



SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES While we are concentrating on the upcoming RNRMC Race Across the UK (2-5 September) in this Short, we are conscious that the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in London follows hard on its heels – see details on **page 2**. We are also looking ahead to the Remembrance ceremonies in November – a very special occasion, 80 years on from the end of World War 2, and the RNA General Secretary Bill Oliphant is asking Branches to pass on an invitation to their wartime veterans – see **page 2**.

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£25,000**

PLAY NOW

LEG IT! The RNA's CEO and Welfare Coordinator are preparing to set off on a madcap Race Across The UK (RATUK) on 2 September. The Race, inspired by TV's Race Across the World, will see competing teams set off from Edinburgh and arrive in Dartmouth a few days later, after traversing the UK without phones, credit cards, or outside assistance. They will set off with just a few pounds and a good sense of humour – both of which may be spent by the end of the challenge. RATUK is a fundraising event for RNRMC, the major fundraising charity for the Royal Navy community. RNRMC provides grant funding for the RNA to provide welfare assistance to its members, which is only one of the reasons why the RNA wants to join in with fundraising for them. RNA CEO Bill Oliphant (*right of picture*) said: "We are ever grateful to RNRMC for their generous funding. The Race Across the UK is a great opportunity for our members to find out more about RNRMC and put the full might of their support behind fundraising for them. It is also a great way for me personally to show just how much I appreciate the support of the RNRMC. Plus, Jon and I aim to triumph. Some may say I am a little disorganised and do things on the hoof. I say these qualities make me perfectly adapted to win this race. 'mon then!" Team RNA – Ready 'N Able – consists of Bill and Jon Everett, the RNA's Welfare and Wellbeing Coordinator. Jon said: "I'm here to make sure that we don't just get there but get there in one piece. It is a little bit daunting to be running this race with my boss!" If you, or your branch, would like to support Team RNA, please either make a donation via the **Team RNA link**, or, for larger donations and sponsorship, please contact cml@rnassoc.org. It doesn't matter how much or how little you donate – your contribution will be very much appreciated. For example, if every Branch donated £50 Team Ready N Able would top the Leaderboard and unstoppable! Or if every member donated £1 we would have more than £24,000 on our fundraising tab – and if every area raised and donated £500 we would have another £6,000 on our fundraising total. Dig deep folks!



TEAM RIVALS Jon and Bill are more than a little competitive and have taken it upon themselves to raise money with a raffle each. Jon's prize is a bottle of rum, Bill's is a crate of 12 cans of RNA Anniversary Ale. To enter the prize draw, all you have to do is make a donation to their individual fundraising page. So choose your tipples, make a donation of any amount to either Bill or Jon (or both!) and for each donation received you will get free entry into the prize draw. Yes, you can make more than one donation and will get an entry for each.

Jon's donation page

Bill's donation page

Dear Shipmates,

As we approach this year's Remembrance Sunday, I write to you with a deeply personal request - one that carries the weight of history, gratitude, and enduring pride. This November marks 80 years since the end of the Second World War. Eight decades on, the courage and sacrifice of those who served remain etched in the soul of our nation and in the heart of our Association. It is with this in mind that I ask each Branch of the Royal Naval Association to reach out to any members within your ranks who served during that extraordinary time. We would be honoured to welcome them to join us at the Cenotaph in London this coming Remembrance Sunday. Their presence would not only pay tribute to fallen comrades but also stand as a living testament to the resilience and spirit of the wartime generation. We want to celebrate them - publicly, proudly, and with the reverence they so richly deserve. In addition, we would be privileged to also offer these veterans the opportunity to share their memories on film. These stories - of service, of hardship, of camaraderie - are treasures that deserve to be preserved for their families and for future generations. If any of your WWII members would be willing to speak with us, we will ensure their recollections are captured with dignity and care. Please pass this invitation on with warmth and encouragement. We know that time is precious, and so are the voices of those who lived through it.

**With deepest respect and gratitude,
ours aye,
Bill Oliphant**



COLOURFUL TATTOO The RNA is not the only organisation marking its 75th anniversary this year – we share that honour with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This year's spectacular features, inter alia, the Orchestra of Naval Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the United States Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps are making their debut, and every evening a 270-strong choir serenades the sell-out audiences.

WHO ARE RNRMC? We often mention the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity in the pages of the Semaphore publications, but who are they? RNRMC is the principal charity of the Royal Navy, supporting sailors, Marines and their families for life. Since its foundation in 2007 the charity has funded projects and facilities to improve the lives and boost morale of those who serve today, and distributed millions of pounds annually to military charities which care for the children, families and veterans of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines – the RNA being one of those charities. Indeed, since 2007 RNRMC, in partnership with Greenwich Hospital, has distributed almost £30 million in grants to more than 30 front-line charities which help care for older age veterans, improve the relationships within Naval families, assist those in times of need, help sailors and marines transitioning into civilian life, as well as improve morale of those serving and deployed.

BLOB MARK Just a reminder that the Uckers World Championships, organised by the RNA, will be staged at the Royal Maritime Hotel in Portsmouth on Saturday 4 October. No need to enter in advance, just turn up on the day – registration is at 0900 and first dice at 1000. Breakfast and refreshments available.

MARCH ON There is still time to join the Naval Associations Biennial Parade in London – just let us know if you intend to march in Whitehall on 14 September. You can march with any Association, but we need details of each Association and all individuals so that we can keep a tally of numbers expected. Use this form: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/92g2vDkmCK> and send any questions about the Parade to ams@rnassoc.org

FIRESIDE CHATS The Fireside Chat programme is currently on a summer break, and will return on 1 September when Lt Cdr Johnny Mason will talk on Force Generation of a Carrier Strike Group. 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.

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**ROYAL NAVAL
ASSOCIATION**

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