



# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**AHOYSHIPMATES** Another week, another deadline – this time for discounted tickets to the Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham on 3 May – one of the five major events to mark our 75th anniversary (see below left). And while on the subject of deadlines, we’ve been getting some material for Semaphore publications late in the day, so we have had to set a copy deadline – please get anything you would like to be considered for inclusion to [comms@rnassoc.org](mailto:comms@rnassoc.org) by 1000 the day before publication (ie on a Thursday morning).

**PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000** [PLAY NOW](#)

**DASH FOR CASH** Do you fancy a really big challenge? Do you have an oppo who you could rely on as you race from Edinburgh to Dartmouth in just four days – no map apps, no cars, no planes or trains? You pass through designated checkpoints with just a map, what you can carry on your back, and your wits to get you there. The Race Across the UK in early September will raise funds for the RNRMC, which supports Naval families facing challenges such as injury or financial difficulties. There is space for only 50 pairs, so apply now – see <https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/race-across-uk>



**ON WATCH** HMS Iron Duke (pictured above) was one of a Royal Navy group that shadowed a Russian task group in the English Channel earlier in the month. The Type 23 frigate was joined by River-class patrol ship HMS Tyne, a Wildcat helicopter from 815 Naval Air Squadron and RFA Tideforce as they closely watched two landing ships, three merchant vessels and a tanker steaming from the Mediterranean to the Baltic via the English Channel. *Image: ©UK MOD Crown Copyright, 2025*

**FINAL PITCH** Discounted (£43) Army v Navy rugby tickets for RNA members at Twickenham on 3 May are only available until 3 March, after which all tickets are the standard price of £48. To buy your discounted ticket for the RNA section see <https://www.rnagizzet.co.uk>

**HELPFUL HEROES** There is new support for spouses and partners of serving personnel stationed at Clyde Naval Base, thanks to Glasgow’s Helping Heroes (GHH).

The new initiative, run by SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity in partnership with Glasgow City Council, is extending its reach from Glasgow into Helensburgh. For more details of this service see our story in next Friday’s Semaphore Circular.

**TREASURER HUNT** After long and accomplished service, our Honorary National Treasurer, S/M Ian Irvine, will step down shortly. The RNA has been particularly fortunate to have had the benefit of Ian’s wisdom and experience as a Chartered Accountant during his period of office, and he has been a key Trustee during our revitalisation. He needs a replacement, however, and if you are interested and hold a suitable accounting qualification we would love to hear from you. More details in the attachment. Please contact Bill Oliphant on 07547 904410.

**CONA CALL** Just a reminder to find out if your association is part of the CONA (Conference of Naval Associations) movement – and if not, maybe consider whether it should be? Those who are already on board are gathering in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on Friday 28 March to highlight industry issues, show unity among the associations and work together for the benefit of all members. It’s an opportunity to network and focus on improving the lives of all with a Naval connection. There is still time for delegates to register an interest in being part of the day – email Malcolm Little on [dcos@rnassoc.org](mailto:dcos@rnassoc.org) for further details.

**FIRESIDE CHATS** The next Fireside Chat on Monday (3 March) will be delivered by Marc Evans, the Chief Executive Officer of the Fishermen’s Mission. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate. Please note that the speaker and subject matter of these Chats is subject to change at short notice.

RNA Central Office,  
Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LU  
[comms@rnassoc.org](mailto:comms@rnassoc.org)  
[www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk)



**ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION**

## Delegate to Annual Conference 2025 - PORTSMOUTH

Branch secretaries should note the following before submitting their application.

*No Branch shall be permitted to send a delegate to the Conference unless it has observed the regulations of the Association in regard to the return of balance sheets, the Branch Annual Report and the formation of Branches. This provision has no application to the right of, and expectation for, ships and establishments to send a delegate to the Conference. Associate members are eligible to act as a Branch Delegate at Area meetings and Conferences, provided that they have completed three years continuous membership of the Association immediately prior to election as Delegate.*

Each Branch which has been in commission for at least three months by the date of a Conference shall be entitled to nominate one eligible Association Member as its Delegate to attend a Conference.

Each Branch nominating a Delegate shall send details to the Council **to arrive not less than one week before the date of Conference**. A Branch may change its nominated Delegate provided the Council is notified not less than twenty four hours before the Conference.

<b>Branch</b>		<b>Area</b>	
<b>Name of Delegate</b>			
<b>Delegate's e-mail</b>			
<b>Number of Observers if known</b>			
<b>Name of Branch Hon Secretary</b>			

**NB: A Delegate will not be confirmed as such unless or until the Branch Balance Sheet for 2024 and Branch Annual Report for 2024 have been received in RNA Central Office.**

**Should either not have been received in Central Office, the Delegate's Status will be deemed to be that of an Observer.**

Branch Secretaries are to ensure that their nominated Delegate, receives the copies of the agenda and minutes of the previous years' AGM prior to representing their Branch at the AGM. Copies will be made available at the AGM, but sight of these prior to the day is considered essential. Branch Secretaries will be forwarded this paperwork from Central Office as soon as it is finalised.

Please forward the completed form to RNA Central Office, Lanyard House, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LU or email to [ams@rnassoc.org](mailto:ams@rnassoc.org)

**To check ahead of Conference, please call Sara on 023 92 723747**

## **Royal Naval Association Annual General Meeting and Conference Weekend 2025**

The format of this year's conference and AGM weekend is as follows:

### **Friday 20 June 2025**

National Council gathering Approximately 40 persons	<b>1530 -1630</b>	Keppel's Head Hotel, Portsmouth Dress code: casual
Reception, HMS Warrior Approximate 150-200 persons	<b>1830-2130</b>	Portsmouth Historic Dockyard Drinks and canapes evening with music and traditional Sunset Ceremony (weather dependent) Rules apply for footwear on the ship. Dress code: lounge suits, jacket and tie <b>Date of birth and place of birth required for security detail.</b> This needs to be forwarded to <a href="mailto:engagement@massoc.org">engagement@massoc.org</a> If these details are not completed - no entry!

### **Saturday 21 June 2025**

Boathouse 5		Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
Annual General Meeting	<b>0815</b>	Coffee/tea
	<b>0900</b>	National Standard arrives via Riders Branch
	<b>0915</b>	Conference begins Dress code: RNA No 1s Tea/coffee break Lunch

## Saturday 21 June 2025

Gala Dinner, Boathouse 7	<b>1830 - 2300</b>	Welcome drinks reception
Approximately 150-200 persons		Photographs
		Live performance/entertainment
		Three-course dinner with wine
		Tombola draw (fundraiser)
		Dress code: Black tie and miniature medals

## Sunday 22 June 2025

St Ann's Church service	<b>0930 for 1000</b>	Church service in St Ann's Church conducted by Deputy Chaplain of the Fleet
Approximate numbers 150-200		Dedication of National Standard (nb: <b>not</b> laying up of old standard)
		Service will last approximately 45 minutes to one hour
	<b>1100</b>	Standards will gather outside of church for the congregation to follow (bimble at your own speed) to 2SL Home – RN Embassy
		You are not required to march as there will not be anyone organised to take a salute
		Gather in front of 2SL Home for an official RNA 75 photograph (RN photographer)
	<b>1115-1130</b>	An even shorter walk to the rear of the garden where tea/coffee and light finger food will be served, accompanied by music
		Approximately <b>1230</b> - ceremonial anniversary cake-cutting ceremony and photos
	<b>1330</b>	Conclusion
		Dress code: RNA No 1s

**Weekend concluded**

## **Honorary National Treasurer (HNT)**

### **Terms of Reference**

The principal role of the HNT is to approve, as the Finance Trustee, the Statutory Accounts for the Royal Naval Association (RNA), <https://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/>. The RNA is a Charity and operates under UK statute regulated by the Charities Commission of England and Wales.

The HNT will also provide advice to the RNA Executive (Exec), and to the RNA National Council (NC), being the Board of Trustees, on all aspect of financial management and governance, and, as necessary, liaise with professional advisors to ensure that the Exec and NC are properly advised.

Liaise with the administration function of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC), <https://www.rnrmc.org.uk/>, who manage day to day finances of the RNA, doing so on behalf of the Exec.

Member of Finance and Admin Committee (FAC), being a sub-committee of NC.

Member of the Investment Committee (IC) of RNRMC, who manage the RNA surplus invested funds. The RNA funds held are modest relative to the funds managed by RNRMC, but RNA Shipmates take comfort by the attendance at the IC by the HNT.

Review RNA Annual Budget with Exec prior to submission to FAC and NC for approval.

Review RNA Annual Accounts with Exec prior to submission to FAC and NC for approval.

Liaise with the RNA external reporting accountant.

Present Accounts to Shipmates at the RNA National Conference.

The HNT also sits on the Governance Committee and Governance Working Group

### **Candidate Requirements**

Member of a recognised UK accounting body.

Ideally serving or former serving Royal Navy.

Ideally with knowledge of charity workings.

### **Time Commitment**

The NC meets quarterly, with occasional additional meetings. Generally, two meetings per annum are in Portsmouth, with the others being held online. The meetings are weekdays and are generally held in the forenoon.

The RNA National Conference weekend, which is held annually at different locations around the UK.

The FAC generally meets quarterly with meetings usually held online (usually 2 – 3 hours).

The IC meets quarterly in London at the offices of the RNRMC Fund Manager. Meetings are hybrid, with attendance either in person or online (usually 2 – 3 hours).

Budget planning meeting with the EX, usually in London (3 – 4 hours), ahead of presentation, by EX, to FAC and NC.

The Governance Committee and Governance Working Group meet on an 'ad hoc' basis, usually in London.

### **Future**

The RNA is currently redrafting the Royal Charter, working with the Privy Council. The plan is to establish a separate, smaller Board of Trustees and for the NC to become a Management Operations Board. The HNT would become the Finance Trustee (FT) on the restructured Board of Trustees.

### **Summary**

The HNT is a Senior Trustee within the RNA and, despite the complexities and challenges of the role, it should be, for the right candidate, great fun to be part of a well-focused and well led group of Trustees and Shipmates within the RNA.