



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 31st January 2025 at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Derick French, Craig Gadd, Walter Holbrook, Tony Irwin, Tom James, Martin Lawrence, Rob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kenny Russel, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nige Sisson, John Thompson, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Tony Weldon.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Kev Blacker, Gaz Coe, Chris Duggan, John Harrison, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Dave Meeking, Ken Newton, Lee Smith.

Guests:

Mike Holdsworth

Chairman:

The chairman Chris Shillito, opened the evening, the first for 2025 and welcomed all members present at the Minerva Inn. Chris informed the members that we had lost 2 members this year already, Dave Harvey and Ole Nelson Girtchens of which members attended both funerals and gave these men a 299 send off. Chris asked all members to be upstanding, as he read the airborne prayer and Tony Irwin read out the exhortation.

Minutes proposed: A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Mick Beardshaw.

Second: Terry Cunningham.

Treasurer: Glenn, informed the meeting that the funds are healthy. He went on to say Dave Hines is reformatting the website and hopes to come to the next meeting, to update us all.

Glenn also mentioned that the bank is now starting to charge us for banking services, so asked members to use internet banking or cash only, when paying into the associations account, no cheques please.

Acting Secretary

Craig, informed members that the dates had been set for the AGM and Gala Dinner in Scotland which will be 17th-19th October 2025 and will be held at the MacDonalds Inchyra Hotel & Spa Falkirk. Details for booking are attached. Please let the committee know if you wish to attend.

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

A few members attended Dave Harvey's funeral although Dave never served with 299 his father was one of the founder members of 299 and Dave always supported the Association over the years. Dave's funeral was very well attended, which is a great tribute to him, with a few readings from family and friends. At the end of the service, they played a video of a drum solo, A very talented guy, a qualified Physiotherapist, ski instructor, Tai chi Master, and a brilliant musician who turned professional at a very young age, the crematorium was packed solid.

Several members attended Ole Nelson Girtchens funeral who was 299s chef and the Sqn's Master chef for many years. A great turnout from the members, and a big thank you from the family to you all for attending and lining the route into the crematorium with a guard of honour.

Cromwell Lock maintenance rota

May, July and September volunteers.

May Percy McGlynn and Richy Gill.

July, John Thompson and Ricky Able TBC

September: Shags, Weldo, Tony Irwin, Craig Gadd. Just before the 50th anniversary service.

Mike Holdsworth, addressed the association with the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Cromwell Lock and asked 299, if they will work with the Birmingham branch and posed many questions, to make sure that the organising of the Anniversary runs smoothly. There are a lot of moving parts and several organisations involved. So please let Mike Holdsworth OIC and Craig Gadd know of any details concerning the Anniversary, so we can make this run as smoothly as possible and pay the correct respects to the family members of this tragic accident 50 years ago.

A list of jobs to be actioned can be found attached with this document.

A vote for 299 Association's annual trip held to go to either Arnhem or Normandy. The vote was unanimous for Normandy and the dates will be from the 26th - 30th June 2025. John Thompson will be the lead on this year's event to Normandy. To book your seat we need names and a £100 deposit ASAP. Payment in full 7 days before travel. Further details to follow.

Outline Plan as follows.

Ferry Crossing Portsmouth to Caen

4 nights Bed and Breakfast at Sejours et Affaires / Residence etudiante – Les estudines Caen

Le Clos Beaumois

Executive Coach Travel

£445 per person (based on 40 Passengers) Birmingham Branch to confirm Numbers or if interested ASAP.

Obviously, members can attend Arnhem if they wish, but will have to make their own arrangements or speak to other branches if you can tag along.

Welfare:

Nil

Any other business:

The Chairman Chris Shillito informed the meeting that he would not be standing for re-election at the next AGM in May. Anyone wishing to put the names forward as the new Chairman please forward your interest to the Vice Chair Craig Gadd.

The Chairman Closed the meeting.

Note from the Vice Chair

Gents, Chris has done an outstanding job as Chairman for the Association, over the last 12 years. Therefore, the Association will be looking for a new Chairman come May, at the AGM. Craig is already doing two jobs and cannot do the Chairman's job too. This is your Association, so please help run it and keep this great Association running. We are still looking for a permanent secretary too.

Bus stop winner: Neil Cooper

Next meeting: 7th March 2025 20:00hrs at the Minerva.

Dates for your diary

Normandy Trip 26th – 30th June 2025

Crowell Lock 28th September 2025

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.