



Airborne Engineers Association Scotland



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Minute of meeting held in Royal British Legion, Central Branch Rodney Street, Edinburgh on 18 September 2011 at 1300hrs.

1. As both the Secretary and his predecessor had indicated they would not be attending Mick Walker had been asked to assume that role for the meeting. Mick indicated his willingness to stand aside if anyone wanted the job: there were no volunteers.
 2. Present were Raymond Mannion, Andy Paterson, John Donaldson, Brian Earl, Ron McCartan, Kim Panton, Jimmy Simpson, Andy Mullen, Tom Ormiston, Ronnie Drummond, Frank Murray (Chairman), Mick Walker, Roy Kay, Craig McQuade and Gordon McLeod (new member).
 3. Apologies had been received from Willie Grant, the aforementioned Gil Nicol and Dougie Archibald, Norrie Bishop, David Brock along with Jimmy Wilson and were taken as read from our overseas members.
 4. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his pleasure at the good turnout given that it was a local holiday. He mentioned that since our last meeting several of us, accompanied by wives, had enjoyed the PRA bowling day. We then observed a minute's silence in memory of those lost since our last meeting and those who had fallen previously.
 5. The minutes of the meeting of 17 July 2011 were approved on the motion of John Donaldson who was seconded by Jimmy Simpson
 6. Craig McQuade gave a progress report on our Shoebox Appeal which included a "thank you" letter from recipients which was circulated to the meeting. There was a general discussion on how we should take the appeal forward and it was agreed that this would be better left to November's AGM. A slight degree of chaos then broke out with Gordon McLeod and Jimmy Simpson claiming they had missed out previously and making donations and Tom Ormiston anticipating the AGM (which he will not be attending) and also making a donation.
- Kim Panton then anticipated the Treasurer's report and won unanimous support that £180 be donated to the appeal from our funds.
- Craig McQuade and Tom Ormiston have been our leaders in the appeal but Tom indicated that given his toing and froing to the US Craig should be the main man. Craig was happy with this.
7. The Treasurer gave a brief summary of our monetary dealings since the last meeting and circulated a report showing our finances to be in good health.
 8. The Chairman indicated that recent e-mails may have caused some confusion as to our representation at the parade at the Cenotaph on Armistice Sunday. He reaffirmed that we would have 4 representatives. These were Messer's Archibald, McQuade, Walker and Wratten with himself

and Gil Nicol as reserves.

9. Edinburgh's Field of Remembrance is opening on 7 November and John Donaldson reported he had been approached by Poppy Scotland to sponsor a cross. It was agreed that this be done with the cross marked to remember those who drowned at Cromwell Lock. Gordon McLeod said he had been approached regarding the Glasgow equivalent and had agreed to support a cross in memory of John Lonergan.

!0. John saw an advert on 9 Para Sqns. website regarding the purchase of wrist bands The money for the wrist bands is for the assistance to any soldier (and or family) of a member of the Regimental Group that is either injured or KIA during the tour. Moneys would be released under the direction of the CO and would hopefully assist in someway. Cheques should be made payable to Central Bank 23 Engr. Regt. (Air Assault). After some discussion regarding numbers it was agreed we should buy 20 and sell them on at the next meeting.

11. The Acting Secretary distributed laminated 2012 calendar cards decorated with the AEA and RE badges and the Pegasus motif which also highlights the dates of our meetings in that year. These had been produced by John Donaldson and are now an annual feature and Mick conveyed our appreciation to John.

12. Gordon McLeod had passed a disc to John containing photos of 300 Sqns. life in the late 50s and early 60s. Many of these had been taken by or featured WOII Lonergan and John will over time put these on our website.

13. A programme "Soldiers in the Air" is scheduled to appear on the Military History Channel on 02 October at 2000hrs. For those with the technology to access this the channel is No. 236.

14. The Chairman advised that our next meeting would be on **Sunday 20 November** at the same venue. **This is our AGM and will commence at 1230hrs.** Mick added that this would involve the appointment of office bearers so people should reflect on that. Gil has indicated that, having served only a year, he would be happy to continue as Secretary. The Treasurer has however been in post since time immemorial and nominations are sought for his post.