



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 18 January 2015.

- 1. Members Present;** Mick Walker, Gil Nicol, Gordon McLeod, Alex McWhirter, Frank Murray, John Donaldson, Doug Archibald, Brian Earl, Kim Panton, Ron McCartan, Bob Hamilton and Ronnie Drummond.
- 2. Apologies;** Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoghann McLachlainn, Eoin McIntyre, Dave Henderson, Craig McQuade, Andy Paterson, Andy Mullen, Kenneth Wratten, Norrie Bishop, David Brock, Roy Kay and all overseas members
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Mick Walker welcomed all present and thanked them for attending. He also took the opportunity to wish everyone all the best for 2015.
- 4. Welfare Report;** Roy Kay's eyesight is not so good, he has a carer twice a week. Still in hospital but in good humour regardless. Hopeful of being discharged on Tuesday 20th January 2015. Craig Mc Quade has slipped and injured his knee, it could be ligament problems, we wont know until results of the scan are available.
Andy Mullen is still experiencing problems with his legs
John Donaldson took a tumble, over the festive season, whilst visiting family down south. (No drink involved) Thankfully he is on the mend and is in attendance today
We wish them well and also a speedy recovery
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were proposed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Brian Earl.
- 6. Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising.
- 7. Secretary's Report;** (a) Xmas lunch—29 November 2014—was well attended and everyone had a very good time.
It was agreed to have the Xmas Lunch at the same venue in 2015.

b) Cromwell Lock -- 40th Anniversary Memorial Service—Gil Nicol has e-mailed Olaf Dudley – awaiting reply. It was noted in “The Journal” at the AEA—AGM that information would be forthcoming regarding the remembrance of the 10 sappers who were tragically killed at Cromwell Lock in 1975.

(c) PRA Lothian Branch Xmas Dinner /Dance—Friday 5 December 2014—was well attended and once again a good time was had by all.

(d) We have been informed that there is an Armed Forces Day Parade being held in Aberdeen on Sunday 28th June 2015. There will also be a Parade held in Dunfermline on Sunday 26th April 2015.

(e) Cenotaph Parade—London—Sunday 8 November 2015—anyone wishing to attend please contact Gil Nicol

(f) Tours International have forwarded a brochure outlining various tours along with costs—this was made available for all members.

8. Treasures Report; In the absence of Craig Mc Quade, Mick Walker presented a report informing us that we were still financially healthy.

9. Website Report; John Donaldson informed us that all is reasonably well, we are still getting good interest in our website. We have received 20,500 hits so far.

10. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month, starting from and including January 2015. Meetings will commence at 1300 hours.

11. A.O.C.B.; (1) Frank Murray has contacted the family of the late John Lonergan, in Canada, regarding the renaming of the T.A.Centre at Kingsbury to The John Lonergan Centre. This was approved by the family. Frank has been in touch with Olaf Dudley who unfortunately does not know how this proposed renaming is progressing but he will contact Frank Murray when a decision is made.

(2) Olaf Dudley sends his best wishes to all in AEA Scotland for 2015.

(3) Mick Walker then spoke about the 40 Anniversary of “Trent Chase” reminding us that it is important that we remember the 10 sappers who perished whilst participating in this operation in 1975. We shall be represented this year. Those who wish to attend contact Gil Nicol. Mick also suggested that we make it a weekend trip instead of a one day trip. Mick also suggested we take £650.00 from the Branch Funds and put this towards the cost of the trip for all.

Doug Archibald suggested a Mini Bus in lieu of hotels.

Both suggestions were put forward and it was agreed that the £650.00 of club funds be used toward the cost of attending the memorial service.

It was also agreed that Mick Walker contact Olaf Dudley for details of the planned anniversary.

Mick Walker will look into possible funding from The National Lottery.

(4) Alex McWhirter stated that in previous years, he had participated in “Operation Trent Chase” and feels that we must always remember these lads.

(5) John Donaldson stated that he would like the title of Webmaster removed from the list of semi – officials assisting in the running of the branch. After a lot of discussion it was pointed out that the position of Webmaster exists at our National level and it was agreed to keep the title but there would be no “voting in” of anyone for this position. The members present acknowledge the sterling work John carries out.

(6) Al Milah, Aden, 12 April 1965—This is the 50th anniversary of the attack on Al Milah Camp when both SSM John F Lonergan, 300 Para Sqn. RE. and Sgt.Cyril J Atfield, Royal Army Pay Corps were killed in action. Both are buried in Maala Cemetery, Aden. General Sir Peter Wall GCB CBE ADC Gen (Retd) has arranged for wreaths to be laid on the graves of WO2 John F Lonergan and Sgt Cyril J Atfield on 12th April 2015.

Subsequently it was agreed that we as a branch meet up on the same date (12/4/2015) at 1300hrs at The Guards Club in Edinburgh, where we will raise a glass or two in memory of these two fine gentlemen

The meeting was brought to a close at 1400 hours with a vote of thanks to the chair after which we adjourned to the main hall and had some refreshments.

12. Date of Next Meeting; Sunday 15 March 2015 (1300 Hrs) at The Royal.British.Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh.