



**Airborne Engineers Association  
Aldershot Branch - OGM  
Held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March at Potters International Hotel  
President: Sir Donald Spiers — Secretary: Dave Rutter**

**Meeting Opened:** Sir Donald Spiers opened the meeting at 1130 hours.

**Members present:** Chris Davies MBE, Fred Gray, John Smith BEM, Billy Morris MSM, Phil Eccleston, John Pfiffner, Bob Wardle, Al Grace, Wally Clift, Tony Manley, Bob Sullivan MBE, John Ferry, John Lee and Denis Healey.

**Apologies:** Brig John Hooper, Lt Col John Humphreys, Dick Brown, Jack Braithwaite, Colin Bond, John McIntosh, Jim O'Hagan, John Brennan, John Aldridge, Gerry Hicks, Jim Hill, Tony Roberts MBE, Bob Chatterton, Stevie Stephenson, Harold Covington, Ray Coleman, Syd Dane, Scott Waring & Brendan Snoddy.

**Silent Tribute:** The president informed the members of the sad loss of John Mason and called upon those present to stand for a one minute silent tribute.

**Minutes of the Previous OGM Meeting:** Proposed by Bob Wardle & Seconded by Phil Eccleston that the minutes were a true record of the previous meeting. **Carried**

**Treasurers Report:** (Dave Rutter) The breakdown of the funds (subject to audit) shows our account in a healthy state. It was noted that an offset towards the cost of the Spring luncheon would reduce our financial assets. Proposed by Billy Morris, seconded by Tony Manley that the treasurers report (subject to audit) be accepted. **Carried**

**Correspondence** (Secretary) Extracts from the minutes of the Chatham, Birmingham, Scotland & 299 branches were read out and copies of those minutes were made available to the members.

**Donation to the Branch:** An extremely generous donation towards the Spring luncheon raffle has been received from Colin & Maddie Bond. The members wished to extend their warmest thanks to Colin & Maddie.

**Entertainments** (John Smith) John gave an update of numbers attending the Spring luncheon as 45. Members were reminded to bring along a gift wrapped raffle prize - the proceeds from the raffle are to be donated to the Royal British Legion.

**Membership Update:** (Billy Morris) Total membership of the AEA stands at 1,148. Total known deceased 326. A donation to the AEA of £79.00 has been received by the membership secretary from Simon Mulderig. The sum was the profit that Simon had made in selling 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Normandy/Arnhem sweatshirts.

**Founders Day – Royal Hospital Chelsea:** John Lee is to seek the feasibility of obtaining some tickets for Founders Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

**Cyprus – New Clasp:** Servicemen who served in Cyprus during the period 21 December 1963 to March 1964 will be awarded the General Service Medal (1962) with clasp 'Cyprus 1963-1964'. Applications for the new clasp will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 onwards. (However, these timings remain under review).

**Cyprus 1955-59:** those who participated in the suppression of acts of terrorism in Cyprus between 1 April 1955 and 18 April 1959 will qualify for the GSM 1918-1962 with clasp 'Cyprus' if they served for 90 days or more. Applications for the new clasp 'Cyprus' will be accepted from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 onwards.

**[www.gov.uk/the-ministry-of-defence-medal-office](http://www.gov.uk/the-ministry-of-defence-medal-office)** to download application forms.

John Ferry informed the members that re-mounting medals/clasps can be rather expensive, but has a contact that will do a professional job at a reasonable cost.

**Falklands Remembrance – Wreath Laying:** A wreath laying service is to be conducted at the Aldershot Military cemetery in memory of those Airborne Engineers who lost their lives in the conflict. It will take place at 1100 hours on Saturday 13 June. Dress: Blazers, Sqn tie and medals.

**Regimental Parades – Rock Barracks, Woodbridge:** An invitation from the Commanding Officer to AEA members is extended for the following parades:

The re-naming of the Regiment to: “**23 Parachute Engineer Regiment**” will take place on Tuesday 16 June and the **Freedom of Woodbridge** parade will take place on Wednesday 22 July.

**VE Day Celebrations:** John Lee will contact the Royal British Legion regarding tickets for members wishing to attend official functions of these celebrations.

**9 Para Sqn BBQ – Rhine Barracks:** John Ferry noted that the original BBQ erected outside the Sqn bar in Rhine barracks; is up for auction on E-Bay!

**Cromwell Lock – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service:** Confirmation of the proposed service is awaited. A contingent from 131 and members of the Scotland AEA branch will be using John Lee as their point of contact for further details.

**AGM/OGM:** After much discussion it was agreed to hold the branch AGM & OGM on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May commencing at 1130 hours. The AGM will include the election of branch officers and a full audited account of the branch funds. An AEA council meeting will be held the prior to these meetings commencing at 1000 hours. For each of these meetings it is essential that members are prompt in their attendance.

**Carvery Lunch:** John Smith requested that those wishing to attend the carvery lunch on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May contact him (01252 326100 or e-mail: [thesmith@sky.com](mailto:thesmith@sky.com)) after his return from Spain on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

**There being no further business,** the President thanked the members for their attendance and closed the meeting at: 1235 hours.