



The Royal British Legion
The Royal County of Berkshire
and Vale of White Horse
COUNTY CIRCULAR
June 2022



BRANCH SECRETARIES: Please circulate to your members

CENOTAPH AND FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

Deadlines

8 June Advise MSO of any members wishing to march in the RBL contingent at the Cenotaph

23 June Advise MSO of Standard Bearers wanting to take part in the parade of Standards at the Festival of Remembrance (both afternoon and evening performances).

From 2 August Tickets go on sale to members for evening performance of the Festival of Remembrance

From 9 August Tickets for on sale to members for the afternoon performance.

The Remembrance Special Circular with full details is with the email message containing this circular.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTION RATES

A reminder that the cut-off date for a change to branch subscription rates 2022/23 is **30th June 2022**. Branch rates letters were sent out by post on 5 May and sent to users with an O365 address (RBL.community)

If your Branch wishes to change the current fees please send the information to MembershipServices@britishlegion.org.uk or post to FAO Christine Martin, Membership Services, TRBL, 199 Haig House, London, SE1 1AA

Information required:

- a) Full Branch Name
- b) BR code

- c) Currency (£ or €)
- d) New amount of branch administration fee (e.g., £1.50)
- e) New amount of branch joining fee

3. If you don't receive confirmation within 10 working days, please contact membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk immediately.

If you do not wish to change the Branch fees there is no need to contact us. If you have already submitted your new rates, there is nothing further you need to do.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Membership Services team should you have any questions.

BRANCH DISBURSEMENTS JANUARY TO MARCH

The disbursements notified on 5 May have been delayed and are expected to be paid in the few weeks after 30 May.

BRANCH MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The County Training Officer will be running further one day workshops from July. If Branch Officers and Committee wish to be added to the waiting list please contact the County Training Officer, Rosemary Edgington by email. Berkshire.cto@rbl.community

BRANCH TREASURER TRAINING

A new online pre-recorded Branch Treasurer training course has been developed and Treasurers should complete this course if they have not previously attended a Treasurers course. Treasurers should contact the Membership Support Officer if they have not received log in information from the Membership Training team.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Got any questions for our new National Chairman, Jason Coward?

We're interviewing Jason for the next issue of Legion magazine and would love your input. He'll be talking about the future of membership and what he hopes to bring to the role, so if you have a question you'd like to ask him, please email it to: membersmag@britishlegion.org.uk by **Friday 3 June**. Please note, we will endeavour to ask as many of your questions as possible, and if any of them are similar, we will select the ones that represent them all.

Motion 1 Staple Hill & District Branch

This Branch requests that the Board of Trustees and Director of Welfare provide clarification on current arrangements for Welfare breaks for Beneficiaries. When the decision was taken to close Break Centres, the membership was assured that Beneficiaries would be able to apply for breaks as before, but that accommodation would be provided within the Private Sector.

It has been our experience that the current process is not working as originally suggested and we request clarity.

FOR: 247
AGAINST: 5 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 2 Portugal & Atlantic Islands Branch

That Honorary Membership of the Royal British Legion be automatically granted to any member attaining their Centenary.

FOR 190
AGAINST 67 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 3 Paris Branch

This Conference asks the Board of Trustees to allow proxy voting for Branches at AGMs.

FOR: 159
AGAINST: 97 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 4 Chesterfield Branch

This Branch requests that, as a matter of priority, the County Conference passes this motion to the Board of Trustees for action. To implement the use of Bank debit cards, if required, by Branches who are finding difficulty in paying bills by cheque.

FOR: 209
AGAINST: 46 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 5 Lancaster Branch

This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees request that 'the printers' revert back to using paper-based card for the Legion Membership Cards.

FOR: 43
AGAINST: 211 **MOTION FAILED**

Motion 6 Cheltenham & District Branch

This Conference challenges the current policy of Head Office Finance Department in relation to its actual and planned disbursements from Area Trust Funds (ATFs) and the lack of visibility of such transactions, particularly relating to the Southwest Midlands (SW Mids) ATF. Finance Department should publish to Branches each May, clear details of the annual income and expenditure from the relevant ATFs.

FOR: 241
AGAINST: 11 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion 7 Wycombe Marsh Branch

This Conference requests the introduction of a policy that the Board of Trustees and the Membership Council meetings be held on Saturdays and Sundays thus enabling members that have full time employment are able to stand for election and play a full part in these formations.

FOR: 208
AGAINST: 31 **MOTION CARRIED**

Motion of Urgency Cheltenham & District Branch

This Conference strongly urges the Board of Trustees to acknowledge the concerns of membership with the process, protocols and management adopted for this round of Elections for National Officers and Trustees. The Board is strongly encouraged to engage with, and seek recommendations from, the Membership Council, on behalf of the wider membership, and to review and revise the Election process into clear and transparent procedures to be promulgated to members in advance of the Conference 2023 elections process.

FOR: 178
AGAINST: 57 **MOTION CARRIED**

The Annual Conference 2023 will be held in Torquay over the weekend of 19-21 May 2023.

STANDARD BEARER DRILLS

Here are the remaining dates for standard bearer drills at Shaw Club, Almond Avenue, Newbury RG14 1LU start time 11am.

June 12th and 26th
July 10th and 31st
August 14th and 28th
September 11th County Standard Bearers competition

Dress is casual. As well as the standard bring shoes suitable for drill, gauntlets, and sling.

If you have any questions about the drills or ceremonial matters please contact the County Ceremonial Officer, Angela Logue email: Berkshire.parademarshal@rbl.community or tel. 07982 491695

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION PORTAL (MAP)

The Membership Administration Portal is the central site for membership information, forms and access to membership lists for Branch Officers. The login ID is also an email address and takes the form of branchname.role@rbl.community so personal addresses do not have to be used and the address can be given out publicly.

Do you know how to obtain your Branch members listings? Do you have at least one person in your Branch registered on MAP? If you need support to access MAP or do not know how to get your Branch members list, please contact the Membership Support Officer jstrange@britishlegion.org.uk tel. 07884 869920

BRANCH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Branch Community Support is an important part of assistance that we give to our Veterans, beneficiaries and their families and carers at local level.

If, as a Branch, you make telephone calls to Branch members, local veterans, or beneficiaries in your communities you are providing an invaluable service. Now COVID restrictions has been removed there are other things that we can help our communities with, like visits to people, both in their homes and in hospital and Standard Bearers attending funerals as well as putting on local events. All these things come under Branch Community Support.

It is important that Branches are registered if they are carrying out BCS work and that telephone buddies and home visitors are trained. Branches currently registered which have trained members are:

Arborfield, Cippenham, Compton Ilsleys and Norreys, Tadley, Thatcham, Tilehurst, Wantage Wargrave and Winnersh,

A BCS seminar evening is being planned for August and details will follow.

MEMBERSHIP MEET UPS

Membership meet-ups have resumed and the first one was held in April in Saltash, the remainder will be taking place in the following areas:

- 2 July – Colchester United Football Club, Colchester
- 16 July – Marriott Hotel Metro Centre, Newcastle

Although the meet ups are not close to our area members who may be in the vicinity at the time are welcome to attend. We strongly encourage all members to register their attendance in advance. Please select the link below to complete the online registration form or to find out more and we'll look forward to seeing you soon.

www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/things-to-do/membership/our-members/membership-meet-ups

Please share this information with your branch members, new and longstanding members are all welcome.

EXPANSION OF RBL RECOVERY SERVICES,

The following is a message from Antony Baines, Assistant Director Welfare

Dear all,

I am pleased and excited to announce the expansion of RBL recovery services for the serving and veteran wounded, injured, and sick (WIS) community and their families.

Since 2011, the RBL has provided recovery services in the form of adaptive sports and adventurous training at our Battle Back Centre in Shropshire, and theatre and arts through 'Bravo 22 Company' regionally and online. In 2016, we joined a partnership, alongside the Ministry of Defence and Help for Heroes, to deliver Team UK to the Invictus Games by providing support to friends and family of the participants. However, the recovery needs of today's Armed Forces community look very different to when we started our work in this area. Under the ambitions of the One Legion strategy, we are now making changes to integrate and expand these three core elements of our recovery services to have the greatest impact possible for our community.

The Battle Back Centre will become the centre of all our recovery services, with wraparound welfare support provided to beneficiaries before and after services are accessed. Expanded facilities at the centre will see significantly higher numbers of the WIS community benefitting from our support, including greater access for veterans and families, and new courses to further support health and well-being needs. Our recovery work will continue to address the links between physical and mental health; developing ways of managing stress; healthy living including improving diet and sleep; and the importance of social networks, but under the expanded offering, we will provide a more comprehensive recovery programme for the WIS community.

In addition, the RBL will take on a greater role in delivering Team UK to the Invictus Games in 2023 in Dusseldorf and 2025 in Whistler and Vancouver, alongside the MoD. We will use the expanded facilities at the Battle Back Centre to take on the full commitment of supporting Team UK applicants and participants, and their friends and family, through the Games process. This will include facilitating training camps and coaching for each of the sports, supporting those not selected and offering other recovery opportunities, accompanying the Team to the Games, providing access to a range of RBL welfare support, and of course, continuing to run the friends and family programme.

If you know of anyone in the WIS community who wishes to take part in the Games, [please direct them to our website](#) to register their interest ahead of applications opening in late July. Eligibility for the Games is based on being wounded, injured or sick during time in service. [You can find out more about the Invictus Games here.](#)

I am thrilled we can provide this enhanced and wide-ranging support to the WIS community, and I would like to thank our Recovery Services Team for their ongoing hard work to implement these changes. I know you will join me in welcoming this fantastic news.

Antony Baines
Director of Welfare and Operations
Operations, Haig House

Hungerford Branch liaison helped their local GP Surgery apply to become a Veteran Friendly Surgery

Hungerford Branch's close liaison with their local NHS GP surgery encouraged the surgery to apply for Military Veteran Aware Accreditation which the Surgery gained in March this year.

GPs are signing up to become 'veteran friendly' under a new national scheme to improve medical care and treatment for former members of the armed services that has been backed by NHS England and the Royal College of GPs.

Practices can qualify for veteran friendly status by offering extra support for ex-military personnel who may face additional challenges when they return to civilian life.

The scheme, called the Military Veteran Aware Accreditation, has now been adopted by NHS England and the Royal College of GPs as a nationwide initiative so that family doctors can better identify and treat veterans, ensuring they get access to dedicated care where appropriate.

Membership Support Officer (MSO)

Jennifer Strange

T: 07884 869920

E: Berkshire.MSO@RBL.Community

Or jstrange@britishlegion.org.uk

Welfare

Ben Evans, Case Officer

T: 0808 8028080 (Contact Centre)

E: Southeastmidlands@britishlegion.org.uk

Community Fundraiser

Gaynor Dingley (East Berkshire)

Tel. 07823 418842

Email: gdingley@britishlegion.org.uk

Sarah Brown (West Berkshire)

Tel: 07458 015792

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Regional Clubs Relationship Manager, Midlands

Pauline Swann, T: 07970 375421

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