



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman – Gordon McLeod

Secretary – Gil Nicol

Treasurer – Craig McQuade

Minutes for the Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 15 September 2019.

- 1. Members Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Alex McWhirter, John Donaldson, Bob Hamilton, Dougie Archibald, Bob Masson, Andy Gemmell, Alex Cockburn, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond and John Carter.
- 2. Apologies;** Mick Walker, Dave Henderson, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoghann maclachlann, Andy Mullen, Andy Paterson, Peter Long, Ron McCartan and all overseas members.
- 3. Chairmans Welcome;** Gordon McLeod welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He also informed them that he was pleased at the turnout for our annual lunch which was held on Saturday 7 September 2019 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh.
- 4. Welfare;** Andy Mullen continues to have health problems. Ron Mc Cartan still has ongoing health problems.

“We wish them all the best and a speedy recovery”
- 5. Minutes of the previous meeting-O.G.M. 21 July 2019;** (a) The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Alex Cockburn and seconded by Alex Mc Whirter
- 6. Matters Arising;** There were no matters arising.
- 7. Secretary’s Report;** (a) **AEA National AGM 4 – 6 October 2019** is being held at Mercure Whately Hall Hotel, Banbury. John Ferry has forwarded a copy of The Agenda for perusal.
(b) **Toscaig Bridge;** We have received a letter of thanks from The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity for our contribution towards the new plaque which was installed at Toscaig Bridge on 30 May 2019 by Eamon Smythe.
(c) **Cenotaph Parade: Sunday 10 November 2019.** No one has taken up the offer of the tickets available. Gil has informed Steve Wallis that we will not be participating in the parade.
(d) **Lt Col (Retd.) Stanley Peake;** On Monday 2 September 2019, some of our members attended the funeral service of the late Stanley Peake. Stanley was the O.C of 300 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers (TA) during the 60,s. He was **not** C.O of 131 Parachute Engineer Regiment (TA). His son Tim had been touch and invited former members of 131 Parachute Engineers to attend. The funeral service was held in the Pentland Chapel, Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh.
(e) **Erskine News:** The latest autumn edition is available for our members to peruse.

8. Treasurers Report; Craig McQuade informed the members that we are still in a healthy financial position although our finances are a bit depleted and reminded them that annual subs, £10.00/person are due at our next meeting on Sunday 17 November 2019.

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

10. Future Meetings; All future meetings will be held on the 3rd Sunday of every 2nd Month starting from 20 January 2019. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except for the AGM which will commence at 1230hrs.

11. A.O.C.B: (a) Development Meeting—Thursday 8 August 2019 we had a very lively and interesting meeting at The Guards Club, Edinburgh regarding the future development of AEA Scotland. A lot of very good points were raised and left the committee with some work to do. The committee has addressed almost 100% of the problems and submitted a verbal report. Gil Nicol will forward copies to all members.

It was agreed that the cost proposed by The Daily Record of £300 + vat for 1 day advert and £1495 + vat for 6 day advert was too high. Dougie Archibald suggested we try The Falkirk Herald and The Metro. Gil Nicol will carry out this duty. It was also agreed that we should work on the principle that no less than 7 members constitutes the existing of a Branch. However we also agreed to look at this again should we reach a reduced number of members.

The Guards Club very kindly supplied us with the use of their Function Suite at no charge. Gil has sent a letter thanking them. However, it should be noted that having a meeting in Edinburgh during The Edinburgh Festival is not a good idea as most members faced difficulty with public transport even to the extent that one member had to about turn as he would not have managed the meeting until well after 1400hrs.

(b) Branch Standard; This was discussed briefly but the estimated costs of £1250 -- £1500 pounds is more than the branch can afford. A vote was taken and it was agreed, by the majority (11 to 1) that we do not pursue this matter.

(c) AEA Scotland — Annual Lunch – Saturday 7 September 2019.

We had our Annual Lunch at The Royal Scots Guards Club, Edinburgh and it was a very good turn out as we had 19 in attendance. In particular we had Jinty Murray as a guest. Jinty is the wife of the late Frank Murray who was a past Chairman of our branch and a staunch member. It was a very good day out and everyone had a good time. It was also nice to see the ladies at this event and having them grace us with their presence. Joe Davidson presented John Donaldson with a wooden box he had made, adorned with an RE Badge, Para Wings and DZ Flash, containing a special bottle of Jura whisky, in recognition for all his hard work regarding the General Service Medal for the lads killed and wounded in Aden in 1965. The bottle of Jura adorned with the SAS Winged Dagger, 23 Special Air Service, was kindly given by Dougie Ballard who is a member of 23 Special Air Service Regiment.

It was agreed that we try for the same venue next year.

(d) General Service Medal (Aden); John Donaldson submitted the following report. It would appear that the rest of the lads who were in the firefight at Al Milah, Radfan, will not receive any more help from MPs, MSPs in the fight for the General Service Medal with Clasp South Arabia. Regarding the complaint John made to the Ministry of Defence and Lord Howe, who tried to deny the dead and wounded the GSM even though they were entitled to the award, John has had no reply albeit he was told he would receive a reply by 7 September 2019. Airborne Engineers Association

was not mentioned in the complaint.

(e) New Members—John Carter has spoken to Eric Love who has been in touch with the Grangemouth lads who may be interested in coming through to Edinburgh .They have been invited to attend our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 17 November 2019.The majority of the Grangemouth lads are quite happy meeting up as the already do.

(f) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2019; A memorial service will be held at The Memorial Stone at Zetland Park, Dalratho Road (Off Abbots Rd) Grangemouth on Sunday 22 September 2019, at 1030hrs, where we will remember the tragic loss of 10 sappers killed whilst taking part in “Operation Trent Chase”. Dress code will be Blazer/suit and collar and tie plus Beret and Medals. After the service we will retire to the Royal British Legion, 4 Dundas Street, Grangemouth FK3 8BX for refreshments.

We will be presenting RBL Grangemouth and a member of one of the families, who lost a loved one at Cromwell Lock, with a framed photograph of the plaque that has been installed on Toscaig Bridge.

We also acknowledge the part that our fellow AEA Members and others have in the celebrations at Cromwell Lock.

(g) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2020; As this is the 45th Anniversary of this event, both at Cromwell Lock and Zetland Park, it would be worthwhile if some members could attend the Memorial Service at Cromwell Lock as well as Zetland Park, Grangemouth. Details of the service at Cromwell Lock will be issued later in the year. Two of our members expressed an interest in attending both services next year.

Gil Nicol will obtain details via John Lee.

(h) Old Comrades Annual Dinner—This will be held on Saturday 19 October 2019 (1930hrs for 2000hrs) at 4 Para Premises, New Pearson Hall, Houldsworth Street, Glasgow. Anyone interested see Gil Nicol. There will be a 3 course meal available for a cost of £20.00 per person.

(i) Garden of Remembrance, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh – This ceremony will take place on Monday 28 October 2019 at 1100hrs. Blazer, shirt and tie, and berets to be worn.

12. Date of Next Meeting; 21st AGM on Sunday 17 November 2019 (1230hrs) at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh. Please be sharp as we will be electing Office Bearers.

The meeting was brought to a close and everyone thanked the Chair