



**THE BIRMINGHAM BRANCH  
AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION**

President: Mr. George Barratt 0121 293 4174  
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**MINUTES OF THE BRANCH MEETING**

**Held at Chelmsley Wood British Legion**

**4th February 2015**

**Members Present:** K Lambeth, B Brown, Dave Bowron, A Parks, R Howles, S Brown, B Dorrell, T Higgins, R Howles, E Fenwick, G & E Barratt, T Smith, E McNulty, G Page, N Collins, C Green, J Phillips, M Williams, P Owen and of course the Ladies.

**Apologies from:** Chris Chambers, T Bark, Maj Hooper, A Brough, Ron Mason and John Mason, M Holdsworth, B Fosbury, J Browning, R Hicks, J Hurley, B Care, M Holdsworth.

**Minutes:** Proposed as a true record of the last meeting by D Bowron & seconded by S Brown.

**The Chairman** opened the meeting welcoming all to the meeting, he then continued with the Loyal Toast, Airborne Prayer and absent friends. He continued with a brief on the funeral of Harold Padfield, (one of the last 1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn RE veterans who jumped into Arnhem) he and the Secretary attended as Standard Bearers, there was an excellent turn out from all Branches and 23 Engineer Regt (Air Assault). The treasurer will start a "Thrift Club" so that Members can save money at meetings for future functions, this will be completely confidential.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurers report accounts still healthy.

**Welfare:** Cath Parks as well as can be expected. R Howles has had another stent fitted with a service on the others.

**Dedication of the Airborne Sappers Bench in Arnhem:** Some discussion took place as to a date so as not to clash with holidays; July 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> was eventually decided upon, TBC. A 14 seater minibus and trailer can be provided and driven by M Williams, Definate names with a non returnable £50 deposit required ASAP

**A.O.B**

The Chairman again raised the point about moving our meetings from C W RBL, it was decided that this should be an AGM Item. It was pointed out by the Secretary that it would not necessarily be a free transfer, in as much as the Crown Club will expect Branch members to become Club Members at an annual expense of £21 including British Legion Subscriptions. The Secretary Proposed that meetings be held on Sunday mornings instead of Wednesday evenings, again to be voted on at Branch AGM in April.

**All Nominations for positions on the Committee Must reach the Secretary by the next meeting.**

Cromwell Lock was raised, this year being the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragedy, planning and arrangements to continue.

Looking forward: M Cloonans Retirement Party, TA centre Barrows Lane Sat 7 Feb 2000hrs.

The Crown Club will be holding a VE day celebration 8-10 May.

Ed McNulty is moving to Almeria in Spain, all present wished him Bon Voyage.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 4th March 2015 @ 20 00hrs Chelmsley Wood EX British Legion.

## **Diary of Events**

Next Meeting:	4 March 2015 at the CWRBL.
Zoom's retirement Party	7 February 8 pm barrows Lane.
Long weekend Arnhem	2-6 July 2015.
AEA AGM	16-19 October Royal Court Hotel.