



# Airborne Engineers Association

## Aldershot Branch

**Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held at  
Potters International Hotel  
Sunday 17<sup>TH</sup> July 2011  
President: Colonel D.M.R.Eagan**

**Col Dennis Eagan opened the meeting at 1130 hours, welcoming all attendees and thanking them for their presence.**

### **Members Present**

Col Eagan, Joe Stoddart, Dave Rutter, Phil Ecclestone, John Ferry, Gerry Hicks, John Lee, Fred Gray, Steve Stephenson, John Barrie, Harold Covington, Billy Morris, Jim Hill, John Piffner, Syd Dane, Ralph Pedder, Bob Wardle, John Mason, Lt Col Dick Brown, Harry Evans, Chris Chambers

### **Apologies**

John Smith, Tony Manley, Wally Clift, Mick Leather, Rick Mogg, Roy Sands, Brendan Snoddy, Jack Braithwaite, Jim O'Hagan, Sir Donald Spiers, Peter Wade, Bob Sullivan, Phil Taverner, Tony Gilbert, Colin Bond, Dennis Healey, Derek Taylor, John Aldridge, Frank Menzies-Hearn, Derek Leggett, John Murphy, Mick Humphries and Peter Myatt

### **Chairman's Remarks**

A minute's silence was called for in memory of Ted Ellis who passed away 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 His funeral was attended by 11 members of the branch and thanks to Gerry Hicks acting as AEA standard-bearer for the occasion.

### **Minutes of the previous OGM**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

### **Treasures Report**

Dave Rutter (treasurer) reported that the funds remained healthy and gave a break down of the branch net working capital (subject to audit).

Proposed by Phil Ecclestone and Seconded by John Lee that the treasurer's report be accepted:

Carried

### **Correspondence**

The chairman read extracts from letters of thanks received from Maj John Clark (OC 9 Para Sqn) and from Maj David Jones (OC 51 Para Sqn RE). These were in response to the presentations made on the behalf of the AEA at Woodbridge on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (ABF weekend). He also read a letter from Lt Col Frazer Ross (CO 23 Engr Regt Air Asslt) stating that he greatly appreciated the invitation to be guest of honour at the Coventry AGM/Reunion Gala dinner, but that previously planned family commitments had to take priority and that unless there was a change in those plans, he would unfortunately not be able to attend the function.

Extracts from the minutes of the Chatham, Birmingham and Yorkshire branches were read out to the members present and these minutes were made available to any member wishing to read into them further.

Dave Rutter brought to the attention of the members the amazing offer being made by the Yorkshire branch. With the assistance of Dutch colleagues the branch is able to offer a 5-day trip covering the Arnhem commemoration for a mere £71-00! The party will be leaving from Hull (North Sea Ferries) on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September and returning on the following Monday morning. Transport to and from the port together with accommodation etc. is also included in the price.

Anyone wishing to take up the offer (3 places vacant) are to contact Bill Rudd Tel: 01765 607898

## **Branch Representative's Report**

The chairman gave an overview of the recently held ABF weekend in Woodbridge.

John Lee added that it was pleasing to see from the recently held Freedom parade and Drum Head service, how the Regiment had become very much part of the Woodbridge community.

## **Entertainments**

In the absence of John Smith, Joe Stoddart gave an intro to future events. Examples of weekend breaks in the locations of Bournemouth, Torquay and Great Yarmouth were put to the members and, following a show of hands; one of these breaks may be organised in the near future.

The previously discussed visit to commemorate Op VARSITY in March 2012 in Normandy was held in abeyance until further information is available.

The annual branch BBQ is to be held at Fred & Betty Gray's house – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August (weather permitting) Notification will be made to all if we have to postpone this event due to poor forecast. Notification of attendance to Dave Rutter (01252 326140) no later than 0900 hrs Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August please. Tony will purchase the food items later that day. BBQ commences at 1300 hrs. Cost per head will be £7-00

AGM/Reunion Coventry – Cut-off date for booking accommodation is 17<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Any Other Business**

John Lee spoke on the subject of the AEA being awarded 24 places by the Royal British Legion to form a marching contingent at the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph in November.

The other branches have been made aware of this offer, and personnel wishing to take up this offer should contact the AEA & branch chairman (Joe Stoddart) a.s.a.p. If over subscribed, names will be drawn from the hat. John as and when it arrives will pass on further information.

No standards are permitted on this parade.

The following names have so far been submitted from the branch:

Joe Stoddart, Dave Rutter, Billy Morris, John Ferry, Jim Hill, Lt Col Dick Brown (reserve) John Smith, Dave Leibrick and Bob Chatterton (reserve).

Fred Gray spoke regarding 3 helmets recovered from an old house in Arnhem that had recently been demolished. Efforts are now under way to try to locate (if still alive) the original owner of the British helmet.

**There being no further business Col Eagan closed the meeting at 1230 hours**

## **Next Meeting**

**The next branch meeting will be held at Fred & Betty Gray's house:  
65, Westover Rd, Fleet, Hants on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August (1100 for 1130 hrs)  
The BBQ will commence at 1300 hours following this meeting.**