



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of Meeting at The Royal British Legion, 33 Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 16th March 2014.

- Members Present ;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Gordon McLeod, Frank Murray, John Donaldson, Alistair Burnett, Ken Wratten, Alex McWhirter, Doug Archibald, Brian Earl and Kim Panton.
- Apologies ;** Roy Kay, Ronnie Drummond, Andy Paterson, David Brock, Tom Ormiston, Jain McIntyre, Raymond Mannion, Norrie Bishop, Willie Grant and all overseas members
- Welfare Report;** We have quite a list of people who are not well at the moment ;
Ronnie Drummond, Roy Kay, Raymond Mannion and Andy Mullen – we wish them well and a speedy recovery
Ron McCartan is going into hospital on the 23rd March 2014 for a bowel operation –we wish him all the best and a speedy recovery
Kim Panton will contact Roy Kay and keep us informed.
Gil Nicol will contact Raymond Mannion for an update.
Other members will be in touch with the remaining members and keep us informed as to any progress
- Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending .
He also welcomed Alistair Burnett who is holidaying here in the UK , he is over from Australia.
A minutes silence was held for Jimmy Simpson and David Forsyth as well as other members who have passed away recently
Mick thanked those who attended both Jimmy Simpsons and David Forsyth's funeral.
We were asked to carry Jimmy,s coffin into the Chapel of Rest as well as form the Honour Guard.
- Minutes of last meeting;**
The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Alex McWhirter

6. Matters Arising ;

There were no matters arising.

7. Secretary's Report;

Gil Nicol thanked both Tom Ormiston and Mick Walker for keeping him informed of Jimmy Simpsons situation

Members were informed of the forthcoming AEA/AGM to be held at Harrogate, all details were made available for members inspection.

The matter was raised about what to do regarding the September meeting as so many members will be at Arnhem. We were asked to consider the following choices;

- (a) Scrap the meeting altogether.
- (b) Postpone to another date.
- (c) Hold an informal meeting regardless of the numbers.
- (d) Have a lunch in lieu of the meeting.

It was agreed that Gil Nicol contact The Royal British Legion , Rodney Street , Edinburgh with a view to changing the meeting from the 21st September to 28th September 2014 , as proposed by Kim Panton.

If we cannot have our meeting at the R.B.L. on the 28th it was suggested that we try and meet up at The Guards Club in Edinburgh , Gil Nicol will look into the availability of this venue on the proposed date.

On Friday 24th January 2014 Gil Nicol , Gordon McLeod and Joe Davidson (Ex 9 Sqn. Member) travelled to Invergordon and attended the funeral of David Forsyth , the ex 9 Sqn lad who was tragically killed in a car accident on the A1 at Torness. There were 16 members from 9 Sqn in attendance and they were very smartly turned out.

Paul Gough from the Inverness PRA had been liaising with the family and kept everyone informed regarding funeral details.

Standard bearers from the PRA were in attendance as well as some ex Para Regiment personnel and Para RHA Personnel, so all in all it was a good representation from the "Airborne Fraternity".

David was a well known and liked person in the community and will be sadly missed.

Gil Nicol read out a copy of the letter that Col.J.Lee received from the Mayor of Bournemouth where it thanked The Airborne Engineers Association for their donation of £500.00 which was allocated to 5 charities.

Christmas Lunch has been booked for The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh on Sunday 29th November 2014 and will cost approximately the same as last year –final details and costs will be issued later. However it was made known to the members that we must have a minimum of 20 No personnel on the day as the minimum charge is for 2 personnel.

The subject was raised about having a memorial service for the lads who perished at Cromwell Lock in 1975. Since the anniversary falls on the 28th September this will pose problems as we are trying to change our regular meeting date from 21st September to 28th September.

The week prior to the 28th September 2014 a large proportion of our members will be at Arnhem. Various proposals were put forward including meeting up for a memorial service (at a date still to

be agreed) and having a lunch after with the ladies present.

All the proposals were discussed but no satisfactory conclusion was arrived at and it was agreed to hold this over to the May meeting when we should have clarity on our September meeting enabling us to resolve this matter.

Gil Nicol will contact The Falkirk Sappers regarding this service.

The PRA Lothian Branch informed us that Armed Forces Day Parade will be held on 28th June 2014 at Stirling. They are running a bus and would like to know if we intended using the bus. We informed him that we could not give a definite yes or no so he would have to assume we were not using the availability of the bus , thus letting him progress with ordering the correct size of bus.

8. Treasurers Report ; Craig McQuade presented a detailed report on our finances and it is good to see that we are still in good health , financially. There was some cash left over from the attendance of Jimmy Simpsons funeral so it was agreed to put this money into the branch general fund This report was passed as accurate by Brian Earl and seconded by Gordon McLeod

9. Website Report;

John Donaldson is still experiencing problems with his computer but is trying to resolve them. Suffice to say the website is still attracting visitors.

Jimmy Simpson has been added to The Roll of Honour in our website

10. The Shoebox Appeal; No report – appeal suspended, Craig McQuade stated that he found difficulties getting proper contact within the Airborne Engineers---to be reviewed at a later date.

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 1300hrs. In the event that a regular meeting has to be cancelled , postponed or resited then all members will be given due notice of such amendments.

12. A.O.C.B.

It was agreed, unanimously, to donate the sum of £50.00 to The Marie Curie Cancer Care in memory of Jimmy Simpson .

The Treasurer will pass a cheque to Gil Nicol who will forward it with a covering letter.

13. Date of Next Meeting ; Our next meeting will be on Sunday 18TH May 2014 (1300hrs) at The Royal British Legion , Rodney Street , Edinburgh