



AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 1009201



Minutes of OGM on 6th July 2008 at Potters International Hotel

Members Present: M Humphries, B Brown, J Lee, D Rutter, S Morris, J Stottard, D Brown, M Leather, J Gray, B Rudd, E Blenkinsop, R Coleman

Chairman's Opening Address

Mick Humphries thanked everyone for coming and there was then a minutes silence for absent friends

Minutes of the Previous OGM

There was concern raised by Ray Coleman concerning the comments about the profit from the shop. Mick Humphries acknowledged these comments and stated they would be dealt with and recorded under Ray's report. There were apologies for absence from George Barrett and Fred Gray. There being nothing further arising from the previous minutes they were proposed by D Brown and seconded by Steve Morris. Accepted

Archivist's Report

This was not presented due to the absence of Fred Gray. There was comments from the Chair about the procrastination of the AEA's position regarding the location of our property. Mick Humphries again stated that he would approach Nick Gibson and Fred Gray to get it resolved. Eric Blenkinsop assisted by stating that Nick Gibson had already started dialog with the RE museum and 23 Regiment.

Treasurer's Report

See appendix A for overview of the current state of the AEA accounts. Dick Brown stated that the working capital had reduced by £3000 due to the money that went in January to the John Rock Bust Fund. It was during this report that the Chairman reminded the branches that under no circumstances were they to apply for a lottery grant without first seeking permission of the executive committee for the simple reason that if the money held by the organisation exceeded £10,000, it would cause a considerable amount of paperwork due to the AEA being flagged up for an audit from the charity commission which would bring in all branch funds as being recognised as part of the AEA funds. The treasurer's report was proposed by D Rutter and seconded by B Brown. Accepted



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Membership Report

Membership now stands at 1333. So far there have been 10 new members in 2008. Steve Morris is expecting another 20 to 30 when 299 join us. Hopefully there will also be a new influx when the Regiment returns as the AEA has been given a higher profile due to the 'Red Cross' parcels that have been sent. M Stewart is now ensconced in Gibraltar Barracks and Steve reported that he has yet to spend the money allocated to him for a new laminator. Proposed by D Brown, seconded by B Brown. Accepted

Journal Editor's Report

The members were reminded that the cost of annual subscription was increasing from £6 to £8 in October. The overseas postage costs had dramatically increased. In the next journal there would be a slip reminding the membership about the increases and for them to adjust any direct debit that they pay by. It will be reported in the journal about the weekend in Woodbridge which would include the unveiling of the John Rock Bust and the opening of the Garden of Reflection and whilst it is still pencilled in for the 21st Nov, nothing had been heard from the regiment about their return. We are still looking at producing a calendar but pictures are still needed. D Rutter then confirmed, as agreed at the last meeting, each OC, the CO and 5 copies of the journal were sent each squadron of the regiment. The report was proposed by E Blenkinsop and seconded by S. Morris. Accepted.

Sports Club

S Morris reported that the next race he is entering is the New Forest Marathon in September and then another 10 miler in October. He is also gearing up for the London to Brighton run. He further reported that the 100 mile challenge may well be re-instated as Mick Stewart is now in Gibraltar Barracks which was the intended location. He is also thinking about inviting teams from 51 and 9 squadron. The report was proposed by D brown and seconded by J. Lee

Shop Report

R Coleman reported that things are going well although takings are down on last year. The account shows £752 when it should show over £1000. This came about because of a £400 donation, which was due to the theft in Portsmouth. It was put in the GPF fund and not the shop account in error. This was the discrepancy that R Coleman wanted to clarify from the previous minutes. There was also another donation on the same basis sent to Charlie Common but was unaware if it had been sent on to us. This needs clarification.

B Ferguson is coming over in October and bringing the latest up to date directory, there are currently none in the shop. Proposed by E Blenkinsop and seconded by D Rutter. Accepted

IT Report

M Humphries stated that the only item here, given in D Pace's absence, that there are moves to put the shop items on the web site.



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AGM 2008

The update regarding the 2008 AGM from B Brown is that the charity for the event is going to be Help for Heroes. This was after there was discussion amongst the members who decided that the choice of the charity recipient was a branch matter. So far the bookings stand at 102. The invited guests will be budgeted for to a maximum of six. Dinner on the night of the AGM will be 7.00 for 7.30pm

AGM 2009

Birmingham have carried out a recce and have opted for the Britannia Hotel in Nottingham. They have agreed to keep the price at the current level and will be running a happy hour all weekend where the beer will be sold at £1.50. There will be parking made available near the hotel at £9 a day and the golf competition will be played at the Bullwell Forest Golf Club. B Brown sought consent to go ahead. Acceptance was proposed by M Humphries and seconded by D Brown. Accepted

A.O.B.

1. Eric Blenkinsop gave a further report regarding the John Rock Bust by commending the AEA a tremendous credit which led to the Regiment to produce the Garden of Reflection. Eric further gave an account summary of the money to date re the bust, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as Appendix B. He requested a cheque from the AEA accounts for £2937.50 to cover the final account until the £5000 from the REA is received. A procedure was agreed in which when all monies were received, the £1000 from the anonymous donor will be refunded and the money repaid to the GPF to cover the agreed loan and then the account to be closed. Proposed by D Brown and seconded by J Stoddart. Accepted.
2. B Brown stated that 299 Troop would like to join the AEA as a whole. They have asked what benefits there is to them and M Humphries said he would write them a letter outlining the AEA scope and business.
3. D Rutter was proposed to be put forward as a Life Vice President of the AEA. This was proposed by J Stoddart and seconded by M Leather. Accepted
4. A change to the constitution was proposed, details of which have already been posted on the website, to be discussed and voted on at the AGM. Proposal to put this amendment forward for adoption was proposed by D Egan and seconded by J Stoddart. Accepted
5. A Proposal by M Humphries to nominate J Stoddart as the next Chairman when M Humphries steps down was tabled and seconded by D Rutter. Accepted

Next meeting is on 18th October and hosted by the Birminham Branch at The Roytal Court Hotel as part of the reunion weekend



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Appendix A

AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

AS AT 2 JUL 2008

ASSETS

Cash in Hand	Nil
Cash in Bank	£1715.37
Deposit Account	£17091.77
Property Value	£442.30
Value of Shop Stock	

TOTAL ASSETS **£19249.44**

LIABILITIES

Newsletter	£4677.30
Projects	£2030.17

TOTAL LIABILITIES **£6707.47**

WORKING CAPITAL

Assets	£19249.44
Minus Liabilities	£6707.47

TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL **£12541.97**



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Appendix B

The John Rock Bust Fund As at 28th June 2008

Received

AEA Fund	£1000
AEA Fund	£3375
Anonymous Donor	£1000
Airbourne Forces Security Fund	£1000
Aldershot Branch	£250
Birmingham Branch	£250
Chatham Branch	£250
Yorkshire Branch	£250
Tom Sherwood	£50
John Waite	£50

	£7445
	£6448.40

	£996.60

Paid Out

Bronze Plaque	£573.40
Bust Deposit	£2937.50
Bust Interim	£2937.50

	£6448.40

Balance to Pay	£2937.50

Total Cost	£9385.90

Total paid by AEA to date: £4375.00

The £5000 from the REA via the Regiment has been approved, but has not yet materialised. So, as the bust is ready it looks as though the Association may have to pay the balance of £2937.50 in the meantime. When the £5000 has been received, that, plus the bank balance of £996.60, will be redistributed as decreed by this meeting today.

Eric Blenkinsop
Chairman, Chatham Branch.