



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – **Gordon McLeod**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting

Held on Sunday 15 May 2022 (1300hrs) at R.B.L.33 Rodney Street ,Edinburgh

1. Members Present; Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol ,Craig McQuade, Alex Cockburn, Andy Nelson, Brian Earl, Norrie Bishop, John Donaldson, David Henderson, Bob Masson, Bob Hamilton, Jim Queen, Michael Ellery, David Shankland and Alan Morrison.

2. Apologies; Andy Mullen, Joe Davidson, Willie Grant, Eoghann maclachlainn, Robert Stewart Bill Pagan, John Carter, Keith Coventry, Douglas Archibald, Alex McWhirter, Andy Gemmell, John Hare, Kenneth Wratten, Ron McCartan, Andy Paterson, Mick Walker and all overseas members.

3. Chairman's Remarks; Gordon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. The meeting was opened with the reading of the Airborne Prayer by Dave .Henderson followed by a toast to Her Majesty The Queen.

Ronnie Drummond's funeral was held at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh in the Main Chapel on Tuesday 22/3/22 (1200hrs) for a service of remembrance and afterwards to Piershill Cemetery for internment.

Three members from AEA Scotland and three members of PRA Lothian accompanied Ronnie's coffin into the Main Chapel. There was a good turnout from AEA Scotland and PRA Lothian Branch respectively. The branch stood for a minutes silence to remember absent friends.

4. Welfare; The following members are still not keeping well and we send our best wishes for a speedy recover; Andy Mullen, Eoghann macLachlainn, John Carter, Andy Gemmell and Ron Mc Cartan. Andy was out cycling when he hit a pothole, tumbled to the ground resulting in the following injuries;-broken small bone in the pelvic area, torn muscle in the groin area. He is progressing slowly, on crutches, torn muscles and damaged tendon.

5. Minutes of OGM; Sunday 20 March 2022. The minutes were passed as being accurate by Bob Hamilton and seconded by Mike Ellery.

6. Secretary's Report; (a) 23 Para.Engr.Regt.;--Freedom Day has been scheduled for 11/12-6-22
(b) Andy Nelson— Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland – Andy did a charity walk around Loch Leven, approximately 13 miles, on behalf of C. H. A. S. The branch has forwarded a donation of £50.00 which has been acknowledged. Some other members have also given private donations. Well, done mate.

(c) Erskine Homes—It was agreed to donate the sum of £50.00 to Erskine Home. This duty will be carried out by our Treasurer.

7. Treasurer's Report; Craig Mc Quade presented a very clear financial report stating we are in a healthy financial position .He thanked all who submitted donations.

8. Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson informed us that various companies have contacted him with a view to take over the running and presentation of our website, at a substantial cost. It was agreed that John will continue to monitor and update our website.We are still receiving “hits” from visitors. Anyone who wants anything included on the website can contact John Donaldson.

9. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month, on alternate months, commencing Sunday 16 January 2022. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except for our AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.We will meet in the downstairs small lounge at R. B. L., 33 Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4OQ.

10. A.O.C.B. (a) AEA Scotland 25th Anniversary. This is on 20 September 2023 and we, the committee, suggest we use our Annual Lunch as a means of celebration We can also have a toast to our anniversary at our OGM on Sunday 18 September 2023

Jim Queen can make bespoke pens commemorating our 25th Anniversary and they will cost approx. £25.00 each, this is a conservative estimate as costs for material are rising continually. Samples were shown to all members.

(b) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2022 (Grangemouth);This is planned to be held on Sunday 25 September 2022 at Zetland Park, Grangemouth.The area is no longer fenced off but the footprint has changed. The committee will review our parade situation after the rededication service at the War Memorial on Saturday 11 June.

(c) Re-Dedication of War Memorial, Zetland Park, Grangemouth-Saturday 11 June 2022 at 1000hrs. We have been invited by R.B.L Grangemouth to participate in this event. At the moment all we know is that we must be at RBL Grangemouth for 1000hrs and then parade to the memorial. Once more definite details are available the Secretary will issue accordingly.

(d) AEA Scotland Annual Lunch; a booking has been made for The Royal Scots Club , Edinburgh on Saturday 8 October 2022. (September is fully booked).We have arranged for arrival at 1230hrs and commence eating at 1300hrs.The meal will be a 3 course meal plus coffee at a cost of £28.00 per person. Once a menu is available Gil Nicol will distribute to all concerned. Please submit names to Gil Nicol ASAP

However, recent correspondence from The Royal Scots Club indicates problems with pricing of foodstuff and availability. It will be nearer mid-July before we have a definite cost and menu available We will wait until we hear from The Royal Scots Club as they have been very good to us in the past.

(e) Date of Births; There are still a number of members who have not given Gil their Dates of Births-can they please do so A.S.A.P.

He can be contacted as follows ;

Email address; gilbertandmyra@gmail.com

House Address; 198 Ardenraig Road, Glasgow G45 0HR

Tel Numbers ; 0141 631 2092 Mobile 07707468530

(f) Remembrance Parade, London—Sunday 6 November 2022. (This date has still to be

confirmed) .However, anyone wishing to attend please inform Gil Nicol and he will try to obtain the necessary parade tickets.

(g) WO2 John Lonergan—A visit to The Guards Club, Edinburgh was held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 (1300hrs) where we remembered the demise of John Lonergan who was tragically killed in action at Al Milah, Aden in 1965.

(h) New members Our Secretary will write a letter of invitation to join our branch to a list of names given to him by Mike Ellery.

(i) Scott Wilson—All members are asked to attend, if possible, the grave of Scott Wilson on Sunday 12 June 2022 at 1300hrs. Scott was killed whilst participating in the taking of Mount Longdon, Falkland Islands, 40 years ago. This is a duty we have taken on at the request of John Ferry and other members of AEA that were there during the Falklands War.

(j) Peter Long; Peter had his 85th Birthday on 4 April 2022. We sent an email congratulating him.

11. Social Convener; After much discussion amongst members it was agreed that we should appoint a Social Convener to help arrange other events out with our annual events that we already carry out .This could mean arranging outings, meals, golf or any such things .It was pointed out that in the past we did extracurricular activities (abseiling, golf, charity walks, trips on The Waverley and visit to the island in The Forth at South Queensferry, etc.) but the passage of time caught up with our members so this curtailed our movements somewhat. However with the influx of new members then we should reevaluate our events situation. So put your thinking caps on and consider if you wish to be our new Social Convener.

12. Future Events; Alex Cockburn informed the members that we should consider using R.B.L. Grangemouth for some of our future events. It would be suitable for dinner, dances, etc and there are a number of good hotels in the vicinity of the hall.

13. 131 75th Anniversary Reunion.—Dave Henderson attended this event at Kingsbury and had a good time, although there were not many people he recognised. He spent a fair bit of time explaining to younger members of 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers what the history was behind naming the barracks “Lonergan Lines”. We thank Dave for making the journey and attending this event.

14. Raffle—Gordon McLeod kindly donated a bottle of Johnny Walker Black Label whisky which was raffled to assist our branch funds and we raised £37.00.This was won by Bob Hamilton who promptly put it up for auction raising a further £15.00 and a total of £52.00 was raised towards our funds. David Henderson was the final recipient of the whisky.

15. Date of Next Meeting -- Our next meeting will be on Sunday 17 July 2022, commencing at 1300hrs at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh—In the Small Downstairs Lounge.

The Meeting was brought to a close and the Chair was thanked