



## *Airborne Engineers Association*

*Registered Charity Number: 1009201*

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### **MINUTES OF AN AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (COUNCIL MEETING) HELD AT BOURNEMOUTH ON SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013**

Attachments:

1. Treasurer's Report as at September 2013.

#### **Members Present**

Sixty Three (63) Members were present for the AGM/OGM.

*Apologies: Numerous apologies were received, too many to list but all acknowledged by the President and Association Members.*

#### **Remembrance**

The Chairman called for a minutes silence to 'pay our respects to our fallen comrades, be they serving members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces or Association Members' – The Chairman also gave The Exhortation:

"We will remember them!"

#### **Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chairman gave a warm welcome to all present at the meeting, he acknowledged that many had travelled a considerable distance to be present. He then officially opened the meeting at 0930hrs.

#### **Minutes of AGM 2010 and OGM Apr 13**

Any points, arising from AGM 2012 and OGM April 2013, were requested from the floor. There being no points raised, the Chairman requested a proposer and seconder that the minutes, as presented, be accepted.

**Proposer: John Brennan – Seconder: Bert Tate – Carried.**

## **Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer's figures are at Attachment 1. The Treasurer, Dick Brown, requested that the Association's official thanks be recorded to Jeanette Rutter for her continued, highly effective and valued management of the Association Shop, this being the only steady source of income – and thanks to Association Members for their continued support to the shop.

The Treasurer went on to say that the Association has benefited in the last year from a number of donations – not least the sum of £500 bequeathed from the estate of the late Lt Col (Retd) HG Wood.

The question was raised from the floor regarding how much interest the account is currently attracting – The Treasurer explained that in these austere times there is very little interest being paid – The Association is also bound by certain regulations regarding Charitable status which limit the options.

The Chairman requested a proposer and seconder that the Treasurers Report, subject to audit, be accepted as presented.

**Proposer: Fred Gray – Seconder: Bill Rudd – Carried.**

## **Membership Report**

The Membership Secretary, Billy Morris' report is reproduced as follows:

So far this year, membership has been slow, with only 12 new members joining the Association. As requested from past meetings, a breakdown of the membership was to be presented to the members – as at 4 October 2013:

Total membership since foundation = 1451

Total surviving members (as notified) = 1147

Total members who have passed away (as notified) = 304

As with all matters, it is the responsibility of Members to ensure the Membership Secretary is updated when personal details change. To assist in that process would all Members present please find time to update the Membership Folder. Please record changes on the plain sheets provided. Branch secretaries are also requested to ensure changes to branch Membership details are forwarded to the Membership Secretary.

*\*Afternote: The Chairman requested at AGM 2012 that Membership be broken down into living and deceased in order to present an accurate picture of Membership – Members who have passed away are not forgotten but remain recorded within the 'deceased' section of the database.*

## **Journal – Editor’s Report**

The Journal Editor, Dave Rutter’s report is reproduced as follows:

The Journal will now be produced twice a year – June and December. Cost to UK subscribers will remain at £8.00 per annum and overseas subscribers slightly more due to the additional postal charges.

Reminders were sent to those Members whose subscriptions were due for the next two editions (December 2013 and June 2014). The request was for the payment to be made by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 – sadly, some 69 subscriptions remain outstanding. The mailing list will now be amended to delete those unpaid Members.

With the reduced number of issues per annum – provided there is more than sufficient input to fill 32 pages (current quantity), I will enlarge the magazine accordingly. Members’ input must be forthcoming to put this into practice.

The cut-off date for input for the December issue is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

I would like someone to write a short report regarding this (Bournemouth) reunion weekend. It need only be a couple of paragraphs. I will approach the ladies with a similar request.

A point of interest concerning the June 2014 edition, it will include a personal account by one of our colleagues of Operation musketeer. The article is too large to be included in the December 2013 edition – hence the delay until next year. But it will be worth the wait!

The Chairman stated that the Editors Report does not require a vote. He directed that The Association’s thanks be recorded in these minutes for a ‘job well done’ by Dave.

## **Association Shop Report**

On behalf of the Shop Manager, Jeanette Rutter, the shop report is reproduced as follows:

Sales are slightly down compared with the last financial year. Actual sales are valued at £2,062.00.

The net profit on these sales is included in the Treasurer’s Report.

The shop was open for business after the meeting and again at 1600-1800 hrs that day.

The Chairman again stated that the Shop Report is not a voting matter – thanks to be recorded to Jeanette for her continued, sterling efforts.

## **Welfare Liaison Officer's Report**

The Chairman gave a brief report on behalf of Izzy Leather.

The Welfare Liaison Officer's function is to act as a conduit to the support provided by established Welfare agencies such as The Royal British Legion and SSAFA - the Association does not provide direct charitable payments. In this way a significant number of Association Members have been assisted.

Those Members assisted must naturally remain anonymous so no Welfare report can be detailed or specific, suffice to say that the Welfare function of the Association is active and effective.

The Chairman directed that official thanks be recorded to Izzy for her work on behalf of the Association.

## **Archivists/Historian Report**

Fred Gray once again reminded Members that he stands down as Historian/Archivist on 31 Dec 13 and currently there is no one to fill the post. Volunteer(s) still required.

Fred went on to say that consideration for storage of documents and artefacts is being considered by the Council and will also involve consultation with Ian McGill and Chris Davies – a decision on this matter will be required sooner rather than later.

The Chairman thanked Fred for his efforts over many, many years and directed that official thanks be recorded from the association.

JJ went on to draw Member's attention to a book titled 'The Guinea Pigs' by Harry Pexton – The book contains a painting of Operation Colossus – an original painting of the first Airborne Operation – recommended reading.

Steve Wallace (from the floor) drew attention to the sale of a Storage Chest at auction that is believed to contain historical records of 591 (Antrim) Parachute Squadron RE – Steve is monitoring the sale and will report further on the outcome.

*\*Afternote: Chris Davies has approached Will MacDonald (currently serving at Wimbish) to take on the duties of Archivist/Historian – Will has expressed his willingness to take the post – his formal nomination will be minuted at the Council OGM in April 2014 – thank you Will!*

*Chris is discussing the storage of the Archive with the Corps Museum in the near future.*

*Thank you Chris!*

## **Ultra Club Report**

The Ultra Club representative, Billy Morris' report is reproduced as follows:

This year's main focus has been preparation for the Caesars Camp 100 mile, 24 hour race.

Unfortunately Dave Leibrick has been injured throughout the year with several injuries occurring in succession, all stemming from last year's 40 mile Coastal training run in preparation for the Falklands 75 mile event last November.

Bob Chatterton and I still train most Saturday mornings but Bob has now re-focused his training on his Martial Arts pursuits. I have continued with my own training programme.

The Caesars Camp race is on 19 Oct 13 on the Aldershot Training Area., the race begins on the Sat at 1200hrs and finishes 24 hours later. The aim is to complete the 10 mile loop, which includes some 1520 feet of height gain, 10 times within the 24 hour period. The support tent will be manned by Bob Chatterton and tea and coffee will be available for anyone who wishes to visit – the tent is large enough to provide shelter from the rain.

There will be a full debrief in the next edition of The Journal.

### **Re-election of The President – Lt Col (Retd) John Lee.**

The Chairman stated that John's 5 year tenure as The President is now complete. According to Para 7.d.(3) of The Constitution 'a retiring President is eligible and may offer himself for re-election, to hold office until the conclusion of the AGM a further 3 years later.'

The Chairman went on to state that John is willing to be re-elected and asked if there were any other nominations for the office.

There being no other nominees the proposition was put to the vote and John Lee was re-elected unanimously.

John Lee will hold office as The President for a further 3 years until the conclusion of the AGM 2016.

### **Election of Officers**

The Chairman called for Members to vote on the re-election of the following Officers of the Association – all of whom have volunteered for another year in post:

- Dick Brown – Treasurer
- Dave Rutter – Editor
- Billy Morris – Membership Secretary

The listed officers were re-elected unanimously.

The Secretary General (undersigned) stood down from post at the AGM – a very good candidate has come forward in the person of Jimmy Hill.

The Chairman requested Jimmy to leave the meeting to enable Members to speak freely, for and against his appointment.

The Chairman spoke on Jimmy's behalf, there being no other comment The Chairman called for a vote and he was elected unanimously.

Jimmy Hill is National General Secretary WEF 5 October 2013.

## **Constitution**

No proposals for amendment have been made since the last Annual General Meeting.

There were no comments from the floor.

## **Branch Reports**

Branch Reports, as presented, are bulleted below:

### **Aldershot – Dave Rutter**

- Average attendance at bi-monthly meetings is 22 – Meetings are held at the Potters International Hotel, most Members, with ladies, stay for a carvery lunch afterwards.
- Roy Sands, a long time member of the branch, sadly passed away in April. Members of the branch attended his funeral.
- Members have attended 1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn Reunion, Double Hills, The John Rock Dinner and the Cenotaph Parade.
- Spring Lunch was held in May at the Oak Park Golf Club. 46 Members and ladies in attendance, great catering and a fine venue.
- The annual BBQ in August (hosted by Fred and Betty Gray) was a great success, fine food from Tony Manley, salads and desserts provided by the ladies. The raffle raised £250 donated to the Charity SENSE.

### **Birmingham – George Barrett**

- The branch is in good form with meetings well attended and regular informal meets such as the 'Boots and Beer Club' – clue's in the title!
- The branch has benefited from a small number of new Members this year and the branch is committed to staying in touch and helping those Members not so able due to age and illness.

### **Chatham – Bob Matthews**

- 8 Members regularly attend the meetings at the King Charles Hotel – the hotel has provided the 'Pegasus Room' for the use of the branch.
- 3 major functions are held yearly including the John Rock Dinner in the summer. All Members are welcome to the dinner if they wish to attend.
- 36 Engr Regt is very supportive and allows the branch to hold an annual Curry Lunch in the Officer's Mess.
- The Chairman, Baz Bassett, passes on his own and the branch thanks to the council and branch committees for their work on behalf of the association.

**Scotland** – no representative present.

**Yorkshire** – Bill Rudd

- The branch has 69 Members and good attendance at meetings in 299 Para Sqn RE TAC.
- A full agenda of meetings and 'get togethers' is in place, not least Wednesday lunches in Ripon.
- The branch enjoys good support from 299 Sqn and Adam Frame (ex-OC 299 Sqn) now brings welcome impetus and influence to the branch.
- The branch has just had a very successful trip to Arnhem and the focus is now on planning the Commemoration trip to Normandy in 2014.
- Bill registered his thanks to Standard Bearers John Parker and Mike Higgins for their work at Arnhem and many other venues – literally 'Flying the Flag' for the AEA.

**299 Branch** – no representative present.

*Afternote: Branch Chairmen are requested to ensure that a Branch Report is produced in written form to be presented at the AGM, either brought to the AGM by a representative or, if no representative is attending, forwarded to the General Secretary beforehand.*

### **President's Commendations**

John Lee announced the award of President's Commendation to Members of The Association – The President's Commendation is awarded to an AEA Member who, in the opinion of the President, has given particularly meritorious service to the AEA or one of its Branches. The following award was announced:

- To Billy Morris – for his outstanding and selfless contribution to the profile and standing of the Association and his unstinting efforts on behalf of Service Charities by virtue of mileage and sheer physical effort.

### **FUTURE AGM VENUE**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM/Reunion 2014 is being organised by Bill Rudd and the Yorkshire Branch. The Chairman stated that he was aware that Bill wished to float options to the floor – to that end Bill was invited to outline his proposals, bulleted as follows:

- Bill stated that 2 locations had been considered, Harrogate in North Yorkshire and Blackpool in Lancashire – both favourable to the Scotland and Northern Branches in terms of travel.

- Due to cost, the options have been narrowed to Blackpool where 2 venues appear to be offering the required facilities at the right price. Bill and a recce party have booked into each of the venues later this year in order to carry out an 'in depth and thorough recce'.
- Bill requested that a November date be considered as this reduces costs further and quite significantly, October is also very busy as many Associations have their AGM at that time and it is also very shortly after Arnhem 70. After some discussion and consultation of the Constitution, a November date was approved. The November date was also met with wide approval from the floor.
- Bill thanked the floor for their support, undertook to ensure that the Association needs will be well met and to report further once recce is complete. Details of the venue and weekend's arrangements to be promulgated in due course.

The Chairman thanked Bill for his efforts so far and commended AGM/Reunion 2014 to the floor. **2014 will be the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of The Airborne Engineers Association.**

#### **Any Other Business**

- Remembrance Day Parade: The President has secured 24 places as a AEA Contingent at the Cenotaph Parade. This is a great honour for the Association and all tickets have been allocated. The Association will apply for 30 tickets in 2014.
- Peter Yeates – Double Hills: The President outlined that the Double Hills Commemoration has been organised since it's conception by Peter Yeates RN (Retd) who witnessed the events that took place when he was a boy. The annual ceremony and the upkeep of the memorial are very much the fruits of his labour. Peter cannot be praised and thanked enough for his efforts and unstinting dedication over many years – The President directed that the thanks of The Association be officially recorded in these minutes.
- Jan Chambers – Double Hills: The President went on to explain that Jan Chambers (wife of Chris Chambers, one of our Lifetime Vice Presidents and a founder-member of the Association) is also very supportive of Double Hills and assists Peter in many aspects of the organisation – in this way she is key to the success of the event. The President undertook to arrange a small, thank you, gift of flowers and directed that the thanks of The Association be officially recorded in these minutes.
- Harold Padfield – Briefed the floor on the events that took place on the occasion of the 2013 1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn RE Commemoration Service and Dedication of Memorial Stone at Donnington. He thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated the weekend where he was ably supported and assisted by Tom Carpenter – the 9 Fd Coy (Airborne) representative.



## **Remembrance/Regimental Events/Services**

The following events have been/will be held and attended by Members of the Association this year:

- The Freedom of Woodbridge Parade, hosted by 23 Engr Regt (Air Assault) Thu 6 Jun 13. This was followed by a Public Display and Veterans Musical Afternoon in the town park with music provided by the band of The Parachute Regiment.
- The John Rock Dinner, arranged and hosted by Chatham Branch – Sat 15 Jun 13.
- The Double Hills Memorial Service at Paulton – Sun 1 Sep 13.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn RE Memorial Service and Dedication – Donnington.
- The Cromwell Weir/Trent Chase Commemoration. – Mention of this prompted some discussion – Mike Higgins briefed the floor on his recollection of events. It was stated that there has been some waning of attendance at this event in recent years – The President undertook to speak to Bunny Brown in regard to future attendance etc.
- The 12 (Nova Scotia) HQ & Sp Sqn disbandment parade and dinner, hosted by 23 Engr Regt (Air Assault) and to be attended by The President and Chairman – Wed 9 Oct 13.

## **President's Closing Remarks**

The President thanked the AGM for his re-election and stated that he looked forward to the next 3 years and would take every opportunity to raise the profile of the Association.

For Members' information he stated that he has been much impressed with the rapport that 23 Regt has built up with the community of Woodbridge – refreshing when it is often the case that a Garrison and it's nearby town do not 'get on'.

John thanked all for attending and providing invaluable input to the meeting.

Finally, The President directed that official thanks be recorded to John Smith and the Ladies and Gentlemen from 'The Shot' for organising/hosting the AGM and Reunion 2013.

## **Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman outlined a proposal to be discussed at the next OGM – it concerns a move to make a substantial Charitable Donation, annually, at the AGM, to a Service Charity. A non-specified amount, in line with the state of the Association finances and controlled by tight parameters so as not too over-extend the funds. In this way the Association supports welfare organisations that, in turn, support the Members.

A formal proposal will be discussed/worked up at OGM but the matter is raised for comment by the floor.

The response from the floor was generally wary – over-extension of the funds being the main concern.

Concern was also raised as to how such a proposal could be sustained when the only steady source of income is the shop.

The Chairman stated that, now the proposition has been raised, Members can consider the implications and make their own decisions – a proposal will be agreed upon at OGM, this will be circulated to Branches and the matter raised again at AGM 14.

The Chairman thanked all for attending, wished all a pleasant remainder to the weekend and an eventual safe journey home.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Chairman announced that the next Council OGM would take place in Aldershot during Apr 14 to coincide with an Aldershot Branch Meeting date.

*The Chairman also reminded Members that all are welcome to attend the OGM should they wish to – Branch reps would be especially welcome.*

The date of the next AGM can not be set until Bill Rudd has concluded his recce and negotiations but will be in November 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting closed in good order at 1135hrs.

*Geoff Howard*

G HOWARD  
General Secretary (Outgoing)

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Statement of Account as at 30 September 2011**

**Assets**

Cash in Hand	Nil
Cash at Bank	10167.45
Deposit Account	14369.70
Property Value	Nil
Shop	2525.09
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>27062.24</b>

**Liabilities**

Newsletter	3379.69
Projects	2030.17
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5409.86</b>

**Working Capital**

Assets	27062.24
Minus Liabilities	5409.86

**TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL = 21652.38**

*Richard Brown*

**Treasurer**