



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 5th May 2023, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva, Hull

Members Present: Ricky Abel, Dave Barker, Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Kev Blacker, Steve Briggs, Gary Coe, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Rich Gill, Carl Ham, Dave Harvey, Dave Hines, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Tony Irwin, Steve Knowles, Bob Meachen, Percy McGlynn, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Steve Oliver, Bud Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kev Saddington, Stewart Saxby, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Lee Smith, John Thompson, Tony Weldon, Chris Wilcock, Pete Wilkinson, Dave Wollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies: Anthony Alcock, Jack Brooks, Chris Duggan, Anthony Foster, Derek French, Marten Hall, John Harrison, Karl Parfitt, Roger Holding, Martin Lawrence, Mike Maddison, Dave Meekin, Ken Newton, Paul Robinson. Arthur Stimpson, Brad Steele, Mike Tindle, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker.

Guests:

Pete Quinn, Brad Saddington, Kenny Blain, Ali Mohammed.

Dave Shillito (photographer)

James Shillito (photographers' helper)

It was good to see **Pete Wilkinson** ex 299 troop commander at the meeting who travelled from London to be with us

Chris Wilcock ex OC 299 Parachute squadron who joined us from Somerset.

Great to see **Steve Briggs** at the meeting who hung up his boots last year, aged 67 after many years in Iraq oldest man to be carrying a weapon in the business, **Steve** who is ex 9 Squadron gained his Green Beret in 299 Commando and earned his sandy coloured beret with 23 SAS owning all three berets, quite an achievement well done mate.

The Loyal toast.

The staff at the Minerva served the port, The Chairman asked the 299 association to stand for a toast to the **King Charles III.**

God Bless the King! Long live the King!

Welcome

The Chairman **Chris Shillito**, welcomed all members present, He informed everyone the acting secretary was away on holiday in Colorado, we hope he has a great holiday so any discrepancies in the minutes then blame the Chairman.

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

Proposed by – **Pete Robson**

Seconded by – **Dave Harvey**

Treasure's Report

Glenn brought the meeting up to date with the association finances, “we’re in a healthy position” **Glenn** also thanked **Simbo** for the bus stops he takes round every month and **Dave Hines** for his calendars and other enterprise’s all keeping our funds healthy. 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

The Chairman has been in touch with the AEA and asked for the £100 back that we put into a maintenance fund for Cromwell lock memorial we are in the process of buying a few gardening tools, plus a weed killer sprayer so the volunteers who are working on the memorial can use them and pass them on to the next team. We have now received the £100 back.

Ken Newton ex 299 troop commander sends his best regards to you all.

Karl Parfitt ex 131 Commando OC says he will try to attend a meeting in the future and sends his best regards.

John Harrison our well travelled ex 299 Paratrooper sends his best wishes to all from either Australia, Spain or Antwerp no one knows he’s like the scarlet pimpernel, Thanks **John**.

Chairman’s Comments

Cromwell Lock, the volunteers for maintaining the Cromwell memorial lock has been outstanding we are booked up to 2025. We are covering April, June and August with the Brummies covering May, July and September so all months are covered through the summertime, **Bob Meachen** and **Martin Lawrence** have volunteered their services so they will be 299s first reserve or first in 2025 well done everyone.

We must not forget all the people who volunteered in the past who just went and did the necessary work without being recognised, these guys turned up weeded, grew roses for the garden and left the memorial in good fettle. Here are the names of a few.

Glenn Ratten, Gaz Coe, Martin Tindle, Alan Lee, Arthur Stimpson, Doug Coe, Eileen Smith, Kev & Anne Saddington and Christine Coe god bless her. A big thank you to all these guys if I missed anyone I do apologise.

Arnhem 2024 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 is 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.

.....

Web site.

Dave Hines our awesome webmaster told us we are not having a lot of hits on our website recently, it's a great website with our photos and our Roll of Honour and meeting minutes on there and would be a shame to lose it through lack of use. The chairman asked for a vote and it was unanimous to keep it going so let's get some hits on there.

.....

It was reported that **John Lee** Former will continue to organise the annual service at Cromwell Lock for the next 2 years. The date for this year is Saturday 23rd September 2023. It is also reported that the Airborne Forces Riders will attend along with the usual Newark branch of the Parachute Regiment Association

TRANSPORT

Own cars and car sharing to help those that can't get there

.....

PRESENTATIONS.

The **Les Ransom** shield is awarded for exceptional service to the 299 association. This year the award goes to **Tony Irwin**.

Tony has been and is still a loyal servant of 299 Association for many years now. Tony is our standard bearer and always turns up smart and represents us with style. He is also our archivist, looking after our history and keeping it up to date. He is a keen and active member of the 299 Association committee and attends virtually every event we hold and always offers to help with anything and everything we organise. He also carries our standard at all C.E.S.A. (Council of Ex Service Association) events. They carry standards at any veteran's funeral, many of whom have no relatives, maybe doing two or even three a week on some occasions. **Tony** has always acted above and beyond the call of duty. He frequently visits the graves of 299 comrades and places the wooden cross with poppy at these graves. He's never been asked to do this, nor asked to be reimbursed or even asks for any thanks, just **Tony** paying his respects to his comrades and remembering our brothers. **Tony** is a proud member of 299 Association. (Outstanding Behaviour well done **Tony**)



.....

Gary Coe leaving the post of Secretary, of 299 Association after ten years.

Gaz Coe, who has asked me not to make a fuss about him doing ten years as the association Secretary, so I will keep it short. He always did an outstanding job of looking after the minutes and cares deeply about the association. Always a great help to me, I Always valued his opinion and we both worked together with the rest of the committee for the advancement and good of the association. I could go on forever, but **Gaz** doesn't like praise for his effort's. So I had a mirror made with our badge and his name because he was in the Para side of our association Airborne is written at the bottom.

Although away some of the time I know he will always support the association and attend the meetings. (Well done **Gaz**)



.....

Tony Foster is still in pain with his knee but slowly improving and back taking professional photos.

.....

Marten Hall will be out of action for quite a while with leukaemia, we wish him a speedy recovery. I will get in touch with Marten before next meeting, keep your chin up pal.

.....

Shop.

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

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

Anything from the floor? Nobody had any points to raise.

Stand Down Does anyone want a job, all jobs are up for consideration if you would like to join the committee let us know tonight. We are short of a Secretary which **Craig** has been doing on a temporary basis for a while!

With no takers I have asked all the committee if they are willing to stand again and they are all agreeable.

A big thank you to the committee from me personally.

Committee stays the same but still requires a Secretary. (is there anyone out there)

Remembrance Day raffle, every year we hold a massive raffle in the Minerva and pull the tickets out of a plastic bag or a bucket, so **Dave Hines** has used one of his many skills and made a barrel with turning handle with a Pegasus and dagger on it for the job well done pal. Two raffle prizes already donated from **Steve Knowles** and **Dave Hines** for Armistice day raffle well done guys.

.....

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:

Two bus stops won by:
Neil Busby (Buz)
Tony Irwin.

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

Next Meeting: Friday 2nd June at the Minerva kick off 20.00 hrs

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690,
Mob: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman/Acting Secretary: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com
Mob: 07771880733

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, glennratten@icloud.com Mob: 07795248328.

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981,
Mob: 07821698522.

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

