



# Airborne Engineers Association



Aldershot Branch

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held at  
Potters International Hotel  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**President**

**Colonel D.M.R.Eagan**

## Meeting Opened at 11.30hrs

Chairman: Fred Gray. e-mail [F.gray3@ntlworld.com](mailto:F.gray3@ntlworld.com) Tele: 01252 668339

Secretary: Betty Gray. e-mail [b.gee33@ntlworld.com](mailto:b.gee33@ntlworld.com) Tele: 01252 668339

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Entertainments: John Smith. e-mail [thesmith@sky.com](mailto:thesmith@sky.com) Tele 01252 326100

## Members Present

John Barrie, Syd Dane, Col. Denis Eagan, Ted Ellis, Harry Evans, Fred Gray, Gerry Hicks, Brian Hubbard, John Lee, Dave Leibrick, Tony Manley, Rick Mogg, Billy Morris, Peter Myatt AFC, Ralph Pedder BEM, John Pfiffner, Dave Rutter, Roy Sands, John Smith BEM, Joe Stoddart MBE, Bob Sullivan MBE, Bob Wardle.

## Apologies

John Aldridge, Colin Bond, Jack Braithwaite, Bob Chatterton, Ray Coleman, Harold Covington, Ron Day, Don Doherty, Bob Ferguson, Bert Flatters, Tony Gilbert, Dennis Healey, Bryn Hitchings, Roy King, Barry Ladlow, Mick Leather, Derek Leggett, Frank Menzies-Hearne, Roger Mockford, John Murphy, Jim O'Hagan, Harold Padfield, Eric Rundle, Sir Donald Spiers CB TD, Steve Stephenson, Phil Taverner, Derek Taylor, Tom Tuddenham, Maj Peter Wade.

**The Branch President Colonel Denis Eagan opened the meeting at 1130hrs.** He asked members to stand for one minutes silence in memory of three of our branch members and Major General Cowton who passed away suddenly during January.

## Chairman's Remark

The chairman welcomed Dave Leibrick back to the branch after an absence of about thirteen years. Dave had been a founder member of the AEA and also one of the original members of the Aldershot Branch when it was formed in 1991. Welcome back Dave.

John Brennan has also joined the branch and we look forward to seeing him in the near future.

Tony Gilbert has now returned home after his knee joint replacements and he hope he will soon be mobile enough to attend our Sunday meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you Tony.

The Chairman told members present that January had got off to a very sad start in that three of our members had died since the first day of January. Denis Thomas had passed away at his home in Queensland Australia suffering a heart attack.

This sad news was immediately followed by the death of Bill McPherson who passed away for the same reason and on the same day.

Two days before the meeting we were told that Tommy Handley's health had deteriorated very quickly and that he had died in the early hours of Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

A number of branch members had been able to attend the funeral of Bill and they had formed a Guard of Honour as the coffin was carried to the Altar. Our presence was very much appreciated by Bill's family.

The funeral of Tommy was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 15.00hrs at the Porchester Crematorium. Members were informed of the details.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Proposed by: John Smith  
Seconded by: Rick Mogg

That the minutes were a true record of the meeting

Carried

### **Matters Arising.**

Members were reminded that the shoebox parcels to Afghanistan would continue to be on hold until 23 Regt deploy later in the year.

### **Treasures Report**

A brief report by the treasure, Dave Rutter, showed that the branch funds were in a good healthy state. He mentioned that £100 is to be spent on 2nd class postage stamps immediately as the cost of stamps are to be increased on 1st April 2010.

Proposed by: John Lee  
Seconded by: Joe Stoddart

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

### **Correspondence.**

The minutes of the Yorkshire, Scotland, Chatham and Birmingham Branches were made available for members to read. It was pointed out that Bunny Brown had been in hospital but is now on the mend and that Bob Jones (1st Para Sqn and Birmingham) had had a fall and broken his pelvis and sustained other injuries. At the time of reading the minutes Bob was in hospital. Alex Smith (Scotland) is still having Chemo for his cancer but appears to be holding his own.

It was brought to the member's notice that Tom Ormiston had resigned as Chairman of the Scotland branch because he had too many commitments with his home in the USA and in Scotland. He will continue to be a member and Frank Murray is the new chairman of the branch.

### **Branch Representative**

Joe Stoddart.

The Association Committee hold their meeting on Sunday February 7th and Joe will give a full briefing at our next branch meeting.

### **Entertainments**

John reminded those who had booked in for lunch following the meeting, twenty-eight in number, should be seated by 1230hrs.

John Smith asked that those attending the Spring Lunch to return their choice of menu soonest as he has to submit numbers to the restaurant very shortly. He was very disappointed in that he had only seven positive responses so far. The latest date for booking is 26 February.

John asked that raffle prizes be wrapped and the proceeds from the raffle to go to our own branch funds as income has fallen off in recent months. He also asked a proposal for a sum to offset the cost of the wine.

John then asked for volunteers to help host the AGM and reunion to be held in Bournemouth later in the year. The branch has the responsibility for all aspects of the reunion this year.

The Chairman asked members to put forward a proposal that £200 be used for the purchase of table wine.

Proposed by: Joe Stoddart  
Seconded by: John Lee

**carried**

The annual rugby match between the Army and Navy at Twickenham is to be held on 1st May 2010. John will send out details of the cost of tickets and car park charges as soon as they become available.

## **Membership & Sports Club.**

Billy Morris gave a very enthusiastic report on the ongoing recruitment both to the association and the Aldershot Branch. He said that contact had been made with 23 Regiment with the idea of a coastal run with members of the Regiment and the younger members of the AEA. He outlined his ideas for sporting activities where it would give him a better chance of recruiting members into the AEA. Billy was also taking part in a 40 mile run in Wales over the weekend of 1st February. The Chairman did ask Billy if he could consider the recruitment of younger people into our branch as it has an ageing membership and only a slow trickle of younger people are joining. One problem being is now that there is no longer a Parachute Engineer presence in the Aldershot area, settlement of former members has almost dried up creating a problem for the branch in the future.

## **AOB**

It was proposed by John Smith that Bob McCann should be invited to join our branch as an Honorary Member. Bob is a Standard Bearer and has performed the duty at recent funerals of AEA members. He would be a very welcome addition to our membership.

Proposed by: John Smith  
Seconded by: Joe Stoddart

**Carried**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1245hrs

**Next meeting will be the AGM followed by the OGM.  
On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
At 11.00 for 11.15**

**Normally the ladies stay at home when we have the AGM/OGM as it means sitting around for a long time. It was decided at the meeting that after the AGM we would carry straight on with the OGM without a break as we did last year.**

**The meeting is also starting earlier so if you want to have lunch with the ladies please let **Fred Gray** know 01252 668339 by 7<sup>th</sup> April so that he can book the tables.**

***Please remember to return your completed forms for the Spring Lunch to John ASAP***