Airborne Engineers Association

Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Potters International Hotel
Sunday 11 April 2010
President
Colonel D.M.R.Eagan

Meeting Opened at 11.15hrs

Chairman: Fred Gray.	e-mail	f.gray3@ntlworld.com	Tele: 01252 668339
Secretary: Betty Gray.	e-mail	b.gee33@ntlworld.com	Tele: 01252 668339
Treasurer: Dave Rutter.	e-mail	d_rutter@sky.com	Tele: 01252 326140
Entertainments: John Smith.	e-mail	thesmith@sky.com	Tele 01252 326100

Members Present

Wally Clift, Harold Covington, Col. Denis Eagan, Ted Ellis, John Ferry, Fred Gray, Gerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, John Mason, Roger Mockford, Ralph Pedder BEM, Dave Rutter, Roy Sands, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Steve Stephenson, Joe Stoddart MBE, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Wardle.

Apologies,

John Aldridge, John Barrie, Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, John Brennan Bob Chatterton, Syd Dane, Ron Day, Don Doherty, Harry Evans, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, Tony Gilbert, Dennis Healey, Bryn Hitchings, Mick Humphreys, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, John Lee, Derek Leggett, Dave Leibrick Tony Manley, Robert McCann (Hon Mem), Frank Menzies-Hearne, Rick Mogg, Billy Morris, John Murphy, Peter Myatt AFC, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, John Pffifner, Eric Rundle, John Smith BEM, Phil Taverner, Derek Taylor, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade.

Guests

None
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Chairman's Opening Address and Review of 2009/2010

The Chairman, Fred Gray, welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to attend. As is the usual practice at the AGM the chairman then went on to review the previous year's activities.

Escalating costs and the poor value of the pound against the Euro had prevented any trip to the continent being considered for 2009.

However fifty plus members and wives attended the Annual Re-union in Nottingham and well over fifty were at our own branch BBQ. The annual rugby match at Twickenham was well attended either as a group or individually. A small number made the long trip to Wales for the annual gathering of those members and wives of the AEA who like to climb mountains and go for long walks along the shore line and finish up drinking a little of the amber nectar.

Billy Morris and Bob Chatterton now joined by Dave Liebrick like nothing better than running anything between twenty-five to thirty miles during a weekend which they have been doing for most of the year

The Spring Lunch was again held in the Squires Holt Restaurant and proved to be very popular again with forty-five plus members attending. A surprise 50th Wedding Anniversary present and a large cake were presented to Betty and Fred Gray to celebrate the event. This was very much appreciated by them both.

Membership started the year at sixty-one but the sad loss of four members during the year reduced our membership, until four new members joined the branch. Dave Liebrick re-joined after a lapse of approximately twelve years. John Ferry, formally the Aldershot Garrison RSM joined shortly after his

retirement from the Army. John Brennan (9 Squadron and 131 Regiment) joined us in January of this year and finally Bob McCann became an honorary member. Welcome to them all.

It was also pointed out that many of our members had varying distances to get to our meetings with twenty living more than thirty miles from Aldershot. Twelve other members live too far away to be able to attend and are in contact either by mail or email but some do manage to meet up at the association annual re-unions. One member, Bob Ferguson, lives in Portugal whilst Dave Normington lives in Spain. Mick Leather remains a member but works in Russia and that gives him a reasonable excuse for not attending the meetings.

Throughout the year eight funerals of AEA members were very well attended by members of the Aldershot Branch it incurred many miles of driving for most members. This included the funeral of Louis Gallagher in Taunton.

Twenty members and five wives from Aldershot joined over 650 family, friends and former members of the Squadron in the church and for the internment. The present OC, SSM and ten serving members of the Squadron were also in attendance with three pipers (two from Aldershot) and the AEA Standard.

In addition to branch activities the chairman also pointed out that most of the AEA committee members were from the Aldershot Branch. The posts held are: Col John Lee, (President) Joe Stoddart MBE (Chairman), Lt Col Dick Brown (Treasurer), Dave Rutter (Journal), Billy Morris (Membership), Fred Gray (Historian & Archivist) and Jeanette Rutter (The Shop).

During the year Cols Dennis Eagan and John Lee with Joe Stoddart have put in a tremendous amount of hard work to produce an up-dated Constitution in time for the AGM in Bournemouth.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by: Bob Sullivan
Seconded by: Brian Hubbard

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising

Election of the committee

The previous year's committee was elected to continue for a further year.

President	Colonel Dennis Eagan
Chairman	Fred Gray
Treasurer	Dave Rutter
Entertainments	John Smith
Secretary	Betty Gray
Membership	Billy Morris

The Chairman, Fred Gray, said that he would like to stand down at the AGM 2011. A major project to co-write the history of 9 Squadron 1947-1990, over the next two to three years is now in progress and other AEA duties would have to be laid aside during that period. The Secretary, Betty Gray, would also like to stand down at the same time. Although not necessary, there is an advantage if a man and wife/partner take up the post.

Treasures Report

The Treasurer, Dave Rutter, gave a comprehensive report on the branch finances. They continue to be well in the black and the printed report is to be sent to all members with these minutes.

Proposed by: Harold Covington
Seconded by: Ralph Peddar

That the treasurer's report be accepted as a true record subject to audit

Branch Policy

a) The number of meetings each year is to remain at six, meeting on the third Sunday in the month (flexible)

b) The branch subscription is to remain at £6

c) The meeting place will continue to be in the Potters International Hotel whilst we are welcome by the management. In the event of the concession being withdrawn the Army Museum on Queens Avenue and the WO & Sgts Mess in Gibraltar Bks are possible alternatives.

Proposed by Dave Rutter
Seconded by Steve Stephenson

Entertainments

In the absence of the John Smith on holiday there was no entertainments report

Diary of Events

a) Rugby. Army v Navy Twickenham. 1st May. Tickets on sale at the ground

b) The Royal Windsor Tattoo. Tickets from £60 - £20. Dates: 12-15 May 2010

c) The 70th anniversary of the formation of Airborne Forces. Colchester. 24th July 2010

d) BBQ. August (date to be advised)

e) AGM and Reunion. 1 - 3 October 2010 Bournemouth

AOB

The following ladies and gentleman have been re- elected as Honorary Members of the Aldershot Branch.

Mrs Sally Wilson

Mrs Jan Chambers

Mrs Betty Gray

Mrs Jeanette Rutter

Mr Bob McCann

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.55

Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at
The Potters International Hotel
Sunday 11 April 2010
President Col DMR Eagan

The Ordinary Branch Meeting followed at 12.00pm

Attendance

Same as AGM

Apologies

Sir Donald Spiers

Chairman's Remarks

Welcome back to members and a special welcome to Wally Clift who has been unable to attend meetings for some time due to injury and illness. Welcome back Wally

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by: Ted Ellis
Seconded by: Gerry Hicks

Was a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising

Members were reminded that John had asked for volunteers to help organize and run the AGM and re-union in October. John will be home from Spain at the end of April and any volunteers are asked to contact him on his return

Correspondence

The minutes of Birmingham, Chatham, Scotland, Hull and Yorkshire branches were made available for members to read.

The Chairman pointed out that the Yorkshire Branch intended to celebrate their 20th formation anniversary next year with a party. As it is also the 20th anniversary of the Aldershot Branch **(a few months earlier than Yorkshire)** would we also like to do something special to celebrate the event. Any ideas to be considered at a later meeting with John.

Treasurers Report.

As AGM

Branch Representative

The branch rep Joe Stoddart MBE who is also the chairman of the AEA Committee gave a comprehensive report of what was said and agreed at their last meeting. The main points were:

- The run planned by Billy Morris around the Isle of Wight had to be postponed, as the accommodation was required for other units of the Army.
- Letters of appreciation have been sent by the family of Louis Gallagher for all the help and tremendous support at his funeral and internment
- To obtain a better return on the Association funds other ways of investment are being considered

- The association membership now stands at 1389 but this does include those that have passed away

- Since Mrs Jeanette Rutter has taken over the association shop she has sold slightly in excess of £500 worth of goods maintaining the very high standards set by Pat and Ray Coleman.

- The AEA Constitution is now complete and is to be delivered to all members of the association.

- A grant of £ 300 has been made to the Double Hills memorial fund and it is hoped that a further regular payment can be made on an annual basis.

- The AGM and re-unions for 2011 is to be organized by the Yorkshire Branch and 2012 by the 299 Branch (Hull) of the AEA

- The association committee are to reduce the number of meeting in a year from three to two.

- Tickets for the World Cup draw are selling well and further tickets are available from Joe Stoddart MBE.

Entertainments

A number of suggestions were put to the meeting of possible trips that could be considered for 2011. They were:

- **A visit to London taking in the Houses of Parliament, The Dome, a river trip, and the "London Eye"**

- **A four-day trip to Poland to visit the museum and concentration camp of Auschwitz.**

- **A two-day trip to the Arboretum in Warwickshire.**

- **A theatre night.**

Any other suggestions would be most welcome and can be discussed at the July meeting

AOB

The Chairman did bring it the attention of members that a number of our branch members have been ill in recent weeks. Peter Myatt, Rick Mogg, Tony Gilbert, Mrs Nicole Hicks, Mrs Wendy King and Colin and Madeleine Bond. We all wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them soon

Just a reminder about subscriptions. If you haven't already paid please will you forward your cheques to Dave Rutter and remember to make them payable to AEA (Aldershot Branch). Than

Next meeting will be held in Potters Hotel
On Sunday 18th July 2010 11.00 for 11.30

The date has been changed to coincide with the next committee meeting of the AEA.

This is to avoid extra travel for members who attend both meetings. The AEA meeting is to start at 1030 Hrs

For those who would like lunch after the meeting please inform John and Glenda Smith at least seven days in advance. 01252 326100