



**THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

**Held at Shard End British Legion (The Crown)
4th January 2012**

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:00 hrs.
2. **Members Present:**, Tom Carpenter, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, George Barrett, Roger Howells, Eddie Fenwick, Ron Mason, John Mason, Barrie Aitken, Bob Dorrell, Dave Bowron, Brian Care, Tony Higgins, Kev Lambeth, Al Parkes, John Phillips, Bob Potter, Harry Potter, John Browning, Roy Hicks, Mike Williams and of course the Ladies.
3. **Apologies from:** Neville Collins, George Hopkins, Jim Hurley.
4. The **Chair** thanked all for attending.
5. **Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read and voted as correct and true. Proposed by, Bob Dorrell. Seconded by, Harry Potter. Carried. Minutes from other branches were made available.
6. **Welfare:** Mike Holdsworths wife Sue is recovering and doing well at present. John Phillips reported that he had received a phone call from John Holmes who passed on the sad news that his eldest daughter has passed away over the Christmas period and to compound this a close friend from Denmark also passed away within 24 hours of his Daughter. It is with sadness also that we report that Kev Lambeths mother also passed away in early December. The branch sends its condolences to members at this sad time.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present.
8. **Branch Christmas Dinner.** 3rd December 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Elmdon. In the last minutes I unfortunately forgot to mention a big thank you to Maureen Aitken and Jan Brown who sold the raffle tickets, thank you. Also I need to report that we were entertained by an excellent singer by the name of Frankie who got the party going after getting stuck on the M42. Bunny Brown reported that the Dinner produced a profit of £100 on the evening.
9. **Boots and Beer Club.** Next meeting will be on Sunday **8th January meeting** at the Sportsman, Piccadilly near to Kingsbury. 10:00 hrs for 10:30 hrs start.
10. **Shoe Box Parcels.** The sending of these parcels is suspended at present.
11. **Veterans Badges.** Application Forms are now available through the branch.
12. **Remembrance Parade.** The AEA president, John Lee, has requested places for the AEA at this years Cenotaph parade and the branch will apply for places for members of the branch.
13. **Move to Shard End British Legion.** This meeting was being held at this branch to gauge opinions on a permanent move. The decision will discussed at the next branch meeting.
14. **AEA Branch Standard.** Bunny Brown reported that the Standard should arrive prior to the next meeting and asked if the branch would like the standard consecrated at the local church at a convenient date, it was suggested that the consecration could take place on the same day as the planned St Georges day Dinner on the 20th April 2012, this to be discussed. Kev Lambeth has volunteered to be standard bearer. Bunny also reported that he would need to purchase ancillary

items for the standard. All Members of the branch would like to thank Ray Sands for his most generous donation to the branch for the full cost. Thank you Ray

15. Curry Night invite to 301 Troop. Several members attended and were greeted with a warm welcome by the hosts. It was a very good evening with plenty of old and bold stories and reliving memories through old photographs. An excellent curry was provided and promises of "let's do this again". A warm thank you to our hosts. The bar and its facilities were offered to the branch if ever the need arose in the future.

16. Any Other Business:

- a. **Bunny Brown.** Produced a framed photo as an example for those members wishing to purchase these as previously reported cost is £15. Contact Bunny if anyone is interested in placing an order.
- b. **Elsie Barrett.** Elsie would like to remind the branch members that cheques sent for branch events should be made out to AEA Birmingham branch and not to Elsie personally.
- c. **Dave Rutter.** Dave has passed on his thanks and congratulations to Bob Dorrells son for raising money for his charity walk, to George and Elsie Barrett along with Brian and Pat Care for their work sending welfare parcels and a special thanks to Elsie Barrett who ran the raffle at the AEA reunion weekend.
- d. **Bunny Brown.** Bunny proposed that the branch hold its St Georges day celebrations at the Shard End British Legion (The Crown) and suggested that we be entertained by a singer, Frankie, and a disco. This will hopefully coincide with the blessing of the branch Standard.
- e. **Elsie and George Barrett.** Elsie and George presented Sue Holdsworth with a bouquet of flowers from the branch on her discharge from hospital.

17. Next Meeting: Please NOTE that the next meeting has moved to Wednesday 8th February 2012 at the Chelmsley Wood British Legion. 1945 Hrs.

W. Steve Brown
Secretary.

Diary of Events

- 8th February 2012 – Branch Meeting
- 7th March 2012 – Branch Meeting
- 4th April 2012 – Branch Meeting