



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: 1st March 2024 at the Minerva, Hull.

Members present:

Tony Alcock, Dave Barker, Michael Beardshaw, Kev Blacker, Gary Coe, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Carl Ham, Walter Holdbrook, Antony Irwin, Bob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Steve Oliver, Frank Pougher, Glenn Ratten, Peter Robson, Kenny Russel, Christopher Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Lee Smith, Arthur Stimpson, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Antony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Ricky Able, Jack Brooks, Chris Duggan, Andy Green, Dave Harvey, Paul Hairsine, Dave Hines, Carl Henrickson, Syd Hoyle, Roger Holding, Paul Jefferson, Will Mahon, Dean Ideson, Terry Walker.

Chris welcomed all members present and thanked all for attending the monthly meeting. Chris went on to say that Martin Hall's funeral took place last month, with 10 members of the association attending his funeral. Martin served 299 Troop, 131 Indep Cdo Sqn RE from 1993-1995 before going on to 4th Battalion, The Royal Yorkshire Regiment (4 R YORKS).

Guests:

Nil

Minutes proposed: Last February minutes as a true record.

Proposed **Antony Irwin**

Seconded **David Barker**

Treasurer report: Glenn informed the meeting that the funds were still healthy, even though the ferry and hotel for Arnhem had been booked. Glenn went on to say that all members going to Arnhem had paid their £100.00 deposits and that the remaining balance had to be paid by June. Money is also starting to come in for the AGM in October.

Correspondence: Our acting Secretary and Vice Chairman Craig Gadd went on to reiterate the procedure to the members present on the details on the booking for the AGM and Gala Dinner at the Village Hotel-Hull, on the 12th October 2024.

Members and guests of the Airborne Engineers Association can now book accommodation for AGM and Gala Dinner, with banqueting team at the above hotel. Please speak to any of the Meeting & Events team, the direct line is, 01482560905 to make your booking for accommodation and if required, an evening meal on the Friday, if guests are staying on the Friday evening. If there is enough take up on this, (min 50 pers) then the hotel will put on a hot buffet/carvery/curry/chilli type meal, which will be in a private room for members. This will be at an additional cost of £19.95. Or members can just have a meal in the bar and grill, however, this only has capacity to cater for 80 pers, obviously there will be other guests staying in the hotel, so this may be quite busy if all arrive at once.

Once members have booked accommodation with the hotel if staying over, you then need to pay for and book your meal for the Gala Dinner on the Saturday evening through 299 Association. Unfortunately, the hotel cannot organise this hence why you will have to make two separate payments, one for the hotel accommodation and meal on the Friday evening if you require and one to 299 Association for the gala dinner on the Saturday evening. Craig did try to make it simple, but the hotel cannot take payment for the gala dinner. We did try!

The dinner will cost £40.00 per person payable to 299 Association. Please put your name and AGM in the reference and send a copy to Craig Gadd. All the details will be on the proforma. Obviously local members do not have to stay over.

At the minute the numbers don't tally! I appreciate some may be booking the hotel one month and paying for the dinner later, which is fine, but please send a copy of the proforma to Craig Gadd once booked.

NB, if we don't know you're coming, you won't get a seat at the table or get fed

Please see the link to the hotel for the AGM and its facilities. Please do not try and book through the web page as you will not get the negotiated rate that **Craig** has secured.

<https://www.village-hotels.co.uk/hull>

AGM Golf

Tomo, along with Billy Morris, have secured the usual golfing day for the AEA Members on the Friday 11/10/2024 at Hull Golf Club.

Bacon Rolls and Coffee at 09:00 with a 10:00 Tee off. There is a dress and etiquette policy. Please see here;

https://hull.intelligentgolf.co.uk/uploads/hull/File/Public%20Website%20Docs/HullGolfClub_DressCode.pdf

You can contact Tomo and Billy here;
johntomo299@yahoo or 07736592429
bsfm968@gmail.com or 07840102900

The Hull Golf Club (1921) Limited

The Hall, 27 Packman Lane, Kirkella, East Yorkshire, HU10 7TJ.

Pro Shop: 01482 660972

Admin: 01482 660970

Any member playing, would hope you'll be attending the gala dinner also.

Chairman's Comments:

Captain Martin Hall passed away in January, and 10 members of the association attended his funeral as mentioned earlier.

Nev Smales and Ron Stuart are up on the Roll of Honour board, obviously this will need updating again with Martin Hall.

There **won't** be a meeting in April as the Minerva has a private function on, they offered us other dates, but this doesn't work for us. With no venue for the next meeting the committee has decided to cancel April's meeting. The one after that will be 3rd May 2024 which is our AGM, the most important meeting of the year. Dress will be rugby shirts for the annual photo, hopefully the weather will be kind to us this year.

Arnhem going along nicely we need all the cash in by the June meeting. One of the big hotels in Arnhem, part of the Fletcher group, has let their customers down and cancelled all bookings coinciding with the Arnhem celebrations as the hotel is going to be used for immigrants, let's hope our hotel doesn't follow suite.

Airborne Engineers Gala Dinner

Will be held at the Village Hotel Saturday 12th October 2024. Try to get there as Craig Gadd, John Thompson and Nige Sisson will put a lot of work in to make it a success. The Airborne Engineers will attend from all over the country with OC and RSM of 23 Engineer Regiment as guests.

Arnhem is from the Thursday 19th October 2024 until the Monday 23rd September 2024 the coach, hotel and the ferry are all booked. Everyone should have paid their £100 deposit.

If you're going to Arnhem, please text Chris your name as it appears on your passport. This is for P&O Ferries.

Any other business.

John Thompson mentioned that there was a Normandy trip being run by another unit in May and asked if anyone interested, please get in touch with him.

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It was decided, as there is no meeting next month some of the members still wanted to get together for a social around old town. This was happily agreed by some, so if you wish to come along for a beer or two, meet us in Empress, Alfred Gelder St, Hull 20:00 5th April 2024

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We still have rugby shirts, Association plaques and association ties for sale see the Committee.

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.

Simbo's Bus stop

Winner: **Simbo**

Next meeting 3rd May 2024

Dates for your diary

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2024 Dates : Thursday 19th September 2024 - Monday 23rd September 2024. Hotel, Coach, and Ferry are now booked. Price £420. Save up with Glenn.

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

CONTACTS:

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Archivist: Tony Irwin, bigtirwin@hotmail.com Tel; 01482 793847, Mb: 07928956592.

WELFARE:

Veterans ID Card link <https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>

Hull 4 Heroes Supporting those that Served <https://hull4heroes.org.uk> 01482 534483.

Help for Heroes <https://www.helpforheroes.org.uk>

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

SSAFA <https://www.ssafa.org.uk>

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