



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



[www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk](http://www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk)

**Chairman – Douglas Archibald**

**Secretary – Gil Nicol**

**Treasurer – Craig Mc Quade**

## **Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 15 July 2018**

1. **Members Present;** Doug Archibald, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Alex McWhirter, Bob Hamilton, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, Bob Masson, Brian Earl, Eoghann macLachlainn, Kenneth Wratten, David Henderson and Alex Cockburn.
2. **Apologies** Andy Mullen, Kim Panton, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, Andy Paterson, Andy Gemmell, Ron McCartan and all overseas members.
3. **Chairmans Welcome;** Doug Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. members (Kenneth Wratten and Mick Walker) attended the funeral of Bunny Brown (Birmingham Branch) on Friday 8 June 2018.  
**“We will remember him”**
4. **Welfare;** (a) Andy Mullen still has an ongoing problem with his legs  
(b) Ronnie Drummond had been ill recently and it was good to see him at today’s meeting.  
(c) Brian Earl is recovering from a stroke and it was good to see him at today’s meeting.  
(d) Kim Panton has been told that he has Throat Cancer and Cancer of one of his lungs.

**We wish them all a speedy recovery**

5. **Minutes of the previous meeting – OGM 15 May 2018;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Robert Hamilton and seconded by Gordon McLeod.
6. **Matters Arising;** No matters arising
7. **Secretary’s Report;** (a) **AEA Scotland Annual Lunch**—We have booked a room at The Royal Scots Club, Abercrombie Place, Edinburgh for 1 September 2018 (1230hrs for 1300hrs). The price is £25.00 per person and any member who is outstanding please contact Gil Nicol.  
(b) **29th AEA—AGM & Reunion Gala Dinner – Friday 12 - Sunday 14 October 2018**— This event will be held at The King Charles Hotel, Gillingham Kent—details available from the Secretary.  
(c) **Data Protection Act**—Consent Forms have been distributed to all members and to date approximately 80% are complete. The remainder will forward details to The Branch Secretary **ASAP.**

**(d) Erskine Homes;** We received a letter of thanks from Erskine Homes thanking us for our £50.00 donation.

**(e) Mickey Yule;** We have forwarded a cheque for £100.00 to Micky towards his costs for attending The Tokyo Paralympics .We also wish him all the very best for the future.

**(f)Armed Forces Day, Edinburgh;** Was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and one of our members attended although he was not able to parade.

**8. Treasurer's Report;** -Our Treasurer has informed us that we are still in funds and looking financially healthy.

**9. Webmaster's Report;** John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits. He is still updating our website on a regular basis.

**10. Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held ,on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month , every 2<sup>nd</sup> Month commencing from 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018.Meetings will commence at 1300hrs with the exception of the AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.

**11. A.O.C.B; (a) Scott Wilson;** We held a remembrance service, on Saturday 23 June 2018 (1300hrs) at Edinburgh East Cemetery for Scott Wilson. He was an ex 9 Sqn. Member who was killed at the battle of Mount Longdon during The Falklands Conflict.

As well as a good turnout from the branch we had John Ferry (AEA Chairman) and his wife Sandra. Another ex 9 Sqn member, Paul Moore, was also in attendance. John and Paul served with Scott and were good friends.

Some of our branch members wives came along (thank you ladies)

After the ceremony we all adjourned to The Guards Club, Edinburgh where we had a lovely finger buffet as well as raising a glass or two in Scotts memory

John, Sandra and Paul were very pleased with the effort our branch has put into keeping Scotts memory alive.

We informed them that as long as there is a branch in Scotland we will carry out this duty on a yearly basis.

**(b) General Service Medal 62 with Clasp South Arabia.** John Donaldson submitted the following report. Following the initial letter received at the Scottish Parliament from Lord Howe, stating that because the regiment had not served 30 days in theatre they could not be awarded the GSM. Another letter has been sent to Lord Howe by Maurice Corry MSP, however, to date no reply has been received.

On 20 June 2018, a letter was sent to General Sir Nicholas Patrick Carter, Chief of the Defence Staff, explaining that the Army Medal Office had said that those members of 300 Para Sqn RE killed and wounded in Aden were entitled to the GSM 62 under special Army Orders of 25 July 1966. General Nitsch in his letter was under the impression that they had already received the GSM and explained in his letter why they were entitled to the award. Also mentioned was the letter below received from the MoD Medal Office by Eoghann maclachlainn. No reply has been received from the CDS.

**(c) Eoghann maclachlainn** showed us a copy of the letter he received from MOD Medals Office;

“ Please accept my sincere apologies for the length of time taken to resolve your case. We have been trying to gather as much information as possible and consulting with the relevant departments to ensure we had exhausted every avenue of research before responding. Although you were injured whilst on an annual training camp in Aden, you unfortunately do

not qualify for the award of the GSM 62 with clasp South Arabia. This is because the capacity in which you were in Aden was for **training** and not for operational duties. I understand that this may not have been the response you were hoping for but hope it clarifies our position”.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs T Sherwood

(SOS MODMO Ops)

This is contrary to Capt.E. maclachlaimn having been informed that he **will** receive the GSM62 by a previous MOD source.

Watch this space as there will be more to come

**(c) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service, Zetland Park, Grangemouth;** A memorial service, for the 10 Sappers who perished at Cromwell Lock, has been arranged for Sunday 23 September 2018 (1045hrs) at Harry Street, Zetland Park, Grangemouth. Representatives from the Families, AEA Scotland, RBL Grangemouth, The Falkirk Sappers, PRA Lothian Branch, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and Air Cadets will be in attendance. Standards from some of the organisations mentioned will be on display.

Berets, Medals, etc to be worn

After the ceremony we will retire to The Royal British Legion, 4 Dundas Street, Grangemouth where we will have refreshments and sandwiches.

**(d) PRA Lothian Branch** have invited us to attend a presentation about the operation that took place at Kiel Canal, Germany in 1975. This will be held after our meeting in the upstairs room.

**(e) Alex Cockburn** will forward details of the Pikulicki brothers, who served with 131 in the 60s, to Gil Nicol and he will contact them regarding AEA Scotland.

**12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 16 September 2018 (1300hrs) at R.B.L. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.**

**The meeting was closed and a round of thanks was given to the chair**