MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

held at

The Riviera International Conference Centre
TORQUAY, DEVON, TQ2 5LZ

on

Saturday and Sunday
17 and 18 May 2014
Present at Annual Conference:

National President: Vice-Admiral P. Wilkinson CB, CVO
National Chairman: J. Crisford BSc Hons
National Vice-Chairman: T. W. Whittles

Board of Trustees:
B. A. F. Burn
D. E. Edgar
M. Humphry
A. Macaulay
P. Moore
W. Parkin
K. Prichard
C. Quinn
N. Salisbury OBE
M. Tighe
D. Whimpeny

Director General:
C. J. Simpkins DMA, HonDUniv, DL

And:
J. M. Graham FCA, DChA
(Deputy Director General and Director of Finance)
C. Byrne
(Director of Fundraising)
S. Cooper Dip Arch, RIBA, MRICS, ACIRib, FRSA
(Commercial Director)
S. J. Freeth
(Director of Operations)
S. Lewis-James
(Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development)

Heads of Departments

Other members of staff

Branch Delegates: 431 representing 371 branches
County/District Delegates: 40
SATURDAY 17 May 2014, 11.00am

OPENING PRAYERS AND SILENT TRIBUTE

The National President opened the Conference with the Silent Tribute. Prayers were led by The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO, National Chaplain to The Royal British Legion.

CIVIC ADDRESS

Councillor Jane Barnby, Chairman of Torbay Council, gave an address of welcome.

LOYAL MESSAGE

The National President read the following message, which had been sent to H.M. The Queen:

“Delegates attending The Royal British Legion Annual Conference 2014 at the Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay on Saturday 17 May 2014, tender to your Majesty their loyal greetings, affection, and deep gratitude for your continued support, as their Patron, in safeguarding the welfare, interests and memory of those who are Serving, or have Served in the Armed Forces, and their dependents.

Vice-Admiral Peter Wilkinson
National President
The Royal British Legion”

The following reply was read to Conference:

“Please convey my warm thanks to the delegates and Members of The Royal British Legion for their message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Annual Conference which is being held this weekend at the Riviera International Conference Centre, Torquay.

As your Patron, I appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present for a successful and enjoyable gathering.

ELIZABETH R.”

PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS

The National President addressed Conference.
WELCOME

The National Chairman assumed the Chair and extended a warm welcome to everyone attending Annual Conference 2014.

The National Chairman introduced the platform party:

Chris Simpkins, Director General;
Terry Whittles, National Vice-Chairman;
David Whimpenny, Chairman of the Conference Committee;
Allan Burgin, Head of Governance and Administration.

The National Chairman introduced the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board and upon completion the Trustees and Directors took their seats in the Conference Hall.

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

The National Chairman requested delegates agree that members of the Membership Council may be seated on the floor of Conference, and that they may speak during debates if called upon to do so by him as the Chairman of Conference, but not propose, second or vote pending the determination of the Charter Motion and/or Motion in question.

FOR: 357    AGAINST: 46    CARRIED

The National Chairman requested delegates agree that members of the Executive Board (the Director General and Directors) may, if called upon to do so by the Chairman of Conference, speak on any point of information during debates, but not propose, second or vote pending the determination of the Charter Motion and/or Motion in question.

FOR: 366    AGAINST: 55    CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

The following Scrutineers were appointed:

Mr P Lund        Mrs B Hobbs
Mrs G Bagley     Mr K Jeffery
Mr A Bevington   Mr J Kimberley
Mr I Brant       Mrs J McNamara
Mrs D Carr       Mr R Reynolds
Mrs M Forde      Mr K Taylor
Mr S Friend      Mr G Upward
Mr C Goulborne   Mr J Vanderwolfe
Mr D Green
MINUTES

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the Minutes of Annual Conference 2013 be adopted.

There were no matters arising.

CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS

The National Chairman addressed Conference.

NOMINATION FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The vote was declared as follows:

Susan Elizabeth Kelly, North and East Yorkshire County - received 281 votes
Samuel Arthur Lockhart, Northern Ireland - received 135 votes

The National Chairman declared Susan Elizabeth Kelly had been nominated to serve on the Conference Committee for 3 years.

DIRECTOR GENERAL’S ADDRESS

The Director General addressed Conference.

APPEAL FROM STAMFORD BRANCH

Mr S. Bonde from Stamford Branch appealed to Conference against the decision of the Conference Committee to reject Stamford Branch’s amendment to Charter Motion 1 based on Standing Order 7 which states: ‘Amendments to Charter Motions are not permissible’ and which binds the Conference Committee.

The National Vice Chairman explained the process for making this appeal, explaining Standing Order 13(ii) states: "In putting the appeal to Conference, the mover shall only be allowed to read to Conference the proposal which the appeal would throw open to debate". Thus, there was no seconder, speakers for and against or debate at this stage.

The Appeal was taken in two stages:

As Conference is also bound by Standing Order 7, the Vice-Chairman requested that delegates vote whether to temporarily suspend paragraph 7 of the Standing Orders.
Standing Order 7 was temporarily suspended.

The Vice-Chairman requested that delegates vote whether or not to debate the proposed amendment.

FOR: 303    AGAINST: 113    CARRIED

The Vice-Chairman explained the amendment to Charter Motion 1 would be heard immediately before Charter Motion 1 is debated.

The Standing Orders were reinstated in full.

**MOTION 6**

Proposed: Newbury Branch
Seconded: Berkshire County

This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees liaise with the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency regarding research into the introduction of a Veterans Identity Card.

FOR: 359    AGAINST: 57    CARRIED

**COLONEL DAVID JAMES**

Colonel David James, Branch Chairman of Fakenham Branch, addressed Conference to talk about the Centenary Auction he is organising which will be held at Raynham Hall in September in aid of raising money to support the The Royal British Legion Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College.

*Conference adjourned at 1.10pm and reconvened at 2.15pm on Saturday 17 May.*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

The Deputy Director General presented the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2013.
MOTION 7

Proposed: Rottingdean Branch
Seconded: Sussex County Branch

This Conference recommends to the Board of Trustees that they obtain from the Ministry of Defence agreement that, for all future retiring service personnel and for every reservist on completion of an operational tour, during their resettlement process they be given a form asking them whether they wish their name and UK address to be passed to the nearest branch of The Royal British Legion.

FOR: 353 AGAINST: 58 CARRIED

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER MOTION 1

Proposed: Stamford Branch
Seconded: Bourne and District Branch

Delete “Rule 14. The Board of Trustees has the right to use all powers of the Legion save those reserved to a Special Conference”, in the proposed 2003 Royal Charter of Incorporation and Schedules Version 9, 30 June 2014.

Insert “Rule 14. The Board of Trustees has the right to use all powers of the Legion except where the Charter or these Rules state that the Legion itself in Annual Conference is to exercise them.”

FOR: 326 AGAINST: 85 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 1

Proposed: Nailsea Branch
Seconded: Somerset County

This Conference requests that application be made by the Board of Trustees to the Charity Commission and the Privy Council to replace "The 2003 Royal Charter of Incorporation and Schedules Version 8, 31 October 2013" with "The 2003 Royal Charter of Incorporation and Schedules Version 9, 30 June 2014" which was circulated with the Provisional and Final Agenda.

FOR: 195 AGAINST: 210 DEFEATED

Conference adjourned at 3.30pm for the commencement of the Memorial Parade at 4.00pm at the War Memorial, Princess Gardens, Torquay.
A salute was taken in front of the Princess Theatre by the National President of The Royal British Legion, Vice-Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB CVO, accompanied by the Chairman of Torbay Council, Councillor Jane Barnby.

SUNDAY 18 May 2014, 9.30am

The National Vice Chairman explained that the National President had left Conference to join a senior member of the Royal Family on the Italy South Pilgrimage. As such, the National Chairman would present the Cups and Awards with the National Vice-Chairman acting as compere.

CUPS AND AWARDS

The National Cups and Awards were awarded to the following:

**Poppy Appeal Award**
50 years service – Hilary Satterley

**Standard Bearers Competitions**

Elms Cup - National Youth Standard Bearer - Steven Parke, Northern Ireland District
Ken Furniss Shield - Deputy National Standard Bearer - John Thornhill, Greater Manchester
Ashwanden Cup - National Standard Bearer - Norman Espie, Northern Ireland District

**Recruitment / Membership**

Knox Shield - Runner Up Certificate: District North Spain
Knox Shield - Winner: Greater Manchester County
Downing Shield - Runner Up Certificate: Received by Malta Branch on behalf of Overseas
Downing Shield - Winner: Cornwall County
McCrae Shield - Runner Up Certificate: Minden Branch
McCrae Shield - Winner: Benidorm and District Branch
Churchill Shield - Runner Up Certificate: BEWSA Branch
Churchill Shield - Winner: The RBL Riders Branch
Jellicoe Cup - Runner Up Certificate: Lyndhurst Branch
Jellicoe Cup – Winner: Tandragee Branch
Jellicoe Shield- Runner Up Certificate: Wednesbury Branch
Jellicoe Shield – Winner: Croydon Branch
Poppy Appeal Awards

Bucher Trophy – Winner: Blackpool RBL Club Ltd.

Noel Rogers Trophy – Runner Up Certificate: Bordeaux and South West France Branch
Noel Rogers Trophy – Winner: Tenerife Branch

Hughes Trophy - Runner Up Certificate: Cornwall County
Hughes Trophy – Winner: North Wales District

Poppy Appeal Trophy – Runner Up: Herefordshire County
Poppy Appeal Trophy – Winner: Isle of Man County

Progress and Efficiency

Ian Hamilton Cup - Runner Up Certificate: Stowmarket RBL Club Ltd.
Ian Hamilton Cup – Winner: Marlow RBL Club Ltd.
Lewis Shield: Runner Up: Mr Austin ‘Aussie’ Walker
Lewis Shield: Winner: Mrs Evelyn Griffiths

Maurice Cup - Runner Up Certificate: District of Germany
Maurice Cup – Winner: Berkshire and Vale of the White Horse County

Lister Cup - Runner Up Certificate: Minden Branch
Lister Cup – Winner: Debden Branch

Haig Cup - Runner Up Certificate: Broomfield Branch
Haig Cup – Winner: Newbury Branch

Chairman’s Award – Winner: Mr Paul McClintock

National Awards

National Certificate of Appreciation: Mr Brian Bartrum
National Certificate of Appreciation: Mrs Ilma White
National Certificate of Appreciation: Mr Albert Lawrence ‘Dusty’ Miller
National Certificate of Appreciation: Mr Keith Prichard

CHARTER MOTION 2

Proposed: Rickmansworth Branch
Seconded: Greater Manchester County

Page 4 Article 3 (e), before "to promote" add the words 'as custodian of Remembrance,'

FOR: 399 AGAINST: 6 CARRIED
CHARTER MOTION 3
Proposed: National Branches District
Seconded: Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch
Page 13, Rule 18(a), line 5 delete "3 members" and insert "1 member". Page 14, Rule 18(a) insert after "Board of Trustees", "2 members of the Membership Council appointed by the Chairman of the Membership Council".
FOR: 340 AGAINST: 63 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 4
Proposed: National Branches District
Seconded: Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch
Page 14, Rule 18(c), line 1, delete "2009 and each Annual Conference thereafter". Delete Rule 18(b) and renumber Rule 18(c) as Rule 18(b).
FOR: 340 AGAINST: 16 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 5
Proposed: Stamford Branch
Seconded: Bourne and District Branch
Page 15, Rule 28(e), insert “and administration” after “general policy”.
FOR: 336 AGAINST: 71 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 6
Proposed: Board of Trustees
Seconded: Penistone Branch
Page 15, Rule 24, line 1, insert after “Board of Trustees” “and members of the Membership Council”.
FOR: 385 AGAINST: 21 CARRIED
CHARTER MOTION 7
Proposed: Board of Trustees
Seconded: Penistone Branch
Page 15, after Rule 24 insert new Rule 25 and renumber subsequent Rules and cross references.
“25. Members of the Executive Board may, if so invited by the Chairman of Annual Conference, speak on any point of information, but are not entitled to propose, second nor speak for or against any Charter Motion or Motion. Neither may they vote or attend as the delegate of any Branch or County/District Conference.”
FOR: 394 AGAINST: 71 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 8
Proposed: Board of Trustees
Seconded: Penistone Branch
Page 10, Rule 8(a), line 2, delete “in accordance with this Rule” and insert “of all Branches in accordance with procedures authorised by the Board of Trustees”.
Page 11, Rules 8(c) to 8(h) delete in entirety.
FOR: 387 AGAINST: 11 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 9
Proposed: Board of Trustees
Seconded: Penistone Branch
Page 11, Rule 9, delete in entirety and insert:
“9. There are up to seven Elected Members of the Board of Trustees who are elected in accordance with the Governing Regulations.”
FOR: 394 AGAINST: 9 CARRIED

CHARTER MOTION 10
Proposed: Board of Trustees
Seconded: Penistone Branch
Page 9, Rule 1, insert in alphabetical order new definition:

"Partial Term: a period of time less than a full term caused by either the premature ending of a full term held by the previous incumbent or by the current incumbent not fulfilling a full term for good reason if so agreed by the National Chairman."


"12. (a) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman take up Office at the close of the meeting of Annual Conference immediately following the date their election is declared and serve until the close of the third next meeting of Annual Conference unless their tenure of Office ends differently. The Chairman is not eligible for re-election or re-appointment to any position on the Board of Trustees. The Vice-Chairman is not eligible for re-election or re-appointment to any position on the Board of Trustees except he may be elected Chairman.

(b) Elected Members of the Board of Trustees become members of the Board of Trustees at the close of the meeting of Annual Conference immediately following the date their election is declared and serve until the close of the third next meeting of Annual Conference unless their tenure ends differently.

(c) Appointed members of the Board of Trustees hold that appointment from the date specified for that purpose upon their appointment until the expiration of their term of appointment, which shall be no longer than 3 years, unless their tenure ends differently.

(d) Members of the Board of Trustees, other than the Chairman of the Women's Section, whether elected, appointed or a combination of both, may serve no more than 3 terms and one Partial Term. They may also serve a term as Vice-Chairman and a term as Chairman.

(e) In the event of a vacancy arising for the Office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the Board of Trustees shall have the power to appoint a fit and proper person, being a Member or Life Member of the Legion, to discharge the duties of the Office vacated until the unexpired portion of the Office in question expires. Such appointment shall not prevent the person concerned from being nominated for that Office for a further term.

(f) Any vacancy occurring among the Elected Trustees shall be filled, for the remainder of its term, by the unelected candidate who polled the next largest number of votes in the election at which the Elected Trustee who caused the vacancy was elected. Should there be no such candidate, and the remainder of the term for the position in question is greater than 15 months, a suitable Member or Life Member may be co-opted by the Board of Trustees for the unexpired period of the term; this would constitute a Partial Term for the person concerned."
MOTION 1

Proposed: Marlow Branch
Seconded: Amersham Branch

This Conference requests that the policy that requires caseworkers to be computer literate be amended in order that those experienced case workers without computer skills are able to continue their valuable and essential work.

FOR: 322 AGAINST: 87 CARRIED

MOTION 2

Proposed: Y Services (Garats Hay) Branch
Seconded: National Branches District

This conference urges the Board of Trustees to change the name of 'Military Membership' to 'Military Friends of the Legion'.

FOR: 151 AGAINST: 246 DEFEATED

MOTION 3

Proposed: Stamford Branch
Seconded: Bourne and District Branch

This Conference requests the Board of Trustees to circulate to Counties and Districts a report on the accumulative, detailed costs to date, and future projected costs, of implementing Pathway for Growth.

FOR: 154 AGAINST: 243 DEFEATED

MOTION 4*

This was a starred Motion (*), which denotes it is already Legion policy. The Motion was formally proposed and seconded but not debated.

Proposed: Richmond Branch
Seconded: Twickenham Branch
This Conference calls upon the Board of Trustees to engage with the Home Office in order to seek assurances that the proposed changes to the policing of public parades will not impose charges for the policing of parades on Remembrance Sunday.

FOR: 368 AGAINST: 24 CARRIED

MOTION 8

Proposed: Maghull Branch
Seconded: Netherly Branch

This Conference requests the Board of Trustees, to lobby HM Government to ensure people on benefits who are volunteering to help The Royal British Legion are not disadvantaged by being threatened to have their Benefits withdrawn.

FOR: 234 AGAINST: 157 CARRIED

Conference adjourned at 12.30pm and reconvened at 2.00pm on Sunday 18 May.

MOTION 5

Proposed: Ackworth and Pontefract Branch
Seconded: Kippax and District Branch

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to lobby HM Government to strike a medal or badge for all service men and women who suffer life-changing physical or mental impairment by enemy action.

FOR: 15 AGAINST: 367 DEFEATED

PLACE OF YEAR 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The vote was declared as follows:

Belfast, nominated by Northern Ireland District - received 187 votes
Skegness, nominated by Lincolnshire County - received 185 votes

The National Chairman declared Belfast had been nominated as the location of Annual Conference 2018.
VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks to the:

Chairman of the Council of Torbay, Councillor Jane Barnby
Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO, National Chaplain to The Royal British Legion
The Band of The Rifles
First Aiders from Devon EMS Associates
Judges of the Standard Bearers’ Competition
Standard Bearers
Exhibitors
Bucket Collectors
Management and Staff of the Riviera International Centre, Torquay
200 (Torquay and Brixham) Squadron Air Training Corps
Devon County Committee
Conference Committee and Scrutineers
Director General and Staff
And last, but by no means least, the delegates and visitors who have taken the time to attend this year’s Annual Conference

was proposed, seconded and carried.

THE ACT OF WORSHIP

The Right Reverend Nigel McCulloch KCVO conducted the Service.

PRESENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS

The National Chairman presented the National Youth Standard to the National Youth Standard Bearer for 2014/15, Steven Parke from Northern Ireland District, and the National Standard to the National Standard Bearer for 2014/15, Norman Espie from Northern Ireland District.

END OF CONFERENCE 2014

Conference ended by singing Land of Hope and Glory, followed by the National Anthem.

The National Chairman formally closed Conference, thanking all delegates and visitors for attending and welcoming all to return to Annual Conference in 2015 in Southport.