



Airborne Engineers Association Aldershot Branch



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Sunday 2nd June 2013 at Potters International Hotel, Aldershot

President: Sir Donald Spiers – Chairman: Lt Col (Retd) Dick Brown – Secretary: Dave Rutter

Meeting Opened: Sir Donald Spiers opened the meeting at 1132 hours. He gave a special welcome at the excellent attendance by the members to the branch Annual General Meeting.

Members present: Billy Morris MSM, John Ferry, John Lee, John Piffner, Syd Dane, Gerry Hicks, Ralph Pedder BEM, Bob Sullivan MBE, Chris Chambers, John Brennan, Bob Wardle, John Barrie, Wally Clift, Tony Manley, Jim Hill, John Mason, Brian Hubbard, Fred Gray and John Smith BEM

Apologies: Chris Davies MBE, Alan Grace, Phil Eccleston, Stevie Stephenson, Ray Coleman, Tony Roberts, Jack Braithwaite, Don Doherty, Harold Covington, Colin Bond, Dennis Healey, Rick Mogg, Dave Norminton and Jim O'Hagan.

Silent Tribute: The chairman called for 1-minute silence in memory of those members that had passed away since our last AGM.

Minutes of the Previous AGM Meeting: There were no observations from the previous AGM minutes. Proposed by Ralph Pedder and Seconded by John Barrie that the previous minutes as recorded be accepted - **Carried**

Chairman's Review of the Year: The chairman recalled the following events from the previous year: Sadly the branch suffered the loss of four branch members:
The branch President - Col Dennis Eagan
The branch Chairman – Joe Stoddart MBE
Branch members – Harry Evans & Roy Sands

On a lighter note, the annual BBQ held in the garden of Fred & Betty Gray in August was a great success. The ladies came to the fore in providing the salad dishes and desserts thereby easing the workload on our master chef Tony Manley.

Several members attended the Double Hills ceremony in September.

The branch was well represented at the annual AGM/reunion weekend held in Hull during October.

Branch members were in attendance at the Cenotaph Parade in Whitehall, which proved to be an exceptionally enjoyable occasion.

Our Spring Luncheon was another excellent affair – ideal location, excellent food and despite having to be rescheduled due to adverse weather conditions, was very well attended. The chairman offered sincere thanks to John & Glenda Smith for organising the event.

Our meetings continue to be well attended with several members travelling considerable distances.

On the subject of welfare matters, we look forward to the return of full health for Stevie Stevenson.

Treasurers Report: Dave Rutter gave a full audited report on the Branch finances. Tony Manley carried out the audit as at 23 May 2013. The report shows we are in a healthy financial position. He further recommended that the current branch subscription remain at £6. Members were reminded that branch subscriptions are now due for payment.

Proposed by Jim Hill and seconded by Syd Dane that the audited treasurers report be accepted – **Carried**

Election of Officers: With each of the incumbents volunteering to remain in post for a further year, the appointments will remain as follows:

President: Sir Donald Spiers
Chairman: Lt Col (Retd) Dick Brown
Secretary/Treasurer: Dave Rutter
Entertainments: John Smith BEM

Carried unanimously

Branch Policy: It was unanimously agreed that the branch would continue to hold 6 meetings per annum.

Date of 2014 AGM (To be announced at a later date)

There being no further business the President closed the 2013 AGM meeting at: 1150 hours



**Airborne Engineers Association
Aldershot Branch**



Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting

Sunday 2nd June 2013 at Potters International Hotel, Aldershot

President: Sir Donald Spiers – Chairman: Lt Col (Retd) Dick Brown – Secretary: Dave Rutter

Meeting opened by: Sir Donald Spiers at 1155 hours

Members Present: As per AGM

Apologies: As per AGM

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Proposed by Chris Chambers and seconded by Bob Wardle that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true record. **Carried**

Treasurers Report: As per AGM

Correspondence: The secretary read extracts from the minutes of the following branches:
Chatham, Birmingham and Yorkshire

The secretary drew the attention of the members to the 'War & Peace Revival' 5-day event to be held during 17-21 July at Paddock Wood Kent.

Membership: Billy Morris gave an update on recruitment for the Association. The number of members within the association is as follows: Total membership since its inception: 1445. Of those members 320 are recorded as deceased (these are members that we have been notified as deceased) and we have 1225 members alive and kicking.

Entertainments: John Smith announced that due to the lack of response he has been forced to cancel the proposed Normandy 2014 trip. John expressed his disappointment that outside of the Aldershot branch, he had received very few 'takers' from within the Association.

On a separate matter, John was also concerned at the slow response for booking applications for the forthcoming AGM/Reunion weekend in Bournemouth. An e-mail to all branch secretaries to prompt their members to submit their applications and a message to be posted on the AEA website will hopefully boost the existing numbers.

The annual branch BBQ will again be hosted by Fred & Betty Gray on Sunday 25th August. The branch members' ladies have once again volunteered to provide the salads and desserts thereby easing the workload for our master chef Tony Manley.

Members wishing to attend the BBQ are requested to forward their names to John Smith by no later than Monday 19th August. In the event of an adverse weather forecast members will be notified on Wednesday 21 August and a rescheduled date will be announced.

Freedom of Woodbridge Parade: The chairman read out the details of the Freedom of Woodbridge parade and subsequent events within 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt). John Lee, John Ferry and Fred Gray will be attending the event.

Battle of Tumbledown Commemoration: The 2 Scot Guards Veterans Association will be laying wreaths at 1100 hours 14th June in the Aldershot Military cemetery in memory of those who lost their lives in the battle of Mount Tumbledown. Mick Humphries has agreed to lay an AEA wreath in memory of Lcpl Pashley (9 Para Sqn RE) who lost his life during the battle.

Journal Subscriptions: The August 2013 issue will be the last of the 3-issues per annum. The number of issues is to be reduced to 2 publications – December and June. A subscription reminder will be included with the August 2013, which will prompt those whose payments are due. Renewal payment will be required by no later than 1st October 2013. There will in future be **NO FINAL DEMAND** in the December edition. It will be assumed that any member who has failed to renew his subscription by 1st October no longer wishes to remain on the mailing list.

This situation can easily be avoided by opting to pay by Standing Order. It costs nothing to set up, saves the subscriber money (no more posting cheques) and would save the Editor a considerable amount of work.

Dates for your Diary:

National Armed Forces Day 29th June

Airborne Forces Day (Trafalgar, Aldershot) 6th July

Double Hills Commemorative Service – Sunday 1st September

Date of the next meeting: 1130 hours Sunday 25th August (BBQ) at 65, Westover Road, Fleet.

There being no further business the President thanked the members for their attendance at both the AGM and OGM meeting and closed the proceedings at 1245 hours.

BBQ ATTENDANCE

Kindly notify John Smith (Tel 01252 326100 or E-mail: thesmith@sky.com) by no later than Monday 19th August. The OGM meeting will commence at 1130 hours and the BBQ will be ready at 1300 hours