



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – Gordon McLeod 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 15 March 2020**

- 1. Members Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Bob Hamilton, Alex Mc Whirter, Alex Cockburn, Andy Nelson and Brian Earl.
- 2. Apologies;** Andy Mullen, Dave Henderson, Andy Paterson, Andy Gemmell, Eoghann mac lachlainn, Bill Pagan, Joe Davidson, John Carter, Dougie Archibald, Ronnie Drummond, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Peter Long, Ron McCartan, Bob Masson, and all overseas members.
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Gordon McLeod welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Gordon informed members of the death of Jinty Murray (Wife of the late Frank Murray) whose funeral was held on Thursday 27 February 2020. It was pleasing to see that some members and wives attended the funeral
Brian Earl unfortunately lost his wife Anne recently, his wife had been ill for a long period. Our commiserations and condolences go to both families.
- 4. Welfare;** Andy Mullen and Ron McCartan both continue to have health difficulties and we wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them soon.
Kenneth Wratten has been recovering from a broken ankle and it is good to know that he is on the mend.
- 5. Minutes of the previous meeting – OGM 19 January 2020.** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Alex McWhirter and seconded by Bob Hamilton.
- 6. Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising.
- 7. Other Branches;** Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Birmingham and 299 Branches were made available for members perusal.
- 8. Secretary's Report; (a) Scam - DELOITTE –** GN has informed AEA Executive Committee – He received documentation from “Deloitte” asking that we pay an outstanding invoice for services rendered. We have never used this company for anything and looking into this company it appears to have ceased trading in May 2019. This is a SCAM
(b) AEA Executive Committee Vacant Post; Our New Chairman, Steve Wallis, has informed us that there are some positions available on The Executive Committee. Anyone interested please contact Steve Wallis Stephen.wallis57@ntlworld.com

(c) 2020 AGM/Reunion; Will be held on 16 – 18 October 2020 at Cedar Court Hotel Harrogate. It will be hosted by The Yorkshire Branch. Gil Nicol has details so if interested please contact him.

(d) Thank you and Resource suggestion; An e-mail was received from Lisa Manners informing us that she has set up a help line for veterans. It has various contact points for agencies that are available to help veterans requiring all forms of assistance. John Donaldson has included their detail in a link with our website.

9. Treasurers Report; Craig McQuade presented a financial report and stated that we are still in a healthy financial position. Craig expressed his thanks to all who submitted donations.

10. Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are receiving more hits. He is still updating our website on a regular basis. Invoices for the hosting of the website were submitted to Craig McQuade, who issued a cheque to John for payment.

11. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of every 2nd Month starting from 19 January 2020. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except for the AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.

12. September Meeting; Please note that our September Meeting has been brought forward to Sunday 13 September 2020 (1300hrs), RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh to facilitate the Cromwell Lock Memorial Service at Grangemouth on Sunday 20 September 2020 (details issued under AOCB) and the Memorial Service held at Cromwell Lock on Sunday 27 September 2020.

13. A.O.C.B (a) AEA Scotland—Annual Lunch – Saturday 5 September 2020

We have been booked into the Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh once again for our Annual Branch Lunch. The cost this year will be £26.00 per person. The Royal Scots Club have limited us to a choice from 2 sets of menus plus a Vegetarian menu. Gil Nicol has contacted them regarding the menu and it will be forwarded to all members when available.

(b) John Lonergan Memorial; It has been agreed that we meet up at The Guards Club, Edinburgh on Sunday 12 April 2020 (1300hrs) to pay our respects to the memory of John Lonergan and look at ways that we can commemorate him. Gordon McLeod has produced a couple of photographs taken in Aden in 1965. These will be displayed in two venues, one displayed in the Upper Hall at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh and the other in the RBL Grangemouth Hall. The Secretary will contact RBL Grangemouth and arrange for the presentation to be held on the same day as our Memorial Service.

(c) 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. Three of our members expressed an interest in attending both services next year. Gil Nicol had worked out a preliminary cost for attending Cromwell Lock and it was in the region of £250 per person. The date will be Sunday 27 September 2020 and details of the service will be available when issued.

(d) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service, Zetland Park, Grangemouth; We will have our Memorial Service on Sunday 20 September 2020 and bring forward our Ordinary General Meeting, scheduled for 20 September 2020, to Sunday 13 September 2020. Gil Nicol has contacted John Clark, Secretary for RBL Edinburgh and organised the changing of dates. Gil has also been in touch Alan Lochrie (RBL Grangemouth) inviting his members to participate

and the arranging of Standard bearers, Piper, Bugler and Sandwiches. He has also contacted PRA Lothian Branch inviting them to attend and also asking if their standard bearer could also be in attendance.

(e) New Member; Alex Cockburn had been asked to contact Derek Pudney (Ex 9 Sqn.) who lives in Denny. Alex has contacted him but he has not responded to the invite to attend our meetings.

(f) Gordon McLeod has suggested that we supply a wreath for the members attending the Cromwell Lock Memorial Service at Cromwell Lock later in the year this was unanimously agreed by all members present.

(g) Craig McQuade suggested that we allocate a sum of £100.00 towards the cost of attending the memorial service at Cromwell Lock in September 2020 . This was unanimously agreed by all members present.

(h) John Donaldson informed us that Olaf Dudley is looking for historical information about 300 Squadron .John will forward details to Gordon McLeod who will attend to this duty.

(i) John Donaldson read out a letter he had received from the Ministry of Defence in response to his request for an internal review for the inordinate time taken to award the GSM62 with Clasp South Arabia to the members of 300 Parachute Field Squadron Royal Engineers killed and wounded in the firefight at Al-Milah, Aden in 1965. The attachment of the letter from the MOD will be alongside the attachments of the minutes.

14. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 17 May 2020 (1300hrs) at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh.

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

N.B. Due to the ongoing situation with the Coronavirus problem we will keep all members informed of what is happening with meetings and events.