



Airborne Engineers Association

Registered Charity Number: 1009201

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MINUTES OF AN AIRBORNE ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (COUNCIL MEETING) HELD AT WAKEFIELD ON SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2011

Attachments:

1. Treasurer's Report as at March 2011.

The Meeting Opened at 1005 hours.

Members Present

Joe Stoddart (Chairman), John Lee (President), Billy Morris (Membership Secretary/AEA Ultra Club), Bunny Brown (Birmingham Branch), Geoff Howard (General Secretary).

Apologies received: Steve Brown, Tony Roberts, Dave Rutter, Dick Brown, Bill Rudd, Tommy Ormiston, Jimmy Simpson, Baz Basset and Fred Gray.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

- The Chairman thanked all for attending.
- A 2 minute silence was held for departed comrades.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Comment was called for on the Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held at Bournemouth on Saturday 2 October 2010.

There being no matters arising the minutes were accepted. Proposed by Billy Morris, seconded by John Lee. **CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report

A copy of the Treasurer's Report is at Attachment 1. Joe Stoddart, on behalf of Dick Brown, presented the statement to Council.

Proposed by John Lee, seconded by Billy Morris, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Journal/Editor's Report

Dave Rutter submitted a written report, presented by the undersigned, bulleted as follows:

- Articles for publication are always required to ensure the Journal (32 pages) is full to capacity. The April edition will contain items from several new sources but we can never have too many articles. Apart from Chris Davies' contribution there is a dearth of articles on Op Corporate – Falklands veterans within the Association are encouraged to submit contributions.
- Post Op reports/items will be sought from 23 Regt regarding Op Herrick 13 – a short article and photographs will be requested.
- Current advertisers within the Journal are now, in the main, going/gone out of business. We therefore need to seek new advertisers and the associated, important income to support publication. All AEA Members are requested to give some thought to this issue.
- *Afternote: The undersigned undertook the task of contacting an old friend who has a mail order business and who may wish to place an advertisement.*

Proposed by Billy Morris, seconded by Bunny Brown that the Journal Report be accepted.

CARRIED.

Membership Report

Billy Morris stated that the membership stood at 1412. So far this year, no new members have joined – this may be due to the Regt being away on Operations.

The following is a breakdown of members who have joined since Billy took over the post of Membership Secretary in 2005:

- 2005 - 4 members
- 2006 - 41 members
- 2007 - 62 members
- 2008 - 22 members
- 2009 - 43 members
- 2010 - 25 members

A poster is to be produced and circulated to Branches to assist in recruitment.

A particular effort will be made to target and recruit new members at the ABF Weekend in Rock Barracks on 2/3 July 2011.

Proposed by Bunny Brown, seconded by John Lee: that 'The Membership Report be accepted as presented'.

CARRIED.

Archivist/Historian Report

Fred Gray submitted a written report, bulleted as follows:

- The history of 9 Airborne/Parachute Squadron 1948-1990 is well underway and it is hoped to complete in the next 2 years. Completion will be very much dependent on the input from Officers Commanding – individuals have been contacted but there is not a great deal of input so far – please, if input has been requested, respond as quickly and fully as possible.
- The task of filing and recording information, photographs and personal stories from our wartime veterans is still ongoing. It is hoped to also complete this task within the next 2 years.
- Fred will be standing down as Historian when the above tasks are complete, total service in the post being some 22 years – a sterling contribution. A new Historian will be sought over the next 2 years – is anyone up for the task?

Proposed by Billy Morris, seconded by John Lee: 'That the Historian/Archivist Report be accepted as presented'.

CARRIED.

Ultra Club Report

Billy Morris presented the following report:

The AEA Ultra Club is a running club for dedicated runners who want to go that extra mile (pun fully intended), an Ultra event is any distance that exceeds the 26.2 miles of a full marathon.

The current, extensive membership is:

Billy Morris, Bob Chatterton, Dave Leibrick and Reg Grantham.

So far this year, only Bob and Billy have avoided injury. Currently, they are engaged in building up the miles in order to compete in the Caesars Camp 100 Endurance Race over 24 hours – 23/24 Oct 11.

On 5 Mar 11, Bob and Billy completed the Aldershot to Portsmouth run via trails and tracks – 35 miles in 6 hours 47 minutes including 4 planned stops.

We plan further, build up events through the Spring/Summer – hopefully being joined by Dave and Reg as they recover from injury. Any other Members wishing to join us are most welcome. Training runs and events will be posted on the AEA Website.

Proposed by John Lee, seconded by Bunny Brown: 'That the Ultra Club Report be accepted as presented'.

CARRIED.

Shop Report

Dave Rutter submitted a written report on behalf of Jeanette, bulleted as follows:

- Shop sales are ticking over at a steady rate – Total sales since Audit = £1183.50.
- Several orders have been received from Australia and goods are en route to America.
- The Shop will be open at the 2011 AGM with as full a range available as is possible.
- It is difficult to determine how forthcoming postal charge increases will affect Profit Margins but, for the moment, there is no increase in P&P Charges.
- Thank you to all Members for their continuing support to the shop.

Proposed by Bunny Brown and seconded by John Lee that the Shop Report be accepted.

CARRIED.

Branch Reports

The Branch Reports are sketchy due to lack of Branch representation – reports as follows:

The Chairman – Stated that it was appropriate under Branch Reports to record thanks to Bill Rudd for hosting Council Members at his Branch Annual Dinner – an event much appreciated and enjoyed by all who were present – Well done Bill!

Aldershot Branch – Joe Stoddart reported that the Branch is in good health and looking forward to attendance at the Army/Navy match and the Branch Spring Lunch.

Birmingham Branch – Bunny Brown reported that the Branch continues to thrive and a Spring BBQ and Clayshoot are planned. It is hoped that a strong contingent will attend the Rock Barracks ABF Weekend and Members will be focused on the arrangements for AGM 2011.

Chatham Branch – Baz Basset submitted a written report, bulleted as follows:

- The Branch continues to meet at Brompton WOs and Sgts Mess – membership has not fluctuated significantly. Pete Kershaw continues his sterling efforts to track down and sign up new members while maintaining the Branch account.
- The Xmas lunch was well supported, a Summer BBQ is planned for 2011 and there is the odd Curry Lunch. The main Branch social event is the John Rock Dinner in June and numbers are looking very healthy for that evening.
- The Branch will be making a visit to the Livery Companies in London during April and a future visit to Hendon Museum is planned.
- Branch good wishes are extended to all Airborne Brethren and visitors to the Branch are welcomed whenever anyone is in the area.

- Finally, Baz wished to record his and Lin's thanks to Bill and team for the invitation to the Wakefield dinner and for the wonderful hospitality extended during the evening.
- **299 Branch** – The Branch will be holding their Annual Dinner at the Royal Station Hotel in Hull on 21 May 11. The hotel being used is the planned venue for AGM 2012 – the Branch intends their dinner to be something of a 'trial run'.
- No other Branch reps/reports were available. Joe Stoddart reported that all branches are in good heart/health and he receives nothing but positive impressions as he does his 'rounds'.

Any Other Business

Presidents Points

John Lee raised points bulleted as follows:

- **Setting of Locations for AGM** – John stated that Members need to know the proposed venues for AGM/Reunions in advance so that they can plan their attendance – the following forthcoming locations are confirmed:
 - 2011 – Coventry – Birmingham Branch
 - 2012 – Hull – 299 Branch
 - 2013 – Bournemouth – Aldershot Branch
 - 2014 – Coventry – Birmingham Branch
- **Charities-Just Giving** – John stated that he has been approached twice recently with proposals to raise money for the Association via Just Giving events. After some discussion it was decided that publicity could be provided (via Website etc) for such events but we could not benefit from/distribute monies due to lack of management 'horsepower'. The approach of 'Publicity not benefit' will be adopted.
- **Updating the Website** – All Members should be aware that the quality of the AEA Website is fully dependent on input. Branch Secretaries/Individual Members are free to submit updates/items as thought relevant. The Association Webmaster can only publish information he is given. The Council has undertaken the task of periodically checking details but **INPUT** is paramount.
- **'Idiots' Guide to the Forum** – John stated that an 'Idiots Guide' to the AEA Forum would be useful. Joe Stoddart stated that he had received guidance from Dave Pace but it could still benefit from some abbreviation. A 'condensed' version will be published/issued in due course. Or should we post it on the Forum?!?
- **Link to AEA Scotland Website** – A link to the Scotland Website is required – options for this to be investigated.
- **Contingent for Remembrance Sunday** – The President has contacted the Royal British Legion and applications will be dealt with in June 2011 – an application will be

made for a Cohort of 20-30 AEA Members to march. Should application be successful, a directive on gathering point, dress etc will be issued in due course.

- **23 Regt Point of Contact** – The 23 Regt Point of Contact for AEA matters has been established as OC 9 Sqn with the SSM (currently Marc Dorkins) dealing with day to day matters. Stronger links will be forged during 2011 with obvious focus events being Medals Parade, Freedom of Woodbridge Parade and ABF (Airborne Engineers Reunion) Day.
- **E-copies of the Journal** – John raised the possibility of the Journal being made available electronically – in the absence of Dave Rutter this item was placed in abeyance.

Chairmans Points

Joe Stoddarts points bulleted as follows:

- **Welfare** – Joe stated that recent injured soldiers (Craig Gadd and Josh Boggie) in AFG will be monitored and visited by Tony Roberts or other Members.
- **Double Hills** – Joe proposed that the sum of £200 be made available to assist with the arrangements for Double Hills 2011. This was agreed by Council.
- **Correspondence** – Joe confirmed that all correspondence with 23 Regt should be directed to SSM 9 Sqn in the first instance.
- **Constitution** - Joe pointed out that the minor amendment 'Regulations' rather than 'Rules' will be adopted within the Constitution.
- **Chairmans Tenure** – Joe's tenure as Chairman will expire in Jan 2012. A nomination for replacement has been made by Aldershot Branch and accepted by Council. The individual nominated is John Ferry – his nomination will be voted on at AGM 2011.

AOB – Bunny Brown

Bunny raised the following points:

- **Fergie Semple Golf Competition** – Details for the AGM Golf Competition will be published in the Journal.
- **Mini Buses** – A mini-bus 'shuttle service' will be provided at Coventry on support of the AGM/Reunion 2011.

Significant Dates 2011

The Chairman draws Members' attention to the following significant dates:

- Medal Parade Woodbridge – 31 Mar 11
- Aldershot Branch Lunch – 2 Apr 11
- Freedom of Woodbridge Parade – 19 May 11

- 299 Annual Dinner – 21 May 11
- John Rock Dinner (Chatham) – 18 Jun 11
- ABF Day (Abn Engr Reunion) Woodbridge - 1-3 Jul 11
- Double Hills Memorial Service Paulton – 4 Sep 11
- AGM/Reunion Coventry – 28-30 Oct 11

Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked all for attending what had proved to be a very productive meeting and wished everyone a safe return journey.

DONM – The Date of the Next Meeting was set for **Sat 29 October 2011** to follow AGM 2011..

There being no further business, the meeting closed in good order at 1130hrs.

Geoff Howard

G HOWARD
General Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Account as at 6 March 2011

Assets

Cash in Hand	0.00
Cash at Bank	13524.38
Deposit Account	14351.17
Total Assets	27875.55

Liabilities

Newsletter	7084.60
Projects	2030.17
Total Liabilities	9114.77

Working Capital

Assets	27875.55
Minus Liabilities	9114.77

TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL = 18760.78

Richard Brown

Treasurer