

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ST JAMES' BRANCH

Thursday 25 November 2021

Meeting Opened at – 1400

1. Exhortation

The Chairman opened the meeting.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
at the going down of the sun and in the morning.
We will remember them.

2. Apologies for Absence

Mr H Bramhald
Mr M Dargen
Mr M Tuckett
Mr J Robson
Major E Owen
Mr K Clare-Brown
WO C Steadman
WO J Alpert
WO D Davitt

3. Chairman's Opening Remarks

May I start by welcoming you all, especially Ms Hillary Meredith is joining the Committee. The Branch greets you warmly and I would like to particularly thank you for giving of your time, especially as we try to resume some semblance of normality by starting to meet again in person rather than using ZOOM. During the pandemic ZOOM was extremely useful and I think that the way forward will be to have hybrid meetings with face-to-face meetings and by using virtual means such as ZOOM.

4. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 25 November 2020

The Minutes of the previous AGM meeting were passed as accurate.

Proposed By: Mr Jim Organ

Seconded By: Mr Brian Lambert

Carried

5. Matters Arising

Items included in Chairman's Report

6. Chairman's Report

See Appendix A

7. Treasurer's Report

The Statement of Accounts were published electronically and members could vote by e-vote. Due to illness the Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting and the report was read by the Chairman.

See Appendix B

Result of the Branch e-vote:

Do You Approve Branch Accounts?

Yes	90.6%
No	2.1%
Abstained	7.3%

The branch accounts are adopted.

8. National Branches District Vice Chairman Election Results

The details of the candidates were published electronically and the election was conducted using e-voting.

Result of the Branch e-vote:

James Lambert	37.1%
Garry Edwards	62.9%

Mr Garry Edwards was therefore elected as the Branch nomination for National Branches District Vice Chairman.

9. National Chairman and National Vice Chairman Nominations

Only one nomination was received for the post of National Chairman - Mr Jason Coward. As there were no other nominees Mr Coward's application was automatically accepted and will be forwarded.

10. Dates for St James Branch Committee Meetings

Wednesday 12th January 2022

Wednesday 13th April 2022

Wednesday 13th July 2022

Wednesday 12th October 2022

There being no other business the Chairman thanked all committee members and Branch members for their attendance and on behalf of himself and the committee wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The meeting was closed at 1452.

Appendix A Chairman's Report
Appendix B Treasurer's Report

Chairman' Report

Often in these Chairman's addresses you are told where the Chairman has been and what he has been up to. Well, thanks to the virus I have been at home and attending Zoom meetings – and that is about it. I did contemplate talking about the virus, but we have all heard more than enough already – we know what it is doing and how it affects us and our Legion work; but I am looking forward to when we can continue as before and even have a glass or two together.

The Legion celebrates its 100th anniversary this year and if it wants to remain relevant is vital that we do not rest on our laurels but continue to press forward with overhauling how we do things. Just because it has worked in the past does not mean that it is the best way forward. We did try to have this meeting on ZOOM and streaming but due to technical problems at the last moment this was not possible. We will continue to strive to make use of technology so that our members will be able to have a greater voice in the governance of the Branch. This branch has always been very progressive and I hope that this will always be the case.

You may have seen that the governance of the Legion has been under review and this work was instigated by Helen Owen, who was a member of this committee prior to her election to the Board of Trustees. As more details of the changes are announced we will upload them on to the website.

Unfortunately, overall membership of the Legion has continued decline and our Branch is not exempt from this trend but we still represent approximately 10% of the total Legion membership.

My sincere thanks go to all the members of our committee, namely Brian Lambert, the Branch Secretary, for the support he has given to me and to the Branch. Brian is also a caseworker and in these challenging times his work for our beneficiaries is invaluable. In terms of our finances, which are in some ways an embarrassment due to the amount of funds that we are currently holding but this is not a fault of our Branch Treasurer, John Robson. The fault lies solely with Head Office at Haig House. I rely upon the skill and expertise of John to whom I would like to express my gratitude, not only for the invaluable support he provides to us within the Branch but also for all the work he has done to resolve the problems caused by Head Office.

In addition, I would like to record my thanks for the support, contribution, and services of all our Committee Members that I have not already mentioned, I would also like to thank the senior Warrant Officers from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force who joined us on the committee to represent their respective Service. With their help we will try to improve our engagement with the serving community and encourage them to join the Legion. For our part we will continue to help by being aware of the problems that arise from serving in today's Armed Forces and where possible provide help and support.

**ST JAMES'S BRANCH
TREASURERS REPORT**

As at 30 Jun 21

Opening Balances (as at 01 July 2020)

Lloyds Bank		£6839.82
Branch Funds Initiative (BFI)		£100,565.55
Total Funds at 01 July 2020	(A)	£107,405.37

Receipts (01 July 20 – 30 Jun 21)

Branch Disbursements		£131,945.00
BFI Interest		£987.97
Donation CAF 04 Jul 20		£200.00
Total Receipts	(B)	£133,132.97

Payments (01 July 20 – 30 Jun 21)

Expenses (Committee Meetings)		£0.00
Website Amendment		£90.00
Total Payments	(C)	£90.00

Closing Balances (as at 30 Jun 21)

Lloyds Bank		£6,949.82
BFI		£233,498.52
Total Funds (at 30 Jun 21)	(A) + (B) - (C)	£240,448.34

