



Airborne Engineers Association Aldershot Branch

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting

Sunday 14th April 2013 at Potters International Hotel, Aldershot

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

Meeting Opened at 1135 hours - Sir Donald Spiers welcomed the members present and thanked them for their attendance.

Members present: Billy Morris, Fred Gray, Bob Wardle, John Piffner, John Ferry, Ralph Pedder BEM, John Lee, Bob Sullivan MBE, Syd Dane, John Barrie, John Mason, Jimmy Hill, Gerry Hicks, Phil Eccleston & Brian Hubbard.

Apologies: Dick Brown, Chris Davies MBE, Colin Bond, Roger Mockford, Jim O'Hagan, Don Doherty, Dennis Healey, Ron Day, Ray Coleman, Phil Taverner, Stevie Stephenson, Dave Leibrick, Peter Bailey, Eric Borlace, Tony Roberts MBE, John Smith BEM, Tony Manley, Wally Clift, Harold Covington, Chris McVetis, Bob Chatterton, John Aldridge, Jack Braithwaite, Alan Grace, Mick Humphries, Mick Leather, John MacIntosh & Brendan Snoddy

Silent Tribute: The President called for a minute silence in memory of the following Association members:

Matt Newall (3 Para Sqn & 249) Denis Northrop (591 (Antrim) Sqn & Dave Thomas (9 Indep Para Sqn 1955-57) all died within one day of each other 30/31 March 2013. Bernie Kime, Bernie passed away on 28th March his funeral took place at the Aldershot Crematorium on 18 April at 1500 hrs.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Proposed and seconded that the minutes as published were a true record of that meeting.

Proposed by: Phil Eccleston

Seconded by: Ralph Pedder

Carried:

Treasurers Report: (Dave Rutter) The treasurer gave an up-to-date statement of the branch accounts (subject to audit) reporting that the funds remained in a healthy state.

Proposed by: John Barrie Seconded by: Bob Wardle that the treasurers report (subject to audit) be accepted) - **Carried**

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

On the welfare subject the secretary gave an update on the positive steady recovery process of Stevie Stephenson and Tony Manley.

Branch Nominal Roll Having produced a branch nominal roll and requesting that each and every member check that their individual details were correct, it became apparent that one member had overlooked the fact that his telephone number was incorrect. This proved rather inconvenient when trying to contact the member in question regarding the postponement of the Spring luncheon.

Entertainments: The members were reminded that the re-scheduled Spring luncheon would now be held on **Saturday 4th May** at the Oak Park Golf Club. Fifty-four members and guests have now booked in for this function.

It was unanimously agreed that the annual branch BBQ would be held on **Sunday 25th August** – hosted by Fred & Betty Gray at their home – 65, Westover Road, Fleet.

AEA Membership: Billy Morris announced that he was about to recruit a further two new members. This would take the total AEA membership (past & present) to 1,443.

Postal Charges: Due to the most recent postal increases the cost of sending the journal would dramatically rise as follows: Europe: £3-50 - Canada/USA: £4-50 and for the Far East: £4-70
Fortunately there is no change in the postal charges within the UK.

AEA Shop – will review and amend postal charges as necessary.

Proposals from the floor: John Mason reminded the members that 2015 would be the 75th anniversary of the formation of Airborne Forces. He enquired if there had been any announcements regarding a parade similar to that for the 50th anniversary, and further asked if the AEA would become involved in the celebrations. No information was forthcoming.

Fred Gray gave an update on the health of Rick Mogg and stated that all being well, Rick and Ann would be attending the luncheon on Saturday 4th May.

Fred also requested that a vote of thanks be recorded in his appreciation for the tremendous support from the branch members in the purchase of his book “Airborne Engineers”.

Next Meeting: The secretary reminded the members that the next meeting would combine both the AGM & OGM. This meeting will be held on **Sunday 2nd June** commencing at 1130 hrs prompt.

Branch annual subscriptions will be collected at this meeting (less those paying by Standing Order).

There being no further business, the President thanked the secretary for his sterling work and closed the meeting at 1240 hours.

Attendance at the Carvery lunch:

Members wishing to attend the carvery lunch following the 2nd June AGM/OGM meeting are requested to notify John Smith by no later than Saturday 25th May.

John Smith: Tel: 01252 326100 or E-mail: thesmith@sky.com