting tins, which are very old and the locks were broken. He has made a lockable wooden collecting box which the Lion is mounted onto. We are extremely pleased with the outcome and Chris was thanked by Tim Russell.
- Rick Bourne asked whether Milestones are having Vintage cars at the VE80 event as he would attend if so. John Davies is liaising the event and thinks there will not be a lot of spare space for vehicles due to the Convoy.
It was suggested he ask Tracey or Mark whether the Club would like to have some vehicles here instead.
- Chris Beadle informed us there will be a VE day themed display in St Mary's for the week, it will be referencing peace and thanksgiving and any input from us would be welcomed. Tim suggested that wooden crosses are available if people wanted to make a personal tribute. Brian Dawes will offer his WW2 research notes for display.

The next meeting will be on 1st May at 7.30pm. This will be a normal Branch meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.54pm after which we welcomed our Guest Speaker, George Mars who gave an extremely interesting presentation about St George, the anniversary of his death being commemorated on 23rd April. We learned of the various suggestions about who precisely St George was and where he may have come from – Greece, Italy or possibly Norway.

George suggested the virtues of Patriotism, Honour, Courage, Faith, Nobility, Morality and Hope are equally relevant to St George and to the Freemasons but how do they relate to modern society?.

We were grateful to George for stepping in at short notice due to our original speaker unable to get here in time.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman