



Minutes of the Aldershot Branch AGM
Sunday 3rd May 2015 at Potters International Hotel
President: Sir Donald Spiers – Chairman: Dick Brown - Secretary: Dave Rutter

Meeting Opened: The President opened the meeting at 1130 Hours

Members present: John Lee, Bob Wardle, John Pfiffner, Syd Dane, Jim Hill, Billy Morris MSM, John Smith BEM, Tony Manley, Wally Clift, Al Grace, Tony Fry and Gerry Hicks.

Apologies: Dick Brown, Chris Davies MBE, Ray Coleman, Phil Eccleston, Bob Sullivan MBE, Stevie Stephenson, John Moss, Bob Chatterton, Jack Braithwaite, John Brennan, Brendan Snoddy, Colin Bond, Jim O'Hagan, Fred Gray, John Barrie, Harold Covington, Tony Roberts and Denis Healey

Silent Tribute: the President called for the members to stand for a one minute silence at the passing of AEA members during the past year and in particular for two stalwart members of the Aldershot branch – Harold Padfield & John Mason

Minutes of the previous AGM: Proposed by Jim Hill Seconded by Wally Clift that the minutes of the 2014 AGM were a true record of that meeting.
Carried

Secretary's Review of the Year: Our meetings continue to be well supported and we greatly appreciate the members who travel long distances to attend.

On the behalf of the members I would like to express our thanks to John & Glenda Smith who book us in for the carvery lunches following our meetings. A special vote of thanks, once again, to John and Glenda for organising our annual spring luncheon at the Oak Park Golf Club. To the members who attended, many thanks for your raffle prize donations and for the unanimous vote that the proceeds (£240) be donated to The Royal British Legion.

The 2014 AGM/Reunion weekend in Harrogate; organised by the Yorkshire was a great success with an excellent number of branch members in attendance.

And finally, we offer thanks to John and Glenda who, together with Betty & Fred Gray, Master chef Tony Manley and a host of helpers, organised a super BBQ for the members back in August 2014. The raffle receipts of £213 were donated to SSAFA.

Audited Treasures Report: (Dave Rutter) the treasurer gave a comprehensive audited breakdown of the branch finances. The audit had been conducted by Billy Morris as at 1st May 2015. The branch finances remain in a healthy state and the treasurer recommend that the branch annual subscription remain at £6.

Proposed by: John Smith, Seconded by: Syd Dane that the treasurers Audited account as presented be accepted.
Carried.

Election of Officers: For the posts of President, Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer the incumbent officers agreed to remain in post. As is the common practice there were no offerings from members wishing to take over these appointments.

President: Sir Donald Spiers	}	
Chairman: Dick Brown	}	Carried by a unanimous vote
Treasurer/ Secretary: Dave Rutter	}	
Entertainments: Vacant	}	

Having carried out the duties as the branch Entertainments Member, John Smith, after more the ten years' dedicated service, decided that at the tender age of 83 years, he had done more than his fair share and that it was time to hand over to one of the younger generation.

The secretary, on the behalf of all branch members, thanked John for his services to the branch and to Glenda, who, had given John sterling support in organising not only branch entertainments, (annual BBQs, Spring Luncheons and carvery lunch bookings) but also for the planning and running of two AEA AGM/Reunion weekends in Bournemouth.

A vote of thanks to them both is officially recorded within these minutes.

Calling for a volunteer to take over the duties vacated by John, met with a stony silence! However, John suggested we contact a member (absent from the meeting) suggesting that he may take over the vacant post. Jim Hill, announced that if no replacement for the post came forward, he would give serious consideration (as second option) to fulfil the commitment. This matter is to be concluded at the next OGM.

Branch Policy: At the secretary's proposal it was agreed that the branch continue to hold bi-monthly meetings throughout the following year.

Date of the 2016 AGM: (To be announced at a later date)

There being no further business for the 2015 AGM the President closed the meeting at 1155 hours.

Minutes of the OGM of the Aldershot Branch Held at Potters International Hotel on Sunday 3rd May 2015

The President opened the meeting at 1200 hours

Members present: As per the AGM.

Apologies: As per the AGM

Minutes of the previous OGM: Proposed by Al Grace Seconded by: John Piffner that the minutes as presented be accepted. **Carried Unanimously**

Treasurers Report: as per AGM

Correspondence: (Secretary) Extracts from the minutes of other branches were presented to the members

AEA Membership Update: (Billy Morris) Since its inception, a total of 1474 members have joined the ranks of the Airborne Engineers Association. From that figure we have been officially notified of the passing of 334 from our ranks. Recruiting over the past 6 months has been extremely slow, but it is hoped that the programmed Fergie Semple Golf competition, to which members from 23 Para Engr Regt have shown a keen interest to compete, will generate a platform in which to promote the Association.

Entertainments: Following the secretary's reminder of the Commemorative service to be held at the Aldershot military cemetery on Saturday 13 June for those Airborne Engineers killed in the Falklands conflict, John Smith expressed his horror at the litter adorning some of the gravesides. Having now been reported to Garrison HQ it is hoped this matter has been rectified.

John Lee expressed his apologies that there were no tickets available for 'Founders Day' at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Our liaison gentleman at the hospital had unfortunately sent the application Proforma to the wrong 'John Lee' e-mail address and the error was not discovered until the deadline for application had passed. He will endeavour to obtain tickets for the 2016 'Founders Day'.

AEA AGM/Reunion 2015: The function is to be held at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry during the weekend 16th-18th October. The booking application form together with an outline program is to be published in the June edition of the AEA journal.

Journal Publication and payment of subscriptions: (Dave Rutter) The next issue of the Journal is due to be delivered to members on or about the first week of June. Despite yet a further increase in the postal charges, there will be no increase to the annual subscription. A subscription payment reminder will be enclosed in the June edition – **if no reminder then you are either in credit or you have opted to pay by standing order.**

Any other business: **Branch subscription (£6) is now due (1st May).** A number of members opted to pay by standing order, which is greatly appreciated. Kindly forward your payment (payable to AEA Aldershot) to the Treasurer a.s.a.p.

Date for the annual BBQ will be confirmed following further consultation at the July OGM.

Date of next meeting: Sunday 19th July

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 1240 hours.