



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

Minutes of 17th Annual General Meeting held at The Royal; British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh , EH7 4EL at 1230hrs on Sunday 15 November 2015

1. **Members Present;** Mick Walker, Frank Murray, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, John Donaldson, Gordon Mc Leod, Alex McWhirter, Kenneth Wratten, Bob Hamilton, Doug Archibald, Andy Gemmell, Alex Cockburn,, David Brock, Kim Panton, Ron McCartan, Ronnie Drumond, Andy Paterson, Brian Earl, Eoghann maclachlainn.

2. **Apologies;** Willie Grant, AndyMullen, Norrie Bishop, Eoin McIntyre, Raymond Mannion and all overseas members.

3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending.

(a) Mick informed us of the sad passing of Roy Kay, one of our founder members, he will be sorely missed.

Mick was pleased at the turnout for Roys funeral as both the AEA Scotland and PRA Lothian Branch were well represented and also very well turned out.

We then observed a minutes silence in remembrance of Roy Kay and all past members

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting;**

The minutes of the last AGM were proposed as being accurate by David Brock and seconded by Doug Archibald. The minutes of the last OGM were proposed as accurate by Gordon Mc Leod and seconded by Bob Hamilton.

5. **Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising

6. **Chairmans Report; (a) Cromwell Lock;** Mick was pleased at the large turnout at Cromwell Lock in respect of the 10 No Sappers who tragically perished whilst participating in “Operation Trent Chase” in 1975. There was 14 members from our branch in attendance. He was also pleased regarding the turnout at Zetland Park in Grangemouth where a similar service was being held. Our thanks go to The Falkirk Sappers for their continual support and involvement in this particular memorial service. Doug Archibald and 5 members from AEA Scotland attended along with a representation from The Falkirk Sappers as well as family members of the deceased. The Provost of Falkirk was also in attendance

(b)AEA—AGM Coventry 2015; Mick made Scotlands presence known. He met up with Jack Braithwaite, former 300 Sqn. PSI, who informed us that he still has 300 Sqn’s Flag and would like to pass it on to us. He will come to a meeting in 2016 and hand it over.

Mick Walker then gave an account of our branch activities in 2015.

The members present were informed about Double Hills Tragedy which occurred during World War 2. There is a ceremony every year and Mick was given some literature from Chris Chambers which was made available to all members present at our AGM.

(c) Renaming of T.A.Centre, Kingsbury; Mick informed us that there will be a renaming ceremony, in memory of John Lonergan, on 12 April 2016. We will inform everyone prior to this event taking place.

7. Welfare; There are no notification regarding Welfare.

8. Secretarys Report (a) Membership for The Royal British Legion, Edinburgh- Application forms were collected by Gil Nicol as well as payment (£18.50/person) and passed on to John Clark (R.B.L.Edinburgh – Secretary /Treasurer)

(b) Old Comrades Association Dinner—24th October 2015— Some branch members attended this event and had a good time.

(c) Field of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh.--Monday 2nd November 2015. This event was well attended by our branch members after which we retired to The Guards Club for a bit of harmony.

(d) Cenotaph Parade –London 8th November 2015—Once again we had representation where we had a wonderful time .Needless to say we still feel privileged and honoured to be able to participate in this annual memorial event.

(e) AEA (Scotland)—Xmas Lunch – Saturday 28 November 2015.—Once again our Xmas Lunch will be held at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. The cost is £25.00 per person and we should be there at 1200hrs for 1230hrs. Anyone who has still to submit their attendance request and meal request please contact Gil Nicol ASAP as he must have details (inc.payment) .

Doug Archibald proposed that we have an alternative date for our Annual Lunch, possibly mid January. It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at our next meeting in January 2016.

(f) PRA Xmas Dinner/Dance-Friday, 4 December 2015--The Annual PRA Lothian, Xmas Dinner Dance will be held at R.B.L. Rodney Street , Edinburgh—anyone wishing to attend please inform Mick Walker.

9. Treasure’s Report; Craig McQuade submitted a clear and detailed financial report and it is nice to see that we are still in a healthy financial situation, even although we have had a heavy year for expenditure. The report was proposed as accurate by Gordon Mc Leod and seconded by Andy Paterson. The sum of £25.00 was passed on to John Donaldson in lieu of costs for stamps and sundries.

10. Website Report; John Donaldson informed us that the website is operating fine and we are still getting “hits”.

11. Election of Office Bearers; The Chair was handed over to Gil Nicol by Mick Walker (Retiring Chairman) and later Gil Nicol handed The Chair over to the newly elected Chairman.

Office Bearers were elected as follows;

(a) Chairman—— Mick Walker——Proposer— Kim Panton——Seconder—Craig Mc Quade

(b) Secretary——Gil Nicol—— -Proposer— Kim Panton——Seconder—Andy Paterson

(c) Treasurer—— Craig Mc Quade——Proposer— Kim Panton——Seconder—Gordon Mc Leod

(d) Auditor——Doug Archibald——Proposer—Kenny Watten——Seconder—John Donaldson

Other positions were filled as follows;

Webmaster-----John Donaldson

Asst. Webmaster---This position was declared obsolete and will now be removed

Branch Rep No 1---Gordon McLeod

Branch Rep No 2---Andy Paterson

12. Subscriptions—It was agreed to keep the yearly subscriptions at £8.00/member/annum. This was proposed by Mick Walker and seconded by John Donaldson

We asked those members present, at this A.G.M., to please consider this as a request for payment of the yearly subscriptions

Cheques should be made payable to “**The Airborne Engineers Association**” and given to or forwarded to **Craig McQuade** at the following address;

37 Riverview Park

Mangerton

Newcastleton

TD9 0TF

13. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held, on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month starting from and including January 2016. Meetings will commence at 1300 hours.

14. A.O.C.B.;

(a) Joe Davidson; Doug Archibald informed us that Joe Davidson (Ex 9 Sqn.) has purchased some land and is in the process of building an assault course. He will keep us informed of the progress.

(b) Arnhem Tour 2017—Some members expressed an interest in going to Arnhem in 2017 with the same tour operators (Tours International) who we travelled with last year. The trip would include a 5 day/4 night visit to Holland with various tours included. The cost would be in the region of £800.00 (including 2 nights accommodation in London and Train Fares to/from Scotland)

Gordon McLeod proposed a tour of Normandy in lieu of Arnhem and it was agreed this would be discussed in more detail at our January 2016 meeting. Gil Nicol will look at costs from Tours International and report back in January 2016.

(c) Aden G.S.M—John Donaldson has received a reply, from Mr No Name, M.o.D. regarding the Aden G.S.M.—once again the reply from the M.o.D. bore no relation to what was asked. John has sent another letter to the M.o.D. requesting clarification, however, to date, he has had no reply. John has contacted his local Member of Parliament, and at his request John has sent all the correspondence from 10 Downing Street and the M.o.D. to him for investigation.

We wish John all the best

(d) 2016 Calendars, with highlighted dates of future meetings, were handed out to members present.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1400 hrs with a vote of thanks to The Chair after which we adjourned to the main hall and had some refreshments.

15. Date of Next Meeting;

Sunday 17 January 2016 (1300 Hrs) at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh.