



## 299 ASSOCIATION

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

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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.

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

**Date:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

**Members Present:** M Beardshaw, B Bilton, C Gadd, D Ideson, A Irwin, P Jefferson, S Knowles, R Meachen, B Oldfield, S Oliver, F Pougher, P Robson, G Ratten, P Robson, K Russel, S Saxby, C Shillito, P Sims, R Swatman, M Tindle, T Walker, A Weldon, D Woollas, N Yates.

**Apologies:** R Able, J Brooks, G Coe, T Cunningham, C Duggan, T Foster, D French, R Gill, D Hines, D Harvey, M Maddison, A McGlynn, D Meeking, P Robinson, J Thompson.

**Guests:** Nil

### **Exhortation**

Was given by **Craig Gadd**, in memory of the late, **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth**

### **Welcome and 'Roll Call'**

The Chairman **Chris** welcomed all present to our October meeting and was very pleased to see a great turnout yet again.

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

Proposed by – **B Pougher**

Seconded by – **A Irwin**

### **Treasure's Report:**

**Glen**, brought the meeting up to date with the association finances. He went on to say all monies for Arnhem have now been paid, and the association was still healthy.

Anyone who has ordered a 299 Rugby shirt, or a shield are now in, and are £36 and £28 respectively. There is still a few spare if anyone wants one. Please contact **Chris**.

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

## **Correspondence**

**AEA Shop Handover:** The secretary reported that following a 100% audit conducted by Jon Nichols and Jeannette Rutter (outgoing shop manager) on Saturday 20 August 2022, the new shop manager is now Jon Nichols. Jon has indicated that there will be new measures adopted in the purchase of goods from the AEA shop, which will incorporate the use of on-line shopping program incorporated in the AEA website. Jon will be giving a presentation of this method at the 2022 AGM meeting at Birmingham in October 2022.

The 32nd AGM & Reunion will be hosted by the Birmingham Branch AEA.

The Hotel lies at the centre of the motorway network and is easily accessible.

The Hotel is situated next to Birmingham Airport on the A45 and in close proximity to Birmingham International Railway Station. The Holiday Inn hotel has a Gym, Swimming Pool, Sauna/Steam Room and Jacuzzi.

If any member or Branch would like any further information, you can contact:

### **AEA Birmingham.**

Tom Smith. smithtom131@gmail.com Mobile 07736666337.

Roger Howles. r.howles301@gmail.com Mobile 07831262512

Steve Brown. stevebrown4@hotmail.com Mobile 07702597546

### **Steve Brown**

On behalf of the Birmingham Branch AEA

### **Chairman's Comments:**

**Arnhem**, was another great success, with no real dramas. The hotel was exceptional, and the coach and driver were brilliant. The 299 Association comradeship and the banter was outstanding. There was plenty of parachuting on the DZ about 10 aircraft laid on.

Great that Gaddy managed to get a cabin last minute and join us with the Airborne Forces Riders at the DZ , Driel and Oosterbeek Cemetery, well done Craig.

We paid our respects to our 299 brothers whose ashes are scattered on the hill on the DZ and the **Saddington** family **Kev, Steve and Alexa** laid some of their uncle **Ronnies** ashes, on the hill and we all raised our glasses in a toast to him. **Ronnie Berry** joined us on our Arnhem trips many times and was one of life's characters a great guy and we will miss him. There are too many of our comrades, friends and family laid to rest on that hill and you can be sure we will remember them on every trip we do to Arnhem. (God Bless them all)

We Paid our respects at the Engineers monument at Driel to remember those Airborne warriors who died in 1944.

Our two wreath layers **Chris Duggan** and **Nigel Sissons** did a great job for us laying a 299 Association wreath, well done boys.

A special mention goes to **Pete Robson**, who like all of us, are very much moved by the dedication of the flower children of Oosterbeek Cemetery year on year. However, this year the forecast was for heavy rain, but still they attended in their droves. But this year one child caught **Pete's** eye, who in his words looked like a "drowned rat" so **Pete** offered his beret as to at least keep his head dry. The child was absolutely chuffed to bits and thanked him, as the other children looked on with envy.

Nice one **Pete**.

## **Cromwell lock**

Good turnout by the 299 Association at Cromwell Lock, Thanks to the guys who attended to remember our 131 brothers who perished there on the 28th September 1975. Photos on our Facebook page.

## **Calendars**

A big thank you to our awesome web master **Dave Hines** for making these at his own expense. The customised 299 Association 2023 calendars dedicated to our long serving 299 Airborne warrior **John Mace** (RIP John)

I took a calendar to his wife Irene and family and she was very pleased with it and thanks the Association. Thanks again **Dave** a great tribute.

Thanks to **Pete Robson** for donating the Amazon Alexa pod at the last meeting which we auctioned and Hairy won with a bid of £20 for the association. These calendars and donations which make the association money stops us from paying subs and pays for transport coaches etc and buffets on Remembrance Sunday, so we'll done everyone (Outstanding).

A Royal Marine veteran **Brian Penn** who passed away and we have been asked to beef the funeral up by the RM Association

30th October at 14.30hrs. If anyone is free just turn up at Chanterlands Ave crematorium with beret on.

**Nigel Sisson's** had invited everyone to his reception on the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Canham Turner, Hull University. A great day and night to all those that attended, a few photos on Facebook.

The Committee and the Association members wishes Nigel and his new wife, a happy future together with Jude

## **Remembrance Sunday.**

This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting however, just a reminder next meeting is the last chance to donate a raffle prize for the Remembrance Day raffle which helps to pay for the buffet on the day.

If you can bring a prize to the next meeting if you can't make the meeting drop one off at my house 25 Silverdale road. Don't let it be the same people who supply the raffle prizes every year.

## **AOB**

If anyone has any news that is relevant to the association, please let me know and I will put in the minutes for the wider membership.

## **Simbo's Bus Stop:**

Won by: **Glenn Ratten**

**Web site address:** [www.299association.co.uk](http://www.299association.co.uk)

**Next Meeting: will be at the Minerva on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 kick off 20:00 hrs**

**WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE**

**Dates for your diary:**

**32<sup>nd</sup> AGM Birmingham 2022**

32<sup>nd</sup> AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022  
anyone wanting to attend can book directly with the Birmingham Branch

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull.  
Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva  
with the association.

**CONTACTS:**

Chairman: Chris Shillito, [chrisshillito299@outlook.com](mailto:chrisshillito299@outlook.com) Tel: 01482 806690, Mob: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, [craig.gadd@hotmail.com](mailto:craig.gadd@hotmail.com) Mob: 07771880733

Secretary: Gaz Coe, [coeblimey240@gmail.com](mailto:coeblimey240@gmail.com) Tel: 01757 268188.

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, [glennratten@icloud.com](mailto:glennratten@icloud.com) Mob: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, [davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk](mailto:davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk) Tel: 01482 860981,  
Mob: 07821698522.

Archivist: Tony Irwin, [bigtirwin@hotmail.com](mailto:bigtirwin@hotmail.com) Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

**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](mailto:veteranshub@goodwintrust.org)