

Old Basing and District Royal British Legion (BR1890)

Charity number 219279

Minutes of the Branch Meeting 14th May 2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Joe Karmazyn (JK) Treasurer, Avril Mitchell (AM) Secretary, Tim Russell (TR), Tracey Merritt (TM), + 6 branch members

Apologies: George Mars, Ian Greenway, Julie Karmazyn, Diane Matthews, Ian Preston, David Rhodes-Franklin, Dave Godfrey, Pat Brace, John Davy, Mark Taylor.

The Act of Remembrance was carried out by TR

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and adopted as a true copy. Proposed: TM, Seconded: Brian Dawes
2. Matters Arising: Rick Bourne confirmed the flags paid for by the Parish Council had arrived and been handed to Mark Taylor.
3. Treasurer's Report: for the period end 14th May

O/Bal	£3168.56Cr
Receipts	£ 294.54 – BDBC for Flags
Payments	£ 29.30 - Gauntlets
C/Bal	£3433.80Cr

Proposed JK, 2nd TM agreed by all
4. Poppy Appeal Report:
 - 4.1. The planned Race Night 6th June will not now go ahead, as the man who we normally book has been impossible to contact, and we do not have confirmation that he will show up.
 - 4.2. I collected £51 at the Band open day
 - 4.3. There will be Tabards and Lanyards for this year's PA volunteers to wear, adding to their visibility.
 - 4.4. 2026 dated pins and AFD pins are available now.
 - 4.5. YTD Total is £52,100.00
5. Membership Report:

Current membership is 452.
6. Club Report:
 - 6.1. The club are unable to claim back the VAT on the repairs grant they were given by the PC, so the disabled toilets are on hold for the time being.
 - 6.2. There is a quiz 23rd May, please do try and join in
 - 6.3. The World Cup starts soon, we will be televising the matches.
7. Correspondence:
 - 7.1. The Branch Fees annual notification, after discussion we voted to not make any changes to our Branch or Joining Fees, Prop AM, 2nd BD. All agreed
 - 7.2. The Link, Central News and E-News newsletters. AM read a few articles from these and will place them on the notice board.
 - 7.3. An offer of a Guest Speaker from 'Read Easy' the subject being lack of reading skills. There is a service offering to help those experiencing difficulties. We will decide in committee, but the poster is on the notice board, phone number included.
 - 7.4. Festival of Remembrance 7th Nov, ticketing update, ticket ballot opens 27th May until 24th June.
 - 7.5. Parade Marshal Course is available to book, 19th to 21st June Loughborough. DG to be invited.
 - 7.6. Golf Pairs competition on 18th May, last chance to book a team.
8. Events and fund raising:

Carnival Skittles 1st, 8th June heats, the final on 18th June. Register by 23rd May.
20th June OBL Carnival, we will have a Poppy Appeal gazebo.

WS holding a Bag sale 13th June

Branch AFD Skittles Comp uncertain of the details, will confirm next meeting.

9. A.O.B:

9.1. JK gave a report on NAC which he attended as our delegate. He voted according to our wishes on the motion we discussed. There was an additional motion which he polled AM and TR for their views. The motion was to attempt procurement of Poppy Shop products from UK suppliers. This was passed.

Motion 1 failed, motions 2 to 6 all passed.

9.2. JK (and TR) spoke with Alex Baker from HO. The RBL are close to announcing a change to the way BPT funds may be utilised by branches. There have been lengthy discussions with the Charities Commission to attempt this change. The hope is the RBL could put all BPT funds into a central fund, with branches able to put in a case request for funding for repairs to applicable premises. More to follow once HO have finalised the arrangements and legalities with the Charities Commission.

9.3. AD has not been required at any funerals recently. He will be attending Lepe on 7th June and NAFD at Rushmoor.

9.4. AD presented an affiliation form to us for signature, to bone us with Basingstoke Sea Cadets.

9.5. It was suggested we might invite a guest speaker from Basingstoke Heritage Society since there is the ongoing Old Basing Project being run by them.

10. The next meeting will be on 4th June at 7.30pm. This is a Social Meeting with our Guest Speaker from The Forcer Protocol. Please spread the word, we would like to fill the hall.

The meeting closed at 8.48pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ian Greenway, Chairman