



Newton Abbot & District Branch of the Royal Engineers Association

Minutes for Meeting Dated Sunday 27th July 2025.

Branch Officials:	Mr Mike Jepps	Branch President
	Mr Martin Rogers	Branch Chairman
	Mrs Moira Hamilton	Branch Secretary
	Mrs Sam MacCormick	Treasurer
	Mr Bob Rainey	Branch Vice Chairman

Members Present: 17 (a great attendance this month)

Apologies received from Members – Charlie Rainey, Sue Peters, Paul Potter, Paul Lloyd, Andy Naish

Meeting Opened: 11.30hrs

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed those members and partners who attended and mentioned that on August 15th it was the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day. He then asked those who were able, to stand and join him in giving a thought to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice

This was followed by the Exhortation and a moment's silence.

2. NEW MEMBERS

An e-mail has been received from the REA confirming a James Rochester, a life member, has joined our Branch. When settled in his new address, he hopes to attend a Meeting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chair asked if there were any comments in relation to the previous meeting Minutes.

The Minutes were then agreed as an accurate record of events.

Proposed: Steve Hocking

Seconded: Iggy Gagola

That the Minutes as presented be accepted.

Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST BRANCH MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

The Secretary has received contact from a representative from Justice 4 Heroes, which is a legal claims company, who wish to attend a meeting, to discuss claims for veterans who have suffered with hearing loss during/since serving.

A number of Members showed interest and so the Secretary will arrange a suitable date, for them to attend and discuss what they are offering. This will be arranged for after a Branch Meeting.

5. BRANCH TREASURERS REPORT

Opening Balance		£6,854.06
Bank Charges	-	4.75
REA merchandise sold at AFD	+	46.50
Defib RBL	-	175.00
Pasties	-	54.00
REA BBQ	-	200.00
Scratch cards x 2 (BBQ)	+	80.00
Scratch cards prize x 2	-	40.00
Float cash for BBQ	-	150.00
BBQ food sold	+	310.00
Shooting competition invoice	-	416.00

Closing Balance	+	£6,240.91

Proposed: Mike Joyce

Seconded: Maurice Lidster

That the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6. WELFARE MEMBERS REPORT

Brian had an email from Ken Bradley. He's certainly having some health issues including an attack of shingles / chicken pox which he informed me are clearing now and spent two nights in Torbay hospital Resus/AMU departments following an anaphylaxis reaction for an MRI scan.

Mike Joyce is awaiting results of tests on his mechanical heart valve, which is now 20 years old, apparently, they are only good for 25-30 years. He is also returning to Torbay hospital to get his hip replacement check on advice from his GP.

Brian's situation has somewhat improved since he got a correct diagnosis to all his pain problems over the past 9 months, and is now on a course of steroid treatment for Polymyalgia rheumatica.

7. BRANCH EVENTS

- Plymouth Armed Forces Day, Plymouth Hoe, 28th June 2025. 3 members plus partners attended this event.
- The Branch BBQ at Forde Hall, Newton Abbot took place on Saturday 5th July 2025. This was a successful enjoyable event, attended by approx. 30 people, including 11 members, plus partners and other veterans from Paignton AFBC.
- The Branch fun shooting competition took place on 19th July 2025. Again, this was a successful event, enjoyed by those who attended. **There was discussions in relation to future events and the best way forward financially, to secure members places**
- Corps Memorial Weekend, Chatham 19th-21st September 2025. It was mentioned by Kev Davis, that Andy Bray is organising a minibus from Plymouth. Further details to follow when known.
- REA AGM & Annual dinner, Chatham. Saturday 20th September 2025
- Remembrance Day Parade, Newton Abbot. Sunday 9th November 2025.
- Plymouth Branch, Dinner and Dance. Saturday 22nd November 2025.
- The members were asked where they would prefer to have this years Branch Christmas luncheon pencilled in for 14th December 2025. The options would be at the RBL as previous years or elsewhere, possibly Forde Hall. The members were keen on having it at the RBL and had suggested outside catering as an option. The Chair is going to make further enquiries at the RBL. More details to follow.

8. 2025 UPCOMING POTENTIAL EVENTS

- The Branch has agreed to Sponsor another Rugby match at either Teignmouth or Newton Abbot RFC. The Chairman has visited and spoken to a representative from NA rugby club and discussed options. The best option seems to be to take a table of 10 for a match. Cost would be £25 per person which would include match entry, a welcoming drink and a graze board. Members were keen to attend and so would possibly need two tables. The Chair to make further enquiries and confirm a date of a suitable

9. CHAIRMAN'S POINTS

The Chairman would like to thank Steve Hocking for organising both of this years shooting competitions and thanked Moira for organising the Summer BBQ and also thanked Mike & Mark for cooking and Sam who organised the quiz and scratch cards.

10. PROPOSALS FROM THE FLOOR

- Kev Davis proposed that the Branch donate £60 for this year, to the RBL to pay for a quality coffee that is drunk at the Branch Meetings. The RBL will also pay the same.

Proposed: Kev Davis

Seconded: Roger Andrews

Carried

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- Stephan Bouloux asked if the Branch would organise a Branch trip to the National Arboretum. It was explained the Branch went there two years ago and applied for Lottery funding to cover the expense. There was no immediate plans for the Branch to return.
- Richard Underhill advised that a box of RE items had been found on the lower floor of the building and asked for it to be removed, due to safety reasons. A Branch member will deal.
- Mike Joyce mentioned that there is a short 15 min Memorial service in Newton Abbot on 15th September 2025 for the VJ Day.
- The Secretary went through the most recent Branch Members list to clarify names of some members listed. Those Members who have not recently attended any Branch Meetings will be contacted to ascertain if they still wished to be active Members, to ensure the Member numbers is accurate.

CLOSING ADDRESS

There being no further business, it was agreed the next Ordinary Branch Meeting will be held on Sunday 31st August 2025. (pending the date is available, Chair to check)

Signed:

Martin Rogers

Mr Martin Rogers (Chairman)

Signed:

Moira Hamilton

Mrs Moira Hamilton (Secretary)

Dated: 28/07/2025