

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, CHELTENHAM & DISTRICT BRANCH

Minutes of Branch Meeting held 19.30, Tuesday 3 August 2010

1. **Act of Homage** was duly observed
Marjorie Muckart, George and Jenny Blake
2. **Apologies** were received from Roy Roberts & Carol Sharrock

Those attending: Dave Martel, Lloyd Surgenor, Moyne Blake, Mike Brookings, Peter Collins, Walter Meigh, Andy Worsley and Phil Fisher
3. **The Minutes of the last meeting** were read and accepted. Proposed by Mike Brookings and seconded by Phil Fisher.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a. **Disposal of old records**
Old records are being archived or destroyed. 30 years of Winchcombe Branch records have been returned to them.
 - b. **Fund Raising**
 - i. **Trip to NMA.** The total raised by the trip has risen to £114 as one person who had booked for the trip but subsequently not able to travel has refused a refund.
 - ii. **Field of Remembrance** All the crosses are being prepared to be delivered to System 6.
5. **Additions to the Agenda**
None
6. **Reports**
 - a. **Chairman**
Sadly our Treasurer has resigned from the RBL. He has made known his reasons for this, and it in no way reflects on this Branch. I have written a personal letter to him expressing my regret at his decision.

On 1st July, I attended a seminar at Hardwicke along with 22 other County Branch Chairmen. The subjects under discussion were:
 1. How to bridge the shortfall in membership administration funds with the present rate of subscriptions
 2. Suggestions for RBL 90th Anniversary celebrations next year.We hope to put out a memo early next year detailing all next

year's events e.g. Anzac Day, Battle of Britain etc.

The crosses for the Field of Remembrance have all been stripped and washed and are ready to have the new discs attached to them. The two front boards are also to be replaced. Delta Graphics will redo the lettering gratis.

Unfortunately, I was in Spain for Armed Forces Day, but the President, the Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Standard Bearer all attended. Thank you for this good Branch Representation.

The Branch President and I attended the Service of Thanksgiving for Marjorie Muckart, the President of the Women's Section.

We hope to set up a stand at the Prestbury Show on 4 September.

The Branch website is now fully linked to the County and National websites

b. Service Committee

We have handled 19 cases this month and have been able to help with the payment of telephone bills, the provision of a wheel chair, kitchen appliances, new carpets, rent and care home fees, applications for grants from the QARANC Welfare Fund and the RAF Benevolent Fund.

7. Meeting with Regional Manager

A meeting between our Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Regional Manager and County Secretary took place on Friday 30 July 2010. The meeting was called to discuss the future of Potter House. There is no immediate plan in place to sell PH because of the state of the property market. The Branch has been advised to write up a business case detailing the Branch's ideal future scenario and has been supplied with samples on which to model its case. Taking into consideration the nature of the Trust, to which Potter House is subject, the morally ideal solution is for the Branch to take possession of a well sited and suitably proportioned building from which to carry out its benevolent works (welfare and poppies). We were, however, asked to consider sharing an under-utilised property belonging to a similarly motivated organisation. We were also given examples of large and successful Branches that raise funds and carry out welfare work from non-Branch specific properties. The Regional Manager emphasised that the procurement of a Branch specific property relies very heavily on a good business case being put forward.

8. Notices

The Festival Of Remembrance

The Poppy Appeal will be opened in the Regent Arcade on 1

