



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 17 July 2022 (1300hrs) at R.B.L.S. 33Rodney Street ,Edinburgh

1. Members Present; Gordon McLeod, Gil Nicol, Alex Cockburn, Andy Nelson, Brian Earl, John Donaldson, Mick Walker, David Henderson, Bob Masson and Bob Hamilton.

2. Apologies; Andy Mullen, Craig McQuade, Joe Davidson, Jim Queen, Andrew Shankland, Willie Grant, Eoghann maclachlainn, Robert Stewart, Bill Pagan, John Carter, Keith Coventry, Douglas Archibald, Alex McWhirter, Andy Gemmell, John Hare MBE, Kenneth Wratten, Ron McCartan, Andy Paterson, Michael Ellery, Alan Morrison, Norrie Bishop 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 followed by toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

The branch also stood for a minutes silence to remember absent friends.

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, Andy Gemmell and Ron Mc Cartan.

Andy was out cycling when he hit a pothole, tumbled to the ground resulting in the following injuries;-broken small bone in the pelvic area, torn muscle in the groin area . He is progressing slowly on crutches with a torn muscles and damaged tendon.

Craig M Quade took ill during the month of June resulting in him having a Pacemaker fitted.

Ronnie Drummond has been entered into the AEA Roll of Honour thanks to Mick Walker and John Donaldson.

5. Minutes of OGM Sunday 20 March 2022. The minutes were passed as being accurate by Andy Nelson and seconded by Brian Earl.

6. Matters Arising—there were none

7. Secretary's Report; (a) The Journal—This has now been published online and issued to all members. Unfortunately GN missed the cut off date so the report on AEA Scotland was not entered. GN has apologised for this error on his part. However, Jim Queen submitted a brief report, with pictures, on the attendance at Scott Wilsons graveside on 12/6/22, for which we are grateful.

Should anyone have problems accessing the AEA Website do not hesitate to contact Dave Pace at contactaeawebmaster@gmail.com and he will be happy to help you.

(b) Zetland Park Memorial Stone. Recently, Gordon, Alex Cockburn and Gil visited the site and

cleaned up the memorial stone. Alex and Beth treated us to Rolls on Sausage and Tea/Coffee—our thanks to them. This was followed up by Gordon's pal Harry Swan visiting the site and repainting the lettering and Airborne/Engineer Logos (Free of Charge). This is greatly appreciated by all.

(c) **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. Hopefully this will be carried out between 1-5 August 2022. 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.

(d) **PRA Lothian** have invited us to attend on Sunday 21 August (1500hrs) where a presentation from a representative of The War Graves Commission will explain what work they actually carry out. Gordon McLeod and Gil Nicol will attend.

8. Treasurer's Report; Craig McQuade, via Gil Nicol informed members that the Branch is in a healthy financial position.

9. Webmaster's Report; John Donaldson will continue to monitor and update our website. We are still receiving "hits" from visitors. John has inserted a picture on the News Page from the attendance at Scott Wilsons Grave on 12 June 2022.

Anyone who wants anything included on the website can contact John Donaldson.

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 4QQ.

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, this is a conservative estimate as costs for material are rising continually.

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 is to 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. RBLs and PRA Lothian will be in attendance as well as others. After the service we will retire to RBLs Grangemouth for refreshments. Refreshments will be supplied by RBLs 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) **Rededication of War Memorial, Zetland Park, Grangemouth, on Saturday 11 June 2022 (1000hrs).** We attended this service at Zetland Park, Grangemouth and it was well attended by members of AEA Scotland, RBLs Grangemouth, 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Force Cadets Local Authority dignitaries as well as many others. Fortunately the weather was kind to us. During this ceremony they raised a flag which incorporated all organisations involved with the regeneration project and we are on the flag. A wreath was laid on behalf of AEA Scotland, which was supplied (free of charge) by John Carters wife. We thank her very much.

(e) **Scott Wilson's Memorial Day** (12 June 2022) We had a very good turnout for this particular event and we met some family members (cousins) who were very grateful that we attend his grave on a yearly basis .We also met an old school pal of Scotts who was also pleasantly surprised and grateful that we carried out this duty. In attendance were members of AEA Scotland and PRA Lothian. After this we retired to The Guards Club where we raised a glass or two in his memory.

(f) **Falklands War Remembrance Day Parade, Edinburgh**; This was held on Saturday 18 June 2022.

(g) **Armed Forces Parade, Edinburgh**; This was held on Saturday 25 June 2022.

(h) **AEA—AGM** –Will be held on 21—23 October 2022 and held at the Holiday Inn, Birmingham.

(i) **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.

(j) **AEA Scotland Annual Lunch**; The booking we had for 8 October 2022, at The Royal Scots Club has been cancelled due to various reasons (Lack of final cost, no menu details yet and low numbers willing to attend). The Royal Scots Club have been informed and we await their reply. We will discuss whether we want to continue our Annual Lunch, at our next meeting as this was a question raised by a member.

(k) **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 ;

Email address; gilbertandmyra@gmail.com

House Address; 198 Ardenraig Road , Glasgow , G45 0HR

Tel Numbers; 0141 631 2092 Mobile 07707468530

(l) **Remembrance Parade, London—Sunday 13 November 2022**—The AEA have been allocated 35 No tickets and will be dispersed as 3 No per branch anyone wishing to attend please inform Gil Nicol and he will try to obtain the necessary parade tickets We must inform Steve Wallis no later than 30 July 2022. At the moment only Michael Ellery has applied for a ticket.

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 on Sunday 18 September 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