



# Airborne Engineers Association

## Aldershot Branch

Minutes of the OGM Meeting held at Potters International Hotel  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
President: Colonel D.M.R.Eagan

**Opening Address** - In the absence of Col Dennis Eagan, Joe Stoddart MBE opened the meeting at 1135 hours, welcoming all attendees and thanking them for their presence. He also welcomed and introduced our newest branch recruit, John McIntosh. John had been a former member of 9 Indep Para RE.

### Members Present:

Joe Stoddart, Dave Rutter, Dick Brown, John Lee, John Ferry, Rick Mogg, Fred Gray, Harold Covington, Steve Stephenson, John Pfiffner, Jerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, Bob Wardle, Ralph Pedder, John Smith, Billy Morris, Syd Dane, John McIntosh & Mick Humphries

### Apologies

Col Dennis Eagan, Brendan Snoddy, Sir Donald Spiers, Dennis Healey, Jimmy Hill, Ron Day, Colin Bond, Jim O'Hagan, John Mason, Ray Coleman, Roger Mockford, Phil Eccleston, John Barrie, Tony Manley, Bob Sullivan & Peter Myatt

### Chairman's Remarks:

Joe Stoddart called for a minute's silence in memory of the passing of the following association members:  
George Cosadinos  
Colin Shepherd  
Alan Mayfield

### Minutes of the previous OGM – matters arising:

The chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting. As there were no comments or observations it was proposed by Billy Morris and seconded by John Pfiffner that the previous minutes be accepted: **Carried**

### Chairman's Report – Joe Stoddart

The chairman reported that John Ferry had recently visited the Bristol cemetery where the bodies of those who died in the 'Double Hills' glider crash were interned. John went on to explain how the War Graves commission had kept their resting site in immaculate condition, but that the bench located nearby was in need of some TLC. John has volunteered to carry out the restoration of this bench as a personal project and at his own expense. The chairman called upon John Lee to give an update regarding the November 2012 Cenotaph parade. John explained that we, the 'Association', will once again be offered 24 places on the parade and that full details should be available in May/June.

### Treasurers Report:

The treasurer gave a breakdown of the funds (subject to audit) which he was pleased to announce were in the black and in a healthy state. Proposed by Ralph Pedder and seconded by Bob Wardle, that the Treasurers Report (subject to audit) be accepted: **Carried**

### Correspondence:

Dave Rutter read extracts from the minutes of the recent meetings held by the Yorkshire, Chatham and Birmingham branches. He also extended a vote of thanks on the behalf of the Aldershot branch to Colin & Maddy Bond for their most generous donation towards the 'spring lunch' raffle.

### Entertainments – John Smith

John gave an update on the numbers who have so far booked in for the Spring Luncheon to be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at the Ely Hotel, Blackwater. Prompting those who have yet to book in to forward their replies soonest.

He announced that teams for the Euro Sweep (raffle) would be drawn at the Trafalgar pub in Aldershot on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June and that the adjudicators would include Joe Stoddart MBE, Billy Morris, Fred Gray and John Smith. The Army v Navy annual rugby match will be held at Twickenham on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April and those requiring tickets can either book them through John or purchase them directly from the Army Rugby office in Clayton barracks. Cost of tickets are: £20 (adults) OAPs £10. Although the suggested trip commemorating Op VARSITY in 2012 had for various reasons not been possible, John stated that there is a possibility of organising a visit in 2013.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn Commemoration Stone – John Lee**

John gave an update on the commemoration stone, which covered the overall cost and giving thanks to the 'eagle eye' of John Ferry, the proposed RE cap badge for the stone will now be of the GR reign. Owing to the clash of the Arnhem celebrations, the unveiling of the stone will now take place 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

### **Other Business**

**Euro Raffle** - Joe Stoddart gave an update on the proceeds (so far) for the Euro raffle and stated that the fund are at the 'break even' state taking all expenses and prizes into account.

**Falkland Run** -Billy Morris gave details of his programmed Falkland Island long distant run to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falklands war. Covering a distance of 75 miles, Billy, Bob Chatterton and Dave Leibrick intend to run from Port San Carlos to Port Stanley. Their support team will include Sandra Chatterton, Joanne & Sam Lane – Samson. All travelling and accommodation costs will be at their own expense.

The event is programmed to take place in November 2012 and they are seeking sponsorship to raise funds for 3 charities - Combat Stress, SAMA 82 and the Stanley hospital. Full details are to be published in the April edition of the Journal.

**Rear Screen Car Sticker** – Billy Morris displayed several examples of a car sticker depicting Pegasus with the AEA website beneath. A vote on the final design was taken at the meeting and Billy will now proceed with placing an order for a quantity of these stickers, which will be on sale through the AEA shop.

**Alan Mayfield's funeral** – Tony Roberts, our welfare advisor attended the funeral of Alan Mayfield in Taunton and reported that the service was well attended by members of the REA and local PRA representatives.

**Welfare Parcels** – John and Sandra Ferry have received thanking letter from the son of Frank Henderson (former 9 Para Sqn serving in Afghanistan) on receipt of 6 welfare parcels. John hopes that the parcels have been shared amongst his friends, as all welfare parcels must have an individuals name clearly marked on each parcel

**Postage Stamps** - Dave Rutter read from a newspaper report that the postal regulator Ofcom are proposing that Royal Mail should be allowed to increase the cost of a second class stamp from the current price of 35p up to 55p. It is legal to buy a large quantity of stamps now to use in the future, even if the price you pay is far below that charged in years to come. However, such a dramatic increase in the proposed postal charges would have a considerable knock-on effect in the annual cost for mailing the Journal to subscribers. Watch this space!

**Membership update** - Billy Morris gave an update concerning membership of the Association – the latest members being (1,428) Robert Wardon (from Fakenham, Norfolk) and (1429) Danny Hart (from Vale of Glamorgan)

**There being no further business Joe Stoddart MBE closed the meeting at 1305 hours**

**The next branch meeting will be held at Potters International Hotel  
on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2012 (1100 for 1130 hrs)**

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**John and Glenda will be away sunning themselves in Spain covering this meeting, so please notify Dave or Jeannette Rutter if you would like to book in for the Sunday lunch, at Potters International hotel.**

**Details as follows:**

**Tel: 01252 326140 or E-mail: [d\\_rutter@sky.com](mailto:d_rutter@sky.com)  
Booking requests must be received by no later than 15<sup>th</sup> April 2012**