



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: 4th September 2023 at the Minerva Hull.

Members present: Tony Alcock, Dave Barker, Micky Beardshaw, Gary Coe, Neil Cooper, Chris Duggan, Craig Gadd, Walter Holbrook, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Bud Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kenny Russel, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Arthur Stimpson, Andy Thomas, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies: Kev Blacker, Brian Bilton, Allan Cross, Gordon Crumb, Terry Cunningham, Tony Foster, Derek French, Gerry Grindley, John Harrison, Dave Hines, Mike Holdsworth, Sid Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Will Mahon, Dave Meeking, Ken Newton Paul Robinson, Lee Smith, Brad Steele, Martin Tindle, Pete Wilkinson.

Guests: Nil

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed all members present and thanked them for attending on wet summer's evening. **Chris** went on to say that he had some bad news and **Arthur Stimpsons** wife **Anne** had passed away earlier in the week. They had spent many happy years together. The Chairman asked the members present, to stand and raise a glass to **Anne** and absent friends.

The Association would like to express their sincere Condolences to Arthur and his family at this sad time.

Minutes proposed: as a true record.

Proposed by **Bud Pougher**
Seconded by **Pete Robson**

Treasurers report: **Glenn** went on to say the funds was still in a healthy position. **Glenn** is also taking monies for Arnhem 2024.

We still have rugby shirts, ties and shields etc for sale, please speak to **Glenn**.

Chris added that he wanted to take a £20.00 deposit by September for Arnhem as means of getting numbers, so he can book the ferry, topped up £100.00 by December. Final figure will be disclosed once we know the final figure once everything is booked.

Correspondence:

Ken Newton sends the 299 Association, his best and kind regards and asks to be remembered by them. Deano also sent a message expressing his apologies for not making the meetings as he's still on his jollies overseas but hopes to get over for September.

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The AEA Gala Dinner for 2023 will be held at the Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern 13th – 15th October 2023. If anyone is interested, please let the committee know. I have attached the proforma to the email, there's still rooms available at the hotel. It is hoped we can show a good attendance this year.

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The AEA Gala Dinner 2024 will be held in Hull and organised by 299 Association, as always we will be organising another exceptional dinner. The Vice Chairman is running with this but will need help to organise this, thanks for volunteering **John Thompson** and **Nige Sisson**. The Vice Chairman has already made some enquiries and is looking promising already. More details to follow once confirmed.

Chairman's comments:

Cromwell Lock

A Big thank you to **Tom Smith** and **John Phillips** for maintaining the Cromwell Lock Memorial on the 5th of July. Well done boys.

FEEDBACK FROM THE VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

To be honest they said there wasn't much to do and were probably thinking that every 2 months rather than every month should be enough to keep it tidy.

It was proposed by the members that we will continue with the works this year as already planned, however next year starting in the spring, 299 Association and Birmingham Branch will do this bimonthly.

Don't forget the service this year is on a Saturday, the 23rd September 2023 (confirmed) This is so it doesn't clash with the 1st Para Sqn service at Donnington on the Sunday. The service will be by the side of Cromwell Lock as per previous years so put that in your diary and let's get some 299 association numbers there to pay our respects. Those young men from 300 troop who perished there back on the 28th September 1975. GOD BLESS THEM.

Arnhem.

Glenn is taking deposits for Arnhem 2024 get your money in to secure your place. I realise it's early to get numbers, but we need to order the right size bus no use paying for a 60 seater when you only need a 40 seater plus, we need to book cabins on the Ferry early. If we don't get on the ferry, there is no trip. Also, **Glenn** needs numbers for the hotel so if you wish to go, get your deposits in so we know who wants to go.

Tomo is going to Arnhem this year with his family. I have asked him to lay a 299 Association wreath for us at Driel. Is everyone happy with that? All in favour.

Our old friend **Nev Smales** had a heart attack a few weeks ago and got taken into hospital, He is now in recovering at home. We wish him a speedy recovery and wish him all the best.

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Debby, Tony Foster our resident photographer's wife is still in terrible pain with the server nerve and phantom pain in her arm that isn't there. We send our best wishes and hope they can do something for her soon.

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Simbo

Had his hernia operation in Castle Hill after staging a sit in and refusing to go home when they said they could not operate on him for the 11th time. Well done, Simbo.

I picked him up from Castle Hill and the next night he rang me from HRH, and they said he had suffered a minor stroke. I think he just likes hospital food. Glad you're ok pal.

Marten Hall

*Hi **Chris**, thanks for getting in touch. I'm in remission following the last cycle of treatments. That means I'm off to St James's in Leeds for a couple of months to undergo a bone marrow transplant. Hopefully that'll go well, and I'll be good for a few more years. We'll see, but things are looking positive right now. I hope all is well with the membership and I look forward to attending an Association meeting towards the end of the year.*

We are glad things are looking positive Marten. Good luck.

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Terry Walker Cycled from Humber Bridge to London King's Cross over the weekend. I asked him, why? he said "cos I can"

Well done pal.

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Please use the 299 Facebook and web page for any news or stuff you have done or old memories or photos you have tucked away in your attic, this is your Association so please use it.

Is everyone getting my texts, if not please let me know.

Any other business

Simbo's Bus Stops.

Winner. **Arthur Stimpson**

Next meeting: 1st September 2023 at the Minerva kick off 20.00 hrs.

Dates for your diary

33rd AGM 2023 Welsh Branch

The AGM and Gala Dinner this will be held this at the Abbey Hotel, Great Malvern 13th – 15th October 2023. Details on the AEA Web page

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2024

All details and costings to follow for those going on the trip.

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

CONTACTS:

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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

Veterans Welfare Service <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/veterans-welfare-service>

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk/get-help/welfare-and-benefits/support-for-homeless-veterans>

Royal British Legion <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk>