



JULY 2008

CIRCULAR

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Dear S/M Secretary,

Conference 2008 – The Caird Hall, Dundee – 28th/29th June 2008

1. The 2008 Conference in Dundee was not as well attended as some in recent years with some 108 delegates attending supported by about 100 observers. Despite this, it proved to be a most businesslike and useful event and the citizens of Dundee made members of the Association very welcome. The facilities of the Caird Hall were superb while the Church Service in the Cathedral Church of St Paul and its associated marches were truly memorable. Even the sun shone on the righteous and the rain held off (literally) until the parade fell out on completion of the march, at which 34 Standards were paraded. The Civic authorities, local police and a magnificent pipe band (Arbroath Royal British Legion) were wonderfully supportive and could not have been more helpful.

2. Prior to the commencement of Conference, delegates and observers were entertained by an organ recital on the historic organ of the Caird Hall and this was enjoyed by the majority. Conference commenced with bidding prayers intoned by Archdeacon The Venerable John Green QHC, Chaplain of the Fleet. The National President took the opportunity to transfer custody of the National Standard from the former National Standard Bearer (S/M M Kieran (Coventry)) to the newly inducted National Standard Bearer (S/M Bob Coburn (Inverness)). The National President invited the General Secretary to read out Patronal Messages and Fraternal Greetings.

The General Secretary read two messages received from HM The Queen:

Firstly, "Please convey my warm thanks to the Officials, Delegates and Observers of the Royal Naval Association for their kind message of loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of their Annual Conference which is being held today in The Caird Hall, Dundee. As your Patron, I much appreciate your continued support and, in return, send my best wishes to all concerned for a most successful and enjoyable gathering", and

Secondly, "The Queen has asked me to thank you, the Chairman, National Council Members and Members of the Royal Naval Association for your kind message of congratulations, sent on the occasion of Her Majesty's Official Birthday. As your Patron, The Queen much appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, sends her warm good wishes to all concerned". Private Secretary.

The General Secretary read a message received from The Royal Air Forces Association :

The President, Chairman, Central Council and Members of the Royal Air Forces Association send fraternal greetings and sincere best wishes to all Officials, Delegates, Members and Guests attending The Royal Naval Association's 2008 Annual Conference and AGM in Dundee this weekend, and to all Members of the Association across the world. Once again, we recognise the traditions of our respective Associations, and are aware of your proud record of achievement and the high regard in which you are held internationally. We also recognise and applaud

the continued good work you do in support to the wider RN family and trust you will continue to do so for many years to come. Every best wish from The Royal Air Forces Association. Air Commodore Edward Jarron, Secretary General.

3. The National President welcomed The Lord Provost of the City of Dundee and Admiral of the Tay (Councillor John R Letford) and Flag Officer Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Flag Officer Reserves (Rear Admiral Philip Jones).

The Conference was formally opened by The Lord Provost of the City of Dundee and Admiral of the Tay (Councillor John R Letford).

Thank you very much for your kind words. Admiral McAnally, Admiral Jones, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Royal Naval Association, Shipmates, on behalf of the citizens of the City of Dundee, I extend to all of you a very warm welcome. It gives me particular pleasure to welcome you here since, as you all know, Dundee is a city with a long-standing connection with ships, the sea and the Royal Navy.

In extending a welcome to you, perhaps you will allow me to give a very special welcome in another respect and, in so doing, give a vote of thanks by reading a letter to you. It says: "My Dear Lord Provost, As Mayor of Sefton, I am proud of our many connections with the Royal Navy, both past and present. I was gladdened to note that members of the Crosby Branch, located within our Borough, of the Royal Naval Association will be attending the Association's National Conference in Dundee. "During the Conference those attending from Crosby will take the opportunity to meet with families of two young men from Dundee who were sadly killed when HMS Barham was torpedoed whilst off the Orkneys in December 1939. It was whilst the Barham was in Gladstone Dock here in Bootle prior to undergoing repairs that the sad discovery of the two bodies was made. Both men were laid to rest here in Bootle. On behalf of the families the graves of these two sailors have been located and have been tended and restored with volunteer help from HMP Altcourse. The work carried out has had an emotional and transforming effect on the inmates and they have now successfully integrated into their communities. "I am delighted that this visit is taking place, thus allowing those involved with this link from the past to meet and share their experiences. On behalf of the Borough of Sefton, may I thank you for your hospitality and support to those attending the Royal Naval Association's National Conference". Therefore, I extend special thanks to Crosby and to all the people who have taken the trouble and time to remember two young people from Dundee. (Applause)

We have our historic ships of which we are justifiably very proud and which attract a large number of visitors from all over the world. The Tay Division of the Royal Naval Reserve provided the manpower and expertise which made it highly valued and admired in naval circles; we remember it with fondness and proud nostalgia. We are also proud of our flourishing Sea Cadet organisation, of which I am Honorary President. As well as welcoming the RNA delegates, I particularly wish to welcome our local Flag Officer, Rear Admiral Philip Jones. His title of Flag Officer Scotland is historically important,

and the appellation of his additional responsibilities for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Flag Officer Reserves make him an important man indeed - but remember that Scotland appears first in his title and therefore must take priority! We are glad to see him here for what I hope will be the first of many visits and I look forward to cementing and strengthening the relationship between Dundee and the Royal Navy. When I speak of historical importance, you will be pleased to know that, in addition to Lord Provost, I have the grand title of Admiral of the Tay, bestowed on my predecessors by the Duke of Lennox on behalf of King James VI on 21 August 1641. In 1641 the Lord Provost had the right to levy all sailors who were not Dundonians who sailed on the Tay, and he also had a share of the cargo. No such luck these days, of course! Perhaps some time in the future!

Dundee is extremely pleased that you have chosen to have your Conference here, and I hope that you will take full advantage of what the city has to offer. It has much to see which is of interest. Apart from Desperate Dan and the Dandy, it has had a number of important citizens, including the pioneers of marmalade, aspirin, electric light, wireless telegraphy, manned flight, X-rays, the adhesive postage stamp, keyhole surgery - and fish and chips! Dundee enjoys having the world's leading pharmaceutical companies who have invested £15 million in research at the University of Dundee, which is home to the world's leading research scientists in cancer and diabetes. In a seafaring sense, as I mentioned earlier, Captain Scott's RRS Discovery was built here in Dundee, and HM Frigate Unicorn, berthed at Dundee's City Quay development, is the oldest naval warship still afloat, dating back to 1824. When you go to church tomorrow, at the entrance you will see the statue of Admiral Duncan, who was Lord Nelson's mentor. I had the great privilege and honour of planting a tree in his memory in Camperdown Park. These comments are a snapshot of Dundee's rich history and of our present. We have now transformed ourselves into a modern, vibrant regional centre. We must not, however, forget our glorious past and we celebrate part of that here this weekend with your 2008 Conference. I hope that you enjoy your visit to the city and to the historic Caird Hall, which I believe to be one of the finest conference venues in Britain.

I will have the opportunity, together with my colleagues, to meet many of you over the next two days at various entertainments and, most particularly, at your church parade and service tomorrow. I hope that you have met old friends and made new ones here in Dundee. I also hope that you will be able to visit us longer next time. Enjoy the silvery Tay and what the warm-hearted citizens of the city have to offer. I look forward to seeing some of you again and wish you a most successful Conference and reunion. God bless each and every one of you, and have a safe journey home. (Applause)

Following the official opening, Conference was addressed by Flag Officer Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland and Flag Officer Reserves (Rear Admiral Philip Jones).

Rear Admiral Philip Jones :

Lord Provost, National Chairman, Chaplain of the Fleet, National Council members, delegates, observers and fellow guests, thank you very much, Admiral John, for your warm welcome. It is a genuine pleasure and privilege for me to be with you here today.

I feel something of a fraud in welcoming you in the presence of the Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of this fine city, but at least I can say that you are on my patch in naval terms, although, as you have heard, that patch these days spreads rather wide round the United Kingdom. I will try to put that in context for those of you from other parts of the UK who may wonder why, as the Lord Provost correctly pointed out, Scotland comes before anywhere else in my title. My post originally was, and still officially is, called Flag Officer Scotland, Northern England and Northern Ireland - a post which goes back a long way in naval history, representing naval business in those three critical areas of the country. However, I had counterparts who did that job in the rest of the UK. Those posts no longer exist, and the responsibility for naval regional activity at the two-star level now lies with me. I have four very busy, active naval regional commanders around the country. Indeed, I hope that many of you come across them on a regular basis. They have headquarters in Rosyth, here in Scotland - that is Charles Stephenson, who looks after Scotland and Northern Ireland; in the wonderful new naval headquarters in - Liverpool you will find John Madgwick, who looks after the whole of Northern England; in Bristol, at HMS Flying Fox, there is the inimitable and tirelessly active Jamie Miller, who looks after Wales and Western England and vies with me, I understand, for the title Flag Officer Wales, which he rather thinks is his. That is for another debate! Last but by no means least, there is Ewen McDonald, who works in the splendid naval headquarters HMS President in London and looks after the Eastern England region. I mention those in particular because the growing sense of unity between the Royal Navy and the Royal Naval Association will, I think, be manifested in the way in which your activity and engagement with the regular and reserve Navy and our youth and cadets activity will be channelled through the work of those naval regional commanders and their staffs. I look forward to a flourishing and on-going link between your Branches and Areas and those naval regions. I see a rich and prosperous future there. I have also been given responsibility within the Navy at two-star level for recruiting for our youth and cadets work. I shall touch briefly on that because it is a thriving and fascinating aspect of our work. You may be aware of an initiative that the Prime Minister has launched to see an almost logarithmic expansion in the number of cadet places available, principally through the combined cadet force units in state schools, but also more widely in what are known as the community cadet forces - the Army Cadet Force, the Air Training Corps, and of course our own and much cherished Sea Cadets. That is significant work that we are seeking to take forward at the moment to respond to the Prime Ministerial directive that we

are thrilled with and would like to see taken forward. Beyond cadets work, there is a significant element of youth work that is pivotal to the contribution that the uniformed services can make to the community and society in the round, looking to bring to bear all that is good about military people and their approach to life and try to get that influence across to young people who will probably never quite feel drawn towards time in the cadets, still less a military career, but are into a bunch of people who look as though they are sorted, together and focused and have a sense of what their life is for and can give them motivation to get out of what are sometimes very difficult domestic circumstances. That is important work that is parented regionally by my naval regional commanders and their headquarters. I hope you will see evidence of that activity as you draw closer to the Royal Navy.

It is very good to see all of you here today as representatives of an Association which I know seeks to take into civilian life all those aspects of service in our cherished Royal Navy which we value most - unity, comradeship, loyalty and patriotism. Each facet is vitally important as we seek to bridge the gap between what we all enjoy about service in the Royal Navy and what we sometimes have to endure in civilian life. It is that unity on which I shall concentrate principally today. Unity is important because it is the cohesion that marks out a body of like-minded individuals with common goals and aspirations. It is a unity which seems to be not always as common a currency as it once was in our country. The nation seems to be increasingly regionalised, and self-government and devolution are trawled as concepts to which everyone should aspire. That in itself is not an impediment to unity, and part of my function in Scotland is to be the manifestation of a Royal Navy still controlled, politically and operationally, by Governments in Whitehall but lives and breathes in a nation that is experiencing the flush of devolution and what that might mean for the future, and it is perfectly reasonable that we do both at the same time up here. In your own careers in the Navy, you came from different ships, you served in different theatres of operation, and you were trained in different branches and specialisations; but that does not mean in any sense that you were from a different Navy.

I mention that, because I am well aware that your National Council has made, and continues to develop, plans for the future about what that unity might mean. Doubtless those plans will not find favour with every Shipmate in the Association or even with every Branch and Area, but I know from my contacts with those at the head of your Association that they are plans which are made for the future good of the Association and its linkage with the Royal Navy and that, once those plans are made and explained by the National Council, they need your support to implement them in a spirit of unity, in the same way that in the regular Navy we have to work hard at developing the plans that the First Sea Lord thinks appropriate and then unite behind them as he takes them forward.

One of the most important aspects which I know needs tackling is to build stronger linkages between the Association and the Royal Navy. Many of us in both organisations believe that the two should become self-supporting. You in the Royal Naval Association, I believe, need the continued assurance and

vitality of youth to invigorate the Association which closer linkage with serving members of the Royal Navy will bring. Those of us still serving in the Royal Navy need your experience, your wisdom, your encouragement and the *esprit de corps* that you demonstrate so well on a daily basis to enable us to do better and to enable us to keep what is good about the Royal Navy and to take it forward into the future as we rise to the many challenges that the Royal Navy faces in terms of number of ships, numbers of people in the Royal Navy and a constant shift in the new tasks and missions we are invited to undertake.

Your National Council, following the guidance issued at Conference in 2007, has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the Second Sea Lord, who is my immediate line superior, which will, if ratified and implemented, automatically enrol every serving member of the naval service as a *de facto* member of the Association. The membership card for them will become the naval identity card.

I believe that this agreement will enable a number of things, including the attendance of serving naval personnel at RNA Branches, the setting up of formal links between your Branches with every ship, establishment and unit of the Royal Navy, and a nominated Royal Naval Association liaison officer in those units in order to make sure that the interchange of ideas and social programmes and how to get the best out of that unity can be taken forward. It will also allow, I think, the Association to communicate more effectively with sailors and their families through the Royal Naval Communities Information system and in due course, hopefully, permit formal serving naval representation on your National Council. Thus, at a stroke, the adoption of these proposals would more than double the membership roll of the Association and could, of course, beyond that, multiply your influence group many times over. It is an exciting set of proposals, and I know that I speak for all at my level in the Navy when I say that we are hugely excited at the prospects of that change.

In many ways, the ethos of the Royal Naval Association is like a golden thread: it runs from our serving days through the rest of our lives and gives a sense of context to both. I believe that it is the preservation of that unique corporate care and consideration for each other which we all hold so dear from our own time serving and which is one of the greatest strengths of the Association seen from inside the Royal Navy looking at you today. Preserving our special relationship is hugely important since the RNA is another window which encourages our whole nation to keep in view today's Royal Navy. If a civilian can identify and appreciate the special characteristics of Royal Naval service and seek to do likewise, it does not matter whether he gets that from a member of the Association or from a member of the Royal Navy. Therefore, from that point of view, I see the Royal Navy and the Royal Naval Association inextricably bound together in protecting, preserving and indeed enhancing the rich maritime heritage of our nation and its maritime future against all the challenges that threaten that future but also recognising the huge potential to exploit that future.

So we have much to help each other with, and I can assure you that, if you accept the proposals, the fleet which you will draw closer to is still a hard-working and highly respected one across the world. It is far from the biggest, but still undoubtedly one of the best. As you know, we have plans in train to enhance much of our capability over the next few years, and I am convinced that the expansion of our capability will enable the Navy to retain its position as a cutting-edge world class navy which many still look to and aspire to model for their own development. For example, our new Type 45 destroyers, which are building on the Clyde at the moment - one is already through contractor sea trials and is close to hoisting the White Ensign for the first time - are world class ships that have impressed and astounded all who have seen them at sea. They are indeed the envy of the world.

There are the about-to-be-ordered aircraft carriers. We are literally within a week, I hope, of a high profile contract signature for those carriers. I cannot tell you precisely how and when that will happen as we are still in the shifting sands of ministerial expectations and ministerial diaries, but I would keep close to the media for the next seven days if I were you! That gives the Navy the opportunity to refresh and regenerate a fixed-wing strike carrier capability the like of which we have not seen for a long time and has enormous potential to keep the Royal Navy at the cutting edge of maritime technology and striking power.

The first Astute class nuclear submarine building at Barrow will, hopefully, be at Faslane flying the White Ensign before the end of the year, taking that element of the Navy's hard-won and time-honoured capability into the cutting edge 21st century of submarine capability.

However, contrary to rumour, size does matter, and in many ways we in the Silent Service have been our own worst enemy. We have lost a lot of shore establishments and we have lost a lot of people from the Royal Navy in the past 20 years. In many areas of the country that you represent in your Branches, the full-time regular naval footprint is very small, if it is there at all.

But it is men and women who make the Navy, and not just ships and shore establishments, not just grey steel and bricks and mortar. Regrettably, over the years sailors have tended to be too self-deprecating, too quiet, too content to go about their own jobs without championing to the nation the fact that we need support, both moral and financial, in order to be able to take forward the Navy of the future. We have wasted many opportunities for getting on to the front foot and telling the world just how good we are and what we are doing around the world to make it a better place.

We are recognising that now. We are trying to make the most of a programme called Sea Vision in order to get into as many areas of the country as possible to ensure that people do understand, first, that they have a Navy and, secondly, what the Navy can do for them. We welcome enormously the recommendations of Quentin Davies's National Recognition Study, many of which we are already putting in train. We look forward to taking all the

remaining recommendations forward robustly as we try to reinsert the Armed Forces into the focus of a society that often is too willing not to notice us.

The Royal Naval Association can be of material assistance by remaining informed about what the Royal Navy is doing and by, in turn, informing the public and extolling the virtues and skills of the men and women who man today's fleet. A very good way of doing that is through publications such as Broadsheet, which I am pleased to see in ample numbers in boxes outside the hall. I recommend for your attention and highlight the CD in that publication which contains a compelling interview with the First Sea Lord by the BBC reporter Kate Silverton. In it Sir Jonathon Band articulates, in that wonderfully lucid way of his, exactly where the Navy is today and some of the challenges we have had to rise to, not least the huge knock back of the arrest of the Cornwall boarding party last year and the lessons we are learning from that.

I look forward to seeing the new relationship between the Association and the Royal Navy develop into the future. I wish you huge success with your Conference and look forward to having the opportunity to attend at some time one of your Conferences elsewhere. As you will understand from my job title, as long as you can arrange it in the United Kingdom, I can claim almost anywhere to be on my patch. Who knows, perhaps I will be able to attend a Conference where there is a serving uniformed Royal Navy delegate, but maybe I am flying my kite a little bit high! Thank you for your attention. Thank you for your hospitality at your Conference this morning and at your pre-Conference dinner last night, which I enjoyed very much. I wish you well for the rest of your time here. (Applause)

The National President :

Thank you very much for your address, Philip. We have rarely had at Conference an address from a serving senior officer which has been so focused on the Royal Naval Association's particular interests. I should like to assure you that we are right behind, alongside and with the Royal Navy. We support it in every way. We will be celebrating next Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday when the carrier contract is finally signed. We do not just believe that the Royal Navy is one of the best; we know that it is the best. It is now my duty, Shipmates, to bid, not farewell, but *au re voir* to the Lord Provost and Flag Officer Scotland. I have something to give them to help them on their way. (Presentations made)

The National President's Address :

After those two splendid addresses, anything that I say will be something of a damp squib, so I am glad, and no doubt you are, that what I plan to say to you will be a bit shorter than normal. Shipmates, we have had the privilege this morning of hearing the Chaplain of the Fleet commend our endeavours of today to Almighty God, and later of being addressed on the subject of unity, or one-ness, by Admiral Jones. Both stressed the need for corporate endeavour: working together as a team, as a ship's company as we all did and try to

continue, a family of like minded individuals focused on common goals, in our case unity, comradeship, loyalty and patriotism. These things, the common targets and responsibilities, bind us together, but such is the size of our Association and its dispersed nature that we have to entrust its administration, guidance and direction to the National Council, who act as trustees of the Association and are responsible, morally and legally, for the affairs of our ship's company - the RNA family. You the membership choose these individuals to represent your interests. They are not delegates who are expected slavishly to follow the instructions of their Areas. They are representatives who are tasked by their Areas with using their judgement, intelligence and experience for the good of the Royal Naval Association community in general. They are trusted, and they hold our Association in trust for us all. Because they are trustees, they are to be trusted, and as volunteers they give up a great deal of their free time in looking after the Association. But they are trustees and not curators. A curator is someone who looks after something valuable with a view to keeping it as it is. On the other hand, a trustee has a moral responsibility for maintaining what is good and improving or developing that which is capable of a more active or extended life. Curators should not take risks; trustees are compelled to take some risks if they are to justify their existence. Because trustees take risks, they are sometimes misunderstood, as individuals or as members of the trustees' group. Because not all of us think the same way, not all of us are exposed to the same amount of information and not all of us interpret the information in the same way. Thus, almost a core responsibility of any trustee is to take the blame, and often there is quite a lot of it. Occasionally I think that the thing we can most agree on in our Association is our propensity to disagree. The same piece of information may be interpreted in many different ways. Often constructions are put on occurrences which are quite a long way away from the truth, and often a crumb of information is misinterpreted or misrepresented in a way which does our Association damage. This reminds me of the admiral who took his grandchildren to a safari park. In the course of inspecting the lions, one lion escaped from its enclosure, leapt over the fence and seized the admiral's three-year-old granddaughter. Just as it was about to eat into her, the admiral leapt forward, gave the lion a bang over the head with his stick and snatched his granddaughter to safety. This was seen by a passing reporter, who wrote it up under the headline "Admiral beats up African immigrant and steals his lunch"! You might say that there was a grain of truth in that version of the event, but perhaps it did not accurately inform its readers. Occasionally we might have parallels with this situation in the RNA and sometimes the authors of reports about an admiral who beat up an African immigrant respond by saying, "It's only a bit of fun" or "You must not take this too seriously; it is just a bit of mischief among friends". Much of what we do, say and publish is available to the general public via the RNA website and the various sites maintained by Areas themselves. In many instances, the general public readership does not possess that robust, developed and arcane sense of humour peculiar to those from a naval background, who do not understand the mess-deck banter that we all enjoy. There is a risk - and it is becoming more frequent - that the uninitiated readership may take up the wrong idea about what is going on and what our real values are. I suggest that your trustees need to be appreciated occasionally rather than reviled. They need

the respect and trust of their contemporaries if they are to continue to work for the Association in the selfless way that they do. We who are trustees need your support, and we need you to trust us when we say that we are working for the revival of the Association. We need you to take a broad look at what we are trying to achieve on your behalf and to ignore parochial issues. We need you to want the Association to remain in being after you have gone - indeed after we have gone. We need you to tell everyone you meet what a fine organisation the RNA is and why they should seek membership. We need you to welcome visitors to your Branch and club in the way that only matelots can. We need you to remember that once you were young and to forgive the young for existing, because they are the future. Above all, we need you to give us your confidence. Trust us in what we are trying to do for our Association and for all those who will, hopefully, follow. Trust us when we say that the Royal Navy desperately wants us to succeed as an association. Trust us when we say that they need us just as we need them. Much of this is about communication, which has not been as good within the Association as it ought to be. It will be a main focus of activity once we have settled in at Portsmouth. But we are not waiting for that before making a start. The National Council held, not yesterday's meeting, but the one before in Liverpool and followed it with an open forum discussion between National Councillors and members of No. 10 Area, particularly the Area Committee. I think that it was a great success, and indeed our hosts urged us to repeat it around the country. We certainly would like to do that, but it is not easy, both in terms of time and expense. Another innovation is that we are to hold a meeting in London for all Area Presidents and Area Chairmen, and with the National Council, where we will go through the issues, and when we have done that for about 40 minutes we will be joined by the First Sea Lord, who will speak to us, and then we will have lunch and a few pints together - probably more than a few pints! I hope that that will be a helpful means of communication. Much of what I have said might appear to be a bit of a Presidential rocket. It is not intended to be taken in that way. I know, because I have the privilege of going to all the Association Areas, just what a lovely bunch you are. I was in Crosby RNA last weekend for a superbly organised and very enjoyable veterans' Sunday. Some of you may think that Crosby have been getting too many plaudits. Today the Lord Provost mentioned them as well in connection with the two lost sailors from Dundee who are buried in Bootle. It was a lovely initiative and much of what our Association is about, which is paralleled all over the country. There was a splendid ceremony in New Maiden not long ago which the Deputy President attended to put a special plaque on a World War One memorial commemorating Lieutenant Firman, VC, and at which the Chaplain of the Fleet led the singing - something that he had not expected to do.

The President's Awards for Recruiting

4. The General Secretary announced the awards, which are as follows:

The Sword of Honour, which is awarded to the Area with the greatest increase of full members during 2007, goes to 3 Area. (Presentation made).

The Briggs Dirk, which is awarded to a Branch with more than 30 Full Members recruiting most Full Members from June to June, goes to Gosport (Presentation Made).

The Briggs Rose Bowl which is awarded to a Branch with fewer than 30 Full Members recruiting most Full Members from June to June is shared by Bracknell and Stafford (6 months each) (Presentation Made).

The Overseas Certificate which is awarded to the overseas Branch with more than 30 Full Members recruiting most Full Members from June to June goes to Torreveija, Spain (Presentation Made).

The Overseas Certificate which is awarded to the overseas Branch with fewer than 30 Full Members recruiting most Full Members from June to June goes to Eastern Cyprus, (Presentation Made).

The Tasker Bowl which is awarded to the Area recruiting the most Gift Aid Registrations goes to No. 4 Area (Presentation made).

Special Occasion Certificates

5. A 50th Anniversary Certificate was presented to the Shrewsbury Branch, it being but 7 years after the event.

Standing Orders Committee Report

6. **The Chairman, Standing Orders Committee (S/m Jeremy Owens)** briefed delegates on the voting procedures and outlined the actions taken on the Conference Motions by the Standing Orders Committee. A full transcript will appear in the Conference Minutes.

Election of National Council Members

7. National Council Elections were not required this year.

Election of Standing Orders Committee Members

8. Two members were due to stand down this year, Messrs S/Ms Avery and McDermott. However, in the absence of other candidates both agreed to continue in post.

Minutes of the 2007 Conference

7. The National President asked if any Shipmate had any difficulty with what is recorded in the Minutes as having been said in 2007? (No Response). The Minutes were adopted on a show of hands.

Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2007 Conference

8. The National President asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the 2006 Conference? (No. Response). There were no matters arising.

The Honorary Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2007

9. The Honorary Treasurer presented his Report and the Annual Accounts. There were no questions on his detailed report which appears in the full Minutes of Conference. The Honorary Treasurer's Report was approved by acclamation.

The National Council's Report to Conference for 2007

10. This Report was accepted by acclamation.

Motions of Urgency

11. a. *Proposed by National Council AND seconded by Beccles.* Firstly, that the draft Memorandum of Understanding negotiated between the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Navy, pursuant to a Resolution at the 70th Annual Conference on 16 June 2007, be noted with approval. **PASSED**

b. *Proposed by National Council and Seconded by Beccles.* Secondly, that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Naval Association and the Royal Navy be finalised, subject to any minor changes to the draft which are agreed between the President of the Royal Naval Association and the Second Sea Lord. **PASSED.**

Proposed by Maldon Branch and seconded by Chelmsford. That National Council take steps to enable the 2010 National Conference to be held at a suitable venue in London. **Debated as an amendment to Motion No. 8.**

Branch Motions

12.

Motion No. 1. *Proposed by Saltash Branch (Seconded by Liskeard Branch).*

"That the National Council provide an up to date statement of progress, including intentions for future action, on the asbestos compensation issue, arising from Motion No. 8 at the 2005 Annual Conference". **PASSED**

Motion No. 2. *Proposed by Peterborough and District Branch (Seconded by Newbury and District Branch).*

“That the Royal Charter, Rules and Bye-Laws, as appropriate, be amended to allow Associate Members who have completed at least five years membership of the Association to be designated by their Branch as the accredited Branch delegate, with the power to vote, at Area Meetings and National Conferences”.

Amendment from the Floor Proposed by Frome and Seconded by Greenford

- a. Amend the last phrase of Rule 9(a) to read “subject to the exceptions in (b) and (c) below”.
- b. Insert new Rule 9 © :
- “c. Associate Members who have completed at least five years membership of the Association may be elected as Branch delegates, with power to vote at Area Meetings and National Conferences”.
- c. Renumber existing Rule 9 ©, (d), (e) and (f) as Rule “9 (d), (e), (f) and (g)” respectively. **The Amendment PASSED.**

On a CARD VOTE the Amended Motion FAILED

Motion No. 3. *Proposed by Worthing Branch (Seconded by Waterlooville Branch).*

“That Bye-Law A16 be amended to read : “A capitation fee of 10% of the subscriptions received in Headquarters by 31st December each year shall be paid to each Area in respect of Branches within its Area”. **FAILED**

Motion No. 4. *Proposed by Isle of Sheppey Branch (Seconded by Maidstone Branch).*

“That vacant positions on the Royal Naval Association Headquarters Senior Staff be advertised widely in appropriate journals”. **FAILED**

Motion No. 5. *Proposed by Isle of Sheppey Branch (Seconded by Maidstone Branch).*

“That the Royal Charter, Rules and Bye-Laws, as appropriate, be amended to provide that decisions on the appointment of Royal Naval Association Headquarters Senior Staff be taken by the elected members of the National Council”. **FAILED**

Motion No. 6. *Proposed by Huddersfield Branch (Seconded by Mexborough Branch).*

“That the Royal Naval Association represent to the appropriate authorities that suitable inscriptions be added to existing war memorials in recognition of subsequent conflicts involving United Kingdom Armed Forces”. **FAILED**

Motion No. 7. *Proposed by West Lothian Branch (Seconded by Inverness Branch).*

“That biennial National Standard Bearers’ Competitions be held during the appropriate National Conference weekend”.

National Council proposed amendment seconded by York and District – Motion should read “Where practicable the biennial National Standard Bearers etc” **AMENDED MOTION PASSED**

Motion No. 8. *Proposed by France Nord Branch (Seconded by Aquitaine Branch).*

“That France Nord Branch host the 2010 National Conference”. **PASSED**

(Debated in parallel with a Motion of Urgency Proposed by Maldon and Seconded by Chelmsford) “That National Council take steps to enable the 2010 National Conference to be held at a suitable venue in London”

This Motion of Urgency FAILED.

The Conference Raffle – Results

13. The results of the Conference Raffle (organised and directed by Shipmate Tony Sattin) are as follows :

First Prize of £400	-	S/M T Tubb, Peterborough
Second Prize of £300	-	S/M C Walford, Thetford
Third Prize of £200	-	Bridlington RNA
Fourth Prize of £100	-	S/M S South, Liverpool

Conference 2008 - Pooled Fares (Bye Law 3 amended by National Council) TRAVELLING EXPENSES TO AND FROM NATIONAL CONFERENCES

14. a. Delegates are to report their reasonable travelling expenses to and from National Conferences in the manner prescribed by the General Secretary. These sums will be pooled and the liability will be equally divided among ALL Branches of the Association, in the United Kingdom and Eire.
- b. The difference between the pool share and the travelling expenses for the delegate will be adjusted. Branches whose delegate's travelling expenses exceed the pool share will receive the difference from Headquarters, and those whose delegate's travelling expenses are less than the pool share will be called upon to pay the difference into Headquarters, subject to a subsidy from Headquarters for small branches.
- c. The subsidies shall be 50% of the pool share for branches with 15 or less full life and full members and 25% of the pool share for branches with 16-30 full life and full members. Branches with 31 or more full life members shall pay the full pool share. The number of full life and full members for each branch as calculated by headquarters for the previous year.
- d. Branches in the UK and Eire who do not send a delegate to conference shall pay the pool share, subject to any subsidy as appropriate.
- (i) The total fares shown by delegates was £13,368.21
- (ii) There are 380 Branches in the UK and Eire liable to pay **Pooled Fares**
- (iii) £13,368.21 divided by 380 is £35.17 (Branches 31+).
- (iv) 25% off Pooled Fare is £26.37 (Branches 16-30).
- (v) 50% off Pooled Fare is £17.58 (Branches 15 or less).

EXAMPLES:

- (i) Saltash (28 F/L & F members) sent a delegate. His fare was £311.00. They will be credited £284.63.
- (ii) Wigan (12 F/L & F members) did not send a delegate. They will be debited £17.58.
- (iii) Eastbourne (56 F/L & F members) did not send a delegate. They will be debited £35.17.
- d. Any query should be directed to the Assistant Secretary. Delegates who **DID NOT** fill out fare on cards will have, as in previous years, been charged the **standard Pool Fare Rate**.

Seminar for Area Presidents and Area Chairmen on 9th July 2008

15. The National President hosted a Seminar for Area Presidents and Chairmen in The State Apartments of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea in order to brief them on recent aspects of the Association's business and to discuss topics raised from the floor. Among the issues covered were :

- The appointment of a Deputy General Secretary
- The schedule for the relocation of the HQ to Portsmouth
- Further recruitment of HQ Staff
- Managing Area Business
- Communication within the RNA
- Attendance at Conferences and Seminars
- Questions from the floor

The First Sea Lord (Admiral Sir Jonathon Band GCB ADC) joined the gathering and favoured the assembly with a detailed "State of the Royal Navy" address followed by a lively question and answer session. First Sea Lord joined the Shipmates for a light luncheon maintaining an animated and enlightening discussion throughout. After lunch the Shipmates retired to The In-Pensioners Club to further consider the state of the Universe.

It is hoped in future to hold these Seminars on an annual basis.

A Cheering Message from The First Sea Lord dated 3rd July 2008

16. This morning I was delighted to attend the formal signing of the Future Carrier manufacture contract by the Minister for Defence Equipment and Support and the Chief Executive of BVT in HMS ARK ROYAL. This is indeed a red letter day for defence and the Royal Navy. Formal contract signature allows the aircraft carrier alliance to proceed with the build of the two ships with the first steel to be cut in early 2009. HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES will enter service in 2014 and 2016 respectively.

The ability to deliver joint expeditionary strike is fundamental to UK defence strategy and the future navy. The carriers, together with the joint tailored air group and support shipping will transform the UK's defence capability and as part of an integrated task group will deliver air power in support of theatre entry and precision strike over the full range of operations at sea, in the air and on land.

With the contract now in place and with only four years to run until the first member of the ship's company joins HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in 2012, I expect and know the Royal Navy will provide its fullest support to assist in the delivery of this truly joint capability for defence.

As we all look forward to the start of the build programme I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to everyone who has played a part in delivering today's contract agreement.

Advertisements for Staff for the Portsmouth Headquarters

17. **The Royal Naval Association** **Office Administrator, IT and Membership Manager**

As part of an ongoing strategy the RNA is moving its HQ from London to Portsmouth and is seeking new members for its small, dynamic and hardworking team.

You will have a very good knowledge of MS Office and manage documentation towards the aim of a 'paperless office'. You will provide limited training to members of staff and branches to the level of ECDL.

You will be the Association Membership Manager and will manage and further develop the existing membership MS Access database, liaising with branches to ensure the validity of content.

You will have a good working knowledge of DTP (Adobe Illustrator) so that you are able to produce high quality in house certificates, brochures, flyers etc.

You will manage a small office network using MS OS products.

You will help to develop the overall IT awareness of the Association with the aim increasing the use of e-mail and web based data.

You will be responsible for management of all office machinery.

You will be offered a competitive salary commensurate with your ability.

The RNA is an equal opportunities employer and will contribute to an employee's pension scheme.

If you think you can meet the challenge - then please send your CV with the names of two referees to The General Secretary by 15 August 2008. The address is :

Commander J McClurg Royal Navy
The Royal Naval Association
82 Chelsea Manor Street
LONDON SW3 5QJ
e-mail: paddy@royalnavalassoc.com
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk

The Royal Naval Association **Receptionist and Book-keeper**

As part of an ongoing strategy the RNA is moving its HQ from London to Portsmouth and is seeking new members for its small, dynamic and hardworking team.

As the RNA 'first point of contact' for callers and visitors you will have a pleasant and helpful disposition.

You will manage the association day to day accounts which will require you to have a good knowledge of SAGE accounting software and MS Office. SAGE training may be offered to an otherwise qualified candidate.

You will manage the purchase, sale and stock control of the Association PR material.

You will manage the stock control of office supplies.

You will assist in the preparation of key association meetings.

You will manage the HQ diary.

You will process Association mail.

You will be offered a competitive salary commensurate with your ability.

The RNA is an equal opportunities employer and will contribute to an employee's pension scheme.

If you think you can meet the challenge - then please send your CV with the names of two referees to The General Secretary by 15 August 2008. The address is :

Commander J McClurg Royal Navy
The Royal Naval Association
82 Chelsea Manor Street
LONDON SW3 5QJ
e-mail: paddy@royalnavalassoc.com
www.royal-naval-association.co.uk

Royal Navy Presentation Team Programme-September 2008 to July 2009

18. The Royal Navy Presentation Team exists to enhance understanding of the Royal Navy and its role today by conducting a series of civic and special (private) presentations each year around the UK. Guest lists for the **Civic Presentations** are prepared by the appropriate Naval Regional Commander and applications for inclusion on the guest list need to be made early to ensure inclusion. The Naval Regional Commanders are located as follows :

Scotland & Northern Ireland – HMS CALEDONIA, Rosyth, Fife

Northern England – HMS EAGLET, Brunswick Dock, Liverpool L3 4DZ

Wales & West England – HMS FLYING FOX, Winterstoke Rd, Bristol BS3 2NS

Eastern England – HMS PRESIDENT, 72 St Katherine's Way, London E1 9UQ

Special Presentations. A number of private ('special') events are already scheduled in the next RNPT programme, however there remains much opportunity and plenty of flexibility to hopefully conduct many more. The RNPT does not fund special presentations, but neither does it charge for its services. 'Specials' are arranged by/for specific organisations, which may contact RNPT and request a presentation for their group. In this case the cost of venue hire, refreshments (if any), and the responsibility for finding an audience of more than 50 is borne by the requesting group. Such targeted groups include Academia; Business Clubs (and businesses themselves); Rotary, Round Table, Probus and other similar organisations; any 'current or future leaders' forums'; Youth groups and specific MOD sponsored events. The RNPT is always keen to deliver 'special' presentations to suitable groups that will provide good quality target audiences, and will therefore consider all bids. If any RNA Branch is interested in hosting an RNPT special, please forward names and contact details to the RNPT Events Director, Lt Cdr Mark Walker RN (rnpt-ed@mod.uk; 020 8833 8020; 0777 446 8523) or write to :

The Royal Navy Presentation Team
11/12 Tedder Close
West End Road
Ruislip HA4 6NR

ROYAL NAVY PRESENTATION TEAM TOUR SEP 08/JUL 09			
DAY	DATE	SPECIAL EVENTS	CIVIC EVENTS
Tue	02-Sep	Skinners' Hall Military Briefing - <i>Q&A only</i>	
Thu	04-Sep	HMS SULTAN	
Tue	16-Sep	Lancaster Royal Grammar School - <i>TBC</i>	
Wed	17-Sep	St Mary's High School, Leigh - <i>TBC</i>	
Tue	23-Sep	Woking Probus Club	
Wed	24-Sep		DERBY
Thu	25-Sep		LEICESTER
Tue	30-Sep		ROTHESAY
Wed	01-Oct		GREENOCK
Thu	02-Oct		KILMARNOCK
Wed	08-Oct	University of Hull - Centre for Security Studies	
Tue	14-Oct		WELSHPOOL
Thu	16-Oct		WOLVERHAMPTON
Tue	21-Oct	SCSD Special, FOST Devonport	
Wed	22-Oct	Rolls Royce Bristol x2 <i>back-to-back</i>	
Sun	26-Oct	<i>Business Conference?, Southampton - TBC</i>	
Mon	27-Oct	Moreton-in-Marsh Probus Club - <i>TBC</i>	
Wed	12-Nov		TAUNTON
Thu	13-Nov		BOURNEMOUTH
Wed	19-Nov	BAE Sys Cmc Grad Cnvn, Portsmouth	
Tue	25-Nov		MORPETH
Wed	26-Nov		LEEDS
Thu	27-Nov	Stonyhurst College, Lancs	
Thu	04-Dec	Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh	
Tue	09-Dec	<i>School/College in NW England - TBA</i>	
Wed	10-Dec	Pewterspear Probus Club (near Warrington)	
Thu	11-Dec	<i>School/College in NW England - TBA</i>	
			Leave 20 Dec 08 - 4 Jan 09
Tue	13-Jan		GOOLE
Wed	14-Jan		GRIMSBY
Tue	27-Jan		BRADFORD
Wed	28-Jan		DONCASTER
Thu	29-Jan	<i>Cumbria CMI Special, Barrow - TBC</i>	
Wed	04-Feb		BARKING

Thu	05-Feb		CHELMSFORD
Wed	11-Feb	AFPS, MoD London (1100 Start)	
Tue	17-Feb		GATESHEAD
Wed	18-Feb		DURHAM
Wed	25-Feb		TEWKESBURY
Thu	26-Feb		MARLBOROUGH
Tue	10-Mar		ISLE OF MAN
Thu	12-Mar		BLACKBURN
Tue	17-Mar		NORTHAMPTON
Wed	18-Mar		OXFORD
Thu	19-Mar		NEWBURY
Tue	31-Mar		BIRKENHEAD
Wed	01-Apr	<i>School/College in NW England - TBA</i>	
Thu	02-Apr		WREXHAM
			Leave 4 - 19 Apr 09
Tue	28-Apr		PORTREE (Isle of Skye)
Wed	29-Apr		FORT WILLIAM
Thu	30-Apr		OBAN
Thu	07-May	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich	
Tue	12-May		PENZANCE
Wed	13-May		EXETER
Tue	19-May		CAMBRIDGE
Wed	20-May	Melbourn & District U3A (Cams)	
Thu	21-May		GREAT YARMOUTH
Wed	03-Jun		MANCHESTER
Thu	04-Jun		CHESTER
Tue	09-Jun		CARDIGAN
Wed	10-Jun		BRECON
Mon	22-Jun		LONDON - at HMS <i>PRESIDENT</i>
Thu	25-Jun		EASTBOURNE
Tue	07-Jul		DUDLEY
Wed	08-Jul		NUNEATON
Tue	14-Jul		SUNDERLAND
Wed	15-Jul		RICHMOND (North Yorks)
Wed	29-Jul		ASHFORD
Thu	30-Jul		WOKING
			Leave 8 - 31 Aug 09

Royal Naval Association Diaries for 2009

20. Diaries for the next year will be available in a Blue cover. Orders should arrive by 29TH August 2008 and be accompanied by a cheque for the total value.

To: The Assistant General Secretary
Royal Naval Association
82 Chelsea Manor Street
London SW3 5QJ

From: **Branch**

Please provide**2009 Diaries @£4.00**

Send to :

e-MAIL ADDRESSES

21. RNA HQ Staff continue to attempt to build a library of e-mail addresses within the Association. It would be extremely helpful if those Branch Secretaries able to communicate by e-mail would forward a short e-message to HQ on paddy@royalnavalassoc.com so that registration can begin

Gift Aid

22. Following the change from covenanting to Gift Aid, we have somehow lost momentum. The number of Gift Aid forms, from a membership of 24,590 stands at a modest 3,500. May we remind you that this is free money, which has helped us to maintain our annual subscription at £10.00. A blank Gift Aid form is included with this Newsletter at Annex B. Once completed, a Gift Aid Declaration lasts until it is rescinded. Thank you.

Navy News Subscriptions - Price Increase and Special Offers for New Subscribers

23. The cover price of The Navy News recently increased to £1-80 per issue which is the first increase for 3 years following a large rise in the cost of printing and distribution. However,. The Navy News is offering a special deal for annual subscribers with a subscription of £18-00 for 12 issues including postage and packing - the Navy News comes though your letterbox at a very reduced rate. The cover price saving is £3-60 before considering postage and packing - for Overseas please phone 02392-734448 for Airmail prices or contact subscriptions@navynews.co.uk. See the offer each month in The Navy News.

RNA Calendar from No. 11 Area – The Best Buy

24. A quite splendid calendar has been produced and published by No. 11 Area and will decorate any clubroom or home. Lavishly illustrated by contemporary naval photographs it is certainly worth the very modest price of £3-00 (including postage and packing). Orders must be received by 31st July 2008. To order, contact :

S/M Peter Reddick – e-mail peter.reddick@ntlworld.com

OR

S/M John Rooney – e-mail f.rooney2@ntlworld.com

Or at 11 Exmoor Grove, Hartlepool, TS26 OXE

Royal Marines Band Service – Bids for Engagements

25. All bids for Royal Marines Bands Engagements for the period April 2008 to March 2009 must reach HQRN by 1 October 2007. Those Branches seeking a Royal Marine Band should request an application form from RNA HQ which should be returned to HQ not later than Friday 19th September. Priority will be given to Branches holding Standard Dedications.

Annual National Service for Seafarers –St Paul’s Cathedral

26. This year’s Service will be held on Wednesday 15th October at 1730. As usual, RNA HQ will co-ordinate applications for seats which should reach us by 3rd September. Applications should contain a stamped addressed envelope (size to fit order) for the despatch of the tickets, which will be sent out about two weeks before the Service.

Field of Remembrance – Opening Thursday 6th November 2008

27. The 2008 Field of Remembrance will, by kind permission of The Dean and Chapter of Westminster, open at 1120 on Thursday 6th November when a short Service will be held. The Royal Naval Association, together with other organisations, is invited to attend and those attending should be in position by 1100. A senior member of the Royal Family has kindly agreed to attend and inspect the plots. We have been allocated Plot 227. The system whereby Branches order their crosses direct from The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory works well so we have included the order form with this circular. Please note that Badge Crosses must be ordered by the end of September.

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November 2008

28. Headquarters will have a limited number of tickets for the Cenotaph Parade and Service on Sunday 9th November 2008. Shipmates are reminded of the physical demands of standing in Whitehall for at least one hour and then marching for a distance of at least one and a half miles, possibly in inclement weather. Any Shipmate planning to attend who requires a carer should also apply for a ticket for the carer (one carer per participant). Please apply to HQ by 26th September at the latest enclosing a stamped addressed envelope. Tickets will be available for dispatch in early October. **We ask Shipmates who receive tickets from the RNA to march in the RNA Platoon.**

The Annual Conference 2009

29. The Annual Conference 2009 will be held in Londonderry on 13th June 2009. In order that preliminary accommodation reservations can be made, Branches are earnestly requested to register “an expression of interest” in attending. This does not commit a Branch to send a delegate but merely indicates an interest in doing so which will help with accommodation planning. Please indicate on the form below or send an e-mail message to paddy@royalnavalassoc.com stating Branch and if intending to be represented :

.....Branch of the Royal Naval Association intends to be represented at the Annual Conference 2009 to be held in Londonderry on 13th June 2009. Our likely requirement for hotel rooms is.....

Send to : The General Secretary, Royal Naval Association, 82 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 5QJ or e-mail to paddy@royalnavalassoc.com.

Very many thanks.

The Annual Conference 2010

30. The Annual Conference 2010 will be held in Ouistreham (Northern France) between 3rd and 6th June 2010. In order that preliminary accommodation reservations can be made, Branches are earnestly requested to register “an expression of interest” in attending. This does not commit a Branch to send a delegate but merely indicates an interest in doing so which will help with accommodation planning. Please indicate on the form below or send an e-mail message to paddy@royalnavalassoc.com stating Branch and if intending to be represented :

.....Branch of the Royal Naval Association intends to be represented at the Annual Conference 2010 to be held in Ouistreham between 3rd and 6th June 2010. Our likely requirement for hotel rooms is.....

Send to : The General Secretary, Royal Naval Association, 82 Chelsea Manor Street, London SW3 5QJ or e-mail to paddy@royalnavalassoc.com.

Very many thanks.

**The Royal Naval Association Littlehampton – Sea Sunday Service –
Sunday 20th July 2008**

31. The Royal Naval association Littlehampton will be holding its Annual Sea Sunday Service on Sunday 20th July 2008 commencing at 1400. The parade will form at 1400 by the East Beach Café. There will be a short march to the Pier where a Service will be held and a Wreath cast into the River Arun on the outgoing tide. After the ceremony the marchers will parade back to the Café. Refreshments will be served at the Maltravers Social Club, Maltravers Road, Littlehampton with amber liquid for Standard Bearers. All seafarers and ex-seafarers are welcome.

32. **ASSOCIATION OF WRENS**
National Reunion at York

22-24 August 2008
Friday Evening Welcome Buffet

**Saturday RM Assn. Band
Concert & Re-education
Socialising - goods stalls -
photo display**

York visitor trips optional

Good accommodation on
campus
Expecting over 1,000 members,
why not join us?

**REUNION HOTLINE 01489
505226**

Not a member? Not a problem,
contact 0207 9320111

wrensassoc@aol.com

www.wrens.org.uk

**Serving RN Women especially
welcome!**

Friends of HMS VIDAL

33. The 2008 reunion of The Friends of HMS VIDAL will be held at The Burlington Palm Hotel, North Drive, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 1EG on 6th September 2008. Please contact David Parker, 28 The Sanctuary, Green Lane, Morden, Surrey CM4 5NX (Tel : 0208-648-0160) for full details.

HMS MATCHLESS Association 1942-46 (including other "M" Class Destroyers of the Flotilla)

34. Shipmates from the first and second commission of the above are welcome to attend the 22nd Annual Reunion of the Association which will take place on 20th September 2008 in The Union Jack Club, London. Contact J Horton at 10 Finch Court, Coles Close, Ongar, Essex CM5 OAY (Tel : 01277-366617).

HMS JAMAICA Association

35. The twenty-third annual Re-union of the HMS JAMAICA Association will take place in Blackpool between 26th and 29th September 2008. Those wishing to attend or seeking information should contact the Honorary Secretary, Mac Wilkinson on 01843-582283 or at boaxcar@btinternet.com.

Harlow Branch of the Royal Naval Association – 50th Anniversary

36. Harlow Branch of the Royal Naval Association will be holding a Laying Up and Dedication Service on Sunday 19th October 2008 at St James' with St Luke's Church, Staple Tye, Harlow, Essex at 1500. There will be no March Past. Standards will line the entrance to the Church before and after the Service. Refreshments will be served after the Service.

Harlow Branch extends an invitation to Branches interested in sending their Standard and up to four Shipmates. Branches should contact the Honorary Secretary : S/M June Ray, 37 Park Mead, Harlow, Essex CM20 1RL – Tel : 01279-865919 – e-mail june.ray1@ntlworld.com.

The Fleet Street Trafalgar Service

37. The popular Fleet Street Trafalgar Service now comes under the direction of No. 1 Area and will be held on Sunday 19th October 2008 at St Brides Church, Fleet Street, London EC4 commencing at 1100. Shipmates and Standards are invited to attend and to enjoy and renew old acquaintances – wets provided! Standards will muster at 1045. Further details from S/M Alan Robinson (0208-7590444) or S/M Alan Peatling (01376-514761).

HMS ULSTER 1958-60 Commission – 50th and Final Re-union

38. The 50th Anniversary and Final Re-union will take place between 24-27 October 2008 at the Kistor Hotel, Torquay. and full details can be obtained from Reg Ralph, 20 Penhale Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7JX (Tel : 01323-725978) e-mail rejoice@milnet.co.uk.

HMS NAIAD – Re-union

39. A re-union for all those who served in HMS NAIAD is planned for the weekend 31st October to 1st November 2008 and will be held in the Queen's Hotel, Southsea. Details can be obtained from the website www.hmsnaiad.co.uk or contact Paul Gower who is the Social Secretary at reunion@hmsnaiad.co.uk Or via 01443-685861 or 07876-057415.

A Pensioner Seamen's Hospital at the Royal Hospital Chelsea – Feasibility Study

40. A group of naval linked people are involved with a feasibility study that is looking at using a part of the Royal Naval Hospital site at Haslar to create an equivalent to the Royal Hospital at Chelsea in order to provide shelter and refuge for its pensioners. It is envisaged that the 'Haslar Pensioners' will consist of men and women both officers and ratings who have served in either the Royal Navy or the Royal Marines. A part of the study required is to establish a need for such a centre and it is in this regard that we would very much like your help. If you feel that such a facility is something that you would like to see established could you please answer the short questions below and return your replies to the General Secretary. I apologise for not putting a pre-paid reply envelope attachment for this as the study is being conducted voluntarily and funds are not available for this. Your support, therefore, is very much appreciated.

- | | | |
|------------|--|--------|
| Question 1 | Do you feel that there is a need for a centre similar to that provided for the Army at the Royal Hospital Chelsea based at RNH Haslar? | YES/NO |
| Question 2 | Would you be prepared to support such a centre? | YES/NO |
| Question 3 | Would you be prepared to consider becoming a Haslar Pensioner? | YES/NO |
| Question 4 | Where do you live? | |
| | South East | |
| | South West | |
| | Midlands | |
| | North West | |
| | North East | |
| | Scotland | |
| | Wales | |
| | Ulster | |

(please circle your answer)

May I thank you in advance for your much valued help in this survey

Please return your questionnaires to: The General Secretary, RNA, 82 Chelsea
Manor Street, London SW3 5QJ

Branch and Miscellaneous Announcements

41.

Area 1

Cheshunt – Secretary's Email is; Geoffrey@morsley62.freeserve.co.uk

Area 2

Bexhill-on-Sea - New Branch Sec. is; S/M F Cayton
3 Watermill Close
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex TN39 5EL
Tel. 01424-219 035

Area 3

Havant – Branch Act. Secretary is; S/M K Hillman
33 Muccleshell Close
West Leigh
Havant PO9 2HR
Tel. 023-92 484 354

Lancing - New Branch Secretary is; S/M A P Martin
10 Daniel Close
Lancing
West Sussex BN15 9EJ
Tel. 01903-536 347
Email;amartin.home@virgin.net

Area 4

Brixham – New Branch Secretary is; S/M J Hind
3 Cotmore Close
Brixham
Devon
New frequency; 2nd Tuesday

Frome - Secretary's new add. is; 3 Langholm Close
Watminster BA12 8EN
Tel. 01985-212 059
Email; faylawton@sky.com
Venue; St John's Road,
Community Centre, Frome
Frequency; 3rd Thursday E.O.M.

Torridgeside – Secretary's Email is; shirley.1957@tiscali.co.uk

Area 5

Cromer - New Acting Branch Sec. is; S/M R F Richards
'Naseby'
50 Cromwell Road
Cromer NR27 0BE
Tel. 01263-512 808

Area 7

Lydney - Secretary's Email is; johnfbirkett@virgin.net

Area 8

Warwick – Secretary's telephone no is; 01926-493 305

Area 9

Lincoln - Secretary's Email is; michaelc.williams@ntlworld.com

Newark - New Branch Secretary is; S/M D Turner
30 De Caldwell Drive
Newark NG24 4JS
Tel. 01636-679 229
Email; david.turner61@talktalk.net

Area 10

Bolton – Change of venue to; The Derby Ward Labour Club
149 Deane Road, Bolton
Frequency: 1st Sunday @1200

Rochdale - Change of venue to; Rochdale Transport Club
Baron Street, Rochdale
Email; steve.law49@ntlworld.com

Area 11

Redcar

& District – Secretary is; S/M G Judge
36 Egton Close
Redcar, Cleveland TS10 4PG
Tel. 01642-474 875
Email; Gerald.judge@ntlworld.com
Meeting place; Citizens Priory Club
104 Lord Street TS10 3BT

Area 12

Belfast – Secretary's home number is; 028 90 246 632 (incorrect in Y/B)
Club; 028 90 320 487 (Club)

Mid Antrim – Secretary's new add. is; S/M T Metcalfe
79 Gracefield,
Gracehill
Ballymena
Co. Antrim BT42 2RP
Tel. 028-2563 8184

Scotland

Perth & Dist. – Frequency should read; 2nd **Tuesday** @ 2000
not 2nd Thursday as in 2008 Y/Book

O/Seas

Rockingham & Dist. – New frequency; Every 3rd Sunday @1200
(except December)

Donations to the Central Charities Fund

42. Donations received previously :

£5,830.57

New Donations acknowledged with thanks :

In Memory of R E Buckler	169.00
In Memory of S/M Meredith	116.61
Thomas Charles Goddard-Legacy	1,000.00
D Pearson	50.00
NMJ & SM Fraser	20.00
Donations of £10 or less	<u>521.50</u>
Total	<u>£7,707.68</u>

History Notes

43.

- 1 August 1740 First performance of "Rule Britannia" in the masque *Alfred* in honour of the birth of Princess Augusta.
- 2 August 2002 HMS FEARLESS, the last surface steam ship in the Fleet, paid off in Portsmouth.
- 4 August 1960 HMS VANGUARD, Britain's last battleship, towed from Fareham Creek bound for the ship breakers and briefly went aground near The Still and West on Portsmouth Point.
- 6 August 1940 German Type C Magnetic Mine exploded under examination in HMS VERNON – five killed.
- 9 August 1956 Plymouth Gunnery Range at Wembury commissioned as HMS CAMBRIDGE.
- 10 August 1904 The Naval Lords became Sea Lords, a notion of Admiral Sir John Fisher.
- 13 August 1934 Metropolitan Police (hitherto responsible for establishment security) withdrawn at midnight from Devonport Dockyard.
- 15 August 1660 First Royal Yacht, *Mary*, presented to King Charles II.

- 17 August 1951 First operational RN Jet Squadron (800 NAS) formed at RNAS Ford with Supermarine Attackers.
- 19 August 1942 Raid on Dieppe – 32 Ships, 10 MGBs, 20 MLs and 4 SGBs involved. Destroyer (Berkeley) sunk, Calpe damaged, 33 Landing Craft lost, 3,600 Canadian Army and Commando casualties.
- 21 August 1941 First escorted merchant ships sailed to north Russia.
- 24 August 1831 RN Long Service and Good Conduct Medal introduced, the award initially depending on 21 years service, reduced eventually to 10 and thereafter increased to 15.
- 27 August 1979 Murder of Admiral of the Fleet the Earl Mountbatten of Burma.
- 30 August 1945 Liberation of Hong Kong by Rear Admiral C H J Harcourt (Flag in SWIFTSURE).

James McClurg
General Secretary
Paddy@royalnavalassoc.com

ANNEX A

GIFT AID DECLARATION

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Title Forename(s) Surname

Address (Area no; -----)

.....

..... Post Code

I want the charity to treat all donations I have made from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid Donations

Signature:-

Date:-

Notes

1. If your declaration covers donations you may make in the future: Please notify the charity if you change your name or address while the declaration is still in force. You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the charity - it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
2. You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 25p for each £1 you give).
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 1).
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity. Or you can ask you local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.