



Airborne Engineers Association Aldershot Branch



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Potters International Hotel, Aldershot
Sunday 17th May 2009

President
Colonel D.M.R.Eagan

Meeting Opened at 11.30hrs

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 BEM	e-mail thesmith@sky.com	Tele: 01252 326100

Members Present

Harold Covington, Syd Dane, Ron Day, Ted Ellis, Fred Gray, Gerry Hicks, John Lee, John Mason, Roger Mockford, Rick Mogg, John Smith, Steve Stephenson, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Wardle.

Apologies

Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, Bob Chatterton, Col. Dennis Eagan, Harry Evans, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, Tony Gilbert, Dennis Healey, Bryn Hitchings, Brian Hubbard, Mick Humphries, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Derek Leggett, Tony Manley, Bill McPherson, Ralph Pedder BEM, Frank Menzies-Hearne, Billy Morris, John Murphy, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield John Pffiffner, Eric Rundle, Dave Rutter, Roy Sands, John Shave MC, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Joe Stoddart MBE, Derek Taylor, Phil Taverner, Dennis Thomas, Tom Tuddenham, Peter Wade.

Guests

None

Chairman's Opening Address and Review of 2008/2009

Before the meeting started the chairman asked the members to stand for a minutes silence in remembrance of Bob Clark formally of the 1st Parachute Squadron who passed away recently in Australia.

The Chairman, Fred Gray expressed his disappointment at what, for the Aldershot Branch was considered to be a low attendance with only fourteen members present. Holidays, work, family gatherings and illness had all contributed to the poor attendance. However this did not prevent the branch from having a good meeting. The number of members calling to apologise was very good with an average of thirty letting us know they could not attend for various reasons

With a review of the year the Chairman reminded those present just how much branch members are involved in over the year. Six bi-monthly meetings were held with an average attendance of twenty – five out of a membership of sixty-four. Of those, fifteen are country and overseas members and live too far away for them to travel to Aldershot. Three are unwell but the branch does keep in touch to see how they are progressing. With the average attendance at twenty-five this also accounts for a very good figure of around twenty to thirty for lunch including wives. That keeps the hotel management sweet and lets us continue to use the venue for our meetings free of charge.

The branch tries to have four major events throughout the year with varying degrees of success. Firstly we try to have one trip to the continent or within the UK, a BBQ, an Annual Dinner and a good attendance at the Association Reunion. This year the trip to Arnhem had to be aborted due to lack of numbers and the escalating costs. The BBQ was a resounding success and the Annual Dinner was

changed from January to March and held in the Squires Holt Restaurant situated on the Hogs Back. It turned out to be a superb occasion and enjoyed by everyone.

The AEA reunion and dinner was held in Coventry again and twenty-eight members of the branch made the journey to Coventry.

During the year members and family members had contributed to the "Help for Heroes" charities by taking part in various events organised by themselves. Maggie Stephenson had let it be known that she would swim one mile for the charity. Along with other volunteers including the RSM of a local Artillery Regiment she completed her self-imposed task and raised over £6000. At the same time her daughter Jo ran and raised more than £800 by running a half marathon. Billy Morris and Bob Chatterton ran and walked 160 Miles from Aldershot to Woodbridge in forty-three hours. Donations are still arriving and at the time of writing they have exceeded £4000. Two weeks later Billy ran another Forty-six miles in a German marathon but that included a climb of 3000feet over the mountains.

The Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham provided an excellent day out for members either as a group or on an individual basis. The modernisation of the car parks did destroy some of the atmosphere with regard to the before and after the match picnics but did not distract from a superb day.

Whilst Billy and Bob Chatterton enjoy running long distances other members enjoyed climbing up mountains in Wales and meeting up with other association members for a long weekend of reminiscing and no doubt a little drinking.

Four funerals of former members of the AEA and one Parachute Regiment serving soldier took place throughout the year including our own warrior the very popular Norman Penny. The association standard was paraded at three of the funerals with Mick Humphries, Gerry Hicks and Roy King being the standard bearers on each occasion.

The Chairman reminded those present that the Aldershot Branch members also played a large part in the running and organizing of the AEA. John Lee, as the association President had been very busy along with Colonel Denis Eagan amending the Association Constitution. Joe Stoddart MBE completed his first year as Association Chairman and Billy Morris continued as membership Secretary. Dave Rutter is still editing our excellent journal and Lt Col Dick Brown looks after the Treasury. Ray Coleman is doing a superb job with the association shop and it continues to be our main source income. Fred Gray remains as the Property member and Historian

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by: Harold Covington

Seconded by: Bob Sullivan

That the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as a true record.

Carried

Matters Arising

There werer no matters arising from these minutes.

Election of the committee

The following members were re-elected and will stay in post for a further year.

Colonel Denis Eagan	President
Fred Gray	Chairman
Dave Rutter	Treasurer
John Smith	Entertainments
Joe Stoddart.	Branch Representative.
Fred Gray	Liaison Officer
Betty Gray	Secretary

Proposed by: Steve Stephenson

Seconded by: Rick Mogg

Carried

The Ordinary Meeting followed at 12.25

Attendance

Same as AGM

Apologies

Same as AGM

Chairman's Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members back after a short break

Minutes of Previous meeting

Was a true record of the meeting

Proposed by: Syd Dane

Seconded by: John Lee

Carried

Matters Arising

There was no matters arising from the previous minutes

Correspondence

The minutes of other branches were made available for members to read

Treasurers Report

As AGM

Branch Representative

There was no report from the branch rep as Joe Stoddart was unable to attend due to workload.

Entertainments

The annual branch BBQ is to be held on 23 August at the normal venue 65 Westover Road Fleet.

John Smith asked that when members book for any event they give John reasonable notice if they are unable to attend, as tables/seats have to be arranged and if sufficient time is not given then deposits may be lost.

If any members have any ideas or suggestion of places to visit please tell John so that he can assess whether it is feasible or not.

The Spring Luncheon was a huge success at Squires Holt and John is now looking at other venues for our next Christmas/Spring Dinner. He would like some feed back from you as to which you prefer either the Christmas Dinner or the Spring Luncheon. Please will you all think about it so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

AOB

John Smith told those present that Ken Ramsden had recently died. Ken served with the Squadron during its service in the Canal Zone 1951—54

John Mason was able to tell the meeting that Major John Shave has had major surgery and is now recovering. He asked John to convey his appreciation of the "Get Well" card and sends his best wishes to the branch. He is in the recovery stage and talking about going back to Normandy next year.

Brian Hubbard is still unable to attend meetings as he is on dialysis and that makes life difficult to say the least.

Colin and Madeleine Bond expect to move into sheltered accommodation in the near future and will send their new address as soon as it is known.

Tom Tottenham has suffered a heart attack recently and his wife Joan said that he is just getting on with his life as Tom always did.

John Smith did float the idea that it may be possible to visit those of our members that are not in the best of health and maybe take them out for a few hours to local fairs and shows etc. It was pointed out that distance is one problem and the difficulties of helping people into and out of cars. This is a job for professional helpers and more harm than good may be the result.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 13.15.

Just a reminder about subscriptions. If you haven't already paid please will you forward your cheques to Dave Rutter and remember to make them payable to AEA (Aldershot Branch) thank you.

**Next Meeting will be held in Potters Hotel
On
Sunday 19 July 2009
11.00 for 11.30**

Those wishing to stay for lunch (in the absence of John Smith who will be in Spain) Please tele: Fred Gray 01252 668339