



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Minutes of the meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1300hrs on Sunday 21st March 2010.

1. Members Present :

Frank Murray, Doug Archibald, Kim Panton, John Donaldson, Roy Kay, Tom Ormiston, Jim Simpson, Ronnie Drummond and guest Norrie Bishop.

2. Chairman's Welcome :

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to the assembled members then requested that we be up standing in a minutes silence to remember the recent loss of Colin Reid.

3. Apologies :

These were received on behalf of Andy Mullen, Gil Nicol, Andy Paterson, Mick Walker, Willie Grant, Ian Thomson and Jimmy Wilson.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting :

Before asking for these minutes to be accepted the Secretary pointed out that an error and an omission to them had been brought to his attention by the Chairman and are as follows;

(I) it was minuted that Jim Simpson had been presented with the "President's Award of Merit" at the recent AGM/Reunion when this should have been the "President's Commendation for Valuable Service". The Secretary apologised for this error and Jim Simpson assured him that it had caused him no embarrassment.

(ii) The omission which had been mentioned at the meeting was in regard to Major David Breese whose obituary had been in the December Journal. Major Breese's airborne connection began with 3 Para Sqn. RE in 1943 and he was a major player in the formation of 300 Para Sqn. RE (TA) in Scotland and was Major General John Cowtan's 2ic in 131 Regiment until 1964.

The Secretary apologised once again for these errors and promised they would be rectified in the Minute Book. He then asked for the minutes to be accepted which was proposed by Frank Murray and seconded by Jim Simpson.

5. Matters Arising :

The Secretary pointed out that there were several matters but as they concerned future activities they would be discussed at a later item on the agenda.

6. Website Update :

John Donaldson informed the meeting that there was nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Although his apologies had been received Mick Walker had shown his usual diligence and sent his period report via the Secretary who presented them to the meeting. Despite our expenditure being more than our income we still have a healthy balance of more than £1000.00 .

8. Future Activities :

(I) Jimmy Wilson lunch - This was to take place at The Robin's Nest, Gilmerton Road Edinburgh at 1230 pm on Monday 22nd March.

(ii) John Lonergan's death 45th Anniversary 12th April 2010. Doug Archibald presented details on the proposed visit to The Falkirk Wheel with the view of making this our Branch remembrance of this occasion and it was agreed this should be done on Sunday 11th April as the nearest suitable date. Timing for this should be members (and wives) should meet at 1200hrs at the entrance to the visitors centre. The easiest way to reach the Wheel is via through Falkirk on the old Camelon / Stirling road and it is well signposted at the old lock gates 1 and 2 (Beefeater pub on corner). This road arrives at the South car park from which the visitor centre is visible.

There is also a North car park which can be accessed signposted via the A80 and a Park'n'Ride service from Falkirk/Grangemouth, Note it is a much longer walk from the North car park to the visitor centre.

There is a café gift shop at the centre but it is suggested we retire after our visit to Rosebank which is a Beefeater style pub/restaurant for something more substantial.

Anyone requiring further details on route or travel can contact Doug Archibald at home 01324 713987 or mobile 07874 968438 and he will do what he can to assist.

Our Chairman Frank Murray will be informing John Lonergan's family of our intentions and at an opportune moment he will say a few words to mark the occasion.

(iii) Maid of the Forth- Trip to Inchcolm Island. Doug reported that trips do not resume until the 2nd April therefore this will be discussed at our next meeting before we can proceed with this.

9. A.O.C.B. :

(I) John Donaldson proposed that in accordance with the latest changes to our constitution we accept Norrie Bishop as an Honorary Member of our branch. This was seconded by Ronnie Drummond and carried unanimously as Norrie was both a regular and contributor at our meetings.

(ii) John Donaldson informed the meeting that he had received an e-mail from AEA President John Lee regarding an inquiry from Capt. Olaf Dudley of 131 Indep. Cdo.Sqn. RE (V) concerning two items; (a) Anniversary of John Lonergan's death. (b) Anniversary of The Cromwell Lock tragedy. It was agreed that Doug Archibald would e-mail what our intentions on these matters were after today's meeting.

(iii) One of the ex members of 2 Troop 300 Sqn., Bert Lesslie who now resides in Canada, is at present on holiday and it is planned to meet him for a beer on Wednesday 31st March at 1230hrs in The Standing Order, George Street, Edinburgh to which all are welcome.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1405hrs with an apology to the PRA for over running our time.

**The date for our next meeting is Sunday 16th May 2010 at 1300hrs at the same venue.
Brian Earl to please take special Note.**