



# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**AHOY SHIPMATES** It's now just four weeks until the National Conference (21 June), and the Agenda has been updated to include two newly-received Motions of Urgency. The revised Agenda is available to download at <https://tinyurl.com/2vt2c25m>. You are encouraged to discuss these motions within your branches and for your delegate to have the autonomy to vote following discussions on the day. Please note, the deadline for receipt of any further Motions of Urgency is 48 hours prior to the AGM.



**FIRST FOR NORWICH** Congratulations to Norwich branch who received the first promotional merchandise bundle sent out by Central Office. If your branch would like any of this lovely merch email [admin@rnassoc.org](mailto:admin@rnassoc.org)

**BLOB PAR** The Uckers Welsh Open championship (doubles and singles) will take place on 7 June, 1030 start, at Bultth Wells Rugby Club. Everyone is welcome and the entry deadline is 30 May – email: [davebuckingham10@gmail.com](mailto:davebuckingham10@gmail.com). This is a friendly competition, so all levels are welcome. The RNA runs a World Championship series of Uckers competitions, culminating in the World Championship in Portsmouth on 4 October. Entries for this event open shortly.

**FIRESIDE CHATS**  
Please note there is no Fireside Chat next Monday (26 May).

**Dear Shipmates:** You may be aware that Portsmouth Historic Quarter has wrapped the Falklands HMS Fearless F8 LCVP with an LGBTQ+ coloured wrap in recognition of the lifting of the Homosexuality Ban 25 years ago.

Unfortunately, several inappropriate comments concerning this issue were posted on the RNA Community Facebook page last weekend, creating a reputational risk for the Association. The National Council (NC) of the Royal Naval Association wish to make it very clear – the RNA policy on Equality and Diversity is unequivocal in that we respect all our members no matter creed, colour, sexual orientation, disability, religion, gender, rank or Branch. Sadly, due to some of those comments, the external perception of the Association has been damaged.

The NC acknowledges that many of the negative comments posted were about the appropriateness of the vehicle used to convey the message and the timing, and the NC also acknowledges that this doesn't make those who posted those comments homophobic but nevertheless offence was caused.

As you know our organisation was established in the wake of World War 2 and has served that generation well; earlier this month we commemorated VE80 and celebrated the few remaining survivors of that conflict. However, as your governing body, we are leading a programme which is making our Association fit for purpose and relevant to this generation and the next. It is not enough to declare that our Association is a 'safe space' for all our members. I am sure all of you will agree we must mean it and we must demonstrate it in deed and voice.

What is also essential, Shipmates, is that we protect our vital relationship with the Royal Navy, without which we could become irrelevant in an instant.

Please consider the consequences of social media posts before you publish them; they could bring our RNA into disrepute and damage our reputation. If you are in any doubt, please, please contact Central Office for advice. Thank you

**The National Council**

**PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000**

**PLAY NOW**

**PROUD DAY** Join the RNA at Portsmouth Pride on Saturday 7 June. Attending will be Association General Secretary Bill Oliphant, RNA LGBTQ+ reps and other Central Office staff. Please come and enjoy this fabulous event with us. We will meet at 1100 at Southsea Beach Cafe – look out for the RNA flag. The main event takes place on Southsea Common. Please email us saying how many people you are bringing – organisers have asked participating organisations to register expected numbers prior to the event. Contact Sarah on [cml@rnassoc.org](mailto:cml@rnassoc.org)

**LISBON MARU** The unveiling ceremony for the Lisbon Maru memorial in China took place on Tuesday this week. The memorial pays tribute to those British prisoners of war who were on board the unmarked Japanese transport ship Lisbon Maru when it was sunk in October 1942 – more than 800 died, but almost 400 were rescued by Chinese fishermen, to whom the memorial is also dedicated. For more details, and the latest on the documentary film on the incident, see the June Semaphore Circular.

**MILESTONE PASSED** The RNA is delighted to announce we now have 24,000 members! Our 24,000th Shipmate is Sean Connochie, Senior Director at Oracle, who served during the Falkland's conflict in HMS Glamorgan.

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.

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

**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**