

Minutes of The Royal British Legion Scotland, Thurso Branch Committee meeting held in the Clubrooms, Riverside Road on Thursday 26 May 2022 at 1930 hrs.

Present: Simon Middlemas Chair
Joe McNeil
Ron Galloway
John Blake
Dean Bowman
Albert McIvor
Zena Latcham
June Love

Apologies: Mike Ennis
Tim Hooper
Karin Freeman
Robert Gray
Alex Mathers

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Simon Middlemas, Chair, welcomed those present and opened the meeting.

2. SILENT TRIBUTE

Simon Middlemas led the silent tribute.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Simon Middlemas stated that the Club meeting would take place directly after the Branch meeting.

He noted that Legion stalwart, Robert Allan's health had deteriorated and had been admitted to hospital. Arrangements were now being made for him to be moved to Pentland View where he could get the care required.

It was also noted that the Area Branch Secretary had recently circulated news of the death of Ron Gomez (Invergordon).

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Branch meeting, RBL-BCM(2022)M001, held in the Clubrooms on Thursday 31 March 2022 were reviewed and accepted on a motion by Albert McIvor seconded by Zena Latcham.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

5. STATUS OF ACTIONS

See Appendix at bottom of document.

6. BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe McNeil noted the following:

- Branch accounts remained fairly static. Balance showed around £7.9k after fees and invoices paid to Flag company. There was a further £200 to be deposited and this would bring the balance to £8391.01.

There was a discussion around ordering poppies, wreaths and badges. Simon Middlemas suggested that these should be ordered as soon as possible. It was agreed that Joe McNeil and Ron Galloway would consider and send in the order.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A01: Joe McNeil and Ron Galloway to order up poppies, wreaths and badges.

7. ANGLING CONVENOR'S REPORT

John Blake noted that:

- Meetings had taken place and competition dates were now all organised with the first competition starting Saturday 28 May 2022.
- Boats had been refurbished for the season.
- Some spare engines in the shed. Members agreed that if the Angling Committee wished to sell off the spare engines that the proceeds could go toward the Angling activities.
- Last week there had been a successful sea angling event.

8. WELFARE REPORT

Zena Latcham noted she had changed the day of welfare drop ins to the 2nd Tuesday of every second month. This had been advertised extensively across various local social media platforms. There was a discussion on that fact that this support could also be extended to members as well as veterans. Zena stated she would work up a new poster to ensure both veterans and members were aware of this service.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Middlemas noted he had again refreshed the website as some of the information had been out of date. He reminded Zena to provide information for the welfare section.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A02: Zena Latcham to provide information for website update on welfare pages.

There followed a discussion on the capacity to continue to keep up to date the various comms platforms. It was agreed that the website required continual update and that Donald would continue to run the Facebook page. At this time, the Twitter and Instagram pages would not be updated.

Simon Middlemas asked whether there was an appetite to organise something for the Jubilee. Donald had indicated they would do something around the food offering and Simon agreed to order some bunting.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A03: Simon Middlemas to order up some bunting for Jubilee celebration.

10. BRANCH AND CLUB COMMITTEE POSITIONS

There was a long discussion on the vacant committee positions and the fact that some existing members were taking on more roles to cover these. Simon Middlemas stated that it would be helpful if members could think of ways of advertising that both committees required new members to come on board. This needed to be sorted out before Xmas as the few taking on dual roles could not continue due to other commitments. It was agreed that:

- Once the emails for members had been identified this should be used for a call for volunteers for the committees. Repeating this every 3 months with a e-newsletter.
- There should be a recruitment drive via Facebook and other platforms.
- Recognised that a member did not necessarily need to be from the forces and therefore positions were open to everyone.
- A leaflet could be produced highlight the benefits of membership and this could include a call for members to consider getting involved with the committees.
- Existing Committee members could also spread this information by word of mouth.
- Think about a presence at the various summer events, gala weeks, highland games, etc.

Members were asked to think about two potential people from within the membership that might be interested in taking up a role in either Branch or Club committees.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The timings of both Branch and Club committee meetings were discussed. It was agreed that when these meetings coincided jointly the Branch meeting would start at 1830 hrs followed by the Club meeting at 1900 hrs. When only the Club meeting was being held it would start at 1830 hrs. Dates of Clubs meetings were set for the last Thursday of every month.

Simon Middlemas noted that without a sports convenor sports events would be organised only if there was an appetite for someone to organise something. Zena noted she was looking at organising a snooker event. It was agreed that Zena and Albert would get together to organise the snooker competition.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A04: Zena Latcham and Albert McIvor to organise jointly a snooker competition.

There being no further business, Simon Middlemas thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

S R Middlemas
Chair, RBL Branch Committee
27 May 2022

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A01: Joe McNeil and Ron Galloway to order up poppies, wreaths and badges.

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A02: Zena Latcham to provide information for website update on welfare pages.

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A03: Simon Middlemas to order up some bunting for Jubilee celebration.

RBL-TBC(2022)M02/A04: Zena Latcham and Albert McIvor to organise jointly a snooker competition.

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

RBL-TBC(2021)M05/A01: All members to consider Welfare proposal (see Appendix 1 of minutes for RBL-BCM(2021)M05). **Action complete:** Zena Latcham had taken over the welfare activity this action was closed out on the basis that Zena was developing her thoughts around welfare requirements.

RBL-BCM(2021)M04/A03: All committee members to come forward with fund raising ideas for Arm Forces Day. **Action complete:** It had been agreed, that due to other commitments, this event would not go ahead this year.

RBL-TBC(2022)M01/A01: Club Secretary delegated to e-mail Branch/Club Committee members with details of planned events on a month ahead basis with weekly updates if required. **Action complete:** While this would be an ongoing activity Ron Galloway was content to continue to do this on a regular basis.