



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



[www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk](http://www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk)

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

## **Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015.**

- 1. Members Present;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Frank Murray, Gordon McLeod, Alex McWhirter, John Donaldson, Andy Gemmell, Bob Hamilton, Norrie Bishop, Dougie Archibald, Andy Paterson, Ronnie Drummond, Raymond Mannion, Alex Cockburn and Brian Earl.
- 2. Apologies;** Roy Kay, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoghann macLachlainn, Eoin McIntyre, Dave Henderson, Kim Panton, Andy Mullen, David Brock, Ron McCartan and all overseas members.
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending. Mick also welcomed Alex Cockburn (Ex 9 Sqn and 1 Troop member 131) to his first meeting. We were also informed that Alex Mc Keweon, a former member of 3 Troop, had sadly passed away within the last few weeks.
- 4. Welfare Report;** Roy Kay is still in The Western General Hospital, Edinburgh (Ward 57 ) but is still remaining positive.  
Raymond Mannion managed to attend today's meeting and it was good to see him up and about.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting;** In the last Minutes a past member was recorded as Alex Herd when in fact it should be Alex Hair.  
The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Craig McQuade.
- 6. Matters Arising;** The only matter arising was as stated in Item 5.00.
- 7. Secretary's Report; (a) Cromwell Lock -- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service**—John Lee (AEA President) is the point of contact between AEA and 131 and has informed us of the following; A chaplain from 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment will conduct a short Service of Remembrance, details to be finalised in July.  
An application has been made to the Canal and River Trust for permission to use the site for the service and in principle they are agreeable, however, there are details such as numbers attending, vehicle parking, etc.. which have to be finalised.

An invitation has been sent to Newark Branch PRA to attend and I have spoken to their Secretary regarding a possible location for refreshments after the event. Newark PRA can provide a bugler and it was suggested that some local ACF cadets could line the route and possibly assist as marshals.

131 Indep. Cdo. Sqn. RE (V) will be attending but at present I do not know how many, if arrangements can be made there could be a full squadron turnout.

Birmingham Branch can supply a public address system.

Members wishing to attend this commemoration and staying overnight on the Saturday and Sunday gave a firm commitment at today's meeting. We have 13 No personnel who will attend. They will benefit from the support discussed at our January meeting and Mick Walker can then proceed with travel and accommodation arrangements.

Gil Nicol will contact John Ferry (AEA Chairman) to see if he is available to attend and play his bagpipes. Gil will also contact any other interested parties e.g. Falkirk Sappers Group, Lothian PRA and others.

***Any other member who wishes to attend please contact Mick Walker so that he can make the necessary arrangement--- please do so as quickly as possible.***

**(b) Caledonian Challenge;** Bill Norris (AEA Membership Secretary), with friends, will be competing in this challenge. This will be a 54 mile long section of The West Highland Way and they will run the distance. It was agreed that we would sponsor them £50.00 and if members wished to contribute separately they can pass their monies to Mick Walker who will ensure that it is passed on.

**(c) Legion Scotland;** We received a letter from John Clark Secretary/Treasurer) RBL Central Branch, Edinburgh explaining that they are in dire financial circumstances and ask if we can help them financially as well as with fund raising. This was put forward to members present and discussed at great length. As much as we sympathise with The R.B.Ls situation we, as a branch, are not in such a good financial state that we can offer much in the way of a financial donation. Craig McQuade proposed that we send a donation of £50.00, this was agreed unanimously. We will also ask The RBL Secretary to forward application forms, for RBL Membership, as some members are willing to take out membership and hopefully this will help alleviate the financial problem. We have also asked them to keep us informed about any fund raising events and we will do our best to assist.

**(d) Annual Muster and Memorial Day Parade-Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015-The Abbey Church, Dunfermline**—Two of our members attended this parade, Gordon McLeod and Bob Hamilton and had a good day out.

**(e) Armed Forces Day Parade**—Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015—Aberdeen—There have been no further details made available so it appears that we cannot send a representation.

**(f) Cenotaph Parade**—London -8<sup>th</sup> November 2015—All names have been submitted to Gil Nicol who will inform them when all arrangements have been made.

**8. Treasures Report;** Craig McQuade presented a verbal report and it is nice to see that we are still in a healthy financial situation. The report was proposed as accurate by Bob Hamilton and seconded by John Donaldson.

**9. Website Report;** John Donaldson informed us that he has had to renew the hard drive of his computer, which had crashed, at his own expense ( he will not accept any monies from the branch) and we are thankful for his generosity and commitment. The Website now appears to be operating as normal.

**10. Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, every 2<sup>nd</sup> month starting from and including January 2015. Meetings will commence at 1300 hours.

**11. A.O.C.B.; (a) Al Milah, Aden 1965**—We had a commemorative meeting on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at The Guards Club, Edinburgh. This was very well attended and it was good to see Eoghann mac lachlainn make the long journey from Uist as well as Peter Long and Alex Cockburn including many others. We raised a glass in memory of John Lonergan and Cyril Atfield who tragically lost their lives at this camp. Gordon McLeod prepared an excellent montage which was well received. We have not received any word regarding the proposed wreath laying in Aden for John Lonergan and Cyril Atfield. Considering the turmoil and unrest in this part of the world, at the moment, we do not expect anything to be happening in the foreseeable future

**(b) T.A. Centre Renaming;** We have been informed that official sanction has been given to name the new Reservist Centre in Kingsbury after SSM John Lonergan, who was tragically killed in action while attending overseas camp in AL Milah, Aden in 1965.

**(c) Korea;** Ronnie Drummond showed the members the “Korean” veterans decoration and medal he recently received from South Korea—Well done Ronnie.

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.

*Please note that at the next meeting the kitchen will not be available so unfortunately, no hot pies are available. If needs must bring along a repacked sandwich.*

**12. Date of Next Meeting; Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2015 (1300 Hrs) at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh.**