



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PARIS BRANCH

NEWSLETTER – May 2018

Dear Fellow Member,

There were a good number of commemoration ceremonies in local communes on Tuesday, 8th May. Were you able to attend one? I was at two different ceremonies on that day, both of which were well attended. In addition to representatives of several French Associations, present and former service personnel were there, along with local politicians, police officers, and firefighters. It was gratifying to see the number of children who were also present. Today's young people are the vanguard of our future. On them rests the continuation in future years of ceremonies such as those that I attended on that day.

The next major ceremonial occasion for the Paris Branch is that on 4th August at the Arc de Triomphe. I realize that for many of you, your August holidays will have already started by then, but nevertheless I'm hoping that there be a goodly number who are not away and therefore able to attend. In order to ensure that everything runs smoothly, we are asked to be in position by 6 p.m.

There is, however, another event in advance of 4th August that I wish to bring to your notice. The next Branch General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 11th July**, at the Clubhouse, at 6 p.m. These General Meetings provide the opportunity for all members to listen to the Branch Committee's discussions and to ask questions about the decisions that are being made. It's your chance to have your voice heard. After the meeting we gather around the bar for more informal chats. Please come along and make sure that your voice is heard!

At the end of the summer holidays, namely on **Sunday, 2nd September**, some 200 cyclists will be arriving at the Arc de Triomphe. They will have cycled en masse from London. This is the annual "Pedal to Paris" bonanza that raises funds for the all-important Poppy Appeal. Their arrival at the Arc is a sight worth seeing! They will arrive there at around 3.15p.m. and I hope that a good many members of the Paris Branch will be there to greet them and to take part in the short, informal ceremony that acknowledges the cyclists' magnificent achievement.

On a more sober note, it is with great sadness that I must report the deaths of two of our loyal and faithful members. In February Eddie Zomerplaag, died aged 93. He was born in Holland and during the Second World War occupation of Holland by German troops, he experienced periods of starvation. In Paris, both Eddie and his wife Truuz were actively involved in TRBL, he acting as Assistant Treasurer for many years. Our thoughts are with Truuz at this time. We have also lost a dear friend, Jacques Riols. Jacques died in March aged 97th. When in active service he was a Captain in the "Chasseurs" 19th Battalion. Last year he was awarded the Croix de Guerre. His wife, Noreen, has long been an active member of our Committee, and she continues to attend meetings. We shall always hold her and the memory of her husband in high regard.

A list of winners in the Grand National raffle follows. Congratulations to the winners, and my thanks to everyone who took part in this fundraiser by purchasing tickets.

Looking forward to the end of the year, please make a note of the date of the Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning on the 6th November and the ceremony at Nôtre Dame Cathedral on 11th November. Thus year's event promises to be even more spectacular than usual, so don't miss it!

Summer and summer holidays are just around the corner. Enjoy!

All best wishes,

David Bean
Branch Chairman.

THE RANDOX HEALTH GRAND NATIONAL 2018 RESULTS

Name of Horse	Position	Drawn By	Odds
Tiger Roll	1 st	Patrick Gautier Lynham	10-1
Pleasant Company	2 nd	Cléach Hippolyte	25-1
Bless The Wings	3 rd	Alain Ganet	40-1
Anibale Fly	4 th	Brigitte Sechet	10-1
Milansbar	5 th	J. MacGillivray	25-1
Road To Riches	6 th	Jayne (Embassy)	33-1
Gas Line Boy	7 th	M. Dalicier	25-1
Valeseur Lido	8 th	David Lees	66-1
Vieux Lion Rouge	9 th	Philippe Sechet	25-1
Raz de Maree	10 th	Des Burke (Vanular)	20-1
Seeyouatmidnight	11 th	Derek (Embassy)	11-1
Baie des Iles	12 th	David Bean	16-1

Only 12 horses of the 38 starters finished the race. Two horses were withdrawn before the race started. They were Royal Encore and Walk In The Mill.

The following horses were brought down, pulled up, unseated rider or fell.

Fence 1 : Blaklion brought down, Perfect Candidate fell
Fence 6 : I Just Know, Houblon Des Obeaux and Virgilio all fell
Fence 7 : Capt. Redbeard, unseated rider
Fence 8 : Lord Windermere, Buywise and Final Nudge all unseated riders
Fence 15 : Chase The Spud, pulled up, Alpha Des Obeaux, fell, Saint Are, brought down
Fence 17 : Delusionofgrandeur, pulled up
Fence 18 : Maddio, pulled up
Fence 23 : The Dutchman, unseated rider
Fence 26 : Thunder and Roses, The last Samuri, Tenor Nivernais and Shantou Flyer all pulled up
Fence 27 : Ucello Conti, unseated rider
Fence 29 : Total Recall, Warriors Tale, Pendra and Double Ross all pulled up

Non Finishers ; Carlingford Lough and Childrens List pulled up before the finish line.

All horses and riders returned safely.

The Officers and Committee would like to thank all those who took part in the Grand National Draw.