



# Airborne Engineers Association



Aldershot Branch  
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at  
Potters International Hotel  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**President**  
**Colonel D.M.R.Eagan**

## **Meeting Opened at 11.30hrs**

Chairman: Fred Gray. e-mail [F.gray3@ntlworld.com](mailto:F.gray3@ntlworld.com) Tele: 01252 668339

Secretary: Betty Gray. e-mail [b.gee33@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.gee33@ntlworld.com) Tele: 01252 668339

Treasurer: Dave Rutter. e-mail [d\\_rutter@sky.com](mailto:d_rutter@sky.com) Tele: 01252 326140

Entertainments: John Smith. e-mail [thesmith@sky.com](mailto:thesmith@sky.com) Tele 01252 326100

## **Members Present**

Harold Covington, Syd Dane, Col. Denis Eagan, Ted Ellis, Fred Gray, Gerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, John Lee, Tony Manley, Billy Morris, Peter Myatt AFC, Ralph Pedder BEM, John Pffiffner, Dave Rutter, Roy Sands, John Smith BEM, Steve Stephenson, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Wardle.

## **Apologies**

John Aldridge, John Barrie Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, Bob Chatterton, Ray Coleman, Ron Day, Harry Evans, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, Tony Gilbert, Tommy Handley, Dennis Healey, Bryn Hitchings, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, Derek Leggett, Bill McPherson, Frank Menzies-Hearne, Roger Mockford, Rick Mogg, John Murphy, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, Eric Rundle, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Joe Stoddart MBE, Phil Taverner, Derek Taylor, Dennis Thomas, John Thompson, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade

## **The Branch President Colonel Denis Eagan opened the meeting at 1130hrs.**

He then asked members to stand for one minute's silence in memory of three AEA members who had passed away in the month of October. They were: Major John Shave MC (3rd Para Sqn). Mr John Grey (2<sup>nd</sup> Para Sqn) and Ken Maybee (9 Para Sqn) they will be sadly missed.

## **Chairman's Remarks**

The Chairman did point out that the attendance was relatively low in comparison to other meetings during the year, but this was put down to family gatherings, work and illness amongst members.

It was also pointed out that the time between the meeting in August and the present one had been exceptionally long but this was due to the September meeting being brought forward by three weeks to coincide with the BBQ in August.

The chairman gave a brief report on the funerals of John Shave and Ken Maybee. Both had been well attended and the Association Standard had been carried at the funerals. The families of John and Ken were very appreciative of the attendance by AEA members. The family of the third member, John Grey had a very private funeral for family members but John Mason did represent the AEA. Many thanks to John for his attendance.

The AGM and reunion in Nottingham was well attended by branch members with over forty making the journey. An excellent weekend and thanks to Bunny Brown and his team from the Birmingham Branch for their excellent organization.

The AEA have had a superb boost in membership with the 299 Association of the 299 Para Sqn RE (V) Hull becoming a branch of the AEA. A big welcome to them and we look forward to seeing and hearing a lot more from them in the future.

The Service of Remembrance held in the Garrison Church was well attended by the branch and our President Colonel Dennis Eagan laid a wreath on behalf of the AEA. The organization lacked the expertise of the former G/RSM John Ferry but time in post will improve in time for next year

The responsibility of running the association shop has now passed from Ray Coleman to another member of our branch in Jeannette Rutter. Our thanks to Ray for his sterling work in making excellent profits for the association funds over a number of years and many thanks to Jeannette for stepping into the breach at such short notice.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The proposed shoe box parcels to Afghanistan are still suspended until further notice. The funds allocated from the branch have now been returned to the Treasurer

There were no other matters arising from the previous minutes.

Proposed by: Brian Hubbard

Seconded by: Bob Wardle

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Carried.

### **Treasures Report**

A brief report by the treasure, Dave Rutter, showed that the branch funds were in a good healthy state

Proposed by: Harold Covington

Seconded by: Billy Morris

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

### **Correspondence.**

The Birmingham Branch reported that an extremely good attendance of their members along with other military organisations, including a number of standards were at the Cromwell Lock Memorial Site to remember those members of 131 Indep Para Squadron RE (V) who lost their lives during a night exercise in 1975.

The Scotland Branch reported a walk across the Kincardine Bridge and other events had raised £650 for the "Help for Heroes" fund. Congratulations for a superb effort by our friends in Scotland.

The Chatham Branch reported that a local member, Chris Huggins had lost both legs as a result of a motorcycle accident. Although not known to our branch we extend our sympathies to Chris and members of his family.

### **Branch Representative**

Joe Stoddart.

There was nothing to report from the Branch Rep as he is in Australia visiting his family.

## Entertainments

John Smith reminded those attending for lunch after the meeting should be in the restaurant by 1300hrs. He then went on to list the number of Christmas activities to be held in the Potter Hotel over the Christmas period. Bookings to be done by individuals. The lunch for members of the "Thursday Lunch Club" is to be held on 17th December in London. For more details contact John 01252 326100

After looking at various locations John has recommended that we use The "Squires Holt" restaurant on the Hogs Back, for our Spring Lunch. All those present agreed. Details will be made available in the New Year and the date has been set for the 13th March 2010.

John gave a comprehensive account of the Bournemouth Hotel and local facilities where the annual reunion for 2010 is to be held. Full details have been published in the Journal and booking proformers will be made available in the New Year. John has asked for helpers from the branch to organise and run the reunion. Names to John please.

## Membership.

Billy Morris gave an update on the new branch located in Hull. Twenty-five members of the 299 Association joined the AEA at one go with more to follow. A most welcome addition. The association strength is now 1386, less those that have passed away since our formation twenty years ago

## AOB

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1245hrs

## **Next Meeting**

**The next meeting will be held in the Potters international Hotel on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 11.00hrs for 11.30hrs start**

**Would those wishing to have lunch after the meeting please let John Smith know at least eight days before the meeting**

**Please note: John Piffner now has an e-mail address [johnjpiffner@yahoo.com](mailto:johnjpiffner@yahoo.com)**

**Best Wishes To Everyone for  
Christmas and the New Year**



