



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: April 10th, 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Mick Beardshaw, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Tom Foster, Craig Gadd, Tony Irwin, Tom James, Martin Lawrence, Bud Oldfield, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Kev Blacker, Gary Coe, Chris Duggan, Richy Gill, Carl Henrickson, Mike Holdsworth, Syd Hoyle, Dean Ideson, Mike Maddison, Dave Meekin, Percy McGlynn, Keith Morley, Glen Ratten, Paul Robinson, John Thompson, Terry Walker.

Guests:

None

Chairman:

Chris, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and that we'd had two 80th birthdays last month, Tony Weldon and Dave Woollas. Other birthdays mentioned were, Tony Irwin at 86 and Bud Oldfield at 88. Which brought a big round of applause from the members.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Nigel Sisson

Seconder: Mick Beardshaw

Treasurer

No report. Treasurer on leave

Secretary

Dave started with a thank you for the minutes from Tim Van Der Kraan and his best wishes to all members of the association and families. Tim also hopes to catch up with members at the AGM in Nottingham. More forms and info for the dinner were available here if anyone needs them?

We had a request from Tony Kitching's wife, Linda, re support for Tony whose mobility has sadly deteriorated and he's been in a care home for a while now. His major need at the moment is for a high recliner so he can rest comfortably and be assisted out of a chair. Chris came in on this to highlight Tony's service and asked the association to support the effort to supply a chair for Tony.

Following discussions from the floor, the motion was passed that the association will assist in the purchase of a chair for Tony. I'll be arranging a visit to Linda to gather all details to move on with the purchase.

Vice Chairman

Craig, announced that Chris Duggan and Ricky Able are still trying to organise a trip to Normandy in 2027 but they require numbers to get a gauge on this. Once finalised a deposit will confirm any places before anything is booked.

Phil Taylor had sent Craig "Branch Matters" which is attached for you to read.

Craig went on to remind members who served are entitled to apply for the Veteran's Pin Badge. Regular and Reserve Forces are entitled to apply. It just requires basic info like Service Number, Date of Service, Name etc.

Accommodation for the John Rock Dinner and AGM at the hotel in October has nearly sold out at the discounted rate, there's only about ten rooms left so book ASAP otherwise you'll lose the opportunity to attend.

Don't forget the Association is paying for the food element for the dinner at the AGM for 299 members.

We just need to get members to join the REA now. Let's fully support the Association and keep being the strongest Association within the AEA/REA. We want everyone who hasn't forwarded their details to us for inclusion on our database to please do so. Link below.

<https://members.reahq.org.uk/Membership-Application>

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

The main issue has already been discussed with regard to Tony Kitching and that the issue regarding funding be discussed at the AGM.

The AGM is the most important meeting of the year and the one when we have our annual association photograph taken by our awesome photographer Tony Foster. Please remember to wear your association rugby shirt for the photograph and please make a big effort to attend.

Welfare:

Paul Sims thanked Chris and Craig for going down and repairing his mobile scooter.

Any other business:

More discussion was needed regarding funding support our members in the future and how much we may contribute to those in need moving forward. However, this will always be discussed on, case by case basis. So, this will be discussed at next month's AGM with discussion on a cap towards any funding to protect all the members in the future. A proposal was then made by Nige Sisson, seconded by Tony Irwin that we put a cap on the amount offered towards Tony's chair. The vote was carried unanimously. Bud then personally donated £100 towards the chair followed by a donation of £20 from Simbo and £50 from Chris.

Bus stop winner: No Bus stop held

Next meeting: May 1st 2026

With nothing more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting

Dates for your diary

6th June 2026 299 Para Sqn Reformation Anniversary, Wakefield, 1pm –Midnight
(Check with Craig or 299 Para Sqn for further details)

25th July Regimental Reunion Day at Rock Barracks, Woodbridge, Suffolk

29th April 2026 OGM via zoom

9th – 11th October 2026 AEA AGM and John Rock Dinner

8th November 2026 Remembrance Parade

CONTACTS:

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

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

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, 299gaddy@gmail.com Mob: 07771880733

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

Secretary: Dave Woollas, dave.hotstepscountry@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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.