NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH

BENWELL HILL CRICKET CLUB
Denton Bank, West Road, NE15 7EU
RAFA Secretary 07954 598883
November 2nd, 2026, Branch Meeting - 7pm

October 2026 Branch Minutes

Present: C James. K Bowers, D Owens, B Houston, M Blackman, K Allen, A Farley, K Mongan, R Knox, D Gilbert, B Cuss, M James, A Cook. G Cook.

Dedication: M James.

Apologies: M Collins, R Cheese, K Saunders, R Hill, M Leonard (RAFLO).

Chair: welcomed all to the meeting, with special welcome to new friends from Whitley Bay and North Shields. Also welcomed Jane and Helen, daughters of our esteemed late member Alan Proudlock and extended a warm invitation for them to attend any future meetings and events.

Secretary: Minutes from September meeting, if no responses, asked for them proposed - by Ken Allen and seconded by Andy Farley.

Chairman: The Branch worked very hard this year with the Wings appeal and with RAFA in general.
Battle of Britain - our service in the Cathedral was a great success, as was the service at Whitley Bay. However we received a large bill from the Cathedral re the order of service and payment for Vergers, therefore I had a meeting with the Canon and advised not to pay until further notice.
Excellent Wings collections last month and for future will also look to expand to cover Whitley Bay/North Shields via supermarkets, Tynemouth Metro Station etc..
St Georges Day - 5RRF (who have St George as their patron(will be holding a service and JESA will be joining them.
Armed Forces Day - Newcastle City Council intend to run this 2027 event on the Quayside, though Gateside Council are also looking to run an Armed Forces Week - same area, watch this space.

ANZAC - Chevington has been booked via the CWGC for 2027. If Boulmer's SWO is not available, Chris will liaise with any temp replacement.

Secretary: has spoken with her work manager who has kindly agreed to print and pay for the orders of service at Newcastle Crem/Remembrance Sunday and 2027 Battle of Britain. Please ensure paperwork is sent to the Secretary.

Field of Remembrance.

Service on Saturday 31st October - the Towers, Saltwell Park, begins at 10.45 to end approx. 11.30 - all invited including Standards, re parking suggest arrive from 9.45 and all involved will muster at 10.20.

Treasurer: September Accounts. Opening balance of £6645.82 - with month income of £1523.06 from Wings collections/donations and £461.40 from raffle proceeds/refund to branch from August Welfare total £1984.46. Expenditure, Battle of Britain costs £234.21, Wings incurred cost £37.70, Branch expenses incurred - monthly DD service/Lloyds service and mileage of £114.45 plus a temp payment of £250.00 to the new Welfare account in case of short notice need - total costs £636.36 (the Barclay's Welfare account is being closed and as of today, transfer had not been completed - NB was finalised on the 8th of October) - balances c/f to October £7993.92. Accounts proposed by M James and D Gilbert as a true record given.

Welfare: 1 welfare case - moving from Darlington. Member Mr O'Riordan now out of hospital and intend to visit him at home.

Ceremonial: all covered at last meeting with members confirmed with locations/wreaths for Remembrance Sunday, discuss ANZAC preparations at next Committee meeting. Nothing further.

Wings: KA - still trying to confirm requested dates in December.
RK - amend Wings figures now to £14,800.00. Informed that a resident at St Aidan's House has given a generous donation of £500.00 to our Wings total and now is approx £15,336.00 therefore return to HQ total of £15,000.00 for 2026 Wings collection.

RAFLO: not present for the meeting.

Social & Wellbeing: Kevin proposed Beer Call , Friday 9th October commencing 14.00 hours first venue the Bridge Hotel - opposite Newcastle Keep, all most welcome.

After the agenda was completed, Chair invited Jane and Helen to give a short talk about their Dad, Alan, and said how pleased they were that Alan had been so welcomed into the Branch, how much he enjoyed assisting at meetings, events and collections and how much the family appreciated the honour given by the Branch at his funeral service. Jane presented a large envelope to Chris which contained a lovely photo of Alan with written thanks and a £450.00 donation to the Branch in their Dad's memory.

REMINDER

Remembrance Sunday, November, we have following attending with wreaths/Standards:

Consett: A Farley
Gateshead: K Allen with RAFAC carrying Gateshead Standard
Gosforth: M Collins
Newcastle (Eldon Square): K Bowers and D Gilbert with Newcastle Branch Standard
Newcastle Crematorium: B Houston and D Owens
Rowlands Gill: K Mongan

Whitley Bay/North Shields: awaiting confirmation/Standard

Meeting closed.