



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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**Chairman – Gordon McLeod      Secretary – Gil Nicol      Treasurer – Craig McQuade**

**Minutes of Ordinary General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh, EH7 4EL at 1300hrs on Sunday 20 January 2019.**

**1. Members Present;** Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Craig McQuade, Douglas Archibald, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Andy Mullen, Alex McWhirter, Bob Hamilton, Brian Earl, Ronnie Drummond, Norrie Bishop, Bob Masson, Andy Gemmell, Alex Cockburn and John Carter.

**2. Apologies;** Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, Eoghann macLachlainn, Andy Paterson and all overseas members.

**3. Chairmans Welcome;** Gordon McLeod welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. He then wished them all the best for 2019.

(a) He informed members of the passing of Kim Panton a former member of AEA Scotland.

(b) We were also informed of the passing of Lt Col (Retd) Paul Scoble who had been a PSI in Edinburgh for nearly 3 years and was at Al Milah, Radfan, when 300 Para Sqn were attacked. He shared a tent with John Donaldson and was i/c the funeral detail for SSM John Lonergan's Funeral.

(c) He informed us of the passing of Harold Covington Ex 1 Para Sqn.R.E.

(d) We were also informed that Robert Mitchell, lately of PRA Lothian Branch, had passed away and that his funeral was on 1 February 2019 at Mortonhall Crematorium, Large Chapel (1400hrs). We have been invited by PRA Lothian to attend as part of the Honour Guard . It would be good if as many members as possible could attend as they have turned out regularly for AEA Scotland when required.

Dress is Blazer and Flannels or suit, Tie and Beret.

Gordon then asked that we stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of all members who have passed on.

**“We will remember them”**

**4. Welfare;** Kim Panton's funeral was held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 at Mortonhall Crematorium, Small Chapel and was well attended by members of AEA Scotland and PRA Lothian Branch (Including Standard Bearer)

We received a thank you note, as well as a bottle of whisky, from Rose Panton (Kim's Widow) thanking us for our attendance and how pleased she and all her family were that he had a big send off.

**5. Minutes of the previous meeting; AGM 18 November 2018;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Andrew Gemmell and seconded by Douglas Archibald.

**6. Matters Arising;** No matters arising

**7. Secretary's Report; (a) AEA Message Board.** It was explained to the members that David Pace had set up a secure system whereby members can access the AEA Message Board. It was left to the members to contact David Pace on an individual basis

**(b) Leuchars Station;** This was formerly RAF Leuchars and is now home to The Royal Engineers as well as other Regiments. Gil Nicol has sent an email to 71 Royal Engineer Regiment requesting details of how to arrange a visit in the future.

**(c) PRA Lothian Branch;** Informed members of the following events and have invited us to attend:-

**(1) Pass Out Parade;** "P" Company, Catterick. 19/20 April. Travel down on 19 April, stay overnight, attend the parade and travel home on 20 April---Use own transport---no costs available. Anyone interested can contact Kenny Rogers at PRA Lothian Branch.

**(2) Unveiling of The Airborne Statue at Aldershot---(Reserve List Only)---5-7 July 2019** Leave Haymarket at 0900hrs on 5 July, arrive in Aldershot at 1700hrs.

Attend Parade and Unveiling on 6 July and then have an evening of refreshments.

Depart Aldershot at 1000hrs. on 7 July and arrive in Edinburgh at approx.1800hrs

Anyone interested can contact Kenny Rogers of PRA Lothian Branch

**(3) The passing of Robert Mitchell,** details supplied in Chairman Remarks.

**8. Treasurer's Report;** Craig Mc Quade 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. There is a small increase in cost for this service and it was agreed, unanimously, that we accept this increase. There are new photographs inserted in our website on Page 2 of Pictures.

**10. Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held , on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> Month starting from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs except for the A.G.M. which will commence at 1230hrs.

**11. A.O.C.B; (a) PRA Lothian Branch;** Annual Christmas Dinner and Dance was held on Friday 7 December 2018 at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh. Some of our members attended, accompanied by their wives and had a very good evening. Their next Dinner Dance will be held on Friday 6 December 2019.

**(b) AEA Scotland Annual Lunch** will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh (1230hrs for 1300hrs). The costs will be similar to last year at £25.00 per head and must be paid by or on the July meeting. Details of the menu choice will be forwarded in due course.

Craig McQuade proposed that we set aside the sum of £100.00 which will enable AEA Scotland to invite 4 widows to attend our annual meal. The widows names would be on a yearly rota basis. This proposal was passed by Brian Earl and seconded by Robert Hamilton. There was a discussion on how far we should go back in deciding which widows to attend. It was agreed that we will go back to AEA Edinburgh's inception in 1998. Our Chairman will make up a list to choose from.

**(c) Al Milah Get together;** It was agreed that we would meet up at the Guards Club on Friday 12 April as a follow on to Captain (Retd) Eoghann macLachlainn receiving his GSM 62 with Clasp South Arabia. John Donaldson was accorded a round of thanks for the effort put in to obtaining the GSM for "Big Mac" and the other casualties.

**(d) Arnhem 2019;** Gil Nicol looked at various Tours regarding a visit to Arnhem in September 2019 and passed the details on to all members present. It was agreed that the costs were very high and that we had missed the boat for this event. PRA Lothian Branch were also approached but unfortunately they had no spare capacity.

Craig Mc Quade suggested that we start an Arnhem Bank for future trips and payments would be by direct debit. This was agreed on and members will discuss in more detail at our next meeting.

**(e) General Service Medal 62 with Clasp South Arabia;**

John Donaldson submitted the following report. A further letter has been sent to Lord Howe Ministry of Defence, via Angus MacNeil MP, outlining their double standards when awarding medallic recognition and mentioned the following instances when this has occurred.

**After the Falklands war in 1982**, the Ministry of Defence changed the criteria for the award of the South Atlantic Medal from 30 days service in theatre to one days service in theatre, even though hostilities had come to an end.

**Reaper drone pilots** who bombed and targeted Islamic State (IS) will be awarded military medals for their work as part of Operation Shader, even though they did not spend any time on the ground in that theatre of war, and were in no danger whatsoever.

How can it be fair to award a medal for one days service in the Falklands Islands and to award drone pilots a medal when they were never in any danger and not to award the officers and men of 300 Para Fld Sqn RE medallic recognition, who were the first Territorial Army soldiers to have been in action since WW2?

**(f) Airborne Prayer at Funerals;** John Carter proposed that we read out The Airborne Prayer at members funeral. This was agreed to in principal by all members present, however, the final decision must rest with the families of the deceased as not all members are of a religious persuasion.

**(g) New Members;** John Carter will be meeting up with former members of 131 Commando Engineers, some of whom were ex 300 Troop Para Engineers to see if any are interested in joining AEA Scotland. He feels that there may be approx. 10 in number interested.

He also suggested we have subsidiary meetings held in Grangemouth, although this was agreed in principal, it will be looked at in more depth, at a later meeting.

**(h) Mick Walker** was having a clear out and kindly distributed various books and memorabilia relating to the Airborne Forces amongst our members

**(i) John Donaldson** received a phone call from Jinty Murray, widow of Frank Murray, to say that she had a number of airborne ties and a book previously owned by Frank and asked if any of our members were interested in having them. John said he would uplift them and bring them to the meeting.

**(j) AEA Scotland Calendars** were handed out to members.

**12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 17 March 2019 (1300hrs) at R.B.L. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.**

**The meeting was brought to a close with a round of applause to the Chair.**

