



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Minute of meeting held at RBL, Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1300 on 19 September 2010

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Jimmy Simpson, Kim Panton, John Donaldson, Brian Earl, Andy Mullen, Frank Murray (Chairman) and Mick Walker.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Frank expressed his pleasure at Kim's attendance at the meeting and welcomed all. He went on to say that he had heard from the Lonergan family that they had received the Elizabeth Cross in recognition of John Lonergan's death in Aden in 1965.

The Chairman gave some detail of the Commemoration to mark the 35th anniversary of the tragedy at Cromwell Lock. Olaf Dudley has concerns about publicising this for security reasons but if anyone wants to attend this will happen on the afternoon of 26 September and they should contact him for details.

Frank advised of the death in Afghanistan of Royal Engineers Sgt. Andrew James the previous day and we then stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of those who had fallen since our last meeting.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Dougie Archibald and Mick Walker assumed the Secretary's duties for the day. Apologies had also been received from Ian Thomson, Craig McQuade, Andy Paterson, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, Gil Nicol, Alex McWhirter and Tom Ormiston and were tendered on behalf of Allan Davidson and David Brock. They were taken as read from our overseas members and Jimmy Wilson..

4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of 18 July was agreed as a true record on the motion of Kim Panton who was seconded by Jimmy Simpson..

5. MATTERS ARISING

Kim asked that his family's thanks be recorded for the messages, cards, visits and general support they had received from members during his recent stay in hospital. He was particularly appreciative of Maj Robin Ward sending a message despite being subject to the medic's attention himself.

6. WEBSITE UPDATE

John said he intended to review the website in the near future. He added that the Airborne Engineers Association had closed the guest book on their website but had opened a forum.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mick then put on his Treasurer's hat and reported that there had been little financial activity since the last meeting and we remained in a relatively healthy position.

Colin Reid's sad passing had left us without an Auditor and the meeting gratefully accepted Jimmy Simpson's offer to fill this role for the current year.

8. GOLF AND BOWLS

Under some pressure Mick was forced to admit that it was not the presence of the Castlemilk Mafia but the superior skill of Andy Mullen that caused him to cede the Branch's golf trophy. Andy won quite comfortably under the eye of referee Jimmy Simpson with Mick coming second and Craig McQuade and Gil Nicol having their own private battle for the remaining podium position. The setting was good and the weather sufficiently kind to allow refreshments to be had outside the clubhouse and an enjoyable day was had by all.

The weather was again kind for our visit with wives to Bilston Bowling Club in early September where we had mixed rinks with local members. Kim Panton was in the winning rink and took home some silver. After that presentation we enjoyed a buffet put on by our hosts who refused Mick's offer to contribute to the cost. Kim Panton pointed out that we had enjoyed the buffet gratis for some years and should really contribute. After some discussion it was agreed we should send £50 to the Club with a note of thanks.

9. WELFARE

There have been references to Kim's illness and for those not in the know the position is as follows. Prior to our last meeting Kim was diagnosed with throat cancer. He got a cancellation spot at St John's Hospital in Livingston and underwent a 12 hour surgical procedure and remained in hospital for a fortnight for treatment, observation and recovery. After discharge he went for examination and the operation has apparently been so successful he may not need any further therapy. He is on a restricted diet and has considerable swelling in the neck but is amazingly cheerful.

Mick reported that he had written to three members to ensure they were in good health but had yet to receive replies.

He also mentioned that he had tried to contact Colin Reid's widow but she had been unavailable. Kim said he had photographs of Colin at the Forth Bridge abseil in 2006 and would leave it to Mick's discretion as to whether they should be offered to Sandra when he did make contact.

10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Norrie Bishop had obtained some details of cost and accommodation for the proposed trip to the National Arboretum. Firm numbers would be required before matters could be taken forward and it was agreed this matter should be deferred until the AGM in November which is traditionally our best attended meeting.

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Joe Stoddart had visited Edinburgh for a spot of Festival culture and a school reunion and Jimmy Simpson had met him socially. Jimmy apologised that as arrangements were made only immediately before the meeting he had been unable to invite members along to meet our National Chairman.

Our Thailand domiciled member Willie Grant was home for a visit over the summer and several of us had met with him for a "catch up".

Mick reported that the staff at the RBL had been advised that the future of Rodney Street would not be determined until January at the earliest so we would be all right for an AGM venue.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is our AGM and will be held on **21 November at 1230hrs –note earlier start –** in the RBL. The Chairman joined the acting Secretary in encouraging as many as possible to attend. While the Chairman traditionally serves for two years and this is Frank's first year both the current Treasurer and Secretary have been in post since time immemorial. Nominations for these posts are actively sought.