



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 4th February 2022, 20:00 hrs at the Minerva

Members Present: R. Able, T. Alcock, D. Barker, M. Beardshaw, K. Blacker, N. Buzby, N. Cooper, T. Cunningham, C. Duggan, C. Heppenstall, D. French, C. Gadd, C. Ham, D. Harvey, R. Holding, D. Ideson, T. Irwin, T. James, P. Jefferson, M. Lawrence, P. McGlynn, R. Meachen, D. Meekin, P. Meekin, K. Millington, B. Oldfeild, B. Pougher, G. Ratten, I. Robinson, P. Robson, S. Saxby, C. Shillito, P. Sims, N. Sissons, L. Smith, J. Thompson, Mart. Tindle, K. Turner, T. Walker, A. Weldon, C. Wilcock, D. Wollas

Apologies: F. Gray, P. Robinson, J. Duffy, G. Beaumont, A. Stimpson, A. Costello, G. Crum, J. Harrison, T. Foster, R. Franklin, B. Bilton, J. Brooks, M. Maddison, G. Coe, D. Hines, M. Parmley, S. Knowles, S. Oliver, S. Hoyle

Guests: Nil

Welcome and 'Roll Call'

The Chairman **Chris Shillito** welcomed all present at our first meeting of the year and was a great turn out. **Chris** then opened the meeting and reminded all of the sad news of the death of **Johnny Mace** at the end of last year, a stalwart of 299 with 20 years' service in the Squadron/Troop. He went on to thank members that attended Johnny Mace's funeral.

All members stood while **Tony Irwin** read the exhortation.

Chris thanked the Vice Chairman **Craig Gadd**, for standing in as secretary for **Gary Coe**

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

Proposed by – F Pougher

Seconded by – D Harvey

Treasure's Report:

Glen Ratten brought the meeting up to date with the associations finances and reminded us that he would happily take payments at any time for Arnhem. He went on to remind us that the hotel for Arnhem has changed due to high costs for this year's event, at a considerable saving to the members for our annual pilgrimage.

He also mentioned about the two accounts we hold as an association and proposed that we change the accounts to "online banking accounts" to make this easier to manage on behalf of its members. This was agreed by the members present.

Proposed by - **Glen Ratten**

Seconded by - **Bud Oldfield**

Correspondence

Whilst **Gary Coe** is sunning himself in Spain, he is still in contact with the wider community keeping everyone abreast with association news. **Gary** has been in contact with **Dave Mace** who thanked him for a card he received and the kind words about his brother **Johnny**, who had passed away in December. Dave also mentioned that the funeral was live streamed, so he was able to watch this with the rest of his family over in Australia. **Dave** went on to thank the lads for their attendance and said "they did him proud"

Chris had taken a bottle of whiskey over the Christmas period to **Mark Norrie** the bugler, for playing the last post at **les Ransom's** funeral last year. He was very humbled by our gesture and thanked us all.

Also, on our behalf **Chris** delivered a birthday card for **Charlie Wilkinson's** 90th Birthday. Charlies son had thanked the members for the card as his dad was well made up.

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A message from the OC 131 Commando Sqn,

Thank you for such a positive response to the notice I sent you in November about our 75th Anniversary Reunion taking place **at 131 Commando Squadron, Loneragan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23 April 2022** (opening at 1300). We've had well over a hundred replies, so I am sorry if this is the first some of you may have heard back since then.

Preparation for the Reunion is going really well. We are now in a position to share [this link](#) with all serving and former members. The link will take you to a return with all the relevant details, through which you can provide all the information that the Squadron requires at this stage.

We ask that you complete the return, make your on-line payment and then press submit no later than Monday 28 February.

In March we will send you one further message with final confirmatory details for the Reunion, plus an opportunity to order our 75th Anniversary themed kit. Any merchandise we buy will be shaped by your responses to the return, so please do tell us what you want.

We have a brilliant day organised for you and very much look forward to hosting everyone here on St George's Day.

United We Conquer!

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The 32nd AGM & Reunion will be hosted by the Birmingham Branch AEA.
The Hotel lies at the centre of the motorway network and is easily accessible.
The Hotel is situated next to Birmingham Airport on the A45 and in close proximity to Birmingham International Railway Station. The Holiday Inn hotel has a Gym, Swimming Pool, Sauna/Steam Room and Jacuzzi.
If any member or Branch would like any further information, you can contact:

AEA Birmingham.

Tom Smith. smithtom131@gmail.com Mobile 07736666337.
Roger Howles. r.howles301@gmail.com Mobile 07831262512
Steve Brown. stevebrown4@hotmail.com Mobile 07702597546

Kind Regards
Steve Brown
On behalf of the Birmingham Branch AEA

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Message from Steve Wallis National Chairman,

Hope this finds you well having had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As you are all aware, the association has not had a National Secretary for several years and, as of the last AGM, there are other positions on the Executive Council that will become vacant in the coming months.

National President - Lt Col (Retd) John Lee has indicated that he will step down at the next AGM.

Treasurer - Lt Col (Retd) Dick Brown has indicated that he wishes to step down as soon as a suitable replacement is found.

Secretary - This position has been vacant since Jimmy Hill stood down three years ago.

We currently have willing volunteers to fill the position of President and Treasurer, however we need to ask all the branches if they are aware of any other AEA member who wish to be considered for these positions. I would ask that you canvas your members and let me know, by no later than 1st March 2022, if anyone wishes to volunteer, if volunteers are forthcoming, these will be considered by the Executive Council and put to a vote at the OGM in April 2022. If no additional nominations are received, the Executive Council will consider those who have currently volunteered with a view to voting them into office at the OGM.

We have been seeking a new secretary for three years, despite asking for volunteers from the branches no one has stepped forward. Mike fuller has now kindly volunteered for the position. Given the length of time that this position has remained vacant, it is the Executive Councils decision to appoint Mike to the position with immediate effect and to formally vote on this at the OGM in April. Once this has been done, I will forward Mikes contact details to you all and you should include him in all future correspondence.

If you have any queries or questions, please let me know

Regards

Steve Wallis

National Chairman

Airborne Engineers Association

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Sqn News:

Tp Sgt Tom James 1 Tp 299 Para Squadron RE, briefed the members on Tp news. They kicked off the year with the traditional turkey burner (a favourite of mine back in day) and was thrashed some more by PTI Lcpl L Cross.

The troop also attended Cbt Eng Trg and Matts Trg weekend in January and was looking forward to the year ahead.

Chairman's Comments:

Chris informed the meeting that he very pleased with the turn out at Johnny Mace's funeral and thanked all that attended.

He went on to inform us all that a 52-seater coach had been booked for the 75th anniversary reunion to be held at Lonergan Lines and suggested that the association payed for the coach out of our funds, this was proposed by **John Thompson** and seconded by **Terry Cunningham**. Its proposed that the pick-up point will be at Middleton Barracks leaving at 08:30hrs enabling us to leave our cars at the barracks for the weekend. **Tp Sgt Tom James** is to confirm this and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

Chris reminded us all that we need to book ourselves in online, for the 75th anniversary no later than the 28th February 2022. Anyone who cannot do this and wish to attend, please let the committee know.

Chris went on to say that the coach and hotel is booked with the ferry only provisionally booked at this stage, and reminded us to get our monies in please.

Gary Coe was on a well eared holiday in Spain and was hoping to meet up with more former members of 299 **Willy Harrison** and **Alan Cross**, it's great that they are getting together to have a beer or two in sunnier conditions, it's a hard life.

Chris also reminded us about the AGM held in Birmingham and hoped that it would supported well by the members, as our Squadron friends are organising this.

Association rugby shirts that were ordered, was handed out and hoped that everyone that had ordered one has now got one. Association shields are also ordered.

Items from members:

Nil

Simbo's Bus Stop:

Won by **Bud Oldfield**

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

Next Meeting: Friday 4th April kick off 20:00 hrs.

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

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Dates for your diary:

131 75TH Anniversary Reunion – 23rd April 2022

To take place at the Lonergan Lines, Kingsbury on Saturday 23rd April with the gates opening at 13:00 hrs, parking and accommodation will be available for those in need.

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: 07771880733

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

