



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Friday 31 October 2025

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES Sports and Comradeship Groups (SCGs) play an important role in the life of the Association, and they are an aspect of the RNA of which we would like more members to be aware. The RNA communications team would like to hear from any SCGs about their activities and plans, and from any shipmates who have ideas for new SCGs – contact Jon Everett on www@rnassoc.org. You can find a list of current SCGs in any edition of the Semaphore Circular, which can be found on the RNA website [here](#).

JOIN IN RNA Welfare and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Jon Everett has issued an invitation to all those who would like to join the RNA's latest Wellbeing Wednesday online Zoom session, on 5 November (7pm) – use this [link](#). The subject is Remembrance, and Jon said: "This is an opportunity for us to come together, reflect, and share in the spirit of remembrance. All are welcome—please feel free to invite others who may wish to join. We look forward to seeing you there."

OPT OUT We will be sending out hard copies of the RNA Yearbook early in 2026, but are aware that some members prefer to read it online. If you would prefer us not to post you a copy click on [this link](#) to de-select yourself. The Yearbook will be available to read online on our website throughout the year.

ARMY v NAVY Tickets for the 2026 Army v Navy rugby match at the Allianz Stadium, Twickenham, on Saturday 2 May are now available to RNA members at a special rate of £44.20. The tickets allow access to a private bar adjacent to our allocated seating area. Use the [link here](#) to buy your tickets – once you have stated your required tickets the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will contact you directly to complete the transaction.



FIRST DIVE Pictured above is the latest submarine to emerge from the BAE Systems yard at Barrow-in-Furness. The future HMS Agamemnon was put through her first basin dive at Barrow over two days to ensure her systems – including her ballast tanks – work as designed. She also underwent a trim and inclining experiment to confirm the centre of gravity of the submarine. To measure this, 16 tonnes of lead weights were brought on board and moved from side to side. The movement was also measured by hand using pendulums hung between decks – a method used by naval architects since the 18th Century. The results indicate how she will perform when in service, and confirm her stability. Agamemnon, which displaces 7,800 tons submerged, is the sixth of seven Astute-class Fleet submarine, all of which were built at Barrow.

PUBLIC DUTIES Members of the RNA will be in the public eye once again during the annual Remembrance services around the country and beyond in the coming days. Shipmates are invited to let the RNA comms team know on comms@rnassoc.org about their activities, and send us images and stories so that we can feature a selection of them on our media channels and in the Semaphore Circular. We have also recorded interviews with World War 2 veterans which we will be putting on the RNA YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@Royalnavalassoc) – keep an eye on our social media channels for more information.

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

[PLAY NOW](#)

ON THE CARDS Robins, donkeys, even a snowy harbour scene – they all feature in this year's RNA Christmas card packs. The cards are available from [our webshop](#) in packs of ten. Each pack contains two different designs, donkeys (with the odd RNA beret) and robins in one, the other features robins and the wintry harbour. Each pack costs £4.50 including postage. And that's not all – our 2026 slimline diary is also now available at £7 (including postage), as well as the RNA hanging gingerbread sailor decoration (£9).

CIRCULAR DEADLINE All submissions for the November edition should be with us by 1000 on Wednesday 5 November. The Circular will be published on Friday 7 November.

FIRESIDE CHATS

Our next Fireside Chat is on Monday (3 November) when Antony Moth will talk about the Flying Wrens dispatch riders of the Royal Navy. 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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