

Minutes of The Royal British Legion Scotland, Thurso Branch Committee meeting held in the Clubrooms, Riverside Road on Thursday 29 September 2022

Present: Simon Middlemas Chair
 Gus Mackay Vice President
 Joe McNeil
 John Blake
 Ron Galloway
 Dean Bowman
 Robert Gray
 Zena Latcham
 Ian Mackay
 June Love

Apologies: Mike Ennis
 Tim Hooper
 Karin Freeman
 Albert McIvor
 Alex Mathers

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Simon Middlemas, Chair, welcomed those present. He introduced Ian Mackay who had volunteered to join the committee and also Gus Mackay who had agreed to become Vice-President.

2. SILENT TRIBUTE

Simon Middlemas led the silent tribute.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Simon Middlemas noted that Mike Ennis was overcommitted with work at this point in time but had indicated a willingness to support the Branch Committee once the workload had abated.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Branch meeting, RBL-TBC(2022)M003, held in the Clubrooms on Thursday 28 July 2022 had been circulated in advance to members. These were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting. The minutes were proposed by Zena Latcham and seconded by Joe McNeil.

No issues were raised from the minutes.

5. STATUS OF ACTIONS

See Appendix.

6. BRANCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Joe McNeil noted the following:

- Bank account currently sat at £8453.01.
- Some outgoings in relation to the Armistice Day were due to come out.
 - Estimated to be around £1k for the purchase of wreaths, poppy badges, etc

- This money would come back into the Branch accounts.

Simon Middlemas asked whether hall cots for Remembrance Sunday were being split between Branch and Club accounts. This was agreed.

7. ANGLING CONVENOR'S REPORT

John Blake noted that:

- The sea angling summer trips were now over for the season.
- 3 of the boats had already been taken out of the loch and stored, the remaining boats would be moved this Saturday.
- Take up on the activities had been reasonable throughout the season.

8. WELFARE REPORT

Zena Latcham stated that she had been exploring the "Fares 4 Free" initiative which was run by an organisation to target veterans who require support to attend appointments etc. She had filled out all the appropriate forms and was waiting for her first contact. She was hoping that if this initiative built up a number of veterans within the area this could also help to rebuild the welfare activities again.

Gus Mackay asked who the organisation was and whether this would incur costs from the Branch. Zena responded that the scheme was run by an organisation who covered all costs. Simon Middlemas said he would explore this to ensure that there was nothing that could cause issues with the Branch or Club.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A01: Simon Middlemas to explore Fares4Free website in relation to supporting veterans. Website link [HOME \(fares4free.org\)](https://fares4free.org)

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Simon Middlemas noted that the website was now up to date. The entertainment section now pointed to Facebook for current up-to-date information.

10. BRANCH AND CLUB COMMITTEE POSITIONS

There was a discussion with all members on progress of identifying and speaking with individuals who may consider taking up Committee places within both Branch and Club.

11. UPDATE ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Dean Bowman reported that a meeting had taken place on 26th September. The events would commence with

- 11th November: Armistice Day – school services with Rev David Malcolm
- 12th November: War Graves service
- 13th November: Remembrance Sunday

The meeting held on 26th had identified a number of people who would get involved.

June Love noted that she had made contact with the appropriate people for road closures and insurance.

Dean Bowman said there was a need to identify a Police Scotland community representative. June Love said she would try and get contact details.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A02: June Love to identify Police Scotland contact for Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

Simon Middlemas asked what arrangements had been made for Poppy collections. Ron Galloway responded that he had made contact with Tesco. Poppy collection would start on 1 November and continue until Friday 11 November. He would contact Tesco to confirm dates. Simon Middlemas encouraged all members to get involved.

Action: RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A03: Ron Galloway to put up Poppy collection schedule up in office for members to populate with availability.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Simon Middlemas asked Joe McNeil if he required support for continuing with Jokers Wild. Joe agreed it would be helpful if others could help. Simon Middlemas encouraged those members who would be in the Club on Saturday to help encourage people to take part in Jokers Wild and to help with the draw. Ian Mackay volunteered to support this .

Simon Middlemas also noted that there was a need for a co-ordinator to take on and organise Armed Forces Day next June 2023. He suggested that perhaps Ian Mackay and John Robertson could take this on. Ian Mackay asked what this would entail. Simon Middlemas responded that he had an outline programme drafted for this year which had not gone ahead but that would provide information on the sort of activities that would need to be co-ordinated.

Simon Middlemas noted that this would be June Love's last meeting as she would be stepping down from the Branch Secretary role. The members thanked June for her support over the last 3 years.

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

S R Middlemas
Chair, RBL Branch Committee
30 September 2022

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A01: Simon Middlemas to explore Fares4Free website in relation to supporting veterans. Website link [HOME \(fares4free.org\)](http://fares4free.org)

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A02: June Love to identify Police Scotland contact for Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

RBL-TBC(2022)M04/A03: Ron Galloway to put up Poppy collection schedule up in office for members to populate with availability.

ACTIONS ONGOING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A02: Simon Middlemas and Zena Latcham to get together to update welfare website pages. **Action ongoing:** Simon Middlemas agreed to update Welfare pages on website.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A04: Dean Bowman to draft a proposal on committee structure. **Action ongoing.**

ACTIONS COMPLETED SINCE LAST MEETING

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A01: Ron Galloway to finalise list of electronic addresses for both Branch and Club members. **Action complete:** The electronic list was now populated with over 300 contact details.

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A03: Zena Latcham to speak with Donald Sinclair about getting content on Facebook that could drive people to website welfare pages. **Action complete.**

RBL-TBC(2022)M03/A05: Simon Middlemas to write to Gus Mackay asking whether he would take on role of Vice-President. **Action complete.**