



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: May 2nd Monthly Meeting and AGM at the Minerva Inn Hull.

Members present:

Mike Beardshaw, Brian Bilton, Kevin Blacker, Gaz Coe, Neil Cooper, Terry Cunningham, Chris Duggan, Tony Foster, Derek French, Craig Gadd, Dave Hines, Syd Hoyle, Tony Irwin, Paul Jefferson, Martin Lawrence, Bob Meachen, Keith Morley, Bud Oldfield, Steve Oliver, Glenn Ratten, Pete Robson, Chris Shillito, Paul Sims, Nigel Sisson, Rhys Swatman, Andy Thomas, Martin Tindle, Terry Walker, Tony Weldon, Pete Wilkinson, Dave Woollas, Neil Yates.

Apologies:

Tony Alcock, Paul Dughan, Richard Gill, John Harrison, Carl Henrickson, Percy McGlynn, Dave Meekin, Paul Robinson, Kev Saddington, Lee Smith, John Thompson,

Guests:

None.

Chairman:

The chairman Chris Shillito, opened the evening and welcomed all members present to the Minerva Inn. This being our most important meeting of the year our AGM. The AGM was well attended with Tony Foster taking our annual photograph, Thank you Tony.

Minutes proposed:

A true record of the last meeting.

Proposer: Tony Irwin.

Seconder: Neil Cooper.

Treasurer

Our treasurer Glenn Ratten, informed the members that the funds are healthy and thanked all who have raised money for the association throughout the year. He also thanked the rest of the committee for their support.

Acting Secretary

Craig Gadd, informed the members that the OGM of the AEA took place on Wednesday 30th April, which Craig represented the Association. Craig, had requested a grant of £1000 towards the Cromwell Anniversary which was unanimously voted in favour to support. Other matters were raised including the merger of the AEA and the REA, this continues and all the requests from the AEA have been or are being accepted. The meeting also discussed the possibility of each branch receiving a grant of £1000-£2000 from the merger, this will be voted on at the AGM in October. Dave Liebrick, will be voted in as the new AEA chairman taking over from Steve Wallis who has done a sterling job during his tenure.

Steve informed the meeting that he has requested 42 tickets for the national remembrance parade in London and each branch would be allocated 4 tickets, with the rest going into a ballot. Any member wishing to attend, then please contact Craig, get your request in early.

When the minutes from the meeting are produced I will post them to members.

Craig, also informed the meeting of some bad news that was passed on from Capt Dudley (PSAO) 131 Commando Sqn RE, about Markus Hose. Markus served with the Sqn around 2006 as troop commander at 301Tp and deployed on Herrick 5 with other members from the Sqn.

Hello Craig,

Sorry to be the bringer of awful news, but this week I received this message from Markus Hose.

'About 4 weeks ago I had a cancer diagnosis and have undertaken a round of Chemo, but unfortunately the cancer is very aggressive and has significantly damaged the liver. 'I learnt today that my prognosis is approximately 2 weeks as the liver is in failure. 'I am doing well within myself, and I wanted to express my gratitude to have shared time with you and the 131 community and clearly doing the tour was one of the highlights of my blessed and rich life.'

Markus has been living in California for a while and I'm conscious that he and his family must have a million and one things going on at the moment.

I'm therefore hoping to get some messages together with memories from the ex-131 lads so I can create a 'card' to email to him, with a few photos from Herrick 5, etc. Please could you send me something by COP Monday evening if you'd like to add a few words.

Many thanks, Duds

Craig replied with the following,

Markus, I'm deeply sorry to hear about your illness. I'm certain you've accomplished many remarkable things in your life. It was truly heart-warming to hear how much you cherished your time with 131, particularly your deployment on Herrick 5 with the guys. Although we didn't serve together in Afghanistan, I vividly remember you and the positive impact you had as a young officer.

During this challenging time, I want to extend my heartfelt thoughts and prayers to you and your family at your time of need. Gaddy 🙏

Markus, the members of 299 Association wish you well at this difficult time and are thinking of you and your family.

CHAIRMANS COMMENTS:

The Cromwell lock 50th anniversary, is a very important event to be held at the lock on the 28th September and maximum numbers are required, so please put this in your diary. Nigel Sisson suggested we hire transport for this event so members can have a drink. This will be looked at nearer the time.

The Chairman raised the importance of keeping in touch with our members who live or work overseas, 299 are spread all over the world and we value their input and support in our great Association.

Presentations

The Chairman presented the "Les Ransom" trophy to Pete Robson, for his loyalty, dedication and attendance, and as stand in standard bearer duties. Well done, Pete well deserved.

Welfare:

That old paratrooper John (Willy) Harrison, is still fighting his health problems bravely, we wish him all the very best.

Any other business:

AGM was held and we had one vacant position taken by Dave Wollas. Dave volunteered for the position of Secretary, or maybe press ganged into it. The rest of the committee stays the same for another year, The chairman thanked all the committee members for their commitment.

Derik French, informed members that Tesco was offering veterans a 10% discount, for VE day. You can find the info here.

https://www.tescopl.com/tesco-announces-exclusive-discount-for-troops-and-veterans-this-ve-day/?sc_cmp=ppc*GHS+-+Grocery+-+New*MPX_SEA_Mixed+Acquisition_BR_VE+Day+2025_Campaign+Budget_1012721*VE+Exact*tesco+armed+forces+discount*e&gclid=Cj0KCQjwoNzABhDbARIsALfY8VMjfo4eBXIjKx4EUZ2Py4H5p6YuHIQ3n6vDRIsiACbqfOhi5hHGSM0aArRFEALw_wcB

Craig, thanked Chris for his sterling work that he does as our chairman. Chris does a ton of work behind the scenes for our association and is a testament for the strength of our association today. Also, for making the secretaries job that much easier.

Bus stop winner:

Martin Tindle

Next meeting:

Will be on the 6th June D Day our awesome standard bearer Tony Irwin will be at the Cenotaph with standard at 1100hrs.

With no more to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting.

Dates for your diary

Cromwell lock.

50th Anniversary to be held at the lock on the 28th September 2025 service to commence at 1100hrs.

Remembrance Parade

9th November Hull more details will be available nearer the time.

CONTACTS:

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

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

Vice Chairman & Acting Secretary: Craig Gadd, craig.gadd@hotmail.com Mob: 07771880733

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

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

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