



299 ASSOCIATION RE

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 the members of 131 Independent Commando Squadron RE, 299 Para 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 4th October 2024 at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Mike Beardshaw, Neil Cooper, Chris Duggan, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Walter Holbrook, Syd Hoyle, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Keith Morley, Steve Oliver, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Nigel Sisson, Paul Sims, Chris Shillito, Arthur Stimpson, Rhys Swatman, Martin Tindle.

Apologies:

Ricky Abel, Kev Blacker, Gary Coe, Terry Cunningham, Tony Foster, Richard Gill, John Harrison, Dave Harvey, Carl Henrickson, Roger Holding, Mike Holdsworth, Mike Maddison, Martin Lawrence, Rob Meachen, Bud Oldfield, Lee Smith, John Thompson, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Guests:

None.

Chairman:

The chairman Chris Shillito, opened the evening and welcomed all members present at the Minerva Inn.

Minutes proposed: A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Paul Sims.

Second: Neil Cooper.

Treasurer: Glenn Ratten, informed the meeting that the funds are still healthy, as we still have accounts to settle. He also went on to remind members anyone wanting tickets for the AGM could do so for those that haven't booked yet.

Acting Secretary

Craig Gadd, went on to remind members of the forthcoming AEA AGM and Gala Dinner on the 12th October 2024 and gave the running order for the weekend. Craig also reminded members that this is a Black-Tie event (i.e., Tuxedo) for veterans and Mess Kit for Officers, WO's SNCO's and OR's, those that might have missed the dress code.

Friday.

09:30 Bacon butties, at Hull Golf Club for those that have registered with Billy Morris and John Thompson.

19:00-19:30 Evening meal in the Vibe Suite 21:00 finish Bar to close at 22:00 but guest can retire to the main bar and continue with refreshments. (only for those that have previously booked)

Saturday.

10:00-12:00 AGM Vision Suite.

Tea & Coffee provided.

TBC. Crazy Golf in the afternoon.

19:00 Bar opens in the Inspiration Suite.

19:45 Guests to be seated.

19:50 VIP Guests to be piped in.

19:55 Welcome brief from Vice Chairman 299 Association.

20:00 Dinner commences.

01:00 Carriages.

Sunday

07:30-10:30 Breakfast

11:00 Depart

Please see link for the Hotel facilities

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

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Craig, also mentioned that John 'Pip' Pipitone had passed away on the 21st of September 2024 with the funeral on the 16th October. Craig went on to mention that one of his mates had written a great write up about him on the Commando REA page. There was also another former member of the Sqn who had passed away and her daughter knew very little about her father and had ask for some help amongst the veteran community to help her out, thankfully our good friend Capt Dudley helped out. Craig went on to mention although we are all good friends, but unless we joined at the same time and went through the same causes etc, we probably don't know each other that well. So, Craig has asked that members write a little bio of themselves, stating when they joined, length of service, courses passed, etc etc and send them into him.

Craig will collate these and when the need arises these will be used to recommend you for any commendations or to use as a eulogy if needed.

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Chris, went on to say what an outstanding trip Arnhem was. A big thank you to all the Committee for making trip run smoothly. A big thank you to Steve Hignett for the awesome video he made of our trip very professional.

We had a great turnout from 299 at the Cromwell lock last Saturday, on the 28th September. It's good to know the ten Airborne Sappers who perished there 49 years ago are still remembered. Thanks to all who attended. Hopefully we can all make it a special one next year for the 50th anniversary.

Our good friend Carl Henrickson has kindly donated £150 towards our Remembrance Day buffet, He can't make the meetings but still with us in spirit. Thanks Carl.

Chris said he has sent a thank you, to Les Holland coach company thanking him and Carl Shaw our driver, for the smooth running of our Arnhem trip.

Raffle prizes for Remembrance Sunday. If you could spare a prize or a bottle for the raffle, please bring it to the next meeting on the 1st November 2024 so we can pop it in the cellar.

Welfare:

John Harrison has had his second chemotherapy this week. We hope the news is positive and we look forward to seeing him at the Gala dinner on the 12th October.

Dave Harvey has finished his course of 6 chemotherapy sessions, but unfortunately it has not worked, and the cancer has spread so he is now having radiation treatment. We wish him well and hope this does the trick. He sends his best regards to the association.

Mike Maddison is still recovering from a hip replacement and sends his regards to the association.

Any other business:

Tony Irwin, went on to say that this year's Remembrance Day Parade will form up in Queen Victoria Square, marching down Carr Lane, onto the cenotaph, due to Hull City AFC playing. If successful, this may start from here every year.

Bus stop winner: Martin Tindle

Next meeting: 1st November 2024 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Dates for your diary

AGM and Gala Dinner 12 October 2024

Remembrance Parade 10th November 2024

CONTACTS:

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WELFARE:

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>

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