

HM THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2023 will be celebrated, and the part played by the Royal Navy in the Gulf War 2003 commemorated, as a rare treat **onboard HMS PRINCE OF WALES in Portsmouth, on Friday 2nd June 2023**. The Dinner President will be Captain Ritchie Hewitt Royal Navy, the ship's Commanding Officer, and his guest speaker will be announced later. As is now a well-established Club custom, this dinner will warmly welcome spouses or partners as members' guests should they so wish. A superb location, it is hoped to repeat past June dinner successes.

THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 2023 will be commemorated on **Thursday, 26th October 2023 at BRNC DARTMOUTH**. The Dinner President and the Principal Guest will be announced later.

### CLUB WEB SITE

The website remains the prime and a most useful source of information, including Notices, the Rules and List of Members, the current dinner card and Reports of Accounts. Recently refurbished and now even better than before, please visit <http://www.royalnavyclub.org> as regularly as possible, perhaps monthly at least, checking for last minute changes etc.

### EMAIL

PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN EMAIL FROM HIM IN THE PAST YEAR. This means that he either has no email address for you or one that is out of date.

### BOOKING FOR DINNER PROCEDURE

In applying for seats at dinner, Members are asked to do so by email or letter, giving the date or venue of the dinner. "Tickets" are not issued to members. For Guest Nights, the title, name and post-nominals of any guests (the usual limit is two per member) should be provided. If you wish the Secretary to send them an invitation card, then please provide him with their address with the appropriate payment. Any seating preferences should be clearly stated, identifying by name if possible those with whom the Member wishes to sit (or not!).

If payment by direct online transfer is desired, - the method preferred by the Club - the charge should be sent to Holt's Bank at sort code and account number listed on the printed dinner card mailed to each member. Since this copy of the report is posted on the website, for security reasons those details have been removed from here. It is important to please state surname, initials and month of dinner as the reference. Members are asked to inform the Secretary by email in advance of the intention to pay by this method. Cheques should be made payable to: The Royal Navy Club.

Regrettably, to be fair to all, seats cannot be guaranteed unless payment is received by the notice required, which is given on the Dinner Card (normally seven days). Payment on the night is not desirable and is at risk of being lost during a memorable evening!

Members desiring a receipt for their dinner charge payment are requested to send an SAE with their payment.

### POSTSCRIPT

The Club Secretary presents his respects, wishes all members well and much looks forward to being of assistance, particularly in taking dinner bookings and doing his best to ensure that club occasions are enjoyed by all. It is your Club.



## ANNUAL REPORT & NOTICES

### Chairman's Annual Report for Financial Year 2021/2022

I render my annual report for the Royal Navy Club of 1765 and 1785, my final as Chairman before supersession in October 2022.

#### Overview

The most notable feature of this year for the Club was the return of a dinner programme, to which members could look forward and enjoy. The well attended Trafalgar night dinner, which followed the AGM in HMS NELSON, was the first after 4 previously cancelled. There have since been two dinners afloat: the Founders' Day event in HQS WELLINGTON; and the June dinner onboard RY BRITANNIA. Membership has remained stable, with the Lt Cdr and Female Officer elements growing in number. FY 21/22 accounts passed audit without qualification: There was a significant gain in the General Fund; and a deficit in the Surplus Fund. Our charitable objectives continued to be met: five memorialists were supported throughout the year from the Surplus Fund, which continued to receive annual donations from the General Fund. Looking ahead, there is again an excellent dinner programme for 2023/24: onboard HMS Prince of Wales in Portsmouth; Trafalgar night in BRNC Dartmouth; and Founders' day in HQS WELLINGTON. After 3 years in the Chair I will be succeeded in October by Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL.

#### Membership and Dinners

Membership is holding steady. I am particularly pleased to announce growing numbers of Lt Cdrs and female member; on the latter, 10 are now members out of 15 eligible. The proactivity of Captain Catherine Jordan (Captain Maritime Warfare School) and Career Managers have been instrumental in this success. As last year, I would ask members who are able to help our efforts in recruiting new members.

At last year's AGM, a resolution was unanimously passed to broaden membership of the Club to include CQ2 qualified Lt Cdrs who are selected as Executive Officers of Three Watch Manned Offshore Patrol Vessels. These individuals will have extensive periods in command, on operations. The new eligibility wording is available under "Rule 1" on the website.

At the meeting and as part of this discussion 2 members expressed their opinions that this rule change would unfairly exclude other Lt Cdrs, particularly those appointed as XO of destroyers and frigates. I undertook for the Committee to review the issue, as it had been under some previous Chairmen. Having done so, the Committee overwhelmingly concluded that eligibility for Lt Cdrs should remain centred on the execution of sea command, and over extended periods. Lt Cdr eligibility will remain under review, with a particular eye to changes in Fleet operating patterns. The inclusion of a Lt Cdr on the committee has proved an important element in these discussions.

The dinner programme, to which we have been able to anticipate with refreshing confidence, has been a highlight. There was good support at the Trafalgar night dinner in HMS NELSON. In the current year there have been successful dinners on board HQS WELLINGTON and RY BRITANNIA, with Trafalgar Night to be held onboard HMS WARRIOR. Our long postponed return to the West Country is in October 2023, for Trafalgar night, at BRNC.

### Charitable Objects

The Club's charitable status, broadened in 2006 to be gender neutral, is predicated upon **“the relief of distressed widows and widowers, orphan children, siblings and dependants of those who have been Members of the Club but who have ceased to be so by death or resignation”**.

The Club's charitable objects have continued to be met. Five Memorialists, all widows of former Club members, have received financial support through the Surplus Fund over the course of this financial year. Sadly, I must report that one Memorialist has since passed away. The General Fund maintained its annual contribution (£500) to the Surplus Fund, with plans to do likewise in 22/23. The Trustees have scope to support more deserving people. They will apply the definition of Dependants as broadly and positively as possible. I ask members to advise the Secretary if you are aware of any individual who may need, and qualify for, support.

### Surplus and General Funds

The General and Surplus funds were audited without qualification at the end of the financial year in April. The former has made another surplus (£5,046) this year, reflecting the cancellation of the June 2021 dinner and thus the associated subsidy. The Committee has considered how best to benefit from this windfall. To beat expected inflationary pressures, more Club prizes (currently smartly polished brass sextants in boxes) will be purchased; the remainder of the surplus will be held in reserve, again anticipating inflationary rises on dinner costs. The health of the Surplus Fund, under the auspices of our Trustees, is dependent on the performance of its investment portfolio, managed by Quilter Cheviot. This year - as with almost all portfolio investments - the fund lost value; income from those investments reduced. After the major downturn caused by the pandemic, investment portfolio values are returning and investment income levels should follow.

The approved and signed Independent Examiner's report on both Funds can be accessed through the Club's website.

### Annual General Meetings (AGM)

As agreed in a resolution at AGM 2021, this year's AGM has been separated from the Trafalgar dinner day. It will be a stand-alone event, attended in person and through VTC, at your choice. It will be centred at Exeter University. Given the developments since First Sea Lord's address at Founders' Day we will be joined by Vice Admiral Andrew Burns, the Fleet Commander and Club Vice Chairman, who will speak at the AGM, and take members' questions afterwards. For those attending there will also be a drinks and canapé reception to follow and the chance to enjoy one another's company. It promises to be a very good evening and I would ask members to support it if at all possible.

Please see emails from the Secretary or see the website for details.

### General Points

The website has had a considerable revamp this year. I thank fellow officer Commander Tony Long for the expertise and time he has committed to deliver a big improvement. Feedback would be gratefully received.

The Club has benefitted from recent legacies. They have enabled specific initiatives (such as the Club Prize); or improved the dining experience the committee are able to offer members. May I ask members to consider doing likewise?

This year's Club Prize, for the best performing student at the Command Qualification 2 Board, was awarded to Lt Cdr Hugo Floyer RN and it was presented to him by the First Sea Lord onboard HQS WELLINGTON at Founders' Day dinner in February.

### In Conclusion

At the end of a good year for the Club, I would like to give my warmest thanks to the Committee members, Trustees and to the Secretary who have kept everything on a level keel, have sought and embraced well targeted change and have continued to drive the Club forward. I hand over to Admiral Sir Philip Jones a Club which, 257 years on, very much reflects its founding principles. It also has a vibrant dinner programme; sound finances; a growing younger and female membership; has continued to evolve to reflect the Fleet's modus operandi; and has sought ways to capitalise on technology to more effectively manage its business. I much look forward to seeing you at future dinners and events.

Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery KBE  
Chairman  
July 2022

### NOTICES

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Post the resolution passed at last year's AGM, and in order to give our fellow officers in the West Country a better chance to attend, this year's will be in the Upper Lounge, Reed Hall, Exeter University at 1730 on Thursday 1 September 2022. The Fleet Commander, Vice Admiral Andrew Burns, has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker and there will be drinks and buffet on completion at 1900. All are encouraged to attend, but if not able to we will be connecting by ZOOM also, following the highly successful event in 2021, and thus will be able to have attendance both in-person and by VTC. **Please support the event if at all possible.**

### CLUB DINNERS AHEAD

It is a joy to have the dinner programme re-established after a prolonged absence due to the pandemic and with great pleasure it is announced that the next dinner, commemorating the BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR will be on **Thursday 20th October onboard HMS WARRIOR 1860 in Portsmouth**. The Dinner President will be fellow officer Captain Catherine Jordan Royal Navy, who is currently inviting an excellent speaker. There remains plenty of room and members are strongly invited to sign-up, and bring a guest or two if you wish, for what promises to be a splendid dinner. Pre-dinner drinks will be onboard at 1845.

**FOUNDERS' DAY 2023** will be celebrated on **Thursday 2nd February 2023 onboard HQS WELLINGTON, London**. As is usual, the Admiralty Board will be invited to dine as our guests, with no other guests permitted. The Chairman will preside.