



Newton Abbot & District Branch of the Royal Engineers Association

Minutes for Meeting Dated Sunday 31st August 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: 14

Apologies received from Members – Steve Hocking, Paul Lloyd

Meeting Opened: 11.30hrs

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed those members and partners who attended and mentioned that with the upcoming Corps Memorial weekend, would those who were able, to stand and join him in giving a thought to all those currently serving Sappers and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice

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

2. NEW MEMBERS

Information received from the REA, a life member Michael Bailey has signed up to the Newton Abbot Branch. The Chair has tried to make contact to welcome him, but no response as yet.

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: Andy Naish

Seconded: Richard Underhill

That the Minutes as presented be accepted.

Carried

4. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST BRANCH MEETING IN JULY.

- Northern Ireland Legacy Act Repeal – An online petition was received from a Iain James, (not on behalf of the REA) and this was sent to Members to respond themselves, how they wish.
- Members were asked by Keith Fields from Plymouth Branch, if they are interested in having the Branch to join the Ex-Servicemen's Association Federation. This would require a representative from the Branch attending their monthly meetings in Plymouth. The Federation is predominately a link between service agencies/Police/support etc Members discussed this and decided not to join at this time.

5. BRANCH TREASURERS REPORT

Opening Balance		£6,241.41
Inter Branch Shooting	+	£ 84.00
Bank Charges	-	4.25
Cheques x 2	-	£ 1.00
Cash Box	-	£ 12.99
Raffle at meeting	+	£ 82.00
Tea/Coffee	+	£ 7.90
Unspent from BBQ	+	£ 81.61

Closing Balance	+	£6,478.68

Proposed: Maurice Lidster

Seconded: Brian Cocker

That the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6. WELFARE MEMBERS REPORT

- Brian spoke to Richard Underhill at the Meeting, all appointments for him and his wife are ongoing and he is still awaiting treatment.
- Michael Darke, also at the Meeting, reported having recently had an operation on his shoulder, he remains in a sling for another 3 weeks.
- Brian has spoken to Keith Tapp. His wife is awaiting an appointment in relation to a hip replacement. Keith himself is waiting for a cataract operation, but due to complications, they are unable to do this, so awaits further appointment for the way forward. They are both happy and send their regards to all our members.

- Brian's own wife has had a cataract operation and is doing well, but no news on her knee replacement operation, which was cancelled.
- Brian himself, still struggles on with his pancreas illness, awaiting more appointments.
- The Chair received a phone message from member, Stephan Bouloux, who only just was admitted to hospital, no details known at this time. Brian will contact him and the Branch wish him well.

7. BRANCH EVENTS

- Branch shooting competition. The Chair emailed the second member who failed to attend and asked for the same assurance, in that he would reimburse any loss the Branch suffered. No response has been received from him. The Chair is still currently awaiting the invoice from the range.
- Corps Memorial Weekend, Chatham 19th-21st September 2025. It was mentioned by Kev Davis, that Andy Bray is organising a minibus from Plymouth. Kev is awaiting a call back from Andy. Three members have confirmed to be going.
- 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.
- Branch Christmas Luncheon RBL. Sunday 14th December 2025. A quote for an outside caterer has been received. The Chair is collating numbers and suggested the cost to be £25 per head. This was discussed and agreed by the members, that the event will go ahead. **Subsequent to the meeting Kevin Davis offered to organise the event and would recruit a couple of members to help. This offer was gratefully accepted by the Chair.**

8. 2025 UPCOMING POTENTIAL EVENTS

- Newton Abbot RFC. Have provided a list of upcoming fixtures so that we can decide which to attend. Minimum is a table of 10. Cost would be £25 per person which would include match entry, a welcoming drink and a graze board. It was suggested 50% of the cost would be funded by the Branch to Branch Members. Two suitable dates given, there was a match in November 2025 or March 2026. The March date was more suitable for Members. Chair to contact the club and advise.

9. CHAIRMAN'S POINTS

None

10. PROPOSALS FROM THE FLOOR

It was proposed by Roger Andrews that a Branch member and their first guest attending the Branch Xmas lunch, would be subsidised by the Branch at 50% of the ticket price (£12.50) per head. Subsequent guests and Non Branch members would pay £25 per head.

This was seconded by Tony Franklin.

Carried

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- Numbers are being collated for the Justice 4 Heroes meeting, which is to take place after the October Branch Meeting. This is in relation to hearing loss by suffered by ex serving veterans. The details are to be sent to the RBL.
- Moira suggested a Curry/Quiz night before the end of the year. Mike J also suggested online Horse Racing. Both suggestions to be priced up. A date of Saturday 1st November 2025 has been booked at the RBL and catering hopefully to be booked.
- Sunday 5th September from 2pm to 5pm, there is a Charity Cream Tea at the RBL, in aid of the Tickled Pink charity. All welcome.

CLOSING ADDRESS

There being no further business, it was agreed the next Ordinary Branch Meeting will be held on Sunday 28th September 2025.

Signed:

Martin Rogers

Mr Martin Rogers (Chairman)

Signed:

Moira Hamilton

Mrs Moira Hamilton (Secretary)

Dated: 03/09/2025