



299 ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to the AEA, Charity No: 1009201

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 association.

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

Date: 4th December 2015

Members Present: M. Beardshaw, G. Beaumont, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, G. Coe, N. Cooper, A. Costello, T. Cunningham, W. Drayton, J. Duffy, R. Franklin, D. French, D. Hines, S. Hoyle, D. Ideson, A. Irwin, A. Kitching, C. Lickiss, J. Mace, F. Pougher, L. Ransom, G. Ratten, K. Robinson, K. Saddington, C. Shillito, P. Sims, Mart.Tindle, C. Walker, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock.

Apologies: F. Gray, C. Gadd, P. Robson, R. Able, P. Robinson, B. Steele, P. Hairsine, C. Henrickson, D. Woollas, D. Harvey, M. Maddison, L. Smith, C. Woodward.

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The acting Chairman, **Chris Shillito**, welcomed all present then opened the meeting by asking former **Troop CO Capt. Keith Robinson** to recite the "Exhortation" he was thanked by the Chairman.

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

Proposed by – **F. Pougher**

Seconded by – **A. Irwin**

Treasure's Report:

Martin gave a full account of our finances which are still healthy, and went on to thank all members for their efforts and contributions. He singled out **Dave Hines**, who beavers away relentlessly producing 299 calendars and other memorabilia from our archive material, using his considerable IT skills. The donation to our funds from his efforts have bolstered the association funds considerably. Well done **Dave**, and thank you.

Correspondence:

A Seasonal message from "Bud Oldfield" to all at 299.

Bud's message was read out to the meeting, he thanked all those responsible for a brilliant day out at the Clay Pigeon Shoot, and he had thoroughly enjoyed it, along with everybody else." **Bud proved to be worthy winner of the competition**" He passed on his Christmas greetings to us all and thanked the 299 lads for not forgetting him, also the continuous loyalty and support shown to him during his service years, and now at this, at association level. **Bud** kindly enclosed a £100 cheque for the association funds, for to spend it as we see fit. On behalf of us all I have thanked **Bud** and wished both him and his family the very best for the festive time of the year.

A letter from John Lee, President of the AEA.

John's letter was read out to the meeting, he sends his seasonal greetings to all at 299 and in due course I will acknowledge and reciprocate on our behalf.

This association has being nominated for the hosting of the **AEA Reunion/AGM for the year 2017**. **John** has kindly asked for this proposal to be put before you for consideration. All your views and remarks are needed and will be welcomed.

The decision to host this event will be made by **all the members** at a later date when everybody can have their input, and will be decided by a simple show of hands at a well-attended meeting.

I would like to thank **Keve. Saddington** for spelling out the procedures and commitment needed from all of you whence making your decision. **Keve** attended the previous AGM/Reunion hosted by 299 which was declared a success by the AEA, although poorly supported by the 299 membership. **Tony Irwin** suggested that if the association decides to take on this event, a special event committee could be formed to spread the work load, thus leaving the standing committee free in running the associations' day to day business. This is all good "stuff" therefore, please make a little time for your considerations over the next few weeks.

N/B: We must remember that Hull is the United Kingdom's City of Culture during 2017 and hotel rooms could become difficult if decisions are not forth coming, therefore the February meeting will become our deadline.

Sqn News: Deployed in Cyprus.

Social Calendar:

The Clay Pigeon shoot on 15/11/2015.

This turned out to be a huge success, well attended with everybody enjoying the experience. **Bud Oldfield** took the overall winners, with young **John Shillito** taking the novice prize. The rain held off just long enough to allow the shooting, and after, we all enjoyed a liquid lunch at the Bay Horse in Cherry Burton.

This event was made possible because of the efforts of **Tony Kitching**, aided by his wife, **Linda**. **Dave Hinds** daughter **Steph** organized a raffle which raised £60, our thanks must go to these people for their efforts. The total raised at this event and going to the Lord Mayor's Charity fund was £200. This along with other funds raised will be presented to the Mayor at the Christmas party on the 11th December in the Guild Hall, Hull. Finally; the association has to thank all the members, families and friends for supporting these events, this association exists for the enjoyment and benefit of all, remember, "you only get out of something, if you are prepared to put in"

Christmas party on 11/12/2015

All tickets have being sold for this event, approximately 180, this is always a popular and well attended night of entertainment. The intended running order is as follows:

1. 19.00hrs – doors open
2. 19.30hrs – Guests to be seated
3. 19.45hrs – entertainment starts with vocalist **Chrissie**
4. 20.30hrs – Food to be served in the Reception Room
5. 21.15hrs – Lord Mayor to draw raffle, thanks to people and 299 Squadron presentations
6. 21.30hrs – **Ruby Red & Chrissie** continue entertainment
7. 24.00hrs – Finish

All raffle prizes, bottles, etc. should be left with the receptionist at the Guild Hall by Wednesday 9th December.

Dress: a preference for association Blazers was decided at the meeting, but not to be enforced, smart casual would do.

Arnhem Pilgrimage 2016

The acting Chairman **Chris Shillito** asked the meeting for a decision regarding a change of hotel next year. This had come about because of a request from some members to be sited within the City its self. The move to the big City was voted in unanimously.

Proposed Normandy Trip 2016

Chris asked for a show of hands from people wanting this trip, with 20 responding positively, remember 15 were needed to give it a go. This means the trip is on, and I will start the ball rolling. Your place on this trip is not certain until a £50 non-refundable deposit has been given to our Treasurer **Martin Tindle**, **this will have to be paid by the next meeting on January 8th or your name will be struck off**, we cannot book anything up on promises.

Chairman's Comments:

There has been some interest shown by certain 299 association members in the **REA, (Royal Engineers Association)**. This particular association is structured into categories, depending upon which roles that any individual has served in, there are categories for Commando RE, Airborne RE, and many more, the one unifying factor is that at some time you will have served within the Royal Engineers. Application forms for this, or any other association can be obtained from the Secretary, just ask. We still live in a free country and it's our God given right to belong to any organization that meets an individual's choice.

Maj Chris Wilcock gave a run down on the evolution/history of this association, describing the multi-functional roles that have been expected from the Royal Engineers over the years and how this association tries to cater for all.

Items from members:

Tony Irwin spent a few hours with **Colin Woodward** the other day and reports that he is still unwell and all investigations have proved negative, he is no better, but no worse and is awaiting exploratory surgery early in the New Year, we wish him well.

Seasonal Greetings to all at 299 from **Maddy**.

We thanked **Simbo** for organising the Bus Stop, this week's winner was **Tony Kitch**. There has been a call from the floor for more than one Bus Stop on the meeting nights, our attending numbers dictate this, **Simbo** will oblige.

Web site address: www.299association.com

Next Meeting: to be held at the "Minerva" on Corporation Pier, at 20.00hrs, on Friday 6th January 2016.

Dates for your diary:

CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH A DIFFERENCE

At 19.30hrs on Friday 11th December 2015 in the banqueting rooms, Guild Hall, Hull.

There may be a few tickets left; cancellations, etc. check with the committee.

N/B: If there are any special dietary requirements please let the committee know ASAP.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

