



SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES So that's a wrap! Conference weekend seems to have been a resounding success, according to those shipmates who threw themselves into the business and social events throughout the three days, ending with the cutting of a 75th anniversary cake at a garden party in Portsmouth Naval Base (pictured below). And after delegates rejected a proposal to consider splitting the AGM and social gathering into two separate events, it's full speed ahead for Salford 2026 and Durham 2027!

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WINNING NUMBERS

A huge "thank you all very much" to those who sold this year's AGM Conference raffle tickets on behalf of the RNA, and to those of you who purchased them. Ticket sales were just short of £2,000, and the lucky prize winners have now all been contacted. The winning tickets were: **£500:** number 04897; **£300:** number 02124 **£200:** number 04592 **£75:** number 00322. A full report on the weekend's activities and the results of deliberations and discussion at the AGM will appear in the July edition of the Semaphore Circular, due out next Friday (July 4).



CRUMBS! One highlight in a packed National Conference weekend of social gatherings and business meetings was the cutting of a special 75th anniversary cake by RNA National President Vice Admiral Duncan Potts (pictured above). The celebrations got under way on Friday evening (20 June) with a reception on board the Victorian ironclad HMS Warrior in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard which was, like the rest of the weekend, blessed with fine weather. Essential business was dealt with at the RNA's AGM in Boathouse 5 on Saturday morning, giving shipmates a chance to gather their breath before a splendid Gala Dinner in Boathouse 7, just next door. The weekend concluded with a service at St Ann's Church within the Naval Base and a garden party at the Royal Navy Embassy, when Admiral Potts wielded the sword...



SPECIAL BREW The RNA's AGM last Saturday was not just a business gathering – it also marked the launch of a special edition pale ale to mark the Association's 75th anniversary. **RNA Anniversary Ale** has been brewed using a special recipe created by the Powder Monkey Brewing Co, based in an historic gunpowder store at Priddy's Hard in Gosport. Packaged in commemorative RNA 75 cans, the ale was judged to be an excellent beverage by all who tasted it. As a launch promotion, a case of 12 cans costs £36, plus you get an extra 15% off your first purchase (so make it a big one). Fill in this form to let us know how many cans you would like and we will be in touch to give you your link to buy through the brewery. The RNA gets a percentage of every sale! Order here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/DaW7t7VMVV>

NEW NCM6 At the weekend's AGM former RNA National Chairman S/M Keith Ridley, of St Neots and District Branch, retired after serving for 13 years as the National Council Member for Area 6. Keith's place has been taken by S/M Anthony Boddrell, of Bracknell Branch. Anthony will be able to be contacted in due course on the ncm6@rnassoc.org email account.

FIRESIDE CHATS The next Chat on Monday (30 June) is titled *The Resurrected Pirate*, in which Craig Chapman will look at 'the life, death and subsequent career of the notorious George Lowther'. 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