



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

(Incorporated by Royal Charter)
199 BOROUGH HIGH STREET,
LONDON SE1 1AA



**MINUTES
OF
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
2009**

held in

**THE CONGRESS THEATRE, THE
DEVONSHIRE PARK CENTRE,
EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX**

on

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
16th AND 17th MAY 2009**

(Registered Charity No., 219279)

President:	J. Kiszely KCB MC
Chairman:	P. D. Cleminson FIET
Vice-Chairman:	J. F. Farmer
Board of Trustees:	R. R. St J Barkshire CBE, TD, JP, DL B. A. F. Burn FCA C. W. Carson J. R. B. Crisford BSc E. Dixon K. R. Draper C. E. Harper BA E. W. Hefferman MBE D. M. Henderson G. Lewis W. J. H. Lodge MBE W. Parkin K. F. Prichard MBFIM J. Rowe T. W. Whittles M. D. A. Williams
Director General and Staff:	C. J. Simpkins R. Ashenhurst BSc, MSc, CEng, MRAeS (Director of Membership and Regions) S. Cooper Dip Arch, RIBA, MRICS, FCSD, FRSA (Commercial Director) J. F. Falzon BEM (Head of Governance and Administration) S. J Freeth (Director of Welfare) D. S. Gendall BSc, MCIPR (Director of Corporate Communications) J. M. Graham FCA, DchA (Director of Finance) S. Lewis-James (Director, Human Resources) R. R. Thompson OBE, MinstF (Director of National Events and Fundraising) Heads of Departments and other members of staff.
Branch delegates: County/District delegates:	464 representing 390 branches. 50.

OPENING SESSION 9.30am 16th May 2009

OPENING PRAYERS AND SILENT TRIBUTE

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

CIVIC ADDRESS

Councillor C. Heaps, The Deputy Mayor of Eastbourne, gave an address of welcome.

ROYAL MESSAGE

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

“Delegates attending the Annual Conference of The Royal British Legion, assembled in the Devonshire Park Centre, tender to your Majesty, their loyal greetings, affection and deep gratitude for your continued support, as their Patron, in the welfare of ex-Service men and women and their dependants.

John Kiszely
President”

and the following reply was read to Conference:

“Please convey my warm thanks to the delegates of The Royal British Legion for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the Annual Conference which is being held this weekend in the Devonshire Park Centre, Eastbourne.

As your Patron, I much appreciate your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, send my best wishes to all those who are present for a most successful and enjoyable meeting.

Elizabeth R.”.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President addressed Conference.

APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

The following were appointed Scrutineers:

A. Bevington	J. Kimberley
S. Bonner	J. McNamara
R. Brooks	M. G. Morris
D. Carr	L. Murray
M. Chalton	G. Pelling
B. Eades	S. Sadler
C. O. Goulbourne	K. Taylor
D. S. Green	E. Westhead
P. Lund	

MINUTES

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the Minutes of the 2008 Conference be adopted.

There were no matters arising

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

The Chairman addressed Conference.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

A ballot was taken.

CHARTER MOTIONS

1. Proposed: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Seconded: NATIONAL BRANCHES DISTRICT

Page 12, Rule 9, final paragraph, first line delete "term of office", insert "tenure" and in the third line delete "of office".

**Page 12, Rule 12, delete from heading "TERMS OF OFFICE", insert "TENURE".
Page 12, Rule 12(a) (ii), delete "term of office unless their tenure", insert "tenure unless it".**

Page 12, Rule 12(a) (iii), line 1 delete "office", insert "that appointment" and last line delete "office", insert "appointment".

Page 14, Rule 18(c), delete "term of office" insert "tenure".

Page 17, Rule 37(b), delete "Officer appointed", insert "person designated".

Page 17, Rule 38(b), line 4 delete "Regional Officer or other officer appointed for that purpose by the Board of Trustees", insert "(or other person designated for that purpose by the Board of Trustees)".

Throughout the Rules and Governing Regulations, the initial letter of the word "Officer" and of the word "Office", when the latter refers to a person or position, shall be a capital "O".

CARRIED

2. Proposed: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Seconded: NATIONAL BRANCHES DISTRICT

Page 13, Rule 15, line 1 delete "Governing Regulation 58" and insert "the Governing Regulations".

CARRIED

3. Proposed: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Seconded: NATIONAL BRANCHES DISTRICT

Page 11, Rule 8(c) (ii), delete “as prescribed in Governing Regulation 14”.

CARRIED

4. Proposed: ILLINGWORTH
Seconded: SHIRE GREEN DISTRICT

Page 10, Rule 6, after “aged over” delete “14”, insert “12”.

CARRIED

MOTIONS

3. Proposed: YNYSHIR
Seconded: RHONDDA & PONTYPRIDD

This Conference views with concern the loss of Legion Branch funds since the acceptance of notice of resolution 6 of Annual Conference 2003.

CARRIED

Resolution 6 of Annual Conference 2003 reads as follows:

“This Conference views with concern the evidence that Social Service Departments are referring requests for welfare assistance from ex-Service people or their dependants to The Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund and other military charities instead of dealing with them through Social service charities.”

4. Proposed: YNYSHIR
Seconded: RHONDDA & PONTYPRIDD

This Conference resolves that the Legion attempts to recover without further delay monies owed by local authorities in cases where the Legion has paid the costs of Disabled Facilities Grants in order to expedite cases where local authorities in question have accepted the disabilities grants are their responsibilities.

CARRIED

2. Proposed: WILTSHIRE
Seconded: MALMESBURY & SHERSTON

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to recognize that expenditure on Shoeboxes for troops deployed on operations is a proper charge to Legion Funds.

CARRIED

NOMINATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The ballot for this was declared as follows:

R. Mann	132
A. Martin-Wells	55
J. Morrison	88
T. Salmon, AMSOE, AMIRTE	44
R. Wickson	129.

The Chairman declared R. Mann nominated for 3 years.

CHARTER MOTIONS - continued

The ballots for Charter Motions were declared as follows:

1. For: 432 Against: 10 - carried
2. For: 441 Against: 6 - carried.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2008 were presented to Conference.

Conference adjourned at 12.13pm and reconvened at 2.00pm on Saturday 16th May 2009.

The Saturday afternoon session of Conference was chaired by the National Vice-Chairman.

CHARTER MOTIONS - continued

The ballots for Charter Motions were declared as follows:

3. For: 440 Against: 8 - carried
4. For: 396 Against: 52 - carried.

Conference was addressed by Wing Commander P. Hymas of The Royal Air Force, Headquarters Air Command.

CHARTER MOTIONS - continued

5. Proposed: BACKWELL & FLAX BOURTON
Seconded: SOMERSET COUNTY

Page 3, Article 2, add sub paragraph 2 (f) (iii):

“or

iii) was awarded the Bevin Boys Badge for service in the coal mines.”

DEFEATED

MOTIONS - continued

1. Proposed: LIMAVADY
Seconded: PORTADOWN

This Conference is concerned about the future of Bennet House and requests the Board of Trustees to bring forward plans to upgrade or rebuild the centre as soon as possible.

CARRIED

CHARTER MOTIONS - continued

The ballot for Charter Motion 5 was declared as follows:

For: 220 Against: 221 – defeated.

PLACE OF CONFERENCE 2013

A ballot was taken.

MOTIONS - continued

5. Proposed: DURHAM CITY
Seconded: NORTHUMBRIA COUNTY

This Conference requests the Board of Trustees to have an open discussion with the membership about usage of Amenity Funds at our Care Homes.

DEFEATED

6. Proposed: GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Seconded: CHELTENHAM & DISTRICT

This Conference requests that the Board of Trustees asks HM Government to remove the upper limit of 65 years of age for Disability Living Allowance, to ensure that older disabled veterans are entitled this benefit.

CARRIED

7. Proposed: YSCEIFIOG NANNERCH & DISTRICT
Seconded: NORTH WALES DISTRICT

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to further build upon progress

made concerning the increase in the provision of mental health services and the delivery of priority treatment for veterans.

CARRIED

Conference was addressed by C. E. Harper, Chairman of The Royal British Legion Women's Section.

MOTIONS - continued

8. Proposed: EWELL
Seconded: WORCESTER PARK

This Conference proposes that the Legion be more pro-active in promoting itself.

CARRIED

PLACE OF CONFERENCE 2013

The ballot for this was declared as follows:

Bournemouth 160
Llandudno 283.

The Chairman declared Llandudno the place of Conference 2013.

MOTIONS - continued

9. Proposed: EAST KNOYLE, SEMLEY AND SEDGEHILL
Seconded: WILTS COUNTY

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to publicise more widely the scope of the support that the Charity provides for younger Service men and women from recent and current operations.

CARRIED

10. Proposed: DURHAM CITY, FRAMWELLGATE MOOR & DISTRICT
Seconded: NORTHUMBRIA COUNTY

This Conference requests the Board of Trustees to give consideration to abolishing Life Membership for all new and future applicants.

DEFEATED

11. Proposed: SHIRE GREEN & DISTRICT
Seconded: ILLINGWORTH

This Conference requests that those Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers who are eligible, be allowed to wear their Veterans' Badge when carrying out

their duties on Armed Forces Day Parades.

CARRIED

Conference adjourned at 4.58pm, and reconvened at 9.32am on Sunday 17th May 2009.

CUPS AND SHIELDS

The National Cups and Shields were presented by the President.

Conference was addressed by the Director General.

APPEAL TO CONFERENCE

North Yorks County appealed to Conference against the rejection by the Conference Committee of the following proposed Motion of Urgency:

“This Conference is concerned at recent reports that almost obsolete equipment is being issued to our Armed Forces and requests the Board of Trustees to pressure HM Government to ensure that our Armed Forces receive only the most up to date and modern equipment available.”

Conference was informed by the Chairman of the Conference Committee that the motion was rejected by the Conference Committee because it does not qualify as a Motion of Urgency as the subject was known prior to the closing date, and because what is proposed does not come within the Legion’s Objects.

The appeal was put to Conference and was carried by at least a two-thirds majority.

The following information was circulated to the delegates and the motion was then proposed by North Yorks County, seconded by York, debated and **carried**;

“Reason for inclusion: The lack of proper provision for our troops is detrimental to both the physical and mental health not only of Service personnel themselves but also to their families, most of whom are entitled to be beneficiaries of the Legion, and therefore under Article 3 of the Royal Charter we have a duty to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to protect the well being of our beneficiaries.

Effect if passed: To give further support to the Board of Trustees and their representatives in their ongoing dealings with HM Government.

Main argument: It is widely acknowledged that British troops are the most professional and respected Service personnel in the world and surely that respect should be returned by our Government in the form of training and equipping them with the most up to date and modern equipment available.”

MOTIONS - continued

12. Proposed: WITHERNSEA
Seconded: BEVERLEY

This Conference requests that the proposers of venues for Annual Conference provide in their presentations:

1. an outline of the type and an indication of the cost of accommodation available

and,

2. for offshore venues, examples of the current cost of ferry and air fares.

CARRIED

VETERANS' BADGE

In response to a request from a delegate in connection with motion 11, the Chairman informed Conference that Parade Marshals and Standard Bearers may, if eligible to do so, wear the Veterans Badge on parades on Armed Forces Day 2009. The Ceremonial Working Group will consider the long terms aspects of the motion.

MOTIONS - continued

13. Proposed: STAPLE HILL
Seconded: CHELTENHAM & DISTRICT

This Conference requests the Board of Trustees to determine, in accordance with Rule 30, that the financial year be between 1st January and 31st December.

DEFEATED

14. Proposed: HANTS COUNTY
Seconded: STOWMARKET

This Conference is urged to adopt a policy of holding the Legion's Annual Conference on mainland Great Britain at the same fixed venues - Midlands – South - North on a three year rotation from 2013.

DEFEATED

Conference was addressed by G. MacDonald MBE, Chairman Royal British Legion Scotland.

MOTIONS - continued

15. Proposed: JACKFIELD
Seconded: SHAWBURY

This Conference asks the Board of Trustees to move the dates for Annual

Conference back to the late May Bank Holiday, to become effective in 2014.

DEFEATED

Conference adjourned at 12.17pm and reconvened at 2.00pm on Sunday 17th May 2009.

MOTIONS - continued

16. Proposed: JACKFIELD
Seconded: SHAWBURY

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to implement changes to the Membership Renewal System, so that membership is renewed on the anniversary date of a member joining the Legion.

DEFEATED

17. Proposed: OSWESTRY
Seconded: FORD & DISTRICT

This Conference urges the Board of Trustees to move commencement of Membership Year from 1st October to January 1st of each year, commencing January 2011. That membership year October 1st 2009 – 2010 be extended by three months to December 31st 2010.

DEFEATED

The Chairman gave a Vote of Thanks to Conference and the National Vice-Chairman.

A Vote of Thanks to the:

Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Eastbourne
Right Reverend N. S. McCulloch, National Chaplain to The Royal British Legion
Reverend M. Morgan, Sussex County Chaplain
Royal British Legion Central Band and the Director of Music
Standard Bearers and Standard Bearers Competition Judges
Parade Marshals
Exhibitors
Security
Conference Centre personnel
Bucket Collection volunteers
President
Director General
Staff
Delegates

was proposed, seconded and carried.

Conference gave permission for the ballot papers to be destroyed.

The Service in the Conference hall was conducted by The Right Reverend N. S. McCulloch, National Chaplain to The Royal British Legion.

The President presented the National Youth Standard to the National Youth Standard Bearer for 2009/10 (A Hackett, East Midland Region) and the National Standard to the National Standard Bearer for 2009/10 (J Poulter, Metropolitan Region).

K Gibson, outgoing Parade Marshal, handed over to A. McClements.

Conference then closed.