



Airborne Engineers Association



Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Potters International Hotel
Sunday 8th May 2011
President
Colonel D.M.R.Eagan

Meeting Opened at 11.15hrs

Chairman: Fred Gray.	e-mail	f.gray3@ntlworld.com	Tele: 01252 668339
Secretary: Betty Gray.	e-mail	b.gee33@ntlworld.com	Tele: 01252 668339
Treasurer: Dave Rutter.	e-mail	d_rutter@sky.com	Tele: 01252 326140
Entertainments: John Smith.	e-mail	thesmith@sky.com	Tele 01252 326100

Members Present

John Barrie, Col. Dick Brown, Chris Chambers, Wally Clift, Harold Covington, Col. Denis Eagan, Phil Ecclestone, John Ferry, Fred Gray, Jim Hill, John Lee, Tony Manley, John Mason, Roger Mockford, John Pffifner, Dave Rutter, John Smith BEM, Brendan Snoddy, Steve Stephenson, Joe Stoddart MBE, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Wardle.

Apologies.

John Aldridge, Colin Bond, Eric Borlase, Jack Braithwaite, John Brennan, Syd Dane, Ted Ellis, Harry Evans, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, Tony Gilbert, Dennis Healey, Gerry Hicks, Bryn Hitchings, Brian Hubbard, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, Derek Leggett, Frank Menzies-Hearne, Rick Mogg, Billy Morris, John Murphy, Peter Myatt AFC, Dave Normington, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, Ralph Pedder BEM, Eric Rundle, Roy Sands, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Phil Taverner, Derek Taylor, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade.

Guests

None

The President opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chairman's Opening Address and Review of 2010/2011.

The Chairman welcomed Brendan Snoddy and his wife Anne to their first meeting since first joining the branch during the AGM in Bournemouth. With Phil and Gay Ecclestone they had made the long journey from Dorset to be with us for the meeting and were made most welcome.

It was regretted, that due to the rising costs of coach travel in the UK and hotel accommodation in Guernsey, the intended long weekend in the Channel Islands, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the formation of the Aldershot Branch had to be cancelled. However a superb spring luncheon was held in the Squires Holt Restaurant situated just outside Aldershot on what is known locally as the "Hogs Back". Forty-eight members attended the luncheon, which is just about the capacity of the restaurant.

It was the turn of the Aldershot Branch to organize the Annual General Meeting and Reunion of the AEA for 2010. The entertainments member John Smith immediately started looking for suitable hotels and preferably ones that had not been used previously by the association. Bournemouth proved to be the ideal location. John and Joe Stoddart (Chairman of the AEA) then set about planning the details for the

weekend with the help of their wives Glenda and Sylvia. Together with Input from other members of the branch made it a very successful weekend. The weather could have been kinder but it didn't defer the ladies from their beloved shopping and sightseeing.

Monies raised from the raffle and the auction of a painting, donated by Joe Stoddart MBE, raised a good sum. There were also lots of photographs taken over the years by Louis Gallagher (donated by his niece) to which for a small donations you could help yourself. All the money raised was sent to various Forces Charities.

The Army v Navy Annual Rugby 2010 Match at Twickenham had a fair attendance of branch members.

Others members in 2010 attended the annual gathering in Wales to experience walking and climbing with a fair amount of the liquid amber nectar to help them recover from their exertions.

The branch continues to provide the main component of the AEA Committee. Col John Lee is the President, Joe Stoddart the Chairman, Lt Col Dick Brown the Treasurer, Dave Rutter edits the journal, Billy Morris is the Membership Secretary, Jeannette Rutter runs the shop and Fred Gray is the AEA Historian.

The average attendance at meetings for the year is twenty-one from a total membership of sixty-three. Considering the number of members who live out of area, including two living in Spain, and those that have to work at weekends, plus a number who have been, or still are, very ill, and the very bad weather during the winter, then the average of twenty-one is quite reasonable.

As the meeting coincided with the 20th Anniversary of the branch formation, members were asked to stand for one minute's silence in memory of those former members of the branch who have passed away during the previous twenty years. Those remembered were: Bryan Andrews, George Fairs MM, Colonel Ian Wilson MC, Reg Emberson, Norman Penny, Charlie Edwards, Major John Shave MC, Albert Ball, Dave Thomas, Taffy Knowles, Walter Higgins, Tommy Handley, Bill McPherson, Les Neave MM, Louis Gallagher, John Vickerman and Fred McDonald.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by: Dick Brown

Seconded by Chris Chambers

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising

Election of the committee

There has been a change to the previous year's committee.

President Colonel Dennis Eagan

Chairman Joe Stoddart MBE

Treasurer Dave Rutter

Entertainments John Smith BEM

Secretary Dave Rutter

Membership Billy Morris

Joe Stoddart and Dave Rutter volunteered to take over the post of Chairman and Secretary respectively when Fred and Betty Gray requested to stand down if possible. The remainder of the committee all agreed to continue for a further year.

Treasures Report

Dave Rutter presented a typed statement of account on the income and expenditure of the branch for the period May 2010-May 2011. The accounts had been audited by John Barrie on 2 May 2011 and found to be correct in all aspects in a well-presented accounts ledger and easy to understand format. Proposed by Phil Ecclestone and Seconded by Brendan Snoddy that the audited accounts be accepted. Accepted: unanimously

Branch Policy

- The Branch would continue to meet in the Potters International Hotel as long as we were welcome by the Hotel owner and management.
- Subscriptions to remain at £6 per year
- Meetings to continue on the 3rd Sunday of the month (flexible) on a bi-monthly basis.

AOB.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1210 hrs to be followed by the Ordinary General Meeting at 1215hrs.

Thank You from Fred and Betty Gray.

Thank you all so much for your lovely gift "a beautiful crystal vase with an inscription". It was so thoughtful of you and it was the last thing we expected. It has been a pleasure being Chairman and Secretary and we are dedicated to help the branch in anyway we can. We feel privileged to be members of the Aldershot Branch and having so many good friends.