

Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



Minute of meeting held at the Royal British Legion, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1300hrs on 18 January '09

1. MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jimmy Simpson, Kim Panton, John Donaldson, Roy Kay, Tom Ormiston, Colin Reid, Ronnie Drummond, Ian Thomson, Gil Nicol, Alex McWhirter and Mick Walker.

2. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION:

Tom Ormiston took the chair following his election at the AGM and said he would do everything possible to make his term of office a successful one. He hoped that his experience of having served in both 131 and 9 Sqns and being a founder member of the Association would help achieve this aim.

3. APOLOGIES:

These were taken as read from our overseas members and had been received from Dougie Archibald, Craig McQuade, Andy Paterson, Jimmy Wilson, Norrie Bishop and Frank Murray. The Chairman asked for a volunteer to take the minute in Dougie's absence and the Treasurer was the only man standing after the ensuing melee.

4. WELFARE:

Bill Ridland is not enjoying the best of health and Roy Kay said he would find out the position and report back to the next meeting.

Jimmy Simpson had surprised all by attending the meeting following his illness and spell in hospital. He advised on his current position, blood monitoring, plumbing replacement and ongoing programme of check ups. Things were hopefully on the up and Jimmy added he had been deeply touched by the good wishes and concern for his welfare. The Treasurer then spoiled this moment by reporting that he had been known as "Mr Grumpy" by the hospital staff.

Kim Panton advised that Jimmy Wilson continues to keep going but would find the stairs impossible if he were to attempt to attend a meeting. Kim sees Jimmy occasionally and was asked to convey everybody's best wishes to him.

5. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minute of the meeting of 16 November 2008 was accepted as a true record on the proposal of Gil Nicol who was seconded by Alex McWhirter.

6. MATTERS ARISING:

The Chairman reported that he had briefed Joe Stoddard on our change of name.

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7. WEBSITE UPDATE:

John Donaldson reported that all references to “Edinburgh” on the website had been changed to “Scotland” and links on all other sites, with the exception of 9 Sqn, had also been changed. As always John was looking for recollections, photos and other materials with which to refresh our site.

8. TREASURER’S REPORT:

A surplus of £110.50 had been generated since the last meeting and Mick Walker reported that we are in a healthy financial position.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

John Lee, the new President of the Association, has written asking that the Membership Secretary be advised of all our active members. This led to a discussion as to what constitutes “active” which was only terminated when the Chairman asked the acting Secretary to liaise with the Membership Secretary but be clear as to the definition of active.

10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES:

Discussion on the above was initiated by the Treasurer who felt that activities between meetings were stagnating. A lively discussion followed and it was agreed

A lunch would be held in April, possibly with ladies. Date to be set at next meeting.

Colin Reid will look into the possibility of a walk over the Forth Rail Bridge.

Challengers for Mick’s golf title will be actively sought.

Tom will explore the possibility of a visit to the Falkirk Wheel

Dougie will enquire about a trip on the barge at Linlithgow.

Ian will follow up on a visit to Harrison Park.

Roy will liaise with Dougie re a visit to Bellhaven Brewery.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There was none other than a reminder from the Treasurer that subscriptions were due and should be sent, made payable to “Airborne Engineers’ Association”, to him at 1 Halbeath Road, Dunfermline KY12 7QZ.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Same venue, same time on 15 March 2009.