



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – **Gordon McLeod** Secretary – **Gil Nicol** Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minute of meeting held in Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1300hrs on 19 January 2020.

- 1. Members present.** Douglas Archibald, Norrie Bishop, John Carter, Alex Cockburn, John Donaldson, Ronnie Drummond, Brian Earl, Andy Gemmell, Bob Hamilton, Bob Masson, Gordon McLeod (Chairman), Craig McQuade (Treasurer), Andy Nelson, Gil Nicol (Secretary) and Mick Walker were in attendance.
- 2. Apologies.** These were received on behalf of Joe Davidson, Willie Grant, David Henderson, Peter Long, Ron McCartan, Eoghann maclachlainn, Alex McWhirter, Andy Mullen, Tom Ormiston, Bill Pagan plus Andy Paterson and were taken as read from our overseas members.
- 3. Welcome.** The Chairman had greeted everyone individually on arrival and now welcomed all collectively and wished them a guid New Year
- 4. Welfare.** Andy Mullen and Ron McCartan both continue to have health difficulties and the meeting joined the Chairman in wishing them a speedy recovery and hope to see them soon
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting.** The minute of the AGM on 17 November 2019 were approved on the motion of Bob Hamilton who was seconded by Dougie Archibald.
- 6. Matters Arising.** There were none.
- 7. Other Branches.** Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Yorkshire and Birmingham Branches were made available for members' perusal.
- 8. Secretary's Report.**
 - (a) PRA Lothian Branch.** Some members, wives and extended families attended the PRA Christmas dinner dance in December and had a very good evening.
 - (b) AEA Executive Committee.** The national Chairman had advised that there were **vacancies** on the Committee and those interested should contact him on Stephen.wallis57@ntlworld.com.
 - (c) 2020 AGM/Reunion.** The Yorkshire Branch will again host this at the Cedar Court Hotel in Harrogate. Dates are 16-18 October and Gil has the full details if required.
 - (d) Wales and West Branch.** This new branch has been formed with Gus Hales as Chairman, Mick Leather as Treasurer and Gerrard Bonner responsible for secretary and membership duties, We wish them all the best and remind them we are here if they need any help.

9. **Treasurer's Report.** Craig thanked those who had made donations and reported we remain in a healthy financial position.
- 10 **Webmaster's Report.** John Donaldson advised that he continues to update our site on a regular basis and it is accessed frequently.
11. **AOCB. (a) Branch Annual Lunch.** Gil advised that he had booked the Royal Scots Club for our Annual Lunch at a cost of £26 per head. The Club had limited us to a choice from 2 sets of menus plus a veggie menu and asked that we compile a set menu. Gil agreed to contact the Club about the set menu. There was some disquiet about our treatment by the Club and Mick Walker urged Gil to remind them that we are the customer. Dougie Archibald wondered if we should consider another venue such as the Guards Club and Mick pointed out that it was much more conveniently located. This did not find favour with the majority who were persuaded by the ambience of the Royal Scots Club.
- (b) John Lonergan Memorial.** It was agreed we would meet at the Guards Club on 12 April at 1300hrs to remember and raise a glass to John Lonergan. Some form of permanent memorial to John was discussed and it was agreed that the photograph at Lonergan Lines be reproduced and placed in the Upper hall of the RBL in Edinburgh and a copy offered to the RBL in Grangemouth, The Chairman volunteered to undertake this task.
- (c) Cromwell Lock Memorial Events.** This will be the 45th anniversary of the tragedy and the Secretary noted that several members intended to be at the Service at Cromwell Lock. It was thought this would be on 26-27 September but confirmation will be sought from HQ.
- The local event will, as in previous years, be held at Zetland Park in Grangemouth. In order that members may attend both events this will be held on 20 September. This will require our September meeting to be brought forward to the 13th of the month and the Secretary will liaise with his RBL counterpart to this end.
- (d) Funerals.** Some members attended the funeral of a PRA member at Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh on 13 December last year.
12. We received an SoS call from the RBL via Andy Nelson to help mount a Para guard of honour for a former 1 Para man called Keir Leggat at Falkirk Crematorium on 16 January. Despite being given less than 36 hours notice two members were able to help form a Guard of eight to see off an old soldier who had served in Suez, Aden and Cyprus
13. **Date of Next Meeting.** In line with our practice of meeting on the third Sunday of the odd numbered months our next meeting will be on 15 March at 1300hrs in the RBL

There being no further business the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.