



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Malcolm Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of the 15TH Annual General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion , Rodney Street , Edinburgh at 1230hrs on Sunday 17th November 2013

1. Members Present ; Frank Murray , Mick Walker , Gil Nicol , Andy Mullen , Andy Paterson , Gordon McLeod , John Donaldson , Bob Hamilton , Alex McWhirter , Craig McQuade , David Henderson , Dougie Archibald , Norrie Bishop , Ronnie Drummond , David Brock , Kim Panton , Brian Earl , Roy Kay , Ron McCartan and Jim Simpson.

2. Apologies ; Willie Grant , Hugh McPhee , Tom Ormiston and all overseas members

3. Welfare Report ; It was good to see both Jim Simpson and Roy Kay attending the meeting and being in better health .We wish them well.

4. Chairman's Welcome ; Frank welcomed all present for attending our 15th Annual General Meeting and a minutes silence was observed in remembrance of all past members and those who have fallen in recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We will remember them”

Frank also thanked all members who participated in The Remembrance Parade at The Cenotaph in London ,The Armed Forces Day parade in Grangemouth and all the other parades and gatherings attended throughout the year.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting ;

The minutes of the last meeting and the previous AGM were then passed as being accurate by Andy Mullen and seconded by Dougie Archibald

6. Matters Arising ;

(a) Gil Nicol apologised to Dougie Archibald and Ron McCartan respectively for not tendering and recording their apologies at the last meeting.

(b)Xmas Lunch –would all member who are attending the Xmas Lunch please see Gil Nicol in the downstairs hall after the meeting.

7. Secretary,s Report ;

(1)There was a good turnout at the Memorial service on Saturday 28th September 2013 in remembrance of the ten sappers who tragically perished whilst taking part in “Operation Trent Chase” on 28th September 1975..

(2)Mick walker asked the question –Are we a charity to help others or are we just a meeting for ex AEA members?

8. Treasurers Report ; Mick

Mick Walker produced a detailed report of our finances and it was good to see that we are still in a healthy financial position. The accounts have been audited and found to be in order. The Financial Report and Accounts were passed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Andy Paterson.

A standing round of applause was accorded Mick Walker for the diligence and dedication shown in carrying out his duties as Treasurer.

Mick stated we should examine why we are here and especially about funding. At this point Gil Nicol emphasised that all the members who attended The Cenotaph Parade in London are not taking any monies from the branch funds .

9. Website Report ; John Donaldson informed us that Page 7 of Pictures on our website was now active. He will, over time, attempt to retag all photographs so as tags can be highlighted for those who use iMacs and MacBooks. John is using another program to assist in this process. Gordon McLeod offered to help by naming names etc. missing from some of the photographs. Our website is still attracting visitors.

10. The Shoe box Appeal ; No report as we have suspended this appeal.

11. Election of Office Bearers and Other Officiados;

The Chair was handed over to Gil Nicol by Frank Murray (Retiring Chairman) and later handed over to the newly elected chairman.

The following positions were proposed and filled ;

(a) Chairman --- Mick Walker	Proposer—D.Archibald	Seconders—A Mc Whirter
(b) Secretary ; --- Gil Nicol	Proposer—C. McQuade	Seconders—A.Mullen
(c) Treasurer ---- Craig Mc Quade	Proposer - G.Nicol	Seconders—D.Archibald
(d) Auditor -- ---D.Archibald	Proposer-- M.Walker	Seconders—J.Simpson
(e) Webmaster; John Donaldson	Proposer-- G Mc Leod	Seconders—A.Paterson
(f) Asst.Webmaster; Andy Mullen	Proposer—G.Nicol	Seconders—G Mc Leod
(g) Shoebox Appeal Co-ordinator	VACANT	
(h) Branch Rep. No 1; G. Mc Leod	Proposer—A.Paterson	Seconders—B.Earl
(i) Branch Rep. No 2; J.Simpson	Proposer—A.Paterson	Seconders—M.Walker

Before moving on Mick Walker thanked Frank Murray for all the work he has put in , as Chairman , over the last 4 years and assured him that it was appreciated. Frank was accorded a round of applause by all members present.

12. Subscriptions ; The following proposals were put forward and voted upon ;

(1) The annual subscriptions remain at £6.00/member/annum .This was proposed by Kim Panton and seconded by Brian Earl.

(2) The annual subscriptions be raised to £10.00/member/annum.This was proposed by Andy Paterson and seconded by David Brock

(3) The annual subscription be raised to £8.00/member/annum. This was proposed by Jim Simpson and seconded by Gil Nicol

The result of the vote taken was an equal split between proposals so the incoming Chairman had the casting vote and he voted in favour of proposal number 3.

Therefore the new annual subscription is £8.00/member/annum commencing immediately.

We were asked to remind 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 sent to Craig McQuade at the following address;

**37 Riverview Park
MAWGERTON
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 2014. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs.

14. A.O.CB.

(a) Some members attended The Cenotaph parade in London and once again had a wonderful if not memorable time. It was good to meet up with some of our colleagues from South of The Border. The members who attended this parade feel it is an honour to be invited to participate.

(b) Members attended the opening of The Garden of Remembrance in Edinburgh on Monday 4th November where we planted two crosses in remembrance of ;

(1) John Lonergan who was tragically killed in Aden in 1965

(2) The 10 sappers who tragically lost their lives at Cromwell Lock while participating in “Operation Trent Chase” in September 1975.

“We will remember them”

(c) Arnhem 2014 – this trip is well in hand and we have booked nine places with Tours International .Craig and Gil have travelled with this company before and found them to be very good.

(d) We have booked a table at The Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh for our annual Xmas Lunch on 30th November 2013. We have 22 people attending.

(e) We are invited to attend The PRA Lothian Branch Christmas Dance and Raffle which will be held on Friday 6th December at Royal British Legion , Rodney Street , Edinburgh. Please come as early as possible , approximately 1915hrs , as it could be quite busy.

It looks as if we will have 16 people attending.

(f) John Donaldson has purchased 40 number wristbands from 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) which will be on sale at a later date.

(g) Frank Murray took the opportunity to inform everyone that he has a busy year ahead and welcomed Mick Walker as the incoming Chairman and wishes him well in his new position. He also stated that it was a privilege to have been Chairman of AEA Scotland .

He also picked up on the point made by 299 Branch that they would like to instigate a memorial service in 2015 to the memory of the ten sappers killed at Cromwell Lock in 1975.

We . in conjunction with The Falkirk Sappers Group , intend to carry on with our own memorial service at Grangemouth .

It should be noted that The Falkirk Sappers Group have been carrying out this function for a number of years and are doing a sterling job.

The Chairman of 299 branch would like to meet up with anyone who participated in this exercise in 1975. This may be impossible as the last remaining member ,Pat Harkin passed away earlier this year. Frank feels that the Scottish AEA Should take care of the memorial service in Scotland and let our colleagues South of the Border carry on with their own arrangements. We will naturally inform

all branches when our memorial service is taking place.

Gil Nicol will send copies of the photographs, taken at Grangemouth in 2013, to John Ferry and Dave Rutter.

(h) John Donaldson suggested to John Ferry, when we were in London, that we send a letter to The Foreign Office and see if they can arrange for a wreath to be laid at John Lonergan's Grave in Aden, on behalf of AEA Scotland.

Craig McQuade came up with an alternative suggestion and that is that we contact The War Graves Commission to see if this request can be carried out.

(i) Kim Panton put forward a proposal that we use some of our branch funds to subsidise the Xmas Lunch to the extent of 50% of the cost.

No one seconded this proposal so therefore his proposal failed.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1400 hrs with a vote of thanks to the chair after which pocket size AEA Scotland Calendars were handed out and group photograph was taken. We then adjourned to the main hall for some refreshments.

15. Date of Next Meeting ; Our next meeting will be on Sunday 19th January 2014 (1300hrs) at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh.

WE WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.