



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 Para Squadron RE.

Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.

Promoting and encouraging such events that may bring pleasure to all members of this association.

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

Date: Friday 31st March 2023, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

Members Present: Ricky Abel, Dave Barker, Brian Bilton, Mike Beardshaw Terry Cunningham, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Dave Harvey, Carl Ham, Tony Irwin, Bud Pougher, Pete Robson, Paul Robinson, Glenn Ratten, Paul Sims, Chris Shillito, Brad Steele, Nigel Sisson, John Thompson, Anthony Weldon,

Apologies: Gaz Coe, Fred Gray, John Harrison, Tony Alcock, Dean Ideson, Marten Hall, Craig Gadd, Dave Hines, Chris Duggan, Mike Maddison, Roger Holding, Tony Foster, Lee Smith, Kev Blacker, Dave and Pauline Meeking, Bob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Martin Lawrence. Jack Brooks.

Guests: Nil

Welcome

The chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all members present and went on to say our super-duper acting secretary was away skiing again! We hope he has a great holiday and comes back in one piece. If there are any discrepancies in the minutes, then blame the Chairman.

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

Proposed by – **Frank Pougher**

Seconded by – **Pete Robson**

Treasure's Report

Glenn brought the meeting up to date with the association finances, “we’re in a healthy position” Anyone wanting to save up for Arnhem, they can do through **Glenn**.

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

Correspondence

At the time of sending these minutes, Birmingham Branch had their AGM and 299 would like to congratulate all those in appointments and those still in post

Chairman's Comments

Cromwell Lock,

Gents, between 299, the Brummies and the old 300 troop we have been volunteered to maintain the Cromwell lock memorial stone garden. The Scottish lads are not going to travel to Cromwell because of the distance involved, so it has been left to us and the Birmingham troop, **Gaz Coe** and **Glenn Ratten** helped maintain it before Covid, but it cannot fall to the same people all the time so we need a roster of volunteers, I am proposing that if 299 can do it every other month from April to September and hopefully the Brummies alternate months, I have spoken to **Steve Brown** and I know them lads will do what they can. Can we do this as an association commitment?

I BELIEVE WE CAN.

I think it's still worth looking after this memorial even if others don't want too, after all it was our fellow brothers, who's memorial we are looking after, and it's on our patch. Its only 3 hours round trip.

Below is the View of our Vice Chairman and acting Secretary who lost his leg in Afghanistan.

My personal view is, that this is very emotive subject, I for one came very close to being put in the ground and although it would have been a great shock to everyone (especially me) Everybody would have rallied round, done their bit and attended to whatever memorial that would have been left behind, however in 20-30yrs time we would then be saying, he was a good kid but we can't be arsed to tend to his memorial now.

So, I do feel it's our duty to look after our own, despite other people washing their hands of the job. But while I'm still a member of this association nobody will say we, 299 didn't do our bit.

The Chairman asked for volunteers to Cover April, June, and August, A big thank you to the volunteers below.

April: Chris Shillito, Tony Weldon, Tony Irwin, Bud Pougher.

June: John Thompson, Ricky Abel.

August: Glenn Ratten, Brad Steele.

By the time these minutes were written three 299 men **Tony Weldon, Tony Irwin** and **Chris Shillito** had been to the memorial garden at Cromwell and cleaned it up. They weeded the pathway leading up to the stone and around it and put weed killer down. No weeds had come through the membrane or slates that are round the roses, the guys found it very easy, so think with a good workable roster it will be an easy task to keep going. **Chris** spoke to the lock keeper Shaun and he is happy for a works party's to just turn up and get on with keeping the memorial tidy. There are no locked gates so just drive up to the memorial, park in the car park with a few gardening tools. **Chris** is having a meeting up with **Steve Brown** and some of the Birmingham committee to secure a workable roster. **Chris** will let you know how the meeting goes.

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Arnhem

We have a trip to Arnhem planned for 2024 Hopefully the same hotel as last time (The Van Der Valk) If so I have been in comms with Ed Van Der laan our Dutch friend and he has offered to liaise with the Hotel for us and get us a good price. It is the 80th anniversary so we will need to book early with ferries and hotels and coaches. If you are interested, we will require a non-refundable deposit, of £100 by the December meeting 2023. Paid in full by the May meeting 2024. We are not able to give a final price until near the date and we have negotiated a good price for the members, rest assured we will try to make it as cheap as possible.

The chairman asked, if everyone getting his texts. **Chris's** phone won't let him do many words so if the text messages are short, that's the reason. The texts are only to jog your memory the details etc the information for meetings is always on our notice board and the Facebook page with a lot more detail.

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The Doncaster lads send their apologies because of a few health issues and send their best regards to the association, we wish them all well.

Tony Foster is still in pain with his knee but slowly improving.

Marten Hall will be out of action for quite a while with leukaemia, we wish him a speedy recovery.

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We have association ties and association shields on sale> Please see the committee if you would like to purchase one.

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Carl Ham is still taking orders for 299 association cycling shirts look at notice board or get in touch with **Carl**. A big thank you to **Carl** for taking on the job of ordering the shirts with all the different sizes not an easy task. As previously mentioned they are £81.00 and you can contact Carl on 07778214483

Any Other Business

Our Standard bearer Tony Irwin tells us he going to be very busy next month with Kings Coronation on and around the 6th of May. Further details to follow.

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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.

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting.

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by: **Bri Bilton**

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

Next Meeting: Friday 5th May at the Minerva kick off 20.00 hrs

This is the AGM, a very important meeting the day before the coronation. Try to make that one as most important meeting of the year the dress for that will be rugby shirts for a photo as usual.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690,
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Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981,
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Archivist: Tony Irwin, 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