



# Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



[www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk](http://www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk)

Chairman – **Douglas Archibald**

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 21 January 2018.**

1. **Members Present;** Doug Archibald, Gil Nicol, Mick Walker, John Donaldson, Gordon McLeod, Alex Cockburn, Bob Hamilton, Alex McWhirter, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, Andy Gemmell, Eoghann macLachlainn, Bob Masson.

2. **Apologies;** Craig McQuade, Andy Mullen, Andy Paterson, Brian Earl, Kim Panton, Willie Grant, Tom Ormiston, Eoin McIntyre, and David Henderson .

3. **Chairman's Welcome;** Doug Archibald welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and asked that we have a minutes silence to remember all members who have passed on.

**“We will remember them”.**

He also took the opportunity to wish everyone all the best for 2018.

4. **Welfare;** Brian Earls wife has suffered a small stroke and has been admitted to hospital.

We wish her a speedy recovery.

Andy Mullen still has an ongoing problem with his legs

Mick Walker was in a car accident last week but is ok.

5. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting;** The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being accurate by Gordon McLeod and seconded by Alex Cockburn, subject to the amendment shown in Item 6.

6. **Matters Arising; Approval of Minute:-**The draft minutes of the 19 November 2017 meeting were adopted as a true record on the proposal of Gordon McLeod, seconded by Alex Cockburn subject to Item 10(D)1 being replaced. Mick Walker raised the point that the details recorded in Item 10 (d)1. were incorrect and stated the following “Scott Wilson—the AGM minutes recorded John Ferry as stating a few members attended the memorial service in Edinburgh for Scott—this is not accurate as John said “some” members attended. This “some” was in fact Charlie and Paul from the North East, who had been in Scott’s Section at Mt Longdon, along with 10 AEA Scotland members out of a possible 22.” Please note this will be substituted for the previous information.

7. **Secretary’s Report; (a) Car Badges;** They are available from Dave Rutter at the AEA Shop costing £12.50 and £1.00 postage. If ordered in bulk we can save on the postage cost.

**(b) AEA Scotland Annual Lunch;** We have booked a room at The Royal Scots Club, Edinburgh for 1 September 2018 (1230hrs for 1300hrs). The price has not been finalised but we expect it to be similar to last year.

**(c) David Brock;** We have received a letter from David Brock informing us of his resignation from AEA Scotland for personal reasons. His letter was read out in its entirety. David does not wish to receive any communication from AEA Scotland or its members in the future. Gil Nicol will reply accordingly.

**8. Treasurer's Report;** In the absence of our Treasurer (recovering from the flu) we are informed that we are still in funds and looking financially healthy.

Any outstanding Annual Subscriptions (£10.00 per annum.) can be made out to "The Airborne Engineers Association" and forwarded to the following:-

**Craig Mc Quade**  
**37 Riverview Park**  
**Mangerton**  
**Newcastleton**  
**TD9 0TF**

**9. Webmaster's Report;** John Donaldson informs us that all is ok with our website and we are still receiving hits.

John gave us a detailed report on the GSM as follows; On 20 December 2017, John was invited to the Scottish Parliament for a meeting with Maurice Corry MSP for the Conservative Party, who has responsibility for Defence and Veterans. John spoke with Mr Corry for an hour and gave him a summary of what occurred in Aden/Radfan when 131 Para Engr Regt were deployed there in 1965, during which time 300 Para Sqn RE came under attack resulting in two killed in action and five others wounded. Maurice Corry is of the opinion that those members of 131 Para Engr Regt who served in Aden should have received the GSM with Clasp South Arabia. Mr Corry has written a letter to the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, Secretary for Defence, to that effect. We await his reply.

**10. Future Meetings;** All future meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Month, commencing 21 January 2018. Meetings will commence at 1300hrs with the exception of the A.G.M. which will commence at 1230hrs.

**11. A.O.C.B; (a) Memorial Site at Cromwell Lock;** Alex Cockburn has been in contact with The RBL Newark and they have informed us "The memorial site is in very good condition. The area was tidy and clean. The "garden" soil has been turned over recently and the roses had been trimmed. The metal railings has been painted. Generally the memorial site was "winter-ready". Importantly the Canal & River staff, based at Cromwell Lock, had taken it upon themselves to voluntarily care for the memorial. Further, our local Parachute Regimental Association (PRA) also provide a voluntary service too and maybe others.

**John Rush (Chairman), Newark & District Branch, Royal Legion;** "Whilst the foregoing is great news I believe that the situation should be more formalised given that, for example, the PRA is suffering from depleted available manpower. We know this from their lessening support to our Poppy Appeal activities. Therefore I intend for the matter to feature at our Feb 18 branch meeting and I will propose a lasting solution to the memorials upkeep. I feel sure that this will be acceptable to our membership".

Alex Cockburn was awarded a round of thanks for all his effort.

**(b) Robert Hendry;** Gordon McLeod has collected a DVD from the late Robert Hendry's widow and passed it on to John Donaldson for his comments. This was a DVD mostly of 3 Troop in Aden, Cyprus and Germany. Whilst it is not a very good copy, having been taken from 8 mm film, John Donaldson has made copies available for members. Copies can be had from Gil Nicol (Only 2 copies left).

Gil Nicol will write to Mrs Hendry to thank her on behalf of our branch.

**(c) Lt Colonel Chris Warhurst (Airborne Engineers) Army HQ Andover;** He is the gentleman in charge of all the equipment used by the Royal Engineers and will give us a presentation at our May 2018 meeting of his time in Afghanistan coupled with the current equipment and capability of the Royal Engineers.

**(d) New Membership;** We must keep trying to encourage new members to join our branch.

John Donaldson will put something on Facebook in the near future.

**(e) PRA Lothian Branch Dinner Dance;** This was held on Friday 8 December 2017, where we had a good representation from our branch and we had a good evening, although, unfortunately we did not have much luck with the raffle prizes.

**(f) Plaque for Applecross Bridge;** Mike Holdsworth informed us that a new plaque, to replace the old wooden plaque, will be placed on one of the bridges which was built in memory of the 10 Sappers of 300 Troop 131 Indep Para Sqn RE who lost their lives at Cromwell Lock on 28 September 1975. Further information will be promulgated when it is received.

**(g) AEA Scotland pocket size calendars,** with meeting dates highlighted, were distributed among members.

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

**12. Date of Next Meeting; OGM on Sunday 18 March 2018 (1300hrs) at R.B.L. Rodney Street, Edinburgh.**

**Further to Para 11(f) The bridges at Applecross were built in 1996 by 131 Commando Squadron Royal Engineers. The bridge over the River Toscaig (Scottish Gaelic: Toghsaig) near Applecross, Wester Ross, was built by 299 Troop in their memory in June 1996. Click on link or paste link in browser to view picture.**

**<http://gallery.commandoveterans.org/cdoGallery/v/laterday/Army+Commando+Sappers/299+Tp+131+Indep+Cdo+Sqn+RE+building+Toscaig+Bridge+Wester+Ross++June+1996.html>**