



**Airborne Engineers Association  
Aldershot Branch  
Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held at  
65, Westover Road  
Sunday 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011  
President: Colonel D.M.R.Eagan**

**The meeting opened at 1130 hours**

**Committee Members Present**

President: Col D.M.R. Eagan

Chairman: Joe Stoddart MBE

Secretary/ Treasurer: Dave Rutter

Entertainments: John Smith BEM

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**President:**

Col Eagan formally opened the meeting and welcomed those members present and expressed his pleasure to see such a good turnout for the meeting. He also extended sincere thanks to Betty and Fred Gray for hosting the branch annual BBQ.

**Members Present:**

Wally Clift, Harold Covington, Syd Dane, Phil Ecclestone, Harry Evans, John Ferry, Fred Gray, Mick Humphries, John Lee, Tony Manley, John Mason, Rick Mogg, Billy Morris, Peter Myatt, Ralph Pedder, John Piffner, Steve Stephenson, Bob Sullivan, Bob Wardle

**Apologies:**

Jim Hill, John Aldridge, Ken Roberts, Frank Menzies-Hearn, Brendan Snoddy, Mick Leather, Jack Braithwaite, Tony Gilbert, Derek Leggett, John Murphy, Jim O'Hagan, Colin Bond, Roger Mockford, John Barrie, Don Doherty, John Barrie, Bob Chatterton, Gerry Hicks, Ray Coleman & Sir Donald Spiers

**Chairman's Mark of Respect:**

A Minute's silence was held in respect to the passing of Eric Booth 1<sup>st</sup> Para Sqn RE and Gordon Pincombe, ex 9 Para Sqn and 22 SAS. Gordon collapsed and died whilst out running in Slovakia on Thursday 18th Aug. Also Bob Beaumont who passed away 1 August. Bob was a former member of 3 Para Sqn RE.

**Chairman's report:**

The chairman called for the names of branch members who wished to partake in the Cenotaph parade. In addition to the Aldershot branch, he informed the members that there would be representatives attending the parade in Whitehall from Scotland, Birmingham and the Yorkshire branches. Brig John Hooper and Lt Col Brian Awford will also be in attendance. The AEA contingent will assemble under the direction of former WOI John Ferry.

John Lee explained that the parade details regarding timings and location of where to assemble etc. are expected to be sent out by the Royal British Legion on or about 22 September. These details will be promulgated to the respective members and branch secretaries.

**Minutes of the previous OGM**

There were no comments or observations regarding the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Correspondence**

The chairman displayed the poster, which referred to the Military Open Day at Rock Barracks, home of 23 Engr Regt (Air Asslt). The event will take place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. There is an admission charge of £4 for adults, £2 for children or £10 for a family ticket.

Double Hills – the annual Commemorative parade will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

**Treasurers Report**

The treasurer gave a breakdown of the branch finances explaining that there were no changes since the previous meeting, but that due to late cancellations in the attendance numbers for the BBQ there would be a shortfall of income and that this would best be met by a grant from GPF.

**Proposed by: Billy Morris - Seconded by: Harold Covington** that the shortfall of £49 be transferred from GPF to balance the shortfall - **Carried**

The treasurer further announced that there are still 11 members annual subscription outstanding and that a final prompt will be sent out to those members.

**Proposed by: Phil Ecclestone – Seconded by: Wally Clift** that the treasurer's report, subject to audit be accepted - **Carried**

#### **Branch Representative's Report – Joe Stoddart**

Official guests for the Gala dinner at the Coventry AGM/Reunion in October will be:

Major John Clark OC 9 Para Sqn RE and Major David Jones OC 51 Para Sqn RE

Joe also read through the agenda for the Coventry AGM

The 2012 AGM/Reunion is to be hosted by the Hull branch – further details will be announced at the Coventry AGM.

#### **Entertainments**

John Smith announced details of the **EI Gamil reunion**. This is normally held every 10 years, however it has been decided that due to the declining numbers able to attend (for various reasons) – the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion is to be held during the period 4th-6th November 2011. The venue is to be the Carrington House Hotel, Bournemouth. Please contact John (01252 326100) if you would like to attend.

Costing is as follows:

Bed, breakfast and evening meal (BBD) Friday – Sunday morning	£104-00
Gala dinner and Sunday breakfast	£76-00
Gala dinner only	£24-00
Extra night's accommodation	£52-00

#### **Operation Varsity (Rhine Crossing) – Proposed Tour**

John has been in touch with Ingram Murray (father of the comedian Al Murray) for a proposed 3-5 day tour covering the above-mentioned Operation. Although no official dates have been confirmed it is most likely to cover the period 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012. John would like members to inform him if they would like to attend this future event. Further details will be announced as and when they are available.

**Shearings Holidays** are offering excellent value weekend breaks during the months of November & December in Bournemouth.

A 3-day break Friday – Monday morning - BBD £109-00

Or a 2-day break Friday – Sunday morning - BBD £89-00

#### **Any Other Business**

**Proposed by Bob Sullivan** – Seconded by Syd Dane that in appreciation for the splendid culinary delights prepared for our BBQs, by Tony and Jill Manley for the past 5 years, that the branch treat them to a restaurant dinner at a cost of £50. **Carried**

**Fred Gray** asked that a vote of thanks to be recorded for Bert Flatters. Bert provided the original AEA chairman's gavel. It was however broken by an over enthusiastic chairman as he closed what we believe was his last and final meeting. Bert has since manufactured a replacement gavel. **Carried**

**Col Eagan** congratulated our master chef (Tony Manley) for the outstanding BBQ presentation and asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for his sterling efforts. **Carried**

**Billy Morris** gave details of the Pen Y Fan mountain run that he and Bob Chatterton will be undertaking on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September. They are raising funds for the MacMillan Cancer Trust.

A further challenge that the intrepid duo are preparing for is the Caesar's Camp 100-mile run. This event will be held on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. Surprisingly there were no volunteers to join them!

**Proposed by Dave Rutter** – Seconded by Stevie Stephenson that the revenue raised from the raffle be donated to the Royal British Legion. **Carried**. The sum raised was **£220-00**.

**There being no further business Col Dennis Eagan closed the meeting at 1220 hours**

#### **Next Meeting**

**The next branch meeting will be held at Potters International Hotel on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December (1100 for 1130 hrs) followed by lunch for those who require it in the hotel restaurant. Please inform John Smith on 01252 326100 at least one week in advance if you intend to staying for lunch.**