



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Chairman — Gordon McLeod 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 19 May 2019**

1. **Member's Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Bob Hamilton, Alex McWhirter, Bob Masson, Andy Gemmell, Alex Cockburn, Norrie Bishop and John Carter.
2. **Apologies;** Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, Eoghann maclachlainn, Andy Mullen, Dougie Archibald, Andy Paterson, Dave Henderson, Norrie Bishop, Ron McCartan, Kenneth Wratten and all overseas members.
3. **Chairman's Welcome;** Gordon McLeod welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.
 - (a) Olaf Dudley informed us that Major (Retd) Steve Beck — OC 131 Independent Commando Squadron 1995 -- 1999 sadly passed away on Friday 22 March 2019. Funeral details will be made available when known. Gordon has sent an email to Olaf Dudley asking him to pass on our condolences to the family.
 - (b) Joe Davidson's younger brother, Ginger, passed away recently and the funeral was quiet family affair. Ginger was an ex 9 Sqn. member, as is Joe. A letter of condolences, on behalf of the branch, was forwarded to Joe and his family.
 - (c) Some branch members attended the funeral of Jim Hunter an ex PRA Lothian Branch member. This was held on Friday 17 May 2019 at Warriston Cemetery, Edinburgh. We were all asked to stand for a minutes silence in memory of past members.

“We will remember them”
4. **Welfare;** Andy Mullen continues to have health problems and we wish him all the best.
5. **Minutes of the previous meeting; – OGM 17 March 2019;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Alex Mc Whirter and seconded by John Donaldson.
6. **Matters Arising;** No matters arising
7. **Secretary's Report;** (a) **Scott Wilson – 12 June 2019 (1300hrs)** A short memorial service will be held at The Edinburgh Eastern Cemetery, Drum Terrace Entrance, on Wednesday 12 June 2019 (1300hrs) in memory of Scott Wilson who was tragically killed during the battle at Mount Longdon, Falklands. Scott was a member of 9 Squadron. Dress code is Suit/Blazer, Beret, regimental ties. Please make an effort to attend. We will retire to The Guards Club after this ceremony.
 - (b) **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. There is only one nomination for Chairman – Steve Wallis, who John Ferry strongly recommends. We must inform John before 25 May 2019 so that he can inform others.

(c) Toscaig Bridge—Eamon Smyth will be fixing a new plaque on 30 May 2019. Anyone requiring details can contact him at the following email address; eamon301@hotmail.co.uk We will be forwarding a cheque to the value of £100.00, as our contribution, towards the cost of the new plaque. This plaque will be fixed to The Toscaig Bridge in memory of the 10 Sappers who perished at Cromwell Lock in 1975.

(d) Armed Forces Day Parade, Edinburgh — 22 June 2019 (1020hrs) – Details to be issued later.

(e) Armed Forces Day Parade, Stirling—29 June (1200hrs) — Details to be issued later.

(f) Cenotaph Parade—Sunday 10 November 2019. The AEA have applied for 24 tickets nationwide. Please contact Gil Nicol if you are interested in attending.

(g) Erskine News; A copy of the recent issue of The Erskine News was made available for members perusal.

8. Treasurer's Report; Craig Mc Quade submitted a detailed report after which he stated that we are still in a healthy financial position.

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 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. AOCB (a) AEA Scotland—Annual Lunch – Saturday 7 September 2019 (1230hrs for 1300hrs) at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh. The costs will be similar to last year. £25.00 per head and must be paid by or on the July meeting. Details of the menu choices are attached to the minutes. Should there be a surplus of monies, it was agreed that same surplus be given to the branch funds.

Dress code is Blazer/Suit, Regimental Tie.

Please contact Gil Nicol at either of the following;

Home Address; 198 Ardencraig Road, Glasgow, G45 0HR

Email Address; gilbertandmyra@gmail.com

Home No; 0141 631 2092

Mobile No; 07707468530

Cheques to be made out to G.Nicol.

It is imperative that we know A.S.A.P numbers who are attending and also course of meal choices

The choices should be shown as the following example;

Starter—A1, A2 or A3

Main Course—B1, B2 or B3

Dessert - C1, C2 or C3.

Gordon McLeod will contact the widows whom we intend to invite on behalf of the branch.

(b) Al Milah; Guards Club – A get together was held on 12 April 2019 at The Guards Club, Edinburgh in memory of the men killed in action at Al Milah, Radfan In 1965. It was also an opportunity to present John Donaldson with a Crystal Decanter and Glasses, on behalf of the

branch members, for all the hard work he has put in regarding The GSM 1962 with Clasp South Arabia. The decanter was engraved with a set of APJI Wings with his name, rank and squadron thereon. The glasses were engraved with his "APJI" Wings. Also included was a bottle of "Jura" which is John's favourite tippie. John was absolutely astounded that the members would show their appreciation in this manner. John thanked everyone for his wonderful gift.

(c) Arnhem 2020; Craig McQuade suggested that we start an Arnhem Bank for future trips, payments would be by direct debit, this was agreed on and members will discuss in more detail at our next meeting. Members who are interested to contact Craig McQuade

His details are as follows;

Craig McQuade, 37 Riverview Park, Mangerton, Newcastleton, TD9 0TF

Home tel no; 03787 375756

Mobile no; 07794 589490

Email address; craigmcquade162@icloud.com

However it does not look as if any members, in the foreseeable future, will be attending this event in 2020. It was agreed that any member who decides at a later date they wish to attend they should make their own personal arrangements.

Craig recommended Tours International which we used on the last two occasions we visited Arnhem and we can assure you they are very good.

If anyone wants to know who to contact at Tours International please contact Gil Nicol.

(d) General Service Medal (Aden); John Donaldson read out a letter he had sent to Lord Howe via Angus MacNeil MP and Gordon McLeod read out the reply received from Lord Howe. Both letters are attached to the e-mail. John went on to say that in December 2016 he had a meeting with Maurice Corry MSP at the Scottish Parliament. Mr Corry had agreed to write to the SOS for Defence in support of 131 Para Engr Regt getting the GSM. However, apart from having to correct the letter being to the SOS for Defence, he never heard any more from Mr Corry despite trying to contact him. Aggrieved by this, earlier this month John complained to the Scottish Conservative Party about the lack of support given by Mr Corry to our cause. A few days later John received an e-mail from Mr Corry apologising for the lack of support saying he was new to the job and understood the SOS for Defence would have replied directly to John. **(What planet is he on)**. He promised he would take the matter further and try to have a face to face with Lord Howe.

Gordon McLeod will be sending a letter to The Rt Hon Earl Howe PC expressing his feelings.

(e) New Members—John Carter has spoken to Eric Love (Grangemouth) and will meet up with him sometime in the near future. John Carter has agreed to liaise between Grangemouth and Edinburgh

(f) AEA Standard; John Carter had previously asked if we had our own branch standard. Gil Nicol looked into the cost for obtaining one and found it would be in the region of £1200 -- £1500.

John suggested that existing members should donate £5.00 per month toward the cost of a new standard as well as getting donations from ex Airborne Engineers/Commando Engineers who were based at Grangemouth (Approximately 25-30 persons). Alex Cockburn asked who would be willing or even able to be a Standard Bearer.

This provoked a brief discussion regarding the future of AEA Scotland, bearing in mind we are all getting older (the majority of us are 70 years of age plus) and we do not appear to be attracting any young blood into our organisation. This discussion led us onto the next item.

(g) AEA Scotland's Future; Gil Nicol suggested we have a meeting to discuss the future of AEA Scotland. This was discussed and it was agreed that we would have a meeting in August 2019, probably at The Dunfermline North Bowling Club. Mick Walker has agreed to try and

arrange for a meeting room to be made available and will confirm at our July meeting at the latest. Should Mick know sooner he will inform our Webmaster, John Donaldson, who will inform all members by e-mail. Alex Cockburn asked if the Secretary would prepare an Agenda for the meeting. Gil Nicol agreed to do so but asked members if they have any salient points they want raised please contact him on or before our July meeting. Would all members please make an effort to attend as this is vital to the continuation of AEA Scotland.

(h) The Order of The Bren Gun; On a lighter note we presented our Chairman Gordon McLeod with a lapel badge of a Bren Gun with poppy in remembrance of the Bren Gun he lost when we parachuted into Black Bog, Northern Ireland, on 7 May 1966. Gordon took this in good spirit and will wear it with pride. This was the same drop where Bob Urquhart (ex 15th Scottish) landed head first in the Black Bog and was pulled to safety by Gordon and others from 300 Para Sqn. Bob is still alive to tell the tale and we see him at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh regularly.

12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 21 July 2019 (1300hrs) at RBL Rodney Street, Edinburgh.

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