



GREETINGS SHIPMATES Welcome to this week's Semaphore Short and I hope that this finds you well. As usual, if anyone has anything that they would like to include in future Shorts, email me or the team [here](#). Whilst all contributions will be considered, please note that this is a short update newsletter and we can't publish everything. Some content may be passed to Mike for inclusion in the next Circular.

FIRESIDE CHATS The Fireside Chat this evening will be an update from Commander Bryan McCavour from the RN Battle Staff. Next week's chat will be a fascinating insight into naval duelling and will be given by Dr Mark "Dicky" Barton. Mark served a full commission in the Royal Navy as a Marine Engineer Officer, recently retiring as a Commander after nearly 35 years. He has a PhD in war studies and is a respected authority on the subject of naval swords and swordsmanship. Fireside chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

SAIL BRIEF On 29th March, Michael Edwards was the Fireside Chat guest and spoke about SAIL, The Seafarers Advice Information Line. Michael has kindly sent over a PowerPoint brief on the charity and the services that it can provide. Access it [here](#).

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - STANDARDS Please note that Branch/Area Standards



and the National Standard Bearer are requested to muster at Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel for a Drumhead parade rehearsal between 1400 and 1600 on Friday 26th May. Those involved, please contact [Bob Coburn](#) and CC [Mike Smyth](#).

NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM TEST There will be a national test of the UK's new Emergency Alerts system on Sunday April 23rd at 15:00. The test alert will be sent to most mobile phones across the UK. Devices will make a distinct, siren-like sound for up to 10 seconds, including on phones switched to silent mode. Phones will also vibrate and display a message about the test. More information can be found [here](#).

CHARITY SECTOR JOBS The Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo) has a regularly updated veterans charity sector jobs board on its web site, so if anyone has an interest in working in this sector, it is well worth a look. Access the job board [here](#).

UCKERS Calling all you six-throwers, suck-backers, mixy-blobbers, timber-shifters and up-boarders. The World Uckers Championships will be held at the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth on Trafalgar Day (21st October 2023). Why not have a few warming up games in your branches and maybe send the champs down to the main event to do battle against the best of the best (a term I use very loosely!). The main event will have both singles and doubles games. To register for the Portsmouth event itself, please contact Central Office [here](#).



CANTANDO CHOIRS There are huge numbers of proven health benefits of singing



(enhances lung function, reduces stress, helps improve memory to name a few). If you live in the Portsmouth area, you can meet other similar minded vocalists and join a choir. Cantando choirs are non-audition, community choirs that were founded in 2012. They create dynamic, fun and high-quality performances using exclusive arrangements and cover a variety of musical genres. The main choir is mostly female but there is also a male choir (Mantando) and a youth choir. Rehearsals take place at the [Jolly Sailor](#) pub in Southsea on Wednesday evening for Cantando and Thursday evening for Mantando. Full information [here](#).

CONFERENCE GOLF – FRIDAY, MAY 26th Shipmate Kev McAllister has kindly arranged a number of tee times at the [West Derby Golf Club](#) on the Friday of the RNA conference weekend, including tea/coffee and bacon baps on arrival. The club is approximately 4 miles from the Adelphi and Novatel hotels. Tee times start at 10:18. If you wish to take part, please email your name, handicap and branch to the [RNA Golf SIG](#).

AND FINALLY.....



Petty Officer Dalton was hoping his choice of a Norwegian Blue would not be a mistake (if you don't get it, look [here](#)!)