

# Aden Veterans Association

Patron: Colonel Brian L Carter OBE RM



National Events Organiser: Major Clive Candlin  
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To: All Members

## **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) AND REUNION WEEKEND – 2026** **THE NORBRECK CASTLE HOTEL, BLACKPOOL – 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2026** **ADMIN INSTRUCTIONS**

### **GENERAL**

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Reunion Weekend will take place at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Queen's Promenade, Blackpool, FY2 9AA, over the weekend 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026. The hotel more than meets our requirements including disabled and leisure facilities. The hotel has a large car park but has a car parking registration system which members should ensure they register their vehicle on the tablet at Reception on arrival, the hotel have agreed that members can book their vehicle for one extra day to avoid car parking fines. Members should note that the hotel is now cashless and card only for any purchases in the hotel, and that there are no longer concessionary prices at the Ballroom Bar.
2. All rooms are to be booked directly with the Norbreck Castle Hotel by completing the attached Booking Form and forwarding it directly to the Hotel. **Members should not try to book with the Central Booking System but directly with the hotel.** A **non-refundable** deposit of £30.00 per person is required to confirm your reservation. Whether paying by cheque or debit/credit card, the hotel requires that the final balance of the account is to be paid 28 days before arrival, that is 12<sup>th</sup> August 2026 and no later. If wishing to pay by card, members should contact the Hotel directly with their card details. Members should note that an extra charge may be applied for single occupancy of multi bed rooms, twin occupancy of rooms may be an option to be considered.
3. Separate instructions will be issued by the National Secretary with regard to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held in the Ballroom of the Hotel at 1100 hrs on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026. This letter covers all admin points for the weekend.

### **ARRIVAL**

4. All members, spouses/partners and their guests attending can arrive at any time, if they wish to take advantage of the concession of £40.00 per person per night for extra nights. Those members arriving early will be required to book in at the main Reception desk. However, for those members arriving on the Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2026 rooms will only be available from 1500hrs, so should plan their journey accordingly. Once they have registered their car on the tablet at Reception they can report directly to the

Ballroom to book in and collect their room key, along with their Welcome Packs. The Hotel will be placing a member of the Reception Staff at the AVA National Committee Table in the Ballroom to issue the room keys and direct members to their rooms. Early arrivals can report to the Ballroom from 1200 hrs on the Friday to collect their Welcome Packs.

5. Those members attending on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026 for the Gala Dinner only, and not requiring accommodation, should note the timings for the AGM, Civic Reception and Gala Dinner and plan their arrival accordingly. The weekend consists of a two nights package, as outlined on the Booking Form. Should a Sea View Room be requested, an extra cost of £10.00 per room per night is required to secure it. Rooms can be booked for additional nights either side of the weekend at a cost of £40.00 per person per night on Dinner, Bed and Breakfast basis. For Non-Resident Guests/Members, attending the Civic Reception and Gala Dinner only, the cost will be £30.00 per person. The Britannia Hotel Chain Cancellation Policy is that 21 days prior to arrival or before will give a refund of money paid, less “**non-refundable**” deposit. Within 21 days the total balance will be lost, unless there are exceptional circumstances, when the hotel will consider on a case-by-basis,

## **DINING**

7. All breakfasts will be taken in the Castles Restaurant, with the evening meals on Friday and Saturday taken in the Ballroom. On arrival, Members will be issued with a card with their name and menu selection on it. They should view the Ballroom table layout, determine where they would like to sit, place their name card on the table then return to the Committee Table where they will find a Table Plan on which they should ask the Committee Member for their names to be placed against the table number they have selected. It is requested that members keep those seats for the weekend. Dinner on Friday evening will be self-service buffet style, between 18.00 hrs and 19.30 hrs. The Gala Dinner on Saturday will follow the Civic Reception, which starts at 18.00 hrs. The Mayor and Mayoress of Blackpool have been invited to attend the Civic Reception and Gala Dinner. The menu for the Gala Dinner is set out in the attached Menu Selector Form. The cost for the weekend will be £143.00. After making their selections, the Menu Selection Form should be submitted to the National Events Organiser. Lunches can be purchased at the Food Court in the hotel or wherever members wish.

## **RAFFLES**

8. The Members Raffle will be held on Friday evening, please bring along a Raffle Prize. The National AVA Raffle will be held during Saturday evening after the Gala Dinner, drawn by the Mayor of Blackpool.

## **DRESS CODE**

9. Friday will be an informal evening in smart casual clothes. Saturday will be a formal affair, Gentlemen’s dress should be Dinner Jackets, Lounge Suits or Blazer and slacks with shirt and tie. Medals may be worn. Ladies are requested to dress accordingly.

## **HOTEL LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BOOKINGS**

10. Problems have been noted with regard to letters of acknowledgement of bookings being received by members. The hotel has requested that, where possible, e mail addresses are given on the booking form in order that they may effectively confirm the booking by e mail, rather than the less reliable Royal Mail. Letters will be sent by Royal Mail, however, to members who are unable to provide an e mail address.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

11. Friday evening will have entertainment provided as a disco with the hotel resident DJ. Saturday nights live entertainment is a female singer, Vicky Jones, who entertained us in 2025 and was so good I was asked to book her again for this year. She is a Scouse and “Little Miss Dynamite”

## **CHURCH SERVICE**

12. The Service will be held on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2026, commencing at 1100 hrs and will be in the form of a Drumhead Service in the hotel ballroom, with Kenny Smith and Andy Paton, the Association Piper, and the full Pipe Band. The National Chaplain Rev. Canon Dr Simon Cox will take the service.

## **DISPERSAL**

13. The formal weekend concludes after the Sunday Drumhead Church Service. Members attending the Drumhead Service should note that the check out times for rooms is 1100hrs. There is a left luggage area by Reception that members may leave their luggage after checking out. Members are reminded that they can stay on after the Service for extra nights at £40.00 per person per night Dinner, Bed and Breakfast, which they should indicate on their booking form.

## **CREDIT ACCOUNTS**

14. Credit Card Accounts to charge drinks etc to your room are no longer allowed at the hotel.

## **SUMMARY**

15. Due to its popularity as a location for our Reunion Weekend, the Annual Reunion Weekend for 2026 will remain in Blackpool. Whilst there is obviously a formal business part of the weekend, in the form of the Annual General Meeting, which members are strongly encouraged to attend, and the Church Service, it is hoped that members and their guests will find time to enjoy the many sights, including the illuminations, and sounds of Blackpool and, more importantly, the renewed comradeship that such reunions create.

16. The hotel has asked me to point out should anyone have an unfortunate accident and be on crutches on arrival they should let the hotel know so that suitable arrangements can be made for the guest.

*Clive Candlin*

**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN AND  
NATIONAL EVENTS ORGANISER  
ADEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION**