



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Gordon McLeod**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of the Airborne Engineers Association (Scotland) Ordinary General Meeting held on Sunday 18 September 2022 (1300hrs) at R.B.L.S. 33 Rodney Street, Edinburgh.

- 1. Members Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Alex Cockburn, Andy Nelson, Brian Earl, John Donaldson, Mick Walker, Andy Gemmell, David Henderson, Bob Masson, Bob Hamilton, Douglas Archibald and Michael Ellery
- 2. Apologies;** Andy Mullen, Craig McQuade, Joe Davidson, Willie Grant, Eoghann maclachlainn, Robert Stewart, Bill Pagan, John Carter, Keith Coventry, Jim Queen, Andrew Shankland, Alex McWhirter, John Hare MBE, Ron McCartan, Andy Paterson, Alan Morrison 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 D.Henderson. Gordon reminded all members of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2 who died Thursday 8 September 2022.
“God Bless Her “
Gordon also reminded us that we have a new monarch—King Charles 3.
“God Save The King”
We also remember the lads who were killed or captured at Arnhem 78 years ago.
The Branch stood for a minutes silence to remember HRH, Arnhem Lads and absent friends.
- 4. Welfare;** The following members are still not keeping well and we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery; Andy Mullen, Eoghann maclachlainn and John Carter.
It is good to see Andy Gemmell here at the meeting after recovering from his injuries.
- 5. Minutes of OGM; Sunday 20 March 2022.** The minutes were passed as being accurate by Alex Cockburn and seconded by Michael Ellery.
- 6. Matters Arising;** There were none.
- 7. Secretary's Report;** (a) Cromwell Lock Memorial Garden; Steve Wallis has arranged for 23 Parachute Engineer Regiment to clean up and carry out any repairs required to the Memorial Garden at Cromwell Lock. This has been carried with the help of members from 299 branch. We, amongst others, have pledged a cash donation of £100.00 (per branch) towards the cost involved. This has been forwarded to Lt Col (Retd) Dick Brown. We appreciate the effort involved in arranging all the work involved.
Future maintenance on the garden has still to be finalised. Gil Nicol read out a section from AEA Birmingham.

Details as follows; “Steve Wallis, National Chairman, has visited the memorial recently after the works have been completed and has noticed that the Memorial will require maintenance. The Lock Keeper will try and keep an eye on the memorial and deal with any weeds. Scotland Branch has promised a donation of £200.00 for the upkeep and maintenance and the Birmingham Branch and 299 Association have been asked if they could match this. This would be kept in a separate fund/ account for the sole purpose of the purchase of materials for the upkeep of the memorial. Scotland Branch and Birmingham Branch have already given £100.00 each for materials, 299 were asked if they would match this. To be brought up at their next meeting.

The rumour of a £50.00 historical annual donation from many years ago cannot be proven as there is no reference to it in any accounts or previous meeting minutes. It was agreed all PRA branches would be invited for the annual service and to keep them informed of any further events.

Now the question of who would, in the future, take on the responsibility of the annual service arrangements once John Lee stands down later this year. The suggestion was that one member from each of the Scotland Branch, Birmingham Branch and 299 Association could be nominated to liaise and put into place an action plan for future services. The need for a programme of tidying up of the site was raised and who would take this on. Be it the local PRA branches, The Birmingham Branch or 299 Association. It was also suggested that the local boat owners club would be willing to assist. The suggestion was that to nominate one member from each branch as a representative to liaise and discuss.

Steve Brown proposes Nominates Mike Holdsworth (with limitations) seconded by Mike Williams to become Birmingham Branch Representative. Accepted in his absence

John Lee was asked if he could prepare an Aide Memoire for the representatives to use.

The Local TV Company wants to cover future events.

There is talk of The Canal and Rivers Trust putting in a locked gate to prevent unauthorised access somewhere on the road to the memorial garden”.

The above information generated a lot of discussion amongst our members. Firstly Gil Nicol will become The Scotland Branch representative for the maintenance committee.

Mick Walker, one of our original founders, would like to see some clarity regarding ongoing maintenance and he also thought we at AEA Scotland could be more pro-active, although we are not sure, due to distance, how we can be anymore pro-active. Maybe some of our colleagues, south of the border could assist us with this. We agreed that once the AEA/AGM is over we will contact the AEA National Chairman and ask for more clarity.

John Donaldson suggested that we ask Bill Pagan if he could speak to someone while he is attending the annual service on 25 September 2022. Gil will contact him regarding this matter.

(b) Erskine Homes; We have received a thank you letter regarding our donation along with a certificate.

8. Treasurer’s Report; Craig McQuade, via Gil Nicol, has informed us that we are in a healthy financial position.

9. Webmaster’s Report; John Donaldson informed us we are still receiving “hits” from visitors. Anyone who wants anything included on the website can contact John.

John has removed his email address from our website as he has been inundated with scam e-mails and communications from the USA wishing to link their websites, which relate to asbestos related diseases, to our Website.

10. 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.S. 33 Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4OQ.

11. 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. Samples were shown to all members. Some members have placed orders with Gil Nicol.

Anyone else requiring pens see Gil Nicol at our next meeting.

(b) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2022 (Grangemouth); This will be held on Sunday 25 September 2022 at Zetland Park, Grangemouth. The area is no longer fenced off but the footprint has changed. We will meet up at 1030hrs and dress will be suit / Blazer, shirt, flannels, Ties, Beret, and medals. RBL and PRA Lothian will be in attendance as well as others. After the service we will retire to RBL Grangemouth for refreshments. Refreshments will be supplied by RBL Grangemouth however we do give them a donation towards the cost.

(c) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service, Newark—This will be held on Sunday 25 September 2022 (1030hrs for 1100hrs).

(d) AEA—AGM—Will be held on 21—23 October 2022 and held at Holiday Inn Birmingham.

(e) Field of Remembrance Edinburgh; This will be held on Monday 24 October 2022 at The Gardens on Princes Street, Edinburgh (Next to The Scott Monument) and will commence at 1100hrs precisely. Dress code is Suit/Blazer, Collar & Tie, Beret & medals.

(f) PRA Lothian Branch, Annual Christmas Dinner/Dance; This will be held on Friday 2 December 2022 (1900hrs) at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh—Ticket prices £10.00/person. Any members interested please contact Gil Nicol no later than Sunday 30 October 2022.

(g) Annual Lunch;—Dave Henderson asked if we will be having an annual lunch in the foreseeable future. Gil Nicol referred to our minutes dated 17/7/22 where we stated that we will look into a venue for next year. Doug Archibald asked if we had considered The Guards Club to which Gil Nicol replied, we have not. However we will include the Guards Club as a possible venue for our Annual Lunch. Please bear in mind we have to consider access, etc. for all members and wives/partners.

(h) Memorial Service, Zetland Park, Grangemouth—Sunday 25 September 2022. Alex Cockburn asked if we had invited ABF from Cumbernauld. Gil Nicol stated that he had not but will email one of the members early in the week.

(i) Functions—Alex Cockburn informed the members that RBL Grangemouth is available for any functions we may be interested in having in the future.

(j) Bespoke Clothing—Alex Cockburn informed us that a local Falkirk clothing manufacturer is willing to make up bespoke items of clothing, e.g., Polo Shirts, Kagools, etc., He will bring more information along to our next meeting. The company is called BEE Uniforms.

(k) Michael Ellery informed us that he looking at Sappers Facebook celebrating 59 Squadron. Apparently there was a comment asking why 9 Squadron was so understrength at the moment .Michael replied “ This may be due to an 80% failure rate at “P” Company Training.

12. Social /Events Convener;—Please consider this appointment as we will be appointing new committee members at our AGM in November 2022.

13. Date of Next Meeting; Our next meeting will be our **AGM** to be held on Sunday 20 November 2022 commencing at **1230hrs** at RBLs Rodney Street, Edinburgh—In the Small Downstairs Lounge.

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