



**THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

**Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion
7th December 11**

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:00 hrs.
2. **Members Present:**, Tom Carpenter, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, George Hopkins, George Barrett, Roger Howells, Eddie Fenwick, Bob Dorrell, Dave Bowron, Brian Care, Tony Higgins, Kev Lambeth, Mike Holdsworth, Al Parkes, John Phillips, Bob Potter, Harry Potter, Tom Smith, Derek Platt and of course the Ladies.
3. **Apologies from:** Neville Collins, Barrie Aitken, Peter Pedersen, John Browning, Jim Hurley, Ron Mason and John Mason.
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, Dave Bowron. Carried. Minutes from other branches were made available.
6. **Welfare:** Mike Holdsworths wife Sue has recently had a heart valve replaced and is doing well at present. The branch sends its best to Sue and hope for a speedy recovery.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Funds are healthy at present.
8. **Branch Christmas Dinner.** 3rd December 2011 at the Holiday Inn, Elmdon. The Ex OC of 131 Sqn RE Major Andy Tustin M.B.E. was present and gave a presentation on present events concerning 131 Squadron, it was a pleasure to catch up with Andy and a most excellent evening was had by all. Dave Clarke read out a letter from the Queen sending Her best wishes to the branch and all the members. A big thank you to Bunny Brown who along with Roger Howells and Dave Clarke organised this event. Also attending were members from far and near who made this evening a memorable time. The only down side to the evening was the exorbitant price of the drinks but this to be addressed. The raffle raised £209 and the Heads & Tails raised £67, good effort.
9. **Boots and Beer Club:** Next meeting Sunday 11th December 2011. Meeting at the Dog & Doublet, Bodymoor Heath. 10:00hrs for 10:30hrs move.
10. **Shoe Box Parcels:** Brian and Pat Care have sent another 20 but will now suspend sending parcels until February 2012. George and Elsie Barrett have also sent 20 with a Christmas card in each parcel. Good effort by both couples for this continuing beneficial service.
11. **Veterans Badges.** Application Forms are now available through the branch.
12. **Remembrance Parade.** The reports back were very positive from those who attended and all said that it is a very rewarding and fantastic experience.
13. **Move to Shard End British Legion.** Proposed move of branch meetings. It is proposed that the next meeting on **4th January 2012** will be held there. The Shard End British Legion is also known as the Crown and is located in Hurst Lane, Shard End, Birmingham.
14. **AEA Branch 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. Any Other Business:

- a. **Bunny Brown.** Bunny reported that he has managed to secure a deal with a photo reproducer who can get framed enlargements of photos for the branch at "half price". The photo can be a postcard size or from digital source and will be enlarged to a 19" X 14" framed pictures on canvas for approximately £15. Look on line at www.canvasbuddy. Or www.acepotraits.
- b. **Steve Brown.** Regarding the AEA AGM Weekend and the persons Bunny paid special thanks to, an oversight on my part meant that I failed to mention Elsie Barrett who manned the desk for 6 hours on Saturday. Apologies for the exclusion on the last minutes.
- c. **Steve Brown.** Steve reported that he had received an email from Nev Collins wishing to thank all those members who took the time to call him and wish him a happy 75th Birthday. Nev also sends his best wishes to all members wishing them a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.
- d. **Steve Brown. 301 Troop,** 131 Command Squadron RE(V) will be hosting a curry evening on Tuesday 20th December 2011 bar open at 20:30 with the curry being served at 21:00. The only cost to ex members is the price of the beer you buy.
- e. **Steve Brown.** Has had a message from Peter Pedersen wishing all members seasons greetings
- f. **Steve Brown.** Reported that Tony Higgins had been tasked with shaking the tin for Remembrance day and raised a princely sum of £409. Well Done Tony.
- g. **Roger Howells.** Roger asked that a special round of thanks be given to Bunny Brown, Elsie Barrett and Steve Brown for their continued hard work for the branch
- h. **Bob Dorrell.** Bob reported that his son had now collected £8500 for his Help4Heroes charity walk a significant amount raised by him by shaking the tin.
- i. **Brian Care.** Brian reported that after trouble caused by 2 soldiers in the Canadian Airborne Forces that this led to the force being disbanded.
- j. **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.
- k. **George Barrett.** George reported the Dave Rutter would like ex-members from 131 to write articles for the journal these can include any notable exercises or postings.
- l. **Finally. Happy Birthday to Steve Brown** for his 60th Birthday in December.

16. Next Meeting: Wednesday 4th January 2012 at the Shard End Royal British Legion (The Crown), Hurst Lane, Shard End, Birmingham. 1945 Hrs.

W. Steve Brown
Secretary.

Diary of Events

- 4th January 2012 – Branch Meeting
- 1st February 2012 – Branch Meeting
- 7th March 2012 – Branch Meeting
- 4th April 2012 – Branch Meeting

A Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year to all Members and their Families and hope for a continuing good branch turnout for 2012