



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 Squadron RE.

Promoting and encouraging such events as may bring pleasure to all members of this association.

Relieving where practicable any hardship or distress suffered by a member, or dependent(s) of a member of this association.

Promoting and maintaining contact with the members of 131 Independent Squadron RE; and all other Airborne/Commando associations.

W. Dick, (Seadog), 2/8/2002

Date: Friday 6th May at the Minerva, kicked off at 20:00 hrs.

Read script for the (LAST PRINTED FORMAT)

ASSOCIATION AGM & OGM.

Members Present: A. Alcock, D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, B. Bilton, K. Blacker, G. Coe, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, C. Duggan, A. Foster, P. Hairsine, C. Ham, D. Harvey, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, P. Jefferson, M. Lawrence, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, K. Millington, F. Pougher, B. Oldfield, G. Ratten, P. Robson, K. Saddington, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sisson, L. Smith, B. Steele, A. Thomas, Mart. Tindle, C. Walker, T. Walker, A. Weldon, D. Woollas, N. Yates.

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, D. Hines, D. French, J. Thompson, G. Beaumont, G. Crum, J. Duffy, A. Costello, A. Kitching, R. Gill, R. Swatman, M. Sunderland, S. Briggs, R. Able, A. Stimpson, B. Houghton, G. Crum, J. Harrison, J. Brooks.

Guests: Pauline Meekin, Eileen Robinson.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present by firstly thanking **Tony Foster (Photographer)** for sorting the annual group shot once again, (see back), he never fails us, he then went on to thank all those involved with tonight's raffle especially **Weldo & Simbo** with the money raised going to **SEN (Special Educational Needs)**, this is only possible because of the generosity of you people with your support, and prize gifts giving, when called upon. As always, he was pleased to welcome our lady guests tonight, then he opened the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were proposed as a true record?

Proposed by – **Frank (Bud) Pougher**.

Seconded by – **Brian (Bud) Oldfield**.

Treasure's Report: The Treasurer **Glenn Ratten** produced a breakdown on the audited state of this association's funds which continue to remain in a positive position. This association has continued in not collecting subscriptions for the time been and relies heavily upon fund raising amongst ourselves, for instance **Simbos** striptease bus stops, **Tony Fosters** sale of professional photography work amongst the 299 family and friends and the genius creations coming from that super webmaster **Dave Hines**, just to mention a few. We have held some auctions and big raffles to help with our funding, but also in the supporting of many charities, and I thank you all again for your support, especially **Weldo** who is at the back of most things, generally making it happen, and is a tremendous driving force in helping the serving committee. After saying all this, it has been decided that printed minutes have to be paid for, cost of everything has gone through the roof, and it costs £1 just to send them, never mind the printing costs, therefore it's been calculated that a cost of £25 per year is needed if you want your monthly minutes in a printed format, approximately £2 a month, less than a cup of tea per month, I sense the panic setting in amongst some of you, and realise this may send some of you running for the hills, **but you cannot expect to be subsidised by the rest of the members, it's just not fair and not team spirited**, the minutes are not denied to you, just find an email address for the Secretary to send them to you for your reading, or get a loan to pay the money, and continue as before, (big decision).

I would remind people going to Arnhem money is due by 1st July, the total is approximately £330 p/p, I am still awaiting ferry costs which is delayed because of the P&O crisis and we hope it will be resolved well before our trip.

I propose, with your permission, that we move our bank account from 'Virgin Money' who want to charge the association for every transaction, to the 'Lloyds Bank' who do not. This was put to the meeting and agreed.

Correspondence: The Secretary **Gary Coe** had little to report this month but includes an exchange of emails between our Chairman **Chris Shillito** & **Major Olaf Dudley OC 131 Commando Squadron** regarding the 75th Anniversary since the formation of the 131 Regiment, celebrations held at Kingsbury in London on W/end commencing 23rd April 2022.

Thanks for a well organised weekend **Olaf**, really enjoyed meeting up with lots of old friends. What a great team of men and women you've got, friendly and efficient and patient with us older folk. Please pass on our sincere thanks to all involved and yourself for making it happen.

Regards **Chris Shillito**.

Chris, thank you. I will pass that on. The event would have been a shadow of what it was without you and the 299 Association been there.

Regards **Olaf**

Chairman's Comments: **Chris Shillito** stated that a great weekend was had by all on **St George's Day** down in Kingsbury with our 131 brothers, I sent a thank you to **Olaf** (see above) and he replied that without 299 it would have been a totally less successful weekend, therefore well done to all who made the effort. I think the **Les Holland** bus we hired to take us down there proved to be a success and saved us a lot of cash, when compared with **Acklams** quote. We have booked him for Arnhem at a good price.

ARNHEM TRIP: I rang P&O ferries last week and they assured me that everything is back to normal and I should hear from them soon. I have been pricing up flights and sailings from Newcastle to Amsterdam just in case they go bust, but hopefully it should be OK.

RUGBY SHIRTS: I have orders for eleven up to now, but need twelve to get the same price. I would like to order a few more different sizes to keep in stock, because as soon as I put an order in somebody else requires one, but would need a vote on this, this was put to the meeting and consensus was given by all.

QUESTION: Has everybody got an Association tie or needs a new one? If not I will order another batch.

At the last meeting the Chairman asked a favour that we raffle the left over bottles at the AGM in aid of a charity that **Steph**, the manageress of the Minerva has asked us to support. **Steph** backs us up a lot getting us favour on the room for our meetings and generally looking after us. The Minerva is a good venue for us and I thank you for supporting her.

We held a raffle and raised £300 for her charity S.E.N. (Special Educational Needs), therefore well done to our ticket sellers and especially to you guys for your generosity in supporting this raffle.



Chris Shillito presenting cheque to Steph.

N/B: It's common knowledge that **Chris** won 4 prizes in this raffle which brought cries of fix from many in the room, and as Chairman he would like all readers to know that he put 3 of the prizes back in the draw.

The Secretary called for a

A NEW COMMITTEE NEEDED

Secretary's rant:

This is a big call to all you people that are longing to be a committee member, 'you're all out there', you are the people who couldn't stop forming new groups and committees, including meetings whilst hiding behind the covid virus restrictions, this is your chance to come out and do it for real with the 299 Association, but this time is not just for a gang of mates and selected few bikers/runners, them days have gone, this is for any man that has served with 299, red or green, it makes no difference, we are all colour blind, rank achieved or length of service counts for nothing, every man is equally important.

This association is very proud of its 'Associate members' (people who never served with 299 but want to be a part of it), **there you have it**, I'm calling you guys out, and we know who you are, come and do the business, or are you all just wind and trousers? Staying away will not get you off the hook, you've already showed your hand and are needed now.

The incumbents then stood down leaving all positions vacant and needing to be filled, but sadly nobody put themselves forward for selection, surprise-surprise, the wind & trouser brigade were nowhere to be seen.

This scenario had been predicted and probably for the last time the previous committee members had agreed to serve for yet another year, if it was needed, this must be taken as fair warning for the future of this association, and it was put to the vote,

Proposed by Terry Cunningham and Seconded by Dave Barker with total agreement from the meeting.

The 299 Committee stands as last year:

Chris Shillito - Chairman

Craig Gadd - Vice Chairman

Gary Coe – Secretary

Glenn Ratten – Treasurer

Dave Hines – Webmaster

Tony Irwin – Archivist

Matters arising: regarding **Kevin Blacker** ex 299 Commando and well into his 50's who completed the 300KM self-supported ultra-race following **Wainwright's** coast to coast route from St Bees to Robin hoods bay.

This race started with the Silva Northern Traverse in St Bees and crosses the entire Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. This massive achievement in fitness and courage has been a while coming for **Kev** because of postponements due to the virus and it's great that he still enjoys tackling the challenge set down by these events. He managed to keep the foot damage to a minimum, self-care, snatching sleep where necessary and was tracked all the way. Sooner you than me **Kev**, but it's a well done from us all at this association.

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

Next Meeting: Friday 10th June 2022, kick off 20:00 hrs. At the Minerva.

Had to move this meeting to the second Friday in the month because the Queen is having a party on the first.

WITH NOTHING MORE TO DISCUSS THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING THANKING ALL FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE



All Photos

Big thank you to Tony Foster Ex 4th Battalion Para Regt.

Dates for your diary:

ARNHEM PILGRIMAGE 2022

15TH – 19TH September 2022, all details to follow for the people going on this trip.

32nd AGM Birmingham 2022

32nd AGM will be held in Birmingham Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport 21st -23rd October 2022, anyone wanting to attend can book direct with the Birmingham Branch.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13th NOV. 2022, muster 9:30hrs down Pease Street, Anlaby Road, Hull.
Dress for parade & service at the Cenotaph.

1 Troop 299 Squadron are parading in Hull this year and will be sharing the buffet at the Minerva with the association.

CONTACTS:

Chairman: Chris Shillito, chrisshillito299@outlook.com Tel: 01482 806690, Mb: 07877277288.

Vice Chairman: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mb: 47771880733

Secretary: Gaz Coe, coeblimey240@gmail.com Tel: 01757 268188.

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

Web Master: Dave Hines, davehines2@davehines2.karoo.co.uk Tel: 01482 860981, Mb: 07821698522.

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

WELFARE:

The veterans Hub & Forum, coordinator Callum Day for all your problems

Address: Goodwin Community Hub, Anlaby Road, Hull. HU3 2LL, (opposite the `Tigers Lair`).

Tel: 01482 485958, email: veteranshub@goodwintrust.org

