



Newton Abbot & District Branch of the Royal Engineers Association

Minutes for Meeting Dated Sunday 28th September 2025.

Branch Officials:	Mr Mike Jepps	Branch President
	Mr Martin Rogers	Branch Chairman
	Mrs Moira Hamilton	Branch Secretary (Not present)
	Mrs Sam MacCormick	Treasurer (Not present)
	Mr Bob Rainey	Branch Vice Chairman

Members Present: 16

Apologies received from Members – Stephan Bouloux, Moira Hamilton, Samantha MacCormick, Susan Peters

Meeting Opened: 11.30hrs

1. OPENING ADDRESS

The Chair welcomed those members and partners who attended and would those who were able, to stand and join him in giving a thought to all those who were involved in The Battle of Britain. The 85th anniversary of the most decisive battle in 1940 has recently been celebrated on the 15th of this month.

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

2. NEW MEMBERS

No new members at this months 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: Mike Joyce

Seconded: Iggy Gagola

That the Minutes as presented be accepted.

Carried

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

- Invite to a headstone unveiling in Maidenbrook country park, Taunton on 1st November 2025.
- A request for a visit to a 93 year old veteran Sapper in Sidmouth has been received. Two members have asked for his details.
- Justice 4 Heroes are attending the Branch meeting on 26th October 2025.

5. BRANCH TREASURERS REPORT

Opening Balance		£6,478.68
Raffle at Aug meeting	+	£ 70.00
Tea/Coffee (Aug)	+	£ 8.04

Closing Balance	+	£6,556.72

Proposed: Bob Rainey
Seconded: Nobby Naish

That the Treasurer's report as presented be accepted.

Carried

6. WELFARE MEMBERS REPORT

Brian managed to contact most of my regular calls by phone or text.

His first report is for one of our new members, Stephan Bouloux, who was a lucky man late last month, all because of one sneeze. He ended up in a coma for 3 days, a 6 hour operation, and 2 weeks in hospital. However, Brian spoke to him on Friday and his recovery is going well. He sends his regards to everyone.

Mike Darke is also on the road to recovery after his shoulder operation and is now having physiotherapy at Torbay hospital. We hope all goes well for you and you make a full recovery soon.

Ken Bradley has been contacted and gave an update on his situation.

Keith and Sandra Tapp are really struggling at the moment. Keith with his eye problems, and Sandra with her hips. Brian has tried to contact Nina Kneil DMWT to see if she can help in any way, but she is on leave until Tuesday, so he will try her then.

No change for Richard Underhill this month, but things seem to be worse for his wife Babs. Suffering more pain and still waiting to get on the list for at least one knee operation, which again seems months away.

Dawn had her knee operation carried out last Friday afternoon, and home on the Saturday afternoon. She is now doing all her exercises and going for walks twice a day just like the physio told her too. She is really doing well that's for sure.

Brian himself, saw the consultant last Monday and he has put him on the list for a small operation on his prostate. How long it will be, he hadn't got a clue, being just one of the other 7.5 million plus waiting for similar procedures.

7. BRANCH EVENTS

- Corps Memorial Weekend, Chatham 19th-21st September 2025. The Chair, Roger and Kevin gave a brief report on the weekend in Chatham.
- Curry/Quiz night, RBL Saturday 1st November 2025. This is going ahead as a quiz night with a curry available for £6 a head. Breakfast club and RBL members to be invited.
- Remembrance Day Parade, Newton Abbot. Sunday 9th November 2025. Parade form up in Courtney Street. Parade will depart at 10.35 promptly. Branch members to meet in Spoons beforehand for breakfast.
- Plymouth Branch, Dinner and Dance. Saturday 22nd November 2025. Contact Daz King, Plymouth branch.
- Branch Christmas Luncheon RBL. Sunday 14th December 2025. Roger gave an update on the Xmas lunch and stated that all tickets need to be paid for by the next meeting (26th October 2025). For those who wish to attend but are unable to attend the next meeting please ensure you have transferred the money to our branch account, details below;

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Newton Abbott and District Royal Engine

(yes double tt and Engine)

8. 2025 UPCOMING POTENTIAL EVENTS

- Newton Abbot RFC. March 2026.

9. CHAIRMAN'S POINTS

The Chair passed on the following from the Deputy Group Director Tim Harnett;

- A reminder to all members about the importance of steering clear of political view points on social media sites associated with the REA.

From the REA HQ Operations call;

- Taunton will move into the SW Group in the New Year.
- Treasurers to be invited to an update/training call with Becky from RHQ on finances, Charity Commission and audits.
- Sapper games to be held at Tidworth next year. List of events that veterans will be allowed to participate in will be made available (not bridging or rugby apparently).
- Work still progressing on establishing an REA case worker for benevolence, to smooth out the RBL/SSAFA interface.

10. PROPOSALS FROM THE FLOOR

- Roger Andrews proposed that the sum of £200 be given out of branch funds in order to purchase raffle prizes for the Xmas lunch.

Seconded by Tony Franklin.

Carried

- Kevin Davis proposed that the sum of £25 be donated out of branch funds, in order to purchase a raffle prize for the Charity cream tea, in aid of Tickled Pink.

Seconded by Mike Joyce.

Carried

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Joyce updated the meeting on his position with Torbay NHS Trust along with matters that will affect the members:

"As Governor of Torbay NHS Trust , I have completed my 6 months probation and induction , so I am now getting to grips with the role.

At a recent meeting, it was announced that Torbay in collaboration of RD&E , Derriford and the Cornwall NHS Trust Hospitals, will, commencing in early 2026, be rolling out EPR (electronic patients records) or EPIC as it is known, This will enable all these to access patients records and update them no matter which hospital as a patient you are in or being treated.

RD&E have for some time had My Care for patients to use and this system builds on that.

Further information will become available over the next few months and as a Governor, whenever possible I will ensure I report to this branch with information.

In addition, news will shortly becoming available to patients about the new and update contract between the NHS a Doctors. Some information has already come out about this which is due to commence on 1st October 2025.

"Core Hours:

General Practices are required to provide their essential services between 8:00 am and 6:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Online Consultation Tools:

As of October 2025, GP practices must have online consultation tools available during their core hours to offer a new way to access care.

Extended Hours:

To help patients who work or have other commitments, some GP surgeries may offer appointments during weekday evenings and on Saturday."

- Elaine Davies explained her role as local Asda Community Champion and mentioned that she is organising a Charity cream tea in the RBL on Sunday 5th October 2025 in aid of Tickled Pink (a breast cancer charity; poster attached). Please if you can, support this event. She needs to know numbers ASAP, so contact Kevin Davies on 07725 750331.

CLOSING ADDRESS

There being no further business, it was agreed the next Ordinary Branch Meeting will be held on Sunday 26th October 2025. **This meeting will be downstairs in the bar area, due to Poppy day supplies being upstairs. Following the Meeting, there will be a visit from a representative from Justice 4 Heroes, to discuss hearing loss claims.**

Signed:

Martin Rogers

Mr Martin Rogers (Chairman)

Signed:

Moir Hamilton

Mrs Moira Hamilton (Secretary)

Dated: 30/09/2025