



26th Regiment Royal Artillery Association Charter

General

1. The Association, entitled "The 26 Regiment Association", was formed in Liverpool on 26 November 1994 when this charter was adopted to guide its activities. The charter may be changed at any stage to reflect the wishes of members.
2. The 26 Regiment Association is essentially the old comrades association of past members of 26 Regiment Royal Artillery.
3. The 26 Regiment Association is affiliated to the Royal Artillery Association (RAA)

Eligibility

4. Full Members. Full membership of the Association is open to anyone who has served on the posted strength of 26 Regiment Royal Artillery. This specifically applies to men and women of the Royal Artillery, but also includes men and women of any other branch of the Army. Serving members of the Army who are in 26 Regiment or who have served in 26 Regiment are also eligible to join and it will be normal for the CO and the RSM to be full members. Importantly, all those who leave 26 Regiment are to be invited to join the Association under arrangements made by the Regimental Secretary (see Para 9g).
5. Honorary Members. Honorary membership of the Association is open to anyone who has close links with 26 Regiment. Honorary membership is specially to cover the widows/widowers and relatives of deceased members of 26 Regiment Royal Artillery. Honorary membership is also open to those civilians who have served the Regiment. Honorary members may not vote on matters raised at the AGM.
6. Friends. Friends of Full and Honorary members may attend Association events however only if accompanied by the member.
7. Authorisation. Membership of the Association may be sought by anyone eligible under these rules. In the event of there being some doubt about an application the 26 Regiment Association Council (see Para 9) will arbitrate.

Purpose

8. The specific purposes of the Association are to provide:
 - a. A focus for comradeship, largely through periodic reunions.
 - b. A very limited welfare service. This essentially means that the 26 Regiment Association, in promoting contacts between members, provides a network through which help can be given to any member. The focus for this activity within the 26 Regiment Association is the Welfare Secretary (see Para 9e). The main source of help for anyone "cap badged Gunner"

and their dependants will be through the well-established welfare machinery of the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund (RACF).

- c. For those who have subscribed to the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund for 10 years full membership of the 26 Regiment Association also carries the entitlement to life membership of the Royal Artillery association and membership of any local Royal Artillery association branch.

Everyone granted membership of the Royal Artillery Association in this way will receive the appropriate membership documents from the General Secretary RAA.

Organisation

9. The affairs of 26 Regiment Association will be overseen by the 26 Association Council. The Council will meet at Association reunions. The Council is to be made up of the following:

a. President. The Honorary Regimental Colonel 26 Regiment Royal Artillery.

b. Chairman. Responsibilities cover:

1. Liaison with the President.
2. Authorisation of all expenditure.

c. Vice Chairman. Responsibilities cover:

1. Deputising for the Chairman.
2. Promotion of the association outside of the serving regiment.
3. Association delegate to the annual Royal Artillery Assembly.

d. Secretary. Responsibilities cover:

1. Association Membership.
2. Correspondence.

10. Organisation of the Association reunion.

11. Editor of the Association Newsletter.

a. Treasurer. Responsibilities cover:

1. Account for all the finances of the 26 Regiment Association.
2. Present a statement of the account to the Council annually and to the AGM of the Association.

b. Welfare Secretary. To provide a focus for the Association's welfare work and a link to the RAA/RACF.

c. Regimental Secretary. Is to be the serving RSM of the Regiment. Responsibilities cover:

1. To act as the focal point of contact on all Association matters within 26 Regiment Royal Artillery.
2. Promote membership of the Association from within the Regiment especially amongst those members leaving the service.

d. Commanding Officer 26 Regiment Royal Artillery - The Regimental Representative. The Commanding Officer will state the Regimental policy in relation to Association matters.

Executive Committee

12. An Executive Committee is to run the routine affairs of the Association and is to meet as required.

a. The Executive Committee is to be made up of the following:

The Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Welfare Secretary.

b. Election of Officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Welfare Secretary and Treasurer).

The Officers of the Association may serve a term of 6 years and then stand down. They may, if they wish, be put forward for re-election for a further term of office. Only one officer should stand down at each general meeting as this will give continuity to the

Association.

Services

13. In general the Association will:

- a. Organise and hold a reunion at least once every other year at a location decided by the members of the Executive Committee.

The central purpose of these reunions is to enable members to meet socially and to receive an update on Regimental affairs from the Commanding Officer. Each reunion is to include a meeting of the Council and the AGM of the Association.

- b. Maintain a database of all members with addresses, contact numbers and e mail where available.
- c. Circulate a periodic newsletter to members.

Fees

14. Membership fees are to be determined by the Council. There is to be a fee to join the Association and a renewal fee is to be paid every year in which a reunion is held.

15. Fees are to cover the costs of administration, including telephone calls, postage, stationary and the cost of sending the Association delegate to the annual RAA Assembly.

16. Reunions should be self-financing – that is, those attending should meet the full costs of all the activities of the reunion.