



# Airborne Engineers Association Aldershot Branch

**Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held at  
Potters International Hotel  
Sunday 8<sup>TH</sup> May 2011  
President: Colonel D.M.R.Eagan**

## **The meeting opened at 1215 hours**

Following a short break after the AGM, the Branch President, Colonel Denis Eagan welcomed the return of the members and congratulated the newly elected chairman and secretary on the appointment to their posts.

## **Committee Members Present**

Chairman: Joe Stoddart MBE	E-mail: sylvandjoe@aol.com	Tel: 02380 243237
Secretary: Dave Rutter	E-mail: d_rutter@sky.com	Tel: 01252 326140
Treasurer: Dave Rutter	E-mail: d_rutter@sky.com	Tel: 01252 326140
Entertainments: John Smith BEM	E-mail: thesmiths@beeb.com	Tel: 01252 326100

## **Members Present**

As shown in the AGM minutes

## **Apologies**

As shown in the AGM minutes

## **Chairman's Remarks**

A minutes silence was called for in memory of 3 recently departed members of our association: Mr Norman Swift (1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn RE), Mr Bob Burgess MC (2 Para Sqn RE) and Mr Peter Hutchinson (9 Indep Para Sqn RE).

## **Minutes of the previous OGM**

John Mason noted that the Christian name of his wife had been listed as Jenny and asked that this be corrected to Jane.

With this amendment noted it was proposed by: Tony Manley and Seconded by Bob Sullivan that the previous minutes be accepted as a true record.

Carried: Unanimously

## **Correspondence**

The chairman read extracts from the minutes of the recently held meetings of the Scotland and Birmingham branches.

He further informed the members that Jack Braithwaite had now moved north and that he had now joined the Yorkshire branch.

Members were reminded of the following events:

299 Para Sqn (V) – Open weekend 30<sup>th</sup> July

John Rock Dinner – hosted by the Chatham branch will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June

Airborne Forces Weekend at Woodbridge will take place during the period 1st – 3rd July 2011

Double Hills Commemorative Service will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2011

The Association AGM/Reunion will take place at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry 28 -30<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

## **Branch Representative's Report**

Joe Stoddart gave an update taken from the Association OGM held in Wakefield on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March. The membership secretary (Billy Morris) had reported that recruiting had slowed over the recent months but was optimistic that this would improve now that 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt) had returned from their operational tour in Afghanistan. Current membership Past & Present now stands at 1,414.

Billy Morris also gave an insight into the newly named sports club, which will in future be known as the Ultra Running Club.

Each of the branch representatives present reported that their respective branches were in good health.

John Lee had expressed some slight concerns regarding car-parking costs at the proposed hotel venue for the 2012 AGM/Reunion weekend, which is to be hosted by 299 Hull branch. He intends to gather further information on this matter and will be discussing the situation with the branch concerned.

John Lee further mentioned the possibility of the Association being permitted to form a contingent that would attend the Remembrance Parade at Whitehall in November. His proposal is awaiting acceptance by the Royal British Legion.

### **Entertainments**

John Smith gave an outline proposal to attend the Op VARSITY (Rhine Crossing by 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division) commemorative services in March 2012. Asking if any members would be interested in attending, John received a healthy show of hands. He will now investigate further and report back to the branch.

John also spoke of the recent Spring Lunch held at the Squires Holt restaurant and was delighted with the numbers who had attended. He further offered a sincere vote of thanks to John and Jane Mason for their generous contribution in the provision of welcoming drinks at the event.

A proposed OP GAMIL reunion dinner is proving extremely expensive – latest quote was £45 per head! John also mentioned to the chairman that perhaps the members might be interested in a 3-day trip to the West Country.

### **Any Other Business**

Tony Manley informed the members that the internment of Paddy Boyce's ashes would take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 1100 hours in the Aldershot military cemetery.

Dick Brown (Association Treasurer) announced that a grant of £150 had been forwarded to the Double Hills committee to assist in the 2011 commemorative costs.

Joe Stoddart reminded the members that his term of office as the Association Chairman will be completed following the 2011 AGM and that John Ferry has been nominated as his successor.

Proposed by Dave Rutter, Seconded by Tony Manley that the cost of the branch BBQ (date in August to be confirmed) will cost £7 per head and that any additional cost up to £100 be charged to GPF.  
Accepted: Unanimously

23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt) ABF Weekend – members are reminded that if they are attending the event at Woodbridge they must contact WOII (SSM) (9 Para Sqn RE) Marc Dorkings giving details of those attending and the registration number of their vehicle. (Full details are published on page 2 of the April journal)

Several members have had trouble logging onto the Association Website forum. The chairman has agreed to contact Dave Pace (Webmaster) requesting an 'idiots' guide for publication in the August journal.

Branch annual subscriptions (£6) are now due and should be forwarded to Dave Rutter.

**There being no further business Col Dennis Eagan closed the meeting at 1250 hours**

### **Next Meeting**

**The next branch meeting will be held at Potters International Hotel on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July (1100 for 1130 hrs) followed by lunch for those who require it in the hotel restaurant. Please inform John Smith on 01252 326100 at least one week in advance if you intend to staying for lunch.**