



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman – **Gordon McLeod**

Secretary – **Gil Nicol**

Treasurer – **Craig McQuade**

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on Sunday 20 March 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, Mick Walker, Kenneth Wratten, Jim Queen, Michael Ellery, Ron Mc Cartan, Allan Clark, David Shankland, John Hare MBE and Andy Paterson.

2. Apologies; Andy Mullen, Joe Davidson, Willie Grant, Eoghann maclachlainn, Robert Stewart, Bill Pagan, John Carter, Keith Coventry, Douglas Archibald, Alex McWhirter, Andy Gemmell 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 informed us of the passing of Ronnie Drummond, who was a very reliable and stalwart member. A minutes silence was held in his memory. Ronnie's funeral will be 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 will accompany Ronnie's coffin at Mortonhall Crematorium. Members were requested to turn up at Mortonhall Crematorium to form a Guard of Honour and also pay their respects. Gordon also took the opportunity to welcome the new members to AEA Scotland. The new members came about due to the diligent work by Michael Ellery, one of our founding members.

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 and Ron Mc Cartan . Unfortunately Eoghann has suffered a stroke and is recuperating on Uist. It is good to see Ron Mc Cartan at todays meting.

5. Minutes of OGM Sunday 16 January 2022; The minutes were passed as being accurate by Bob Hamilton and seconded Andy Nelson .

6. Secretary's Report; (a) 131 75th Anniversary. Major Olaf Dudley, OC 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers has invited members to attend an all ranks reunion to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of 131's foundation on April 1947. This event will take place at 131

Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23 April 2022. The gates will open at 1300hrs. Parking and accommodation will be available to those who wish to overnight at Kingsbury before departing the following day. There will be displays, entertainment, the PRI Shop, good food and drink with much more.

Dave Henderson has expressed an interest in attending but does not wish to travel on his own. Any member who is also interested in attending please contact Dave and make the necessary arrangements.

(b) Public Liability Insurance; Gmail dated 12 February 2022—from John Lee
Gentlemen

I am pleased to inform you that the Airborne Engineers Association now has a Public Liability Policy with The Military Mutual which provides cover for any event which you may hold and which requires this type of cover. The maximum amount of cover is £5 million pounds, which is adequate for any type of function we as an association are likely to hold. An example where this cover is needed is for the annual Cromwell Lock memorial service as The Canal & Rivers Trust require such cover as the event is held on their land. I can supply the relevant documents if required should you consider any event you organise would be subject to this requirement, in any case notification from the Executive Council should be given of any planned event so that in the event of any claim we are aware of it and can deal with it.

Regards,

John Lee, President

(c) Honorary Membership; John Lee has informed us that it is time we consider who to nominate as Honorary Branch members. We will wait until the next AEA—AGM and discuss it in detail to ensure that we cross all the T's before proceeding further.

(d) 23 Para. Engr Regt;—Freedom Day-----has been scheduled for 11/12-6-22

7. Treasurer's Report; Craig McQuade 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 organisations have approached 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.

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 any ideas as to how we celebrate this occasion will be welcome.

(b) Cromwell Lock Memorial Service 2022 (Grangemouth); This is planned to be held on Sunday 25 September 2022 at Zetland Park, Grangemouth however, due to the area still being an ongoing building site and fenced off. It appears that we cannot parade as usual. This situation will be monitored on a regular basis.

(c) 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 1230 hrs 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. To obtain the use of The Douglas Room we must have at least 16 people in attendance and no more than 40 people

(d) 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 ;

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(e) 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.

(f) John Lonergan—A visit to The Guards Club, Edinburgh has been arranged for Tuesday 12 April 2022 (1300hrs)—Yes it is open—to remember SSM John Lonergan who was tragically killed at Al Milah, Aden in 1965.

(g) New Membership – Michael Ellery gave us an update—He obtained a list showing we have 40 AEA members living in Scotland. He has already sent out invites to these AEA members regarding AEA Scotland—to date 8 have shown an interest in attending our meetings .Today 5 of these 8 have shown up and taken out membership of AEA Scotland. We once again thank Michael for all his effort. James O’hagan has donated £50.00 towards our branch funds even although he does not feel up to attending our meetings

(h) The question of Mr A Terry attending our meeting was raised and Andy Paterson informed the meeting that he will contact him, as he lives near him, with a view to persuading him to attend.

11. Date of Next Meeting; Our next meeting will be on Sunday 15 May 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.