



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

**Minutes of the meeting held at The Royal British Legion, Rodney Street,
Edinburgh at 1300hrs on Sunday 18 July 2010.**

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Jimmy Simpson, Kim Panton, John Donaldson, Raymond Mannion, Gil Nicol, Alex McWhirter, Brian Earl, Norrie Bishop, Ronnie Drummond, Frank Murray (Chairman) and Mick Walker.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Kim Panton took this opportunity to advise the meeting that he had been diagnosed with cancer which the medics had said was treatable. He explained that he wanted to let us know himself in this way as he did not want people finding out from friends by telephone or other contact. All expressed their sympathy and hope that Kim makes a full recovery.

Whilst he had the floor Kim announced that John Donaldson had celebrated his 70th birthday the previous day.

Frank Murray warmly welcomed those present and commented that it was pleasing to have such a good turnout in what is Scotland's prime holiday month. He then invited the meeting to stand for a minute's silence in memory of those who had recently fallen in Afghanistan.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Dougie Archibald and Mick Walker was the last man standing in the scramble to assume the Secretary's duties for the day. Apologies had also been received from Ian Thomson, Andy Mullen, Craig McQuade, Roy Kay, Andy Paterson, Jimmy Wilson, David Brock and were taken as read from our overseas members..

4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Frank Murray pointed out that the possibility of a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum had been discussed at the last meeting. It was agreed that "Norrie Bishop mentioned that a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum would be of interest to members and he was asked to find out more detail and report back to the next meeting"

should be added to item 8 of the minutes of the meeting of 16 May 2010. The minutes, with that addition, were agreed as a true record on the motion of Gil Nicol who was seconded by Jimmy Simpson..

5. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

6. WEBSITE UPDATE

John said he had recently added a piece about a contact who was looking for details of ex comrades. Photographs of Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh on 26 June had been added and others were to follow soon.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mick then put on his Treasurer's hat and circulated a report of our financial position. This showed that we remained in a relatively healthy position and that the surplus of Welfare and Catering over Catering had been a massive £8.80 since our last meeting.

He laid down a marker over the £50 donation made to the REA Benevolent Fund in memory of Major General John Cowtan. Mick had paid this himself and then been refunded by the Branch. His personal cheque has however yet to be cashed and if this is not done within the statutory six month period he will report back to a future meeting.

8. 2011 NATIONAL AGM VENUE

This is being organised by the Yorkshire Branch who had contacted all Branches to establish their preference between Harrogate and Blackpool. Bill Rudd had supplied details on hotels and prices which Mick outlined to the meeting. After some discussion Mick was asked to relay to Bill that Harrogate was our preferred option.

9. WELFARE

Mick said that despite our entreaty in the AGM Minutes there were still a number of members who had not contacted us as to their wellbeing. There was some discussion as to how this should be pursued and it was eventually decided he should write to these members wearing a welfare hat.

10. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Norrie produced some detail of visits to the Arboretum and it was decided to go ahead with this visit and take wives. It was decided that by the time arrangements were finalised it would be best to aim for early next year. Norrie was asked to work up some preliminary arrangements for a party of 20-25 in mid-April 2011 for a one night stay. He will liaise with Craig via Gil on transport arrangements.

Members and wives are invited to the PRA's Bowling Day at Bilston Miners' Club on Sunday 05 September. Assemble there at 1300hrs for refreshments and allocation to rinks. Those participating should wear their own flat shoes or risk borrowing shoes from the visitors box.

Mick asked that those attending notify him – 01383 723925 or balvaig@btinternet.com -by the Wednesday beforehand in order that he can advise the PRA. He encouraged everyone to attend as this is a really good fun day out.

John Donaldson advised that he had temporarily dropped plans for a visit to the Normandy battlefields for a combination of reasons.

Jimmy Simpson raised the question of the golf tournament initiated by the late Colin Reid. Mick said he would arrange for this to be held at Dunfermline Golf Club – probably Sunday 15 August – and would contact those who had shown an interest in the near future. Anybody who was not at the meeting but is interested should get in touch with him

11. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Jimmy said a National OGM was scheduled for 18 July but he had tendered his apologies due to the clash with this meeting. He was unaware if Tom Ormiston would attend the OGM as he had been unable to contact him.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This is scheduled for **19 September at 1300hrs**. Ronnie and Gil intimated their apologies as both would be on holiday.