



**Airborne Engineers Association
Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held at
Potter's International Hotel
Sunday 27th JANUARY 2013**

The meeting opened at 1130 hours

Committee Members Present

President: Sir Donald Spiers

Chairman: Dick Brown

Secretary/ Treasurer: Dave Rutter

Entertainments: John Smith BEM

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Welcoming Address: Sir Donald welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Members Present: Col Chris Davies MBE, John Pfiffner, Ralph Pedder, Fred Gray, Bob Wardle, Roger Mockford, Wally Clift, Al Grace, Phil Eccleston, John Ferry, Jimmy Hill, Tony Manley, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Chatterton, Billy Morris & Sid Dane

Apologies: Stevie Stephenson, Colin Bond, John Aldridge, Jim O'Hagan, Jack Braithwaite, John Lee, John Mason, Gerry Hicks, Rick Mogg, Tony Roberts & Brendan Snoddy

Silent Tribute: The members observed a one-minute silence for Spr Richard Walker (28 Engr Regt) recently killed in Afghanistan.

Minutes from the Previous Meeting: there was one omission from the previous meeting – the secretary failed to report the gift of brass emblems depicting the RE cap badge and Pegasus mounted on a leather strap. These items are to be raffled at the AGM in October 2013.

Proposed by: Fred Gray and **Seconded by:** Bob Sullivan that with the inclusion of the one omission, the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. **Carried**

Treasurer's Report: The members were given the financial report (subject to audit) that the funds remained in a healthy state.

Proposed by: John Ferry and **Seconded by:** Phil Eccleston that the treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried**

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

Two requests for financial donations were received as follows:

Molly Askham, who was born 5 weeks premature having spent a period of her early life in hospital was later found to be suffering from Plagiocephaly (flathead syndrome). The only treatment, though not covered by the NHS, is for the provision of a STAR band. The item in question will cost in the region of £2,000.

The members agreed that a donation of £50 be made from GPF.

Ian Strettle is to swim with sharks on 8th March and was looking for sponsorship in aid of the MS Society.

The members agreed that a donation of £50 be made from GPF.

Proposed by: Jimmy Hill and **Seconded by:** Col Chris Davies MBE that these donations be accepted: **Carried**

Personal donations can be made to the above causes by the following methods:

Molly's Fund: www.justgiving.com/michelle-askham

Ian Strettle's fund raising for MS Society: <http://www.justgiving.com/Strettle>

Branch Nominal Roll

The secretary, having received several amendments to the previously published nominal roll, would now re-print and distribute an updated version. The revised nominal roll would further be amended by the removal of a named member who had not renewed his branch subscription.

Entertainments

John Smith announced the proposed venue for the Spring Lunch – Oak Park Golf Club on Saturday 23rd March. The members agreed unanimously with the location and date for this function. Having announced that the cost would be £25 per head, the treasurer suggested that a vote be taken for a financial contribution from GPF to reduce this figure.

Proposed by: Billy Morris and **Seconded by** Wally Clift that the cost per head for members and their wives/partners etc. be reduced by £5 per head (i.e. £20 per head) and that guests pay the full £25. **Carried**
A booking form with menu selections is enclosed separately with these minutes.

John gave details of the proposed Normandy visit to coincide with the June 2014 commemorations. The cost of this trip will be £399 – further details are shown separately to these minutes.

Fred Gray's Book

Fred expressed his delight in the manner in which his book has been received by members and was pleased with the positive comments. He was however less pleased with the manner in which the printer had set out several pages within the book.

AEA Shop

The secretary reminded the members that if they wish to purchase items from the AEA shop he would bring their requirements to the next meeting in order to eliminate the postage costs.

Date of the next meeting: Sunday 14th April 2013

Carvery luncheon: As John Smith will be on holiday from 6th – 26th April, members wishing to attend the carvery luncheon following the next meeting are requested to notify the secretary (Dave Rutter) by Monday 8th April 2013. Contact details are: Tel: 01252 326140 or e-mail: d_rutter@sky.com

There being no further business:

Sir Donald Spiers thanked the secretary for his services to the branch and closed the meeting at 1225 hours.

FALKLANDS PRESENTATION

Immediately following the meeting, the ladies were invited to join the members for an excellent PowerPoint presentation by Billy Morris and Bob Chatterton on their endurance run from San Carlos to Port Stanley in November 2012.

Their presentation was greeted with a resounding round of applause.

Bob & Billy hope to repeat this presentation following the AGM at Southampton in October 2013.