



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of Meeting held at The Royal; British Legion , Rodney Street , Edinburgh , EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 20th July 2014

- Members Present** ; Mick Walker , Gil Nicol , Craig McQuade , Gordon McLeod , Bob Hamilton , Alex McWhirter , Andy Mullen , Frank Murray , Kenneth Wratten , Kim Panton , John Donaldson , Doug Archibald , Ron McCartan , Norrie Bishop , Ronnie Drummond , Roy Kay and Vic Murray
- Apologies** ; Willie Grant , Tom Ormiston , David Brock , Eoghann macLachlainn , Raymond Mannion , Dave Henderson , Andy Paterson , Eoin McIntyre and all overseas members.
- Chairmans Welcome** ; Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending with a warm welcome to Vic Murray (Ex 2 Troop member) who is over from Vancouver , Canada.
- Welfare Report** ; Raymond Mannion goes to the Royal Infirmary , Edinburgh on 29th July for a pre-op prior to going through an operation on his shoulder. He is still awaiting more information regarding the proposed operation for his prostate gland problem. Mick Walker met Jimmy Simpsons widow and is happy to report that she and the family are getting on well since Jimmy's demise. Roy Kay says that his eyesight is deteriorating but he is still getting on with life. We wish them all the best and a speedy recovery
- Minutes of Previous Meeting** ; There was an error in the reporting of Frank Murrays discussion with the current CO of 131 Ind.Cdo.Sqn.RE and it should be as follows ;
“Frank Murray has spoken to the current OC of 131 Ind.Cdo.Sqn.RE who is in favour of changing the name of The Kingsbury Reserve Forces Centre to “The John Lonergan RF Centre. He has instructed Olaf Dudley to pursue the matter with the London RFCA”
The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as accurate by Doug Archibald and seconded by Gordon McLeod.
- Matters Arising** ; With the exception of the above amendment there were none.
- Secretary's report** ; (a) The meeting intended to be held on Sunday 21st September 2014 has been brought forward and will now be held on **Sunday 31st August 2014**. The reason for changing the date is because a lot of our members will be in Arnhem on the original meeting date.

(b) Names are required for the Xmas Lunch to be held at The Royal Scots Club , Edinburgh on Sunday 29th November 2014. We require as many people as possible to attend as we will be charged for a minimum of 20 personnel.

(c) Grangemouth Memorial Service—Sunday 28th September 2014—G.N. has been in contact with Peter Duff (Falkirk Sappers Group) They will be having a service at the stated day and we are welcome to attend , there will be a lunch afterwards if you wish to attend—details of cost will be available at next meeting.

(d) Cenotaph Parade –Names required—we will be issued with a minimum of 4 places and I feel we must keep attending or we will lose our allocation

(e)AEA Bench—Birmingham—At the moment it is only for the Ex Birmingham Sappers , but this may change.

8. Treasures Report ; Craig McQuade presented a verbal report stating that we were still financially healthy , which is good to know. We sent a cheque to Marie Curie Centre in memory of Jimmy Simpson , who passed away earlier in the year.

There are still some “Airborne Engineer”wristbands available for sale.

The Financial report was passed as being accurate by John Donaldson and seconded by Kim Panton.

9. Website Report ; John Donaldson informed us that the website is still attracting more visitors , although he is experiencing problems with some of the pages , which he hopes to rectify soon.

10. Shoebox Appeal ; No report as appeal suspended.

11. 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 1300 hours.

12. A.O.C.B. ; Members attended Armed Forces Day Parades at both Edinburgh and Stirling , respectively . We had a very good turnout at Edinburgh (7) but not so many at Stirling (3). However those that did attend had a very good time.

Our thanks go to Andy Paterson and his wife Liz for the lovely Lunch and refreshments laid on at the Stirling Parade . Needless to say the stories got better and better as the refreshments took hold.

Andy Mullen proposed a vote of thanks for John Donaldson for the work he has put into making people aware of the “Aden Incident” in 1965. Gordon McLeod also wanted it known how much we appreciated the effort by John Donaldson in arranging for wreaths to be laid on the graves of WO2 John Lonergan and Sgt. Atfield at Ma Allah Cemetery, Aden on 12 April 2015, the 50th anniversary of them being killed in action.

John Donaldson showed us a letter he received from General Sir Peter Wall thanking him for making him aware of “The Al Milah Incident” and confirmed that he has arranged for wreaths to be laid as described in the previous sentence. Details will follow at a later date.

John , however , is still awaiting a reply from The Prime Ministers Office regarding the possible awarding of a campaign medal for Aden 1965.

Ron McCartan found a newspaper clipping describing the work that 9 Squadron did in 1961 when they formed a new road in Mallaig. Ron and his wife were visiting Mallaig and met up with a crofter , Ian McPhee , who was a lad when 9 Sqn formed this road and explained that he has very fond memories of the guys who built the road. Ian will pass on some details of the building of the road to the branch at a later date.

Vic Murray expressed his thanks at the warm welcome he received and also stated that it was good to be among friends.

Mick Walker informed us that he and his wife will be attending the AEA.AGM later in the year. Gil Nicol and his wife had intended to attend but they will be on holiday in Tenerife at that time.

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 for some refreshments.

13. Date of Next Meeting;

OGM on Sunday 31st August 2014 (1300 hrs) at R.B.L. ,Rodney Street , Edinburgh.