



# AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

Registered Charity No: 1009201



## Minutes of OGM on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2008 at Draycote Hotel, Rugby

**Members Present:** M Humphries, B Brown, J Lee, D Rutter, S Morris, J Stottard, D Brown,  
M Leather

### **Chairman's Opening Address**

Mick Humphries thanked everyone for coming and reminded all that there is a dress code for the meetings which on this occasion, had not been adhered to. He thanked Bunny Brown for organising the venue

### **Minutes of the Previous OGM**

The minutes were proposed for acceptance by John Lee, as there were no matters arising, and seconded by Steve Morris. Motion carried.

Apologies for absence were received from Fred Gray, Eric Blenkinsop, Bill Rudd, Ray Coleman and Dave Pace

### **Archivist's Report**

This was not presented due to the absence of Fred Gray. There was some discussion about approaching Mick Gibson to assist Fred as the Archivist, a topic that was raised at the previous OGM. John Lee then highlighted the units that had to be covered to reflect a fair overview of the Airborne Sapper. They were 131, 299 and all the 23 Regiment's squadrons. It would require a centralised Hub. The Chairman stated that he would approach and speak to Mick Gibson

### **Treasurer's Report**

See appendix A for overview of the current state of the AEA accounts. Explanation of the projects figure being down was due to the £1000 spent on the Bust Fund. The overall holdings of £15,000 was about the same as normal. The accounts had been audited by John Ferry and his comments were read to the meeting. The Treasurer noted that the overall percentage profit of the shop was down from 35% to 28%. In isolation this was still very good but as the AEA funds were having to cover other increasing expenses, the Chairman stated that he was going to discuss this with Ray.

The Treasurer noted that the general assets were starting to decline due to projects and there was a need to increase this up to 17-18K over the next 2 years to preserve a healthy cash flow in the future. The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Dave Rutter, Seconded by J Stottard. Carried



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## **Membership Report**

Membership now stands at 1327. So far there have been 4 new members in 2008. The members of 299 were now starting to come through. Steve Morris reported that he has not yet purchased a new laminator as the old one was still working. Special mention of the 84 year old who served with 3 Para Sqn and had just joined the Association. Report was proposed by John Lee and seconded by Dick Brown. Carried

## **Journal Editor's Report**

There have been about 45 losses due to responses for subscriptions that have not been received and this was about normal and can be attributed to a number of reasons. Dave Rutter asked that future articles be more diverse to move away from the reports of Operations and training exercises. He also voiced concern about 51 Sqn stating that the AEA needs to broaden its audience and convince them that the AEA is not a club purely for ex 9 Sqn personnel. This in turn would hopefully increase subscriptions. The distribution of the 'Free' copies was discussed and it was agreed to increase these to include CO of 23 Regiment and the OC's of 51 and 12 Sqs. Report was proposed by Bunny Brown and seconded by Steve Morris. Carried

## **Sports Club**

The 100 mile challenge in August has had the dates changed by the Regimental 2i/c to 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. The Accommodation has been arranged for Hacket Block and food will be taken in the OR's Mess. Steve is going to try and arrange some media coverage, T shirts and certificates. He also reminded everyone that it is a men only function with Saturday night being planned in the Sgt's Mess.

He also announced that he was doing the 45 mile London to Tring race on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, Also the Reading Half Marathon and the Snowdonia Marathon in October. Other sports are welcomed and to that end it was announced that member 'Jonah' Jones 704 had requested that a picture of best fishes caught be put in the journal. This was accepted as long as the fish were caught normally and not with plastic explosive!! The Golf competition is to be held at the Draycote Hotel in October on the Friday of the AGM.

The report was proposed by Dave Rutter and seconded by Mick Leather. Carried

## **Shop Report**

This was not forthcoming due to the absence of Ray Coleman. However the Chairman did report a profit by the shop of £752.00 and expressed the AEA's thanks and gratitude for Ray's efforts.

## **IT Report**

This was not forthcoming due to the absence of Dave Pace. The Chairman acknowledged the fine job Dave was doing. Mick Leather spoke about having a rolling diary of events made up from the minutes of the branches to reflect forthcoming functions to all the members. Mick Leather stated he would contact Dave to discuss this. There was also a general consensus that the web site front page could do with more action. John Lee said he had some pictures and a DVD that he would forward to Dave for inclusion.



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## **AGM 2008**

This is confirmed as being at the Royal Court Hotel on 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> October. The Function will be overseen by Bunny Brown and the Birmingham Branch and the raffle will be the responsibility of the Chatham Branch under Eric Blenkinsop. It was agreed that 75% of the raffle takings will go to charity and 25% to offset the costs of the weekend itself. The raffle has to be better organised than it has been in the past and the committee will task the Chatham Branch to raise at least £1500. There will also be a coach raised to take members to the Arboretum at a cost of £6 per head. Entry is not included in this amount.

## **AGM 2009**

This is confirmed as being hosted by the Birmingham branch and they are at present looking at a location in Nottingham. Bunny Brown will confirm the location at the next meeting. Because it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AEA it was decided to invite all previous Chairman back as well as all ex OC's and SSM's. The Chairman will instigate this by writing to them all in January 2009. The Chairman also requested that in his last function as Chairman, the guest of Honour be Brigadier(retired) Robbie Burns.

The report was proposed by Mick Leather and seconded by Dick Brown. Carried

## **A.O.B.**

The John Rock Bust has £5000 coming from the REA council providing that it is approved. Eric had almost raised the necessary funds prior to this donation, so it was decided to return all the branch donations and the voluntary donation received from one individual. The unveiling is anticipated to be in November 2008, to coincide with the Regiments return from Afghanistan.

The ever increasing expenses bill was discussed. Last year the expenses were excessive and it was agreed to set a limit of £250 per year for the Piper and Standard Bearer. Any branch event attended by these services will be borne by that branch. The Chairman will write to John Parker and Frank Menzies-Fearn to explain the procedure. It was also explained that the committee do not buy flowers/wreaths for the funerals of members. It will however continue to pay for flowers/wreaths for the Arnhem, Double Hills and 1 Para Sqn events. Furthermore, the costs of the committee meetings are to be kept within the region of £30.

This was all proposed by Dick Brown and seconded by Mick Humphries. Carried

Joe Stottard reported that a member Fred Robson who moved initially to Australia and then to Manila, suffered a stroke and went into a coma about 6 weeks ago. He was initially treated in the intensive Treatment ward but due to access to his bank being a problem, his partner has not been able to pay his medical bills and the hospital have subsequently stopped his life saving drugs and moved him onto a local ward. The committee have been requested to loan £500 to allow the drugs to be given and until the problem with his bank can be sorted. The committee all acknowledge that the AEA is not set up for benevolence. However under these exceptional circumstances, the committee agreed to a short term loan of £500 to pay for the life saving drugs under the understanding that the money will be returned in full. Joe Stottard will sort out the administration of moving and issuing the funds.



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Treasurer Dick Brown stated that it is imperative that ALL branches inform the Executive Committee of all working capital. This is because of tax and charitable status reasons. Similarly it is now decreed that no branch is to apply for any external funding eg Lottery grants without first seeking the permission of the Executive Committee. Again, this is purely because of the financial implications to the AEA as a whole.

Dave Rutter is going to look into the costs of the AEA producing a calendar for sale at the AGM. Photos for the calendar can be submitted from all the squadrons. Fred Gray already has some great shots. The initial idea is to print about 200 and see if the cost can be kept to about £3.50 per calendar.

**Next meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> July and hosted by the Aldershot Branch at Potters International**



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## Appendix A

### AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION

#### STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

AS AT 12 JAN 2008

#### ASSETS

Cash in Hand	Nil
Cash in Bank	£2988.67
Deposit Account	£20334.75
Property Value	£442.30

**TOTAL ASSETS** **£23765.72**

#### LIABILITIES

Journal	£5974.35
Projects	£2030.17

**TOTAL LIABILITIES** **£8004.52**

#### WORKING CAPITAL

Assets	£23765.72
Minus Liabilities	£8004.52

**TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL** **£15761.20**