



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, but as always open to ALL 299 men past & present.

The aims and ideals of this association are decreed as being:

Promoting and maintaining contact with past and present members of 299 Squadron RE.
Promoting and encouraging such events as may bring pleasure to all members of this association.
Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.
Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

Date: Friday 2th December 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

Members Present: Ricky Able, Dave Barker, Brian Bilton, Mike Beardshaw, Paul Jefferson, Derek French, Bob Meachen, Keith Moreley, Frank Pougher, Pete Robson, Glenn Ratten, Kev Saddington, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nige Sissons, John Thompson, Paul Hairsine, Andy Thomas, Mike Sunderland, Tony Weldon.
Terry Cunningham, Gaz Coe, Carl Ham, Dave Hines, Tony Irwin, Martin Lawrence,

Apologies: Steve Oliver, Chris Duggan, Lee Smith, Richy Gill, Bud Oldfield, Paul Robinson, Craig Gadd, Syd Hoyle. Dave Woolas. Neil Cooper, Jack Brooks, Kev Blacker.

Guests: Nil

Welcome

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present to our December meeting. He went on to say it was great to see **Mick Sunderland** and **Andy Thomas** at the meeting, well done the two Doncaster lads **Bob Meachen** and **Martin Lawrence** for making the trip especially as **Bob** is recovering from surgery.

Acting Secretary and Vice Chairman **Gaddy**, apologised for not attending as he is away skiing for a couple of weeks. Have a great time mate.

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true record.

Proposed by – **Pete Robson**

Seconded by – **Tony Irwin**

Treasure's Report:

Glen Ratten brought the meeting up to date with the association finances, and said we were a healthy position.

Anyone wanting to pay any monies online please speak to **Glen** as the account details have changed.

Correspondence.

Gaz Coe has been in comms with **Dave Mace** a former 299 Troop member now living in Australia, **Gary** had sent him a calendar dedicated to his brother **John**. **Dave** replied and thanked the association and especially **Dave Hines** for a lovely tribute to John and informed us he is planning a visit back home to Blighty next year.
It will be great to see **Dave** again.

The OC of 131 Commando Squadron and our old friend **Olaf Dudley**, has been in touch with our acting Secretary, Gaddy and said it was great to see the association thriving. Thanked him for stepping up to support the memorial at Cromwell Lock in that way and keeping him in the loop.

Carl Henrickson Also sent his best wishes to the association and apologised for his lack of attendance, which won't get any better as he now lives in Qatar. He also thanked **Gary** and **Gaddy** for sending him the minutes and keeping him in the loop with Association and Sqn news. Hope to see you sometime soon Carl.

Chairman's Comments

Due to demand the chairman has ordered another batch of association tie's, if you require one, please let **Chris** know.

A few association men turned up at the Urban parade for the underprivileged children of Bransholme to pay our respects at their memorial monument with our standard. **Wally Holbrook** laid the wreath on the Associations behalf, well done Wally. After the parade, members present had drinks with the Lord Mayor and dignitaries. The former Lord Mayor Anita Harrison thanked the association for taking part.

A few guys formed up at the Cenotaph in Hull with standard on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, to pay our respects to the fallen. A big thank you to **Tony Irwin** for attending with our standard.

We had a great Remembrance Day parade, and the weather was not too bad. I did think we missed the Sgt Major organising the veterans this year, as it was a little disorganised, but we got there in the end. Liquid refreshments and buffet were held at the Minerva and the staff looked after us, as usual. Thanks to everyone who donated raffle prizes which paid for the buffet. Well done to **Simbo**, **Weldo** and **Dave Hines** for organising the raffle and **Eileen** and **Pat** for selling the raffle tickets.

Next year's Normandy trip will be run by **Gaddy** and **Tomo**, keep your eyes on the notice board and our Facebook page for any information. A former 299 troop commander, **Ken Newton** has offered his services and expertise with the trip. Tomo has already made some enquires with Les Holland. Please let **Gaddy** or **Tomo** if you are interested in attending, so they can get an idea of numbers.

299 Para Squadron have invited the association to their Christmas bash at Wakefield 17th December £10 a ticket, If anyone is interested get in touch with **Heppy 07796178475**
Accommodation can be provided at the Wakefield ARC

Tomo gave an update on **Nick Greenhams** funeral, Tomo and Hairy travelled down to Exeter to the crematorium. They thanked **Grim Smith** for doing a good job of organising the funeral and thought there would of being more of the old and bold from 300 troop, attending the funeral. **Mick Adams** former 299 Troop PSI who attended, sent his regards to the association. They gave our old friend **Nick** a good send off, RIP **Nick**.

Any Other Business

Carl Ham informed the meeting he is ordering some cycling shirts on the same lines as our rugby shirts with the 299 Association badge but in a Lycra material. If you would like one please get in touch with **Carl**, on the Covid cycling WhatsApp group or ring **Carl** on 07778214483.

Former 299 Troop Commander, and OC 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE **Karl Parfitt**, gave a brilliant review of the state of play of all military matters from the military response to strikes to Putins illegal invasion of Ukraine.

The Chairman thanked the committee for all their hard work in 2022 which prompted a round of applause from the members. The meeting was finished off with a free raffle of some left-over prizes from Remembrance Day raffle, and some more donated by **Weldo**, **Martin Lawrence**, and **Steph** from the Minerva. Thanks to everyone especially **Simbo** for running the raffle. We gave the bar staff four tickets and luckily, they won a couple prizes.

On behalf of the committee, the chairman wished all 299 Association members a merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone and thanked the members for their support over this past year.

Our vice chairman has been doing the job of secretary for a while on a temporary basis, so we are looking for a new permanent Secretary to join the committee.

If you're interested in in being the Association secretary then come and join the committee and keep our Association moving forward.

If anyone has any news that is relevant to the Association, please let **Gaddy** know and he will put in the minutes for the wider membership.

The chairman asked the meeting to be upstanding and raise their glasses in a toast to absent friends.

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting.

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by: **Tony Irwin**

Web site address: www.299association.co.uk

Next Meeting: will be at the Minerva on Friday 3rd February 2023 kick off 20:00 hrs

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690,
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WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org