



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: March 6th, 2026, Monthly Meeting at the Minerva Inn, Hull.

Members present:

Mick Beardshaw, Neil Cooper, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Walter Holbrook, Tony Irwin, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Kenny Russell, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Martin Tindle, Tony Weldon, Dave Woollas.

Apologies:

Ricky Able, Tony Alcock, Kev Blacker, Gary Coe, Terry Cunningham, Chris Duggan, Tony Foster, Carl Henrickson, Roger Holding, Syd Hoyle, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Paul Robinson, Lee Smith, John Thompson, Terry Walker.

Guests:

None

Chairman:

Chris, opened the meeting by welcoming everybody and that he'd received apologies from the Doncaster Lads. He then called for a proposal that the minutes of the last meeting were a true record of that meeting.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Mick Beardshaw

Secunder: Tony Irwin

Treasurer

Glenn, stated funds are healthy and that we would be joining the REA bank account as soon as it can be set up. At present it's going through but depends on the other branches to do their bit before it goes live. Branch accounts will be held centrally from now on as per the charities commission suggestions, through the REA. However, each branch will have full access to their funds as we used to and have full control of our funds as previously mentioned. All banking charges will be administered and taken care of by the REA. We'll now be able to do internet banking and will have our own debit card making banking much easier for our treasurer.

With regards to our funds, certain suggestions have come about donating monies to local charities, but the fund is primarily there to support the welfare and needs of our association members. After which, with the approval of our association members, we may if we propose, to offer support to other like-minded causes? What do people think?

Secretary

Dave, started with a reference to the AGM and John Rock Dinner in October and mentioned that just in case anyone doesn't have access to computer or printers, he's re-arranged and printed the form into a one-page document and printed some copies off, along with envelopes, to make it easier for completing and posting. He'll bring more to the next meeting and will also email the form with the minutes. With regards to our association funds, he felt that as our funds were raised by the members of the Association for the support of its members in any way agreed, then they must come first. If we want to raise some money to support another charity, then that's a different ball game and must be done independently.

Vice Chairman

Craig, reminded the meeting that at the top of our letterhead where our constitution states who we are; *'relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependant(s) of a member of this association and promoting and encouraging such events that may bring pleasure to all members of this association'*. We should start looking at our members within the association first before any other considerations.

Craig, then went on to discuss the membership strength at 299 Association, the committee went through the membership as defined by the REA and 299 Association have, 117 members this includes 91 life members (those who served in the corps) 2 all arms members (served non-Corps) 23 friends and family, 1 widow.

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.

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

The AGM and the John Rock gala dinner on the weekend of the 9th-11th October 2026 and suggested that the Association could pay for the food element for the weekend but would need a proposer.

The members of the association voted to pay for the food element of the weekend, for 299 Life members only, attending the weekend.

Proposer Nige Sisson.

Seconded Glenn Ratten.

Those wishing to attend the weekend are to pay for accommodation direct with the hotel as per the booking form and then send your wishes to attend to Steve Wallis, less any payment for food. This is for 299 Association life members only who attend the weekend.

299 Para Sqn RE, are having a 20yr Re-Formation Function on the 6th June 2026 and it would be great for 299 Association to support this keeping our links strong with the Sqn. If there is enough interest, we could look at putting on transport.

Food will be served throughout day with children's entertainment and night time entertainment throughout and our Honorary Colonel Al Murray in attendance. He may even bring the Pub Landlord!

13:00 -18:00 Families Function

18:00 - 23:59 Adults Function.

£15.00 a ticket @ Bagden Hall Hotel

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

Chris, asked for everyone's view regarding our funds, and everyone agreed with the points raised already, and that the funds are there to be used for its members.

Welfare:

Paul Sims, had previously asked for some help with his wheelchair/electric scooter. As he was struggling getting around. Our Vice Chairman Craig, is looking into this for Paul.

With nothing furthermore to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting.

Any other business: None

Bus stop winner: Kenny Russell

Next meeting: 10th April 2026

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, Uxbridge (23 Regimental HQ)

29th April 2026 OGM via zoom

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

8th November 2026 Remembrance Parade

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.