



**KYRENIA BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BR3651)
MINUTES OF THE 33rd BRANCH MEETING HELD AT THE BLACK OLIVE CAFE, ON
MONDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

- **Act of Remembrance:** The meeting commenced at 14.30hrs. The RBL Standards were present and acknowledged. 12 Members and 5 Committee Members were in attendance.
- **Apologies for Absence:** (Committee members only) Apologies were received from the Acting Chairwoman, Jean Bradley, the Membership Secretary, Sharon Garfield, the Community Support Officer, Traceylee Cowan and Events Organiser, Ian Chennell.
- **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Vice-Chairman (Les Evans) asked for the approval of the Minutes of the last Branch Meeting, held in May. Jenny Tyler approved, seconded by Con Graham. He then went on to welcome everyone, including our President, Sir Michael Graydon and his wife, Lady Elizabeth. Les then invited Sir Michael to say a few words.
Sir Michael said it was nice to be here at this time as he had been able to attend the magnificent televised funeral of Queen Elizabeth at The Colony. He acknowledged that Her Majesty had been our Patron for the whole of her reign and the relationship between the Monarchy and organisations such as ourselves was very important.
Sir Michael said he follows all that the Branch do through Les and Jean and understands the challenges we face. He said each one of us plays their part in this unique Branch and are meeting the requirements of the RBL. He thanked the Committee and everyone attending today.

4. Committee Members Reports:

Acting Chairwoman's Report-

Jean is on holiday and there was no report

Vice Chairman's Report -

Les said that there will be an advert in Cyprus Today Newspaper shortly, advertising the vacant post within the Committee. He said these are very important posts and asked that Members "dig deep and help us fill them".

Les went on to say that arrangements for the Poppy Ball are going well Tickets are now on sale and we have agreed a great menu with Kaya Palazzo.

He said that this years Remembrance organisation is also going well. The list of Wreath Layers is in place and requests for permissions from Government offices have gone out.

Treasure's Report - Ann advised that as of 31st August, we have the following in the accounts;

TL Current account 87,383.98tl

GBP Current account 550 STG

Welfare savings account TL 81,341.07tl

She said there has recently been a lot of Welfare activity so this amount will be considerably lower at the end of September

Ann advised that the recent collection at the broadcasting of the Queen's funeral raised 1,924tl + 10stg. This money will be used to purchase a Memorial Plaque to be placed in the old British cemetery.

Secretary's Report – Pamela had nothing to report except to say that she has been in touch with The Ship Inn, regarding the Post-Remembrance Lunch which, this year will cost 270tl. She will produce the usual Poster and tickets, which will be on sale at Lambousa Market. The Poster will appear in the Newsletter and on Facebook.

Membership Secretary's Report – Sharon was not able to attend the Meeting but had sent a report which Pamela read out;

At present we have 200 active members in our Branch. That is an increase of 7 since our last Branch meeting in May. However, 31 members are overdue renewing their membership, an increase of 17 since May. In order to reach the lapsed members, I have sent emails and or text messages to all 31 of them, but to date I have only received correspondence from 4. I will continue to message them informing them of their lapsed membership and provide details on how they can renew their membership.

It is worthy of note that London allows a grace period of 4 to 6 months for a membership to lapse. During this period, they are still classed as members before being removed. Therefore, once the member is removed by London, I no longer send out reminders to them and if they wish to remain a member after this grace period they have to re-join as a new member if they do not have a record of their membership number. The important point here is to always keep a record of your membership number as you cannot be traced via your name or email.

Since May we have had 7 members leave, by allowing their membership to lapse and exceed the grace period set by London.

As the Membership Secretary I continue to hold 2 'clinics' a month to facilitate new members joining and current members renewing. I have also held the clinics in various locations in the East, but to date Tim's Café appears to be the most popular choice to visit.

Many members still like to renew by paying cash, but the best way to renew is by going onto the RBL website and setting up a Direct Debit thereby avoiding missing any renewals in the future. However, some members here in the TRNC do not have a UK bank card, hence my clinics are still required to assist such members.

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Community Support Officer's Report –

Traceylee having recently resigned, there was no report. Pamela explained that Traceylee has health issues and recently had also had to deal with some very difficult cases. She did not feel she was given the assistance she needed from RBL HQ and will be compiling a report highlighting the difficulties she encountered. This will be taken forward as a complaint to RBL HQ by Sir Michael, on behalf of the Branch. Before resigning, Traceylee had informed Jean that we need to recruit more Case Workers. We current only have 2 who cover a huge area. Pamela asked that if anyone knows of someone who might be interested in becoming a Case Worker that they ask them to get in touch with either her or Jenny Tyler who will explain what this entails.

Poppy Appeals Officers Report – Linda advised that the Static Poppy Boxes so far have raised 1,150tl, events have raised 10,500tl and there has been a donation of 200tl. Linda said that the Launch will take place at The George on 20th October, with a Pop-Up stall. This will be followed by a Scavenger Hunt at Tolgas Sular Bar on 23rd. There will be another Pop-Up stall at The Wild Duck on 27th and a Halloween event at The Grease Monkey on 31st. There will be 2 more Pop-Up's at The George on 3rd and 10th November and an 'Alternative Quiz' at The Olive Press on 9th November.

Linda said that the RBL stall at Lambousa is now back up-and-running.

Property Officers Report – Mike said "I am sure that most of you members realise that the majority of our property is in storage. The exception being that the Standard Bearers retain and look after their own equipment's, and there are 4 Banners on display at the Ship Inn in Karaoglanoglu.

The rest of the property is in storage and has been for over 10 years. Unfortunately, this situation is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. We have tried finding numerous premises that would suit our purpose. But, to date, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts.

That said I continue to carry out monthly checks for security and condition of property.”

5. Any Other Business –

There was no other business.

6. Next Meeting - The next Branch meeting will be the AGM which will take place on Wednesday 2nd November at 3pm. The venue will be The Ship Inn, Karaoglanoglu.

7. Conclusion of the Meeting – The Vice Chairman ended the Meeting at 15.05 by thanking all for attending and recited the Kohima Epitaph.

Mrs Pamela Padden - Honorary Secretary