THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION
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MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING

Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion
8th February 2012

1. **Meeting opened** at 20:00 hrs.

2. **Members Present:**, Bunny Brown, Steve Brown, Roger Howells, Eddie Fenwick, Bob Dorrell, Dave Bowron, Mike Cole, Brian Care, George Hopkins, Dave Clarke, Pete Clarke, Tony Higgins, Kev Lambeth, Al Parkes, John Phillips, John Browning, Rip Kirby, Roy Hicks, Mike Williams and of course the Ladies. Neville Collins also made a rare appearance on a visit from Cyprus

3. **Apologies from:** Tom Carpenter, George and Elsie Barrett, Barrie Aitken, Bob Potter, Harry Potter, Al Brough, Alf Manders, Mike Holdsworth, Jim Hurley. Harry Howell, 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, Eddie Fenwick. Seconded by, John Phillips. Carried**.** Minutes from other branches were made available.

6. **Welfare:** George Barrett has had a knee operation and was recovering well until complications occurred and this has delayed his discharge but appears now to be on the mend. John Browning had visited George and reported he was ok; George is in Solihull Hospital ward 15 but is expected to be discharged next week. Alan Brough has been unwell recently with a prostate problem and also problems with his feet. Sue Holdsworth is also recovering well. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all from the branch.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** Elsie was not in attendance at this meeting but the funds remain healthy at present. Thank You Elsie.

8. **Boots and Beer Club.** Next meeting will be on Sunday 12th February 2012 meeting at the White Lion, Hampton in Arden. 10:00 hrs for 10:30 hrs start.

9. **Shoe Box Parcels.** Brian and Pat Care have sent 10 parcels recently to 35 Engineer Regiment.

10. **Veterans Badges.** Application Forms are now available through the branch.

11. **Remembrance Parade.** The AEA president, John Lee, has requested places for the AEA at this years Cenotaph parade and the Chairman, Bunny Brown has requested 5 places for members of the branch.

12. **Move to Shard End British Legion.** The decision will be discussed and decided at the April branch meeting. It is suggested that members may like to discuss this with other members prior to the April meeting.

13. **AEA Branch Standard.** Bunny Brown brought the Standard along to the meeting to show the branch members. It was received with congratulations to Bunny and all said how magnificent the standard looked. The consecration could take place on the same day as the planned St Georges day Dinner on the 20th April 2012, this to be confirmed. Bunny also reported that he needed to purchase ancillary items for the standard. Mike Williams donated the staff. 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

14. **St Georges Evening.** 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. Preliminary estimated cost will be £5.00 per ticket.

15. Any Other Business:

- **a. Bunny Brown.** Framed photos can be ordered through Bunny at a cost is £15. Contact Bunny if anyone is interested in placing an order.
- **b. Bunny Brown.** Bunny asked if the branch would like to celebrate the Queens Diamond jubilee with a branch function. The options were, Brian Care reported that the Chelmsley Wood British Legion offered the use of a room for our use on the 5th June 12 with catering etc. Mike Williams suggested that the branch could attend a party in the park at Norman Chamberlain Park in Shard End, on the 3rd June12. To be discussed at a later date.
- **c. John Phillips.** John reported that he had visited John Holmes and said he was bearing up after his recent bad news.
- **d. Nev Collins.** Neville on his rare visit to the branch said it was a pleasure to be present when the standard was also on display.
- **e. Bob Dorrell.** Bob wished to pass on his thanks to the branch for their support to his son who this week is off to do his charity 500 mile walk for charity, good luck.
- **f. Dave Clarke.** Dave reported that he will be holding a Birthday party on or around the 3rd March 12 for his 16th Birthday, he only has a birthday every 4 years due to being born on the 29th February. Details to follow.
- **g. John Browning.** Reported that he was aware of 2 scams involving clothing collections 1 was reportedly collecting for Troop Aid and using bags with a union flag and the second is using the title Help for Angels, both are scams.
- **h. Rip Kirby.** Rip has recently heard off Dusty Miller who sends his regards and is still suffering with aftershocks after the recent earthquake in New Zealand.
- **i. Mike Williams.** Mike reported that he has enrolled to do a welfare course to become a welfare officer with the Shard End British Legion. Good luck.

16. Next Meeting: The next meeting is on Wednesday 7th March 2012 at the **Chelmsley Wood British Legion**. 1945 Hrs.

17. AEA Journal. Deadline for submitting material for the APRIL 2012 edition is **MONDAY 12th March 2012**

W. Steve Brown
Secretary.

Diary of Events

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