



Airborne Engineers Association



Aldershot Branch
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at
Potters International Hotel
Sunday 18th July 2010
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. e-mail thesmith@sky.com Tele 01252 326100

Members Present

John Barrie, LT Col. Dick Brown, Harold Covington, Col. Denis Eagan, Harry Evans, Tony Gilbert, Fred Gray, Gerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, John Lee, Tony Manley, Billy Morris, Peter Myatt AFC, Ralph Pedder BEM, John Piffner, Dave Rutter, John Smith BEM, Steve Stephenson, Joe Stoddart MBE, Bob Wardle.

Apologies

John Aldridge, Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, Bob Chatterton, Wally Clift, Syd Dane, Ron Day, Don Doherty, Ted Ellis, Bob Ferguson, John Ferry, Bert Flatters, Dennis Healey, Bryn Hitchings, Mick Humphries, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, Derek Leggett, Frank Menzies-Hearne, Roger Mockford, Rick Mogg, John Murphy, Dave Normington, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, Eric Rundle, Roy Sands, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Bob Sullivan, Derek Taylor, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade

The Branch President Colonel Denis Eagan opened the meeting at 1130hrs and welcomed all those present.

Chairman's Remarks

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Dave Kitcher and Mrs Marilyn Maybee. Dave was 9 Squadron Sergeant Major in the early seventies and little was heard of him after he left the Army. Mrs Maybee was the widow of Ken Maybee who passed away only a few months ago.

The Chairman informed those present that the AEA Committee were meeting in the same hotel and six of the Aldershot Branch were involved in that meeting and would join us as soon as was possible.

Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by: Peter Myatt

Seconded by: Brain Hubbard

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Carried

Matters Arising

John Smith said that he now had sufficient volunteers from the branch to ensure that the running of the AGM in Bournemouth would be well organized and run smoothly.

In recognition that it will be twenty-one years in 2011 since the Aldershot Branch of the AEA was formed, ideas had been asked for in how we could celebrate the occasion; John Smith said he had put in motion plans for a trip to Jersey next year. He had been in touch with a former member of the Squadron who still lives on the Island and John will liaison with him for information on the best deals available. As soon as he knows how many members of the branch would like a trip to Jersey, a proforma will be circulated to members when John arrives home from his holidays in August. Members were also reminded of the suggestions made at the previous meeting of possible trips and theatre evenings for 2011.

The Chairman gave a short report on how our members who had been ill over the previous three months were progressing and welcomed back Peter Myatt and Tony Gilbert.

Treasurer's Report

A brief report by the treasurer, Dave Rutter, showed that the branch funds were in a good healthy state. The treasurer proposed that the cost of the BBQ would be £6pp and a £150 would be made available from branch funds for any additional costs.

Proposed by: Steve Stephenson
Seconded by: Ralph Pedder

That the treasurer's report be accepted as a true record subject to audit

Correspondence.

Minutes of Chatham, Birmingham, Scotland and Hull Branches were made available for members to read.

Fred Gray read out a letter from Bill Rudd MBE Chairman of the Yorkshire Branch. Bill was asking for a vote on which of three venues for the 2011 AGM and reunion was preferable. Both venues in Blackpool received no votes whilst Harrogate was unanimously accepted.

The question of shoe boxes for members of the forces serving in Afghanistan was again discussed and in view of the number being sent by other branches it was decided the Aldershot Branch would wait until 23 Regiment were actually in theatre before we would make our contribution.

Branch Representative

Joe Stoddard gave a comprehensive report on items of interest that had been discussed at the Executive meeting of the AEA held that morning.

The event at Woodbridge to be held in September by 23 Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) would not be open to AEA members as an invitation had not been received.

Entertainments

The branch BBQ is to be held on August 22nd at 65 Westover Road. Fleet, GU51 3DE at 1130hrs for the 1200hrs meeting prior to the BBQ at approximately 1300hrs.

Please let Fred and Betty know if you will be attending the BBQ at least eight days before the date as our master Chef, Tony Manley, has to purchase the food at least three days beforehand. 01252 668339

If possible will you kindly donate a raffle prize? It was decided that this year the proceeds from the raffle would go into our own funds and if necessary a donation to the journal would be made.

Details of the proposed trip to Jersey will be sent to members as soon as they are available.

John then gave a comprehensive report on the outline planning that covered all aspects of the weekend activities during the AGM and reunion to be held in Bournemouth during October.

AOB

Steve Stephenson has received a letter from Mick Turner who is doing a walk-about in the Southern hemisphere. He had visited the grave of a former member of the Squadron from Tonga, Mick Qarikau. He suggested that the gravesite be improved by the addition something that would represent his service in the Royal Engineers and 9 Squadron in particular. A wall plaque was also suggested for his elderly sister who still lives in Tonga. Tony Manley immediately donated £20 for the purchase of the shield. The other items suggested are to be looked into by Fred Gray.

Joe Stoddart made it known that wrist bands on sale by 23 Regiment will be available very soon. Funds are being raised for the welfare of the families left behind when the Regiment leave for a tour in Afghanistan in November

They cost £2 each and have inscribed on them "Support the Airborne Engineers in Afghanistan" there is also an Eagle and Wings engraved on them.

The Airborne Forces day to be held in Colchester on 24 July was discussed but agreed it was not suitable for our needs.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.00pm

**Next meeting will be on the 22nd August at 11.30am for 12.00pm
followed by the BBQ at 65 Westover Road, Fleet**

Please bring your own drinks

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 22nd August.