



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – **Mick Walker**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig Mc Quade**

Minute of 18th Annual General Meeting held at the RBL, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1230hrs on 20 November 2016

Members Present; Craig McQuade, Frank Murray, Andy Mullen, Kim Panton, David Brock, Dougie Archibald, Ronnie Drummond, Norrie Bishop, Gil Nicol, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Andy Paterson, Dave Henderson, Alex Cockburn, Bob Masson, Kenny Wratten, Eoghann maclachlainn, Bob Hamilton, Alex McWhirter, Andy Gemmell and Mick Walker.

Apologies; Were received on behalf of Willie Grant and Brian Earl.

Chairman; Mick Walker welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending.

Welfare; The Secretary was in attendance but not in any official capacity as he was only in week 3 of a 6-8 week recuperation period after surgery. He said this was going to schedule and as long as he did nothing daft it would continue to do so.

At the Chairman's invitation Craig updated us on his wife's position after her operation. This was very positive and she is to start radiotherapy shortly and remains upbeat about the outcome.

John Donaldson reported that Brian Earl's absence was due to him recently having suffered a stroke. Members expressed condolences and the Secretary advised he was fit enough to send Brian a get well card.

September OGM; Minutes of our OGM had been circulated and were proposed and seconded as a true record. This included reference to Andy Mullen selling a smock on E-Bay on behalf of Gordon; this has now been done and the £110 receipts donated to the Branch. Members joined the Chairman in thanking the guys for this outcome.

17th AGM; Minutes of the 17 AGM was proposed and seconded as a true record.

Chairman report; The renaming of the TA centre at Kingsbury as the Lonergan Lines in memory of 300 Sqn's SSM John Lonergan, who had been killed in action in Aden in 1965, had been the highlight of our year. The ceremony had been well attended by the Scottish contingent and others who had been glad of the opportunity to also meet old comrades and witness current 131 Commando Squadron, Royal Engineers, training.

He also reported that we had paraded in Grangemouth to mark the deaths of our comrades at Cromwell Lock in 1975. There was a good turnout from the Branch and Andy Paterson laid a wreath on our behalf. There was however no representation from the Falkirk Sappers Group or

the families or other locals and it was felt this was perhaps due to the ill health of the Group's Chairman and/or some difficulty amongst the local ex-servicemens organisations.

Mick went on to say that we had been asked by our national Chairman to lay a wreath at the grave just off Easter Road, Edinburgh, of Cpl Scott Wilson of 9 Sqn. Scott had been killed at the battle for Mt. Longdon in the Falklands where the Chairman also served and the wreath was duly laid on 12 June, the precise anniversary of the battle. Ten members were present and we were joined by Paul and Charlie from NE England who were also involved in the action – indeed, Paul was Scott's 2i/c. Prior to the wreath laying Mick read a speech provided by the national Chairman and Paul said a few more personal words.

Those of us who are members of the RBL should note that subs are now due. These are £19.50.

John, Frank, Dougie and Gordon represented the Branch at the opening of the Field of Remembrance in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, with John's photo featuring in the next day's newspaper, Somebody wearing a maroon beret without a cap badge also paraded and it was noticeable he made no effort to contact our guys or the PRA. Such masquerading, if that is what it was, is reportedly quite common and on the rise.

We had a Xmas lunch at the Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh as has been our recent custom and it was as usual a very good lunch and social occasion in pleasant surroundings. During the year, however, it was decided to move this annual event to earlier in the year and we accordingly met again in early September with the same outcome.

The Chairman went on to say he along with Alex Cockburn and Kenny Wratten had attended the national AGM at Coventry in October. Mick reported that attendance at the actual AGM is in decline and this cannot be solely attributed to a conflicting event at the nearby National Arboretum which Alex attended. One thing that arose was the Chairman reporting the conflict between the AEA and REA-Airborne appears to have resurfaced.

Treasurer's Report; Craig McQuade reported that our finances remained in a healthy state despite us having significant expenditure on wreaths, donations and the lunch shortfall. Craig was thanked for his efforts and good husbandry and his report was proposed, seconded and carried without demur.

Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson, in his role as Webmaster said our site continues to receive a fair amount of hits with some from unlikely sources which would indicate it is well known. One such was someone looking to contact Hugo Frost, son of the late Major General John Frost, on a non airborne matter. We met Hugo on the 2014 Arnhem trip and after going round the houses and not without a little difficulty he was able to provide the contact. John added that he gets requests for links but rejects those which are mainly commercial.

Office Bearers; With the exception of Chairman and Auditor the present agreed to continue in post, namely Gil as Secretary, Craig as Treasurer, John as Webmaster with Andy Paterson and Gordon as Branch Reps. On the proposal of the outgoing Chairman with Andy Paterson seconding him Bob Hamilton agreed to assume the role of Auditor, John Donaldson then proposed Dougie Archibald as Chairman and after seconding by Kim Panton this was carried unanimously. Mick then took the opportunity to thank members for their support and understanding in his period as Chairman.

Annual Subscription; The incoming Chairman then proposed that ours rise up to £10 and there was general agreement to this suggestion. The outgoing Chairman, who remained in the

chair for the rest of the meeting, felt it should stay as it was but found no support so the new level of £10 was accepted. The Treasurer advised that this could be paid after the meeting.

Future meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, every 2nd month, starting from and including January 2017. Meetings will commence at 1300 hours, with the exception of the AGM which would commence at 1230.

The Secretary will circulate “dates for your diary” re AEA events in 2017. It should, however, be noted that for our annual lunch on 02 September a £5 non refundable deposit will require to be paid no later than or March meeting with the balance by the July meeting. This is due to us incurring a relatively serious shortfall for the lunch this year owing to late call-offs.

AOCB; Frank Murray noted that the RBL had a fund for memorials, parades and the like and wondered whether we could access this to help fund a piper and bugler for the Cromwell Lock Memorial Ceremony at Grangemouth. The incoming office bearers agreed to look into this possible avenue of funding.

After being advised of the Branch’s response to the passing of members, Dave Henderson, who had motored up from England specifically for the meeting, informed us that he was shortly moving to Coldstream. This will reduce his road trip from 540 to 110 miles !

Alex Cockburn said that on his return from the AGM at Coventry he had called in at the National Arboretum and spent in excess of 3 hours there. Alex was most impressed with the facility and it’s layout and feels it is well worth a visit.

Pocket Calendars highlighting AEA Scotland meeting dates were distributed to members.

The Chairman confirmed that our **next meeting** will be held on 15 January at 1300hrs and then closed the meeting at 1357hrs.