



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman: **Frank Murray** Secretary: **Dougie Archibald** Treasurer: **Mick Walker**

Minutes of the Meeting held in The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1300hrs on Sunday 17th January 2010.

1. Members Present :

Frank Murray, Doug Archibald, John Donaldson, Andy Paterson, Craig McQuade, Gil Nicol, Roy Kay, Kim Panton, Raymond Mannion, Mick Walker, Colin Reid, Ronnie Drummond and Jim Simpson.

2. Chairman's Welcome :

The new Chairman, Frank Murray, welcomed the assembly to the meeting with a warm welcome and the wish for a Happy New Year before inviting members to be up standing for a one minute silence to remember absent friends.

Frank went on to inform members that action had been taken by the office bearers with regard to Major General John Cowtan who had passed away on 1st January 2010 aged 89 years.

The Major General was having a private family funeral but there was a memorial service being held on 19th January 2010 at Coleshill Church, Oxon at 2.30pm and it was at the request of the family that those wishing to can a donation to The Royal Engineers Benevolent Association and it was to this Association that the committee forwarded a cheque for £50.00 .

We were also informed that Major Robin Ward (retired) a former OC of 300 Para Sqn Airborne Engineers was intending to attend the memorial service and he kindly offered to represent Airborne Engineers Scotland for which the Secretary thanked him on behalf of the branch.

Finally the Chairman thanked the outgoing Chairman, Tom Ormiston, for his term in office and he also gave a hearty congratulations on behalf of himself and the branch to Jim Simpson who had been presented with the " Presidents Award of Merit " by Joe Stoddart MBE, Association Chairman, on behalf of the President at the recent AGM/Reunion.

3. Apologies :

These were received on behalf of David Brock, Alec McWhirter, Andy Mullen, Jimmy Wilson. Ian Thomson and Willie Grant.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting :

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2009 were proposed as a true record by Kim Panton and seconded by Ronnie Drummond.

5. Matters Arising :

There were no matters outstanding.

6. Website News :

John Donaldson informed the meeting that he had been approached by a "Military Outfitters " to go on as a link on our website, after a short discussion it was decided to ignore this request.

7. Treasurers Report :

Mick Walker distributed his period account of our finances and positively beamed with delight to have broken his personal target of £1000.00.

He was thanked for his prudent and diligent handling of our accounts.

8. A.O.C.B. :

(I) The Secretary raised the subject of donations as had happened recently when the committee had to send a donation by agreement between office bearers when it had to be processed outwith one of our normal meetings. It was unanimously agreed that under circumstances which cannot be dealt with at a meeting, the committee have permission to act accordingly on behalf of the branch.

(ii) Catering ; There had been several hints at previous meetings regarding whether we should have some food after our meetings on a regular basis. After various suggestions and prices it was agreed prior to future meetings the Secretary will arrange "Pies" to be heated for which there will be a nominal charge of 50p made towards costs.

9. Future Activities :

(I) Our senior member, Jimmy Wilson, is approaching his 90th Birthday and Mick Walker proposed that as a branch we take him to his favourite pub for lunch and this was seconded by Gil Nicol.

(ii) There was still some interest in a visit to Inchcolm Island in the River Forth and Doug Archibald agreed to bring details to the next meeting when a definite date could be made.

(iii) Craig McQuade suggested a trip to the Falkirk Wheel followed by a lunch , this proved popular and when it was suggested for April it was realised that the 12th April was the 45th anniversary of John Lonergan's death it was decided to choose a day nearest to that date. Doug Archibald would confirm opening hours and a nearby suitable hostelry. Keep that date in you diary it will be fixed at at our next meeting.

(iv) Airborne Forces Day 2011 (2nd July) Jake Hogg PRA entered the meeting to give some detail. The Lothian Branch PRA are the hosts for this event much of which will be held at Dalkeith and we are invited to join in the Church Service and Parade. Planning has already started and although the event is still a bit away there is a lot of organising to be done and we will be kept in touch.

(v) There is to be the unveiling of a plaque in memory of Cpl. Mark Wright in The Masonic Club at Shrubhill on Friday 12th February at 1800hrs to which all members are invited to attend.

(vi) Another date for your diary : The first Sunday in September (5th) Bowls at Bilston this is a fun day between ourselves and the PRA and food is laid on F.O.C. . This is a great day out regardless of the weather so give it your support.

There being no further business the meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair by Gil Nicol.

The date for our next meeting is Sunday 21st March 2010 at 1300hrs at the same venue.