

Royal British Legion

Bishop's Stortford

Oct

2011



Branch/Club Newsletter

A lot has happened since our last Newsletter, much of which is reported on in this edition. Suffice it to say the club is now in a much stronger financial position than earlier this year. Despite efforts to reduce postage costs by the use of e-mail; this has not been possible as only 11 members responded with email addresses, 6 of these were committee members. So this edition will again for the most part be posted out.

Could I please encourage you all where possible to use the club website: www.bsrbl.org Details of events etc are regularly updated. An even better option is to come into the club & check out the notice board, taking in liquid refreshment at the same time.

Members can use the news letter to recruit/promote their group or just a short item on activities over the previous six month period. In this edition there is a list of forthcoming events, information on the poppy appeal, entertainments, snooker, Stortford Music, the pool teams, branch News.

My sincere thanks as usual go to Richard Obeney for giving his time in publishing this newsletter Martin Chapman for his labels and to everyone who has contributed or helped in any way. Many thanks to Birchwood High School; Young Chamber Group, who continue to do a sterling job printing & sending out the News letter. I have been informed by Wendy Gordon (Chamber of Commerce) that Birchwood will continue to carry out this valuable service for at least another year.

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Branch News

URGENTLY REQUIRED

BRANCH SECRETARY

The Secretary of the Bishop's Stortford Branch, Mrs Stella O'Shaughnessy will be retiring at the A.G.M. this November and it is imperative that the Branch appoint a successor as soon as possible. Please contact Clive Kitchener, Branch Chairman on 01279 658514 if you are interested. Please bear in mind that the Club cannot operate without a functioning Branch Committee

Clive Kitchener

Poppy Appeal Update

The poppy appeal total now stands at £ 30,362-34p. Thanks to all who helped during the poppy fortnight, the total is on a par with last years. I have just received a cheque from The Bishops Stortford High School of £328-22p from a sponsored walk done on the 11th November 2010, which they hope to do again and involve other high schools in Bishops Stortford. Anyone interested in helping with the Poppy Appeal please get in touch

My email is : janet.baker2@ntlworld.com

Janet Baker

Cont from Front Page

The joint Committees invite members who run teams e.g. Crib, Pool & groups who meet at the legion to submit a short piece for inclusion in the next newsletter. You can send/leave your items **as early as you like following this edition**. Could you please hand these in behind the bar for the attention of Mike Thurley, or email them in Word format to mickthurley@msn.com.

Mike Thurley

On behalf of RBL Club and Branch

Club News

Most members will be aware that the Club was in financial trouble during the spring, as some historical and current issues conspired to threaten closure. After an appeal, some generous donations ensured, the Club remained open as the Committee and Club Business Advisor, Sean Schofield, worked long and hard to arrive at a viable and sustainable business model for the Club. This has not been achieved without pain and cutbacks. Perhaps the most apparent to members will be the decrease in opening hours. It is hoped that increased usage of the Club by members will enable us to reclaim some of these hours in the future.

To encourage increased usage, the Committee are in the process of introducing two further gravity barrels in the bar area to give further improvement in all cask ale quality. We are also in negotiation with a number of suppliers to achieve the best possible bar prices whilst receiving a loan for cellar cooling to improve the quality of keg beers and lagers.

Whilst the Club is now on a more secure financial footing, we do need the continued support of the membership to maintain this situation. Certainly the response over the last few months has been excellent. There have been some events held throughout the summer which have helped to raise money for the Club. The most successful of these was the 3rd Annual Bishops Stortford Beer Festival which broke all previous records.

The Club website has been in existence since the beginning of the year. Soon a new version of the Club rules will be available on the website, along with membership forms for any friends and associates wishing to join.

Your Club Secretary, Tim Kelly, will be running the Dublin Marathon in October. This will be his 50th marathon and 17th consecutive Dublin Marathon – an English record. Any offers of sponsorship or donations will be gratefully received via Secretary@bsrbl.org or the sponsor form that will appear on the Club notice board in the next couple of weeks. All proceeds to Club funds.

Ray Howell – Chair
Tim Kelly - Secretary

Branch News

(cont.)



The Branch has had quite a busy year, the main highlight being the presentation of one of the highest accolades to David Bayford, Vice Chairman of the Branch. He was presented with the Gold Badge, for 60 years service, by Jeff Mason, RBL County Chairman. Alan Burleton, Town Mayor, Peter Chase, President of the Branch and other Branch members also attended. David joined the Bishop's Stortford Branch after his demob from the RAF in 1950 and has worked tirelessly for the Branch loyally assisted by his late wife Valerie.

Women's Section News

We are approaching the end of the financial year and sincerely hope that all our members will rejoin. Our Annual General Meeting is in November when it will be decided if the subscription remains the same or if there will be an increase. The membership at present stands at 42, which is very encouraging and new members are always welcome. Meetings are held every third Wednesday in the month at 2.30pm at 28 Windhill, the next one being the 19th October. There is always a varied programme including guest speakers, competitions, outings, luncheons etc.

Membership Secretary is Janet Baker 01279 656583

Womens Section Secretary is Stella O'Shaughnessy 01279 653773

Please ring for further information

Snooker

The Legion teams have just started the winter season so good luck to the 'Rebels' and 'Rogues'. This year is the 50th Anniversary for the Saffron Walden and District Snooker League and the League Committee are hoping to put on a variety of events to celebrate it. There will a new 6 reds tournament and hopefully an exhibition with a professional player plus an extra tournament for over 50s past and present players of the league. Anyone in contact with ex-players of the League, please contact Cathy at the club.

Congratulations to Steve Gabriel who won the Handicap Singles Trophy last season, a great achievement for his first year in the League.

Cathy

The Stortford Music Club

The Thursday Option For Good Acoustic Music

The home for the club is

The British Legion Club, 28 Windhill, Bishop's Stortford.

Details available from: Jon & Hilary McNamara tel: 01279 656664

Dear Member,

When you completed your Application Form for membership you were also signing up to support our servicemen and women. The Royal British Legion has been caring for them since 1921 and help is needed as much now as it was then. The present joint Club & Branch membership works out at only 36p per week, a small amount by today's standard. Your joining fee of £19 was made up as follows: R.B.L. membership £4.50, R.B.L. share certificate £1 (Only payable when you initially join), R.B.L. Branch Annual Subscription £2 and R.B.L. Branch Affiliation Fee, now known as the Branch Membership £11.50.

As from 1st October 2011 the renewal date, Fees will be as follows: - Club Membership £8, Branch membership fee £12, Branch Annual Subscription £3 & £1 share Certificate (Only payable when you initially join) – a total of £24. The Royal British Legion will appreciate your continued support and payment can be left with Cathy behind the bar, or addressed to me, Joan Abbott, Branch Membership Secretary. At the time of writing our membership stands at just over 500; but a relatively small percentage use the Club or its facilities – why? It would be very interesting and helpful to have your comments, which would be forwarded to the Club Committee, please address them to: Tim Kelly (Club Secretary) C/O RBL Club, or me: Joan Abbott, Membership Secretary, 5 King's Cottages, and Bishop's Stortford Herts. CM233JB. The club have recently suffered a serious cash flow problem, but are now, through a new business plan, moving in the right direction to recovery. For your information, although affiliated to the Royal British Legion, who in turn are registered with the Charities Commission. neither the Branch or the RBL themselves can by law give financial aid to Clubs in trouble; despite the fact that many clubs have folded, soon to be followed by the local branches they support. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries on 01279 656435.

Joan Abbott

Branch Membership Secretary.

The Royal Naval Association, The Royal Military Police, Bishop's Stortford Angling Society, Bishop's Stortford Amateur Radio Society and Bishop's Stortford Chess Club meet here once a month and further information can be obtained from their respective Secretaries.

Dates For Your Diary

- Sat Oct 22nd – Swedish Eve
Sat Nov 19th – French Eve
Sat Dec 17th – Xmas Dinner + Quiz
Sun Dec 18th – Xmas Dinner + Xmas Draw
Sat 31st Dec – New Years Eve Dinner and Entertainment

Thank You

The club would like to formally thank David and Beverley Moore for the kind donation of a new BBQ which was a god send during our beer festival and garden concert nights

News from the Bar

Over the next 3 months, we have an exciting choice of real ales making an appearance on the bar. Firstly, after six months, the 'DoomBar' currently served from a gravity barrel will be replaced by 'Woodforde's Wherry' (a change is as good as a rest). This will be our standard house beer for the next six months and we hope to have the following as guest beers, 'Oscar Wilde' – Mighty Oak, 'Moonlight' – Arkells, 'Ghost Ship' – Adnams, 'Double Amber – Caledonian, 'Sunset' – Cross Bay Brewery, 'Crafty Devil' – Thwaites, 'IPA' – Joseph Holt, 'Winter Warmer' – Old Mill Brewery, 'Young Tom' – Robinsons, 'Infallible' – Theakstons, 'Copper Ale' – Palmers, 'Have a Hop' – Bath Ales and many more to wet you're appetite

The 3rd Bishop's Stortford Real Ale Festival

The 3rd Bishop's Stortford Real Ale Festival held at the Legion at the end of July was a huge success, easily passing last years figures with more than 1700 people attending over the 3 days and some 5000 pints sold. Many thanks to all our friends from CAMRA for all the work they did, Gerald Searing for donating the Hog Roast, Steve Gabriel for all his effort with the Tombola and of course everybody who helped out.

Chess Club

Bishop's Stortford Chess Club, which meets every Thursday evening at the RBL Club have claimed victory in a national tournament. They beat rivals Wanstead and Woodford by 2.5 points to win the final of the National Chess Club Championship (at intermediate level) in London. The competition had been played over several months by clubs across the UK. The National Trophy is the latest silverware scooped by the club who triumphed in both the Hertfordshire and Hertford and District competitions earlier this year.

Club Opening Hours

- Mon 7 to 11
Tue 7.30 to 11
Wed 7.30 to 11
Thu 12 to 2 and 7 to 11



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