

Membership of the Guards Parachute Association

Terms and Conditions

The name of the Association is “**The Guards Parachute Association**”. The accepted abbreviation is **GPA**

1. AIM

The Aim of the Association is:

To preserve and foster comradeship among serving and retired members of the Association

2. OBJECTIVES - The Association's objectives are:-

- To provide an opportunity for members to meet at an annual dinner, normally to be held, on the Saturday nearest the date of the 1975 disbandment of No1 (Guards) Independent Company, The Parachute Regiment (24th October). Currently, plans are to hold the AGM/Reunion Dinner in May 2026 to align with the formation of 6 Platoon in 2001.
- To provide a welfare network for members who may have fallen on hard times, or for their wives, widows and children, at the discretion of the committee.
- To organise and encourage members to attend other functions, whether social, military or commemorative, as representatives of the Association.
- To support and encourage in every way possible Guards units and individuals serving in the airborne role.

3. MEMBERSHIP - Membership of the Association is open to:-

- All those of the Household Division who have qualified as parachutists or pilots and are serving, or have served (with credit), in a recognised airborne or special forces unit
- All members of the Corps or Services who have served in a support role within Guards parachute units.
- Those who, while not qualified under rules above, are invited by the Committee to become members.
- Honorary membership may be offered to those who have had distinguished links with the Household Division or airborne forces, even if they do not qualify under the rules laid out above, on the recommendation of the President or the Chairman and with the approval of the Committee.
- Subscription will be for Life Membership only.
- In light of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) it is incumbent upon all prospective members to provide proof of their service with airborne units.
- Prospective members will not be admitted to the Association until the membership secretary is satisfied that the proof provided is accurate and supports the applicant's airborne service in a true and factual manner.
- All members, including honorary members, will undertake to be bound by these rules.

4. EXPULSION OF MEMBERSHIP

- If a member is guilty of conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is liable to bring the Association into disrepute, or is otherwise such as to render him unfit to be a member, the Committee may expel the member from the Association by a resolution passed by a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of the Committee who vote.
- The Committee shall have power in their discretion to reinstate a former member to the Association.

5. THE PRESIDENT

- The President of the Association shall nominate their successor, in association with the Chairman
- The new President will assume their position when considered appropriate by the Committee
- The President shall have the right to appoint Vice-Presidents subject to the approval of the Chairman and the Committee
- The President and Vice Presidents shall be appointed for life or until an individual wishes to relinquish their appointment.

6. THE TRUSTEES

- There shall be 3 trustees, one of whom becomes the Chairman. They will serve for as long as the Chairman sees fit, but this should be not less than three years.
- If any Trustee needs to be replaced, the Chairman will appoint a replacement.
- The Trustees have legal responsibility for ensuring that all financial matters of the Association are conducted in accordance with the Association's Governing Document as shown in the Charity Commission's GPA page and in compliance with normal and proper accounting procedures.
- The Trustees will delegate to the Association Chairman the authority to spend up to a maximum for any one expenditure, above which the Association must seek agreement from the Trustees.
- The Trustees shall give advice to the association Chairman and Committee on the best options for the investment of Association funds.

7. THE COMMITTEE

The policy, membership and general management of the Association shall be directed by the Committee, which shall consist of:-

- The President – non-executive
- The Chairman
- The Deputy Chairman – to be appointed at the AGM in the year before the Chairman retires
- The Secretary & Website Administration
- The Membership Secretary
- The Email / Communications Secretary
- The Mail Secretary
- Two non-executive members as required

The Following members shall be co-opted onto the Committee and be solely responsible for their areas of expertise:

- The Treasurer
- A representative from the Guards Parachute Platoon
- The Dinner Co-ordinator
- The Cenotaph Parade Co-ordinator
- The Golf Co-ordinator

8. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The Committee will meet as and when required, but usually on the day of the AGM
- The Committee may invite Vice-Presidents to attend a Committee meeting and may co-opt whosoever they wish to serve on the Committee for a specific reason.
- Committee members shall normally serve for as long as the Association feels that the member is fulfilling their primary role, or until a member wishes to resign. Suitable replacements must be proposed to the Committee and voted on at the AGM.
- The duties of the individual Committee members will be as directed by the Chairman, but will include:-

Preparing an agenda for Committee meetings and for the AGM and keeping minutes thereof

- Preparing an annual report and arranging for its distribution
- Editing and distributing a periodic newsletter
- Keeping a nominal role of members together with their addresses and relevant particulars, in accordance with GDPR and member's wishes for privacy
- Keeping proper accounts of the finances of the Association, ensuring that they are audited annually and submitted by the Committee to the AGM.
- Arranging all details of the annual dinner – to include accommodation, car parking, menu, wine, music, sound systems, placements, etc. (The Dinner Co-ordinator may form a sub-committee if assistance is required)

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The AGM shall be held once in each year, normally in the afternoon preceding the Annual Dinner. The AGM business shall consist of but not limited to:-

- The consideration of the annual financial report and audited accounts
- The election of members to serve on the Committee
- The appointment or re-appointment of auditors
- The consideration of propositions put forward by members

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