



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – Gordon McLeod

Secretary – Gil Nicol

Treasurer – Craig McQuade

Minutes for the Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 21 July 2019

- 1. Members Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Bob Hamilton, Dougie Archibald, Bob Masson, Andy Gemmell, Alex Cockburn, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, Brian Earl and John Carter.
- 2. Apologies;** Craig McQuade, Dave Henderson, Alex McWhirter, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoghann mac Lachlainn, Andy Mullen, Andy Paterson, Ron Mc Cartan and all overseas members.
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Gordon McLeod welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He also gave us a detailed report of his recent visit to Aldershot for the unveiling of the Airborne Statue. Gordon was invited to join the PRA Lothian Branch on this trip and was very well looked after by PRA Lothian. Gordon met up with purely by chance, John Ferry & Sandra, Paul Moore and Charlie McColgan who all passed on their best wishes to the branch members.
- 4. Welfare;** Andy Mullen continues to have health problems. Ron McCartan still has ongoing health problems. Alex McWhirter has not fully recovered from his recent surgery. Dave Henderson is experiencing problems with his heart.
“We wish them all the best and a speedy recovery”
- 5. Minutes of the previous meeting; OGM 19 May 2019;** (a) Gil Nicol apologised for having Norrie Bishop recorded as an attendee and also as an absentee. Norrie was in fact in attendance at the last meeting.
(b) The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Bob Hamilton and seconded by Alex Cockburn.
- 6. Matters Arising;** No matters arising.
- 7. Secretary’s Report; (a) Scott Wilson – Wilson-1212 June 2019.** A short memorial service was held at The Edinburgh Eastern Cemetery, Drum Terrace Entrance, on Wednesday 12 June 2019 (1300hrs) in memory of Scott Wilson who was tragically killed during the battle at Mount Longdon, Longdon Falklands. Scott was a member of 9 Squadron. Attached to 3 Para. Unfortunately Scott’s mates Paul, Charlie and friends could not make it in time for the service as their train was held up at Newcastle due to a fatality on the line just outside Newcastle. We then retired to The Guards Club after this ceremony where Paul, Charlie and friends had arrived and we raised a glass in memory of Scott Wilson.

(b) AEA National Chairman; On 26 May 2019, Steve Wallis was voted in as the new AEA National Chairman replacing John Ferry, who was standing down after 8 years service. May we wish Steve all the best in his new role and thank John Ferry for all the hard work he has put in over the last 8 years.

(c) AEA National AGM 4–6 October 2019, is being held at Mercure Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury John Ferry has forwarded a copy of The Agenda for perusal.

(d) Toscaig Bridge— We have forwarded, to The Birmingham Branch, our cheque for £100.00 towards the new plaque that was installed at Toscaig Bridge on 30 May 2019, by Eamon Smyth The Birmingham Branch, once they have collected all donations, will forward the total sum to the Naval Charity. Since we forwarded our cheque the plaque has since been installed. Well done Eamon.

(e) Armed Forces Day Parade, Edinburgh—22 June 2019 (1020HRS)—No one was in attendance

(f) Armed Forces Day Parade, Stirling—29 June (1200HRS) – No one was in attendance

(g) Cenotaph Parade—Sunday 10 November 2019; 3 tickets per branch have been allocated. Details must be passed on to Steve Wallis before 2 August 2019. These details include Full Name, Date of Birth, Address (Including Post Code), Service Number, Details of Service (Start/End Date). No one took up the offer of the tickets. Gil Nicol will inform Steve Walls accordingly.

(h) Double Hill Memorial Service; The Memorial Service will be held on 1 September 2019. Anyone requesting details contact Gil Nicol. This memorial service is to remember the 23 brave lives lost when Glider RJ113, enroute to Arnhem, crashed into a meadow called Double Hills in the village of Paulton in Somerset (near Bath). It does not look as if anyone from AEA Scotland will be in attendance

8. Treasurer's Report; As Craig McQuade was on holiday, Gil Nicol informed the members that we are still in a healthy financial position.

9. Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits. He is still updating our website on a regular basis. Photographs of Gordon Mcleod's visit to Aldershot will be posted on the website.

10. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held, on the 3rd Sunday of every 2nd Month starting from 20 January 2019. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except for the AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.

11. AOCB; (a) AEA Scotland—Annual Lunch – Saturday 7 September 2019 (1230hrs for 1300hrs) at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. The costs will be similar to last year £25.00 per head. Should there be a surplus of monies, it was agreed that same surplus be given to the branch funds.

Dress code is Blazer/Suit, Regimental Tie.

Please contact Gil Nicol at either of the following;

Home Address; 198 Arden Craig Road, Glasgow, G45 0HR

Email address; gilbertandmyra@gmail.com

Home No; 0141 631 2092

Mobile No; 07707468530

Cheques to be made out to G.Nicol.

It is imperative that we know A.S.A.P numbers who are attending and also course of meal

choices

The choices should be shown as the following example;

Starter—A1, A2 or A3

Main Course—B1, B2 or B3

Dessert—C1, C2 or C3.

Gil Nicol on behalf of Gordon McLeod has contacted the guests whom we wish to invite to the lunch. There are 4 guests invited; 1. Sandra Reid 2. Rose Panton 3. Betty Barton and 4. Jinty Murray. To date we have had one person replied (Jinty Murray) who will be honoured to attend as our guest. Guests have been given until 31 July 2019 to reply at the latest.

(b) General Service Medal (Aden); John Donaldson submitted the following report. A letter was sent to the new Secretary of State for Defence Penny Mordaunt MP, by Angus MacNeil MP on behalf of John, outlining the circumstances for the award of the GSM with Clasp South Arabia to the men of 300 Para Sqn RE. However, the letter was answered by Lord Howe who has no plans to change the number of days served in theatre to to bearded the medal. Should there be a change in government other letters may be sent. John also mentioned that he is going to lodge a complaint to the House of Lords regarding the conduct of Lord Howe over the time he took to award of the GSM to the dead and wounded of 300 Para Sqn RE Although the dead and wounded were entitled to the award Lord Howe tried to block it using a number of excuses.

(c) New Members—John Carter stated that Eric Love from Grangemouth is overseas at the moment and he will contact him A.S.A.P. However he did also say that we are looking at the long term for possible new members from Grangemouth and that the numbers are now down to approx.. 10. John was informed that according to the AEA Rules any person wishing to join must have been an Airborne Engineer to qualify.

Alex Cockburn suggested that maybe some of the Grangemouth lads who are considering joining come along to one of our Ordinary General Meetings to see how we operate and what we are about.

This was agreed to as long as they are aware that they are only to observe and not allowed to participate.

Dougie Archibald told us that he had spoken to someone in the past, from Falkirk but nothing had happened.

(d) The Branch Standard;--to be discussed at our Extra Ordinary General Meeting.

(e) AEA Scotland's Future; It had been agreed that we have a meeting to discuss the future of AEA Scotland, to be held on 14 August 2019, at The Dunfermline North Bowling Club, Dewar Street, Dunfermline, KY12 8AD. Mick Walker had arranged for a meeting room to be made available .

However Dougie Archibald, who was not at the last meeting objected to the venue as he felt there was no reason why we could not meet up at The Guards Club, Edinburgh. He felt that since we had used it in the past there was no reason not to use it again. Further, after a long and animated discussion regarding the plus and minuses of The Guards Club it was put to the vote and the vote was 8 to 4 in favour of a change of venue. Although we had 13 members in attendance one is an Honorary member who is not entitled to vote.

It has been left to Gil Nicol to arrange any date at any cost for the use of the Guards Club, Edinburgh as agreed by the members present. Gil Nicol will prepare an agenda for this meeting but asked members if they have any salient points they want raised please contact him on or before the August meeting. Would all members please make an effort to attend as this is vital to the continuation of AEA Scotland. Do not look on this as the end of AEA Scotland as we are still good for a number of years yet but it would be remiss of us if we did not look forward to the future.

(f) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2019; A memorial service will be held at The Memorial Stone at Zetland Park, Grangemouth on Sunday 22 September 2019 at 1030hrs, where we will remember the tragic loss of 10 No sappers killed whilst taking part in “Operation Trent Chase”. Dress code will be Blazer/Trousers, suit and collar and tie plus Beret. After the service we will retire to the Royal British Legion, 4 Dundas Street, Grangemouth FK3 8BX, for refreshments. We also acknowledge the part that our colleagues, AEA Members and others have in the celebrations at Cromwell Lock.

(g) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2020; As this is the 45th Anniversary of this event both at Cromwell Lock and Zetland Park, it would be worthwhile if some members could attend the Memorial Service at Cromwell Lock as well as Zetland Park, Grangemouth. Details of the service at Cromwell Lock will be issued later in the year. Two of our members expressed an interest in attending both services next year.

Gil Nicol read out emails from other branches re Cromwell Lock 2019.

12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 15 September 2019 (1300hrs) at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh.

The meeting was brought to a close and everyone thanked The Chair.