





Minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1230hrs on Sunday 16th November 2008.

1. Chairman's Welcome:

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to what was our largest turnout to a meeting and thanked everyone for their efforts, although he had the suspicion that the reputation of our pies may have had something to do with it. He immediately asked members to be up standing for one minute silent reflection in memory of those we have lost.

Jim then went on to inform the meeting that after having served 3 years, he was standing down as Chairman, a role he had enjoyed but now felt it was time for some fresh blood. His successor would be discussed at the election of office bearers as per the agenda.

2. Members Present:

Doug Archibald, Mick Walker, Jim Simpson, David Brock, Gil Nicol, Alex McWhirter, Andy Paterson, John Donaldson, Brian Earl, Kim Panton, Craig McQuade, Frank Murray, Ronnie Drummond, Colin Reid, Roy Kay and guest Norrie Bishop.

3. Apologies:

These were received on behalf of Jim Farrier, Ian Thomson, Jimmy Wilson, Willie Grant, Andy Mullen and our other overseas members.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21^{st} September 2008 were proposed as a true record by Andy Paterson and seconded by Kim Panton

5. Matters Arising:

Doug Archibald asked if the whereabouts of Major Ward DVDs had been recorded in case anyone wished to view them. It was reported that Andy Mullen had one copy and the other +4 copies were held by Mick Walker. Offers to borrow them came from the following Doug Archibald, Ronnie Drummond, Gil Nicol and Frank Murray.

6. Minutes of the Previous A.G.M.:

The minutes of the 9th A.G.M. held on 18th November 2007 were proposed as a true record by Andy Paterson and seconded by Brian Earl.

7. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

8. Secretary's Report:

Doug Archibald apologised for his absence from the previous two meetings and thanked the Treasurer for filling in. There was not a lot to report as far as the previous year was concerned as we had not done anything significant as a group.







In December we had the PRA Dance where we as usual managed to secure a number of raffle prizes. This was followed by another PRA Dance on this occasion to raise funds for The Afghan Trust a charity to assist the relatives of those killed and the rehabilitation of those wounded on return from this theatre. April/May Tom Ormiston sent gift parcels on our behalf to 23 Engineer Regiment Air Assault who deployed to Afghanistan and who incidentally have now arrived back in the UK. In21 July there were various Veteran's Day Parades which some of our members attended. September was to have been our Annual Bowls Challenge against the PRA but due to unforeseen circumstances had to be cancelled. October saw the Association A.G.M. at Coventry. Any member with an idea of a "jolly" or worthwhile endeavour please let me know and it can be circulated, but bear in mind although several members completed an abseil from the Forth Rail Bridge we are getting older and activities may have to be limited.

9. Treasurer's Report:

Mick Walker presented his Annual Income/Expenditure report and carefully explained the various entries and allowed for questions. The accounts had been audited and certified by Colin Reid and showed our current balance to be £888.39.

The accounts were proposed for acceptance by Doug Archibald and seconded by Jim Simpson.

10. Election of Office Bearers:

As mentioned earlier Jim Simpson was retiring as Chairman and this position was therefore vacant. Mick Walker proposed Tom Ormiston and although he was not present he had given his permission to be nominated and would accept if elected. There were no other nominees therefore Mick repeated his proposal which was seconded by Andy Paterson.

The Treasurer's was again put up for nominees but as there were none put forward Mick Walker agreed to continue if elected. He was immediately proposed by Gil Nicol and seconded by Andy Paterson. Doug Archibald informed the meeting that the Secretary's position was up for grabs and was willing to give full

assistance to a successor, as there was no rush to fill the post he agreed to continue if that was the consensus. He was proposed by Kim Panton and seconded by John Donaldson.

Colin Reid was proposed to carry on as Auditor by Jim Simpson and seconded by Alex McWhirter.

The position as Webmaster as in the past was a no go area really as no other member either had the necessary IT skills or was prepared to take on this role. Doug Archibald pointed out that the web site had been a valuable asset to us and proposed that this important position should continue to be held by John Donaldson for as long as he is willing to do so. He also reminded members that it was passed unanimously that John has "carte blanche" to pay for and reclaim any expenses incurred by our website. John agreed to continue and this was accepted by everyone present.

Ronnie Drummond intimated that he was having to stand down as our "Branch" representative and we would require a replacement. Mick Walker proposed Jim Simpson as our representative and this was seconded by Ronnie Drummond. There were no other nominees and Jim accepted his nomination which due to his experience made him the best choice.







Summary of Office Bearers:

Chairman: Tom Ormiston
Treasurer: Mick Walker
Secretary: Doug Archibald
Auditor: Colin Reid
Webmaster: John Donaldson
Rep to Head Office: Jim Simpson

11. Subscriptions for 2008/2009:

The Treasurer proposed that the status quo of £6.00 be maintained. This proposal was seconded by Roy Kay.

12. Dates for Future Meetings:

John Donaldson once again provided an excellent calendar with the dates of our meetings highlighted and copies were handed out to the members present.

13. A.O.C.B.:

- (i) Welfare cards were to be sent to Jimmy Wilson, Ian Thomson and Bill Ridland.
- (ii) The Secretary told members he had a proforma for names of members wishing to attend the 65th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden in September 2009 with his apologies if this was too late. He was informed that several members have in fact already booked.
- (iii) Gil Nicol and Craig McQuade informed the meeting that they had laid a wreath on behalf of Airborne Forces at a Memorial in Newcastleton.
- (iv) Frank Murray informed the meeting that he had met with John Lonergan's widow briefly and the family were well, he also hinted that he had not given up hoping that the re-naming of Kingsbury Barracks was not dead in the water.
- (v) John Donaldson and Doug Archibald had attended the funeral on 17th October of Ian "Dutch" Mulholland who had served in the Grangemouth Troop although neither could place him. This came about after a request for information from Captain Olaf Dudley who had been contacted by the QM REME at Grangemouth after he had been contacted by Ian's daughter looking for someone from his old unit to read an Eulogy. In conclusion an Eulogy drafted by Colonel Bill Pagan eventually reached John who read this at the Crematorium service.
- (vi) Branch Title: As had been previously agreed we would try to finalise by what name we were to be known in the future.

As the Secretary had been absent from the previous meeting Mick Walker had been asked on his behalf to write to Mick Leather, Secretary Airborne Engineers Association. Mick received a telephone call in response to his letter and was informed we could call ourselves by a title of our own choosing.

It would go into a paperback length subject to go into detail on the numerous times this has been discussed at previous meetings therefore in summary it was felt that "Edinburgh Branch" was not indicative of our current membership position therefore it came down to a choice of two titles.

Doug Archibald pointed out that our website address was now **www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk** and this was the line we should approach in order to promote a continuous identity and drop the word "Branch" The first proposal by Mick Walker was for Airborne Engineers Association Scotland this was seconded by Doug Archibald.







The counter proposal by Jim Simpson was for Airborne Engineers Association Scottish Branch.

There being no further proposals the matter was taken to a vote the result being Mick Walker's proposal eight votes and Jim Simpson's proposal seven votes.

Mick Walkers vote was carried and in future we would be known as **Airborne Engineers Association Scotland** by name and usage but it must not be forgotten that we are still a "Branch" of the Airborne engineers Association. John Donaldson voiced some concerns regarding the implementation of this change with regard to links on our website. However he promised to sort things out although this may take some time. It was unanimous that John was best qualified to iron out problems with URL's and other website terminology.

(vii) Finally Doug Archibald confirmed with John Donaldson that all other Branch Secretaries were sent copies of our meeting minutes and would like to emphasise that he would be obliged if the other secretaries would reciprocate and forward their minutes to him. As knowing what was happening in other parts of the country was both helpful and informative. John added that correspondence had been received from Mick Leather intimating that all minutes should be sent to him and he would distribute them to branch secretaries. Furthermore any association news or correspondence should be forwarded to Dougie Archibald at **docamida@btinternet.com** (viii) Jim Simpson informed the meeting that there were changes at the AEA namely, President: John Lee, Chairman: Joe Stoddart MBE and Secretary: Geoff. Howard. Jim hoped that he would be able to attend the next Association OGM as our representative.

Jim closed by wishing members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There being no further business the meeting was closed at1350hrs to allow assembly for our group photograph.

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions are now due and cheques for £6.00 should be made payable to Airborne Engineers Association and sent to the Treasurer, Malcolm Walker, 1 Halbeath Road, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7QZ

The date for our next meeting is Sunday 18^{th} January 2009 at the normal time of 1300hrs at the same venue.