



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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

Chairman – **Douglas Archibald**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

## **Minutes of 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh EH7 4EL at 1230hrs on Sunday 19 November 2017.**

- Members Present;** Doug Archibald, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Alex Cockburn, Kenneth Wratten, Bob Hamilton, Alex Mc Whirter, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, David Brock, Kim Panton, Andy Paterson, Andy Gemmell, Eoghann MacLachlainn, Ron McCartan and Andy Mullen.
- Apologies** Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Bob Masson, Eoin McIntyre, David Henderson, Allan Davidson and all overseas members. Ron McCartan apologised for leaving the meeting early. It transpired that his wife had taken ill but is now recovering well—we wish her all the best.
- Chairman's Welcome;** Doug Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and asked that we have a minutes silence to remember all members who have passed on. **“We will remember them”.**
- Chairman's Report;** Dougie then recalled all the events that we, as a branch, attended; 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of 131 Para. Engr. Regiment (TA), Armed Forces Day , Edinburgh, Memorial Service for Scott Wilson (Ex 9 Sqn member killed at Mount Longdon, Falkland Islands, A.E.A.Scotland annual lunch held at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh, Remembrance service for the 10 sappers killed at Cromwell Lock in 1975, held at Zetland Park, Grangemouth, Old Comrades Association Dinner, which was held in XV Para HQ in Glasgow, Field of Remembrance Service held at Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, Airborne Engineers Association –Annual General Meeting held at Hull, Cenotaph Parade, London. Dougie then reminded us of the members who had passed away this year; Raymon Mannion, Rab Cruikshank, Frank Murray and Peter Watt. Dougie thanked everyone who attended all of these events.
- Welfare;** John Donaldson's wife, Margaret has suffered a stroke but is well on the way to a full recovery. It was good to see so many of our members, who were on our “sick” list at the last meeting, in attendance today.
- Minutes of Previous Ordinary General Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Mick Walker.
- Matters Arising;** No matters arising.

**8. Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting;** The minutes were passed as accurate by David Brock and seconded by Craig McQuade.

**9. Matter Arising from 18<sup>TH</sup> A.G.M.** No matters arising

**10. Secretary's Report; (a) Car Badges;** They are available from Dave Rutter at the AEA Shop costing £12.50 and £1.00 postage. If ordered in bulk we can save on the postage cost.

**(b) Erskine Homes;** We have received a receipt and acknowledgement from Erskine Homes regarding our £50.00 donation.

**(c) SSAFA;** There is a report available with the Branch Secretary for perusal.

**(d) Minutes available from AEA –AGM held in Hull –** The Secretary has a copy available for perusal. Mick Walker and Kenny Wratten attended and Mick submitted the following report.

**1. Scott Wilson;** John Ferry stated that a **few** members attended the memorial service for Scott Wilson, in Edinburgh. It should be noted that 10 members of our branch attended. This a significant number as we only have about 22 members able to attend these functions.

**2. Cromwell Lock;** Lt Col John Lee (President) has received a communication from the Lock Keeper, that the memorial was in a state of disrepair. This then led onto input from other members. Mike Holdsworth stated that some years ago there was a standing annual vote of £25.00 to be allocated for the maintenance of the memorial. Mick Walker and Kenny Wratten (AEA Scotland) stated that as it was their men from 300 Troop, who perished, they are more than happy to cover this cost and would prefer it that way. This has led to a long discussion at our (AEA Scotland) AGM that we could consider the following proposals;

A. Allocate the sum of £200.00 annually for the upkeep—Mick Walker will contact the Lock Keeper

B. We send a working party to Cromwell Lock once or twice a year to carry out the work ourselves.

C. We contact the local British Legion to see if they know of anyone who is prepared to carry out the required maintenance on a regular basis—Alex Cockburn will contact the local British Legion.

These proposals were left open and will be discussed in more detail at our January 2018 meeting.

**11. Treasurers Report;** Craig McQuade informed the branch members we are still in funds and looking financially healthy. A vote of thanks was given to our Treasurer for his detailed and accurate report.

**12. Webmaster's Report;** John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving visitors. John has received an email from Graham Hendry regarding his late father, Robert Hendry, who served in 3 Troop, 300 Para Sqn RE and was in Aden in 1965. He has film that his father had taken in Aden/Radfan and wondered if it was of any use to our members. John has tried contact him by email but has had no reply. He will keep trying.

**13. Election of Office Bearers;** All existing committee members have agreed to continue in their present posts as follows;

Chairman – Douglas Archibald

Secretary – Gil Nicol

Treasurer—Craig Mc Quade

Auditor — Bob Hamilton

This was agreed unanimously by the branch members

The following members have agreed to carry out their various duties as follows ;

Webmaster—John Donaldson

Branch Representatives—Gordon McLeod and Andy Paterson

**14. Annual Subscriptions;** It was agreed to keep our Annual Subscriptions at £10.00 per annum and will be collected downstairs after the meeting.

Those members who have still to pay please forward monies to the following ;

**Mr Craig Mc Quade**

**37 Riverview Park**

**Mangerton**

**Newcastleton**

**TD9 0TF**

All cheques should be made payable to “**The Airborne Engineers Association**”

**15. 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 2018. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except our AGM (November) which shall commence at 1230hrs.

**16. AOCB; Arnhem 2019.** Tours International has contacted the Secretary and asked if any members were interested in attending this event as it is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ralph Bennett (Tours International) stated that he is prepared to consider laying on a coach leaving from Glasgow or Edinburgh. No costs are available and it was agreed to leave this until a later meeting.

- (a) **OCA Dinner**—There was an Old Comrades Dinner which took place on 7 October 2017 at XV Para H.Q., Holdswourth Street, Glasgow—some members were in attendance.
- (b) **Field of Remembrance** Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh—Monday 6 November 2017, some members were in attendance
- (c) **General Service Medal with Clasp South Arabia;** Eoghann Maclachlainn has not yet received his GSM for his 1965 Aden camp when he was wounded. John Donaldson has it in writing from the MoD that he is due the medal and will again contact the MoD on Eoghann’s behalf for an explanation.
- (d) **Welfare Dues;** Kim Panton proposed that we collect our Welfare Dues on a yearly basis as opposed to collecting at each meeting Dougie Archibald counter proposed that we remain with the status quo pointing out that Welfare Dues are only collected from members who are in attendance at each meeting. This was put to the vote and Dougie's counterproposal was carried.
- (e) **AEA Annual Lunch (2017)**—Ronnie Drummond informed us that the widows of members who had passed away, whom we invited along to our Annual Lunch, enjoyed themselves and thank us for the invitation.
- (f) **Jack Braithwaite;** Mick Walker informed us that he had spoken with Jack at the AGM in Hull. He is one of the few remaining who jumped at Suez Canal (Operation Musketeer).
- (g) **John Carter;** Mick Walker had also spoken to John Carter who informed him that he will attend the AGM.
- (h) **Lt Col Chris Warhurst: (Airborne Engineers) Army HQ Andover.** Norrie Bishop informed us that Lt Col **Warhurst** who is in charge all the equipment used by the Royal Engineers will give a presentation at our **March 2018 meeting** of his time in Afghanistan coupled with the current equipment and capability of the Royal Engineers.
- (i) **New membership;** It was agreed that we require new (young) blood to help keep our branch

going. The policeman (Dougie) who occasionally attends the RBL at Grangemouth was put forward as an example, however, as Alex Cockburn informed us, he is still an active Army Reservist and may find free time a problem. Members agreed to ask around

- (j) **PRA Lothian Branch, Dinner Dance.** This will be held on Friday 8 December 2017--Doors open at 1830hrs and buffet at 190hrs – 2000hrs. We have 6 members and wives attending. Cost is £10.00/person

The meeting was brought to a close and the chair was thanked.

**17. Date of our Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 21 January 2018 (1300hrs) at R.B.L. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.**