



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



www.airbornesappersscotland.co.uk

Chairman: Frank Murray - **Secretary:** Dougie Archibald - **Treasurer:** Mick Walker

**Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting held at The Royal British Legion,
Rodney Street, Edinburgh at 1230hrs on Sunday 15th November 2009.**

1. Chairman's Welcome :

Tom Ormiston opened the meeting by welcoming a turnout of 15 members and requested that they be up standing for a one minute silence in memory of members and friends we had lost in the preceding year.

Tom then thanked the members for their support during his term as Chairman and apologised for his term being brief and added that it was regret that he was having to stand down owing to family commitments in the USA and felt that he could not do the justice to the position which he felt it merited.

A letter explaining his reasons for his resignation was in the hands of the Secretary, a further indication of his professionalism.

2. Members Present :

Tom Ormiston, Doug Archibald, Kim Panton, Alex McWhirter, Gil Nicol, John Donaldson, Andy Mullen, David Brock, Roy Kay, Jim Simpson, Ronnie Drummond, Frank Murray, Colin Reid, Mick Walker and guest Norrie Bishop.

3. Apologies :

These were received on behalf of Andy Paterson, Brian Earl, Bill Grant, Ian Thomson, Craig McQuade. Jimmy Wilson and our friends in Oz.

4. Minutes of the previous AGM :

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2008 were proposed as a true record by David Brock and seconded by Jim Simpson and these were accepted.

5. Matters Arising :

There were no outstanding matters.

6. Secretary's Report :

There had been little in the way of activity outside of our normal meetings and Doug once again apologised for his absence from several meetings in the preceding year due to both holiday and hospitalisation and he thanked Mick Walker for filling in and taking minutes.

On a brighter note he informed the meeting that he had been contacted by Fred Gray, the Association Archivist, to verify the address of a colleague from his 9 Sqn. days and Doug was pleased to say he was able to put them in touch. The person concerned was Alex Smith from Milngavie who he discovered when speaking to him that Alex had been a member of this Branch in its early days.

Alex has been suffering from cancer and is at present in remission and receiving containing therapy and the best wishes from the Branch were passed on to him and it was promised to add him to our mailing list as he was interested to keep in touch with events.

7. Treasurer's Report :

Mick Walker circulated copies of our Annual Accounts and explained the various entries in detail giving special mention to the substantial sums raised and passed on to the Help for Heroes Fund. This was raised collectively by seven members and wives who took part in a walk over the bridges at Kincardine in June.

He also touched briefly on our Branch golf outing which he was too modest to make a big deal about the fact that he had retained the trophy.

8. Website Update :

John Donaldson informed the meeting that all was well after a slight hiccup with the Photograph and Role of Honour pages, this has now been sorted and is now up to date and includes a page dedicated to those Sappers who perished at Cromwell Lock whilst taking part in an exercise.

9. Election of Office Bearers :

As Tom Ormiston's resignation was effective immediately a new Chairman was a first priority.

Chairman : Doug Archibald proposed Frank Murray to take up the Chairman's role this was seconded by John Donaldson, there were no other nominations and the proposal was carried unanimously.

Secretary : There were no names put forward for this post, Kim Panton proposed that Doug Archibald continue which was seconded by Colin Reid and carried. Doug pointed out that he was not however prepared to continue indefinitely and members should bear in mind that the Branch would have difficulty functioning without a Secretary and should bear this in mind and have future candidates in mind for our next AGM.

Treasurer : Once again there were no nominees put forward , and Alex McWhirter proposed that Mick Walker continue in this position and this was seconded by Gil Nicol. Mick agreed to do so for the time being but he also stressed that someone other than himself should consider taking on the responsibility for this role.

Auditor : Jim Simpson proposed that Colin Reid continue to fill this post and this was seconded by Alex McWhirter and Colin agreed that he was willing to do so.

Webmaster : As expected there were no volunteers for this position and Doug Archibald pointed out the importance of the website to our Branch and he personally hoped that John Donaldson would continue his sterling work and he proposed this and was seconded by Ronnie Drummond and it was carried after John gave his acceptance to continue.

Head Office Rep : Jim Simpson was invited to continue in this role and he generously agreed and was proposed by Doug Archibald and seconded by Alex McWhirter.

11. Subscriptions :

In an unusual proposal from a Treasurer Mick proposed the sub. Be reduced to £5 which surprisingly was not taken up. Jim Simpson proposed the status quo of £6 and was seconded by Tom Ormiston this proposal was carried.

12. A.O.C.B. :

(I) The Mark Wright project, a room at the Erskine House home for ex servicemen is having its official opening at 1100hrs on Saturday 21st November and the Lothian Branch PRA have invited any of our members who are available to attend at Hardengreen Industrial Estate, Esbank, Dalkeith.

(ii) Future entries for the AEA Journal from our Branch will be handled by Mick Walker and any member who has any relevant content worthy of inclusion should channel this through him.

(iii) Jim Simpson reported from the Association AGM that the new constitution had been passed and members should receive a copy in the next issue of the journal. He also pointed out that although Head Office had no interest to control any Branch subs. They wished to be kept informed because of the AEA's charitable status.

(iv) John Donaldson reminded members that he had now included a link on our website to the website of 299 Sqn.

(v) Frank Murray informed the meeting that he had been speaking to Rhoda McLeod , the former wife of John Lonergan who had asked for help in contacting an old "mucker" of John called Jerry Devitt who she believed may be in New Zealand. If the name rings a bell and anyone can offer any help in tracing Jerry's whereabouts they can contact Frank through the Branch.

The meeting was closed with a vote of thanks to the new Chairman at 1345hrs to allow the Treasurer to collect subscriptions and members to assemble for our group photograph.

The committee wish all members A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year and look forward seeing them at a future meeting.

The date for our next meeting is Sunday 17th January 2010 at 1300hrs at the same venue.

N.B. Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions are now due and cheques for £6.00 made payable to Airborne Engineers Association and sent to Treasurer, Malcolm Walker, 1 Halbeath Road, Dunfermline Fife KY12 7QZ

Even in these days of economic downturn the sub is not a lot of money. It's receipt would be appreciated as it also serves the purpose of letting us know that those who did not attend the AGM are alive and well and did receive the minutes.