



ANNUAL REPORT & NOTICES

Chairman's Annual Report for Financial Year 2022/2023

I have much pleasure in presenting my first annual report for the Royal Navy Club of 1765 & 1785 (United 1889), having taken over as Chairman in October 2022.

Overview

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to my predecessor, Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery, for his astute leadership of the Club through the challenging years of the pandemic and for leaving it in good heart and good shape. It is very reassuring to have returned to a fully achieved dinner programme, delivered in what might be termed “normal” times. The past year was not, however, without its own challenges, with two last minute alterations to dinner venues which tested the system (which is shorthand for testing the Secretary). The forthcoming plan for 2024 has equal variety and, with in-built flexibility, still holds out the chance of Trafalgar Night taking place in a ship alongside. The first AGM following the revised format in early September 2022 at Exeter University was a great success, with increased numbers attending in person or by ZOOM to hear the Fleet Commander’s excellent update, followed by a buffet. This is now proven and established as the future format for this year and beyond. Membership has declined slightly but quite naturally as the pool for “recruits” is much smaller, although I’m delighted to see our Lt Cdr and female officer cohorts continuing to gradually grow in number. FY 22/23 accounts passed independent examination without problem and both the General and Surplus Funds remain going concerns. Our charitable objectives were met, although with a lower number of memorialists. Looking ahead, there is an attractive, well-balanced dinner programme for 2024, including the June dinner onboard RY BRITANNIA, which is always popular with spouses and partners and also warmly welcomed amongst other guests.

Membership and Dinners

Membership is gently, and naturally, declining over time, due to an unusually large number of members sadly “crossing the bar” last year, while less new members joined; however, it is still substantial, at above 750. The number of Lt Cdrs and female members continues to increase, while a key element of recruiting new members remains the proactivity of Captain Maritime Warfare School and the Career Managers, who remain instrumental to success and for whose efforts I am most grateful. As always, I would ask all members who feel able to help our efforts in recruiting new members: not only serving but also retired.

As mentioned above, the dinner programme remains, along with the charitable objective, our central Club activity. However, costs in the entertainment sector have risen markedly over the past few years and present an increasing budgetary challenge. The Committee has thus decided to increase dinner charges, previously set in 2013, by the small amount of £10 at each level from this October (reflected on the Dinner Card). Those members who dine regularly at other events in London, and elsewhere, will still see huge value for money in these charges, I feel sure. There was good support at the hastily moved June dinner which took place onboard HMS BELFAST. This was caused by the understandable unavailability of HMS PRINCE OF WALES. The CO, Captain Ritchie Hewitt, honourably maintained the link and his commitment

by still presiding, and VAdm Sir Alan Massey gave a fascinating personal recollection of his experiences of command and leadership in the Gulf War 2003. A return to HMS BELFAST for another dinner in the future is now a contender, but efforts are currently directed at this Autumn and our long postponed return to the West Country in October for Trafalgar night at BRNC, with CO and fellow officer Captain Sarah Oakley presiding.

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. As mentioned earlier, the number of beneficiaries (or memorialists) has reduced to 3 following a death in November. All are widows of former Club members: all have received financial support through the Surplus Fund over the course of this financial year. The Trustees have scope to support more deserving people and are committed to applying the definition of dependents 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. Should the number of memorialists reduce further, I am aware that Trustees have rightly been considering contingency plans.

Surplus and General Funds

The General and Surplus funds were independently examined (audited) at the end of the financial year in April: both funds having “clean audits”. There was a planned deficit in the General Fund due to a deliberate choice to spend some of the cash built up during the pandemic on 3 more prestigious venues, but a surplus in the Surplus Fund. With the Investment Portfolio steadily recovering, and less call on cash for charitable support, the latter finished in a modest but healthy surplus of £7,070 – a welcome return after the £6,000 deficit of the previous FY. The General Fund thus held onto its annual contribution to the Surplus Fund, although this should resume in FY 2023/24.

Through a previous Committee decision, and in a bid to beat expected inflationary pressures, 4 more Club prizes (currently smartly polished brass sextants in boxes) were purchased. Combined with unbudgeted extra spending on the dinner programme, again a conscious decision by the Committee to usefully employ the cash built up during pandemic closures, this led to a deficit of £9,575. Cash in hand still remains sound. It is, however, without doubt that inflationary pressure over the past year particularly has caused the Committee to examine closely the Club's combined income from annual subscriptions and dinner charges versus operational and dinner costs. Subscriptions were last increased at the beginning of 2015 and have been at £30 annually ever since. In order to keep pace with costs and avoid a further rise for the next similar period, the committee has judged that £40 should be charged from next April. A modest increase, either in line with or still much less than other similar organisations, that should keep the wolf from the door and balance the books for the next few years at least. The approved and signed Independent Examiner's report on both Funds can be accessed through the Club's website.

Annual General Meetings (AGM)

As you all know, and as agreed in a resolution at AGM 2021, this year's AGM will follow a similar format to last year's undoubted success in Exeter University; earlier in the Autumn and separated from the Trafalgar dinner day. Again, it will be a stand-alone event attended either in person or through VTC, at your choice; this time in Portsmouth, at the Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street (was the Sailors Home Club). As a reflection on the significant changes in warship operating patterns in recent years, we will be joined by Cdr Teilo Elliot-Smith, currently commanding HMS TAMAR deployed in the Indo Pacific, who will speak on developments in this key region and his particular challenges, he will also take members' questions afterwards. For those attending there will also be a drinks and light buffet reception to follow and the

chance to enjoy one another's company in an informal setting. 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 continues to evolve based on last year's complete refit by fellow officer Commander Tony Long, whom I thank, and remains a prime source of Fellow Officers' information. I ask that you occasionally refer to it and any feedback would be gratefully received.

The Club has in recent years benefitted from legacies. They have enabled specific initiatives (such as the Club Prize) or improved the dining experience which 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 Tom Loxton RN and was presented to him by the First Sea Lord in the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, at our Founders' Day dinner in February.

In Conclusion

At the end of another good year for the Club, I would like to give my warmest thanks to the Committee members, Trustees and, most notably, to the Secretary, who have all ensured our Club remains relevant and our activities well balanced, keeping open minds and adopting well targeted change where necessary. Fellow Officers can rest assured that the Club's governance is sound and in good hands, and hopefully will accept the modest increase in charges in good heart. It is your (our) Club, and deserves the very best in the spirit of its Founders. I much look forward to seeing you at future dinners and events.

Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL
Chairman
July 2023

NOTICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

This year's AGM will be in the Nelson Lounge, Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth at 1730 on Thursday 7 September 2023. I shall chair the meeting and Cdr Teilo Elliott-Smith, currently commanding HMS TAMAR deployed in the Indo Pacific Region, has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker. There will be drinks and buffet on completion at around 1830. All are encouraged to attend, but if not able to we will be connecting by ZOOM also, following last year's highly successful event and thus will be able to have attendance both in-person and by VTC. **Please support the event if at all possible and inform the Secretary of your intentions as early as possible.**

CLUB DINNERS AHEAD

With great pleasure it is announced that the next dinner, commemorating the BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR will be on **Thursday 26th October in the Wardroom BRNC Dartmouth**. The Dinner President will be fellow officer Captain Sarah Oakley RN, who has invited Cdre Simon Kelly RN, Deputy Commander UK Strike Force, to speak. 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 (SEE GUIDANCE FOR GUESTS on the website and Dinner Card). Pre-dinner drinks will be at 1845. Due to a surge in officer intake then, accommodation will not be available in the College.

FOUNDERS' DAY 2024 will be celebrated on **Thursday 1st February 2024 once again in the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall whilst HQS WELLINGTON remains unavailable**. As is usual, the Admiralty Board will be invited to dine as our guests, with no other guests permitted. The Chairman will preside.

HM THE KING'S BIRTHDAY 2024 will be celebrated, and the part played by the Royal Navy in Operation Neptune 6 June 1944 commemorated, as a real treat **onboard the RY BRITANNIA in Leith, on Friday 14th June 2024**. The Dinner President and their 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 2024 will be commemorated on **Thursday, 17th October 2024 in Portsmouth, in the Royal Maritime Club unless a suitable ship is alongside and can take us**. The Dinner President and the Principal Guest will be announced later.

CLUB WEB SITE

The website remains the prime and most useful source of information, including Notices, the Rules and List of Members, the current dinner card and Reports of Accounts. Please visit <http://www.royalnavyclub.org> occasionally, perhaps monthly at least, checking for 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 AND PAYING 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.

GUIDANCE FOR INVITING GUESTS (as listed on the Website). For dinners other than Founders' and Summer. The primary principle is to maintain the ethos of the Club and avoid endangering or disturbing the welfare, good feeling, honour or conviviality of Club occasions. No one eligible for membership may normally be a guest except as provided for in Rule I.

*Guests may be of either gender and should normally be professional colleagues or persons who would benefit from exposure to the Royal Navy Club. These latter should not be spouses or partners unless they rightly belong to the former categories; **except for the June Dinner, when spouses and partners are warmly welcome.** The Founders' Day dinner will continue to be for members only.*

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.



THE ROYAL NAVY CLUB OF 1765 AND 1785 (UNITED 1889)

DRAFT MINUTES

**of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022
held in Exeter University on Thursday 1st September 2022 at 1730**

Members present 21, with a further 22 connected by VTC ZOOM;

Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery (Chairman), chaired the AGM
The Secretary, Commander B P Boxall-Hunt, was in attendance.

In opening the Annual General Meeting 2022, the Chairman bid a warm welcome both to those in the room at Exeter University and to all those who had joined on line through ZOOM VTC. It was a very encouraging turnout for this the first in the new format.

1. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021 were confirmed and signed.

2. Matters arising. There was one rule amended in 2021 with full agreement which related to the new format, timing and venue for AGMs. Although a new wording for the rule covering eligibility for membership had been supported unanimously, given some disquiet expressed the Chairman had undertaken to discuss further with the Committee its implementation. In reporting back on this, he stated that the concern raised centred on the feeling that DD/FF XO's might feel disadvantaged by the new wording related to Command Qualification. He reassured the AGM that the Committee had since discussed this very fully at two consecutive meetings, with fulsome debate, and the wording of the new rule upheld. It was a subject that had been discussed regularly at previous committees over the past few years and would naturally be kept under review. For now the issue was resolved and Rule 1 stood as written and agreed.

3. Chairman's Report. Vice Admiral Sir Charles Montgomery drew attention to his Chairman's Annual Report, which had been mailed to all members. He reflected that Financial Year 2021/22 had seen the start of a return to normality after the COVID pandemic during which the Club had been forced to cancel 4 dinners, and Trafalgar Night in October 2021 at HMS NELSON had been a great success. In current year there was an excellent programme with 3 dinners afloat: the RY BRITANNIA this past June, HMS WARRIOR for coming Trafalgar Night and HQS WELLINGTON for Founders' Day in February next year. Additionally, the June dinner in 2023 was planned to be in HMS PRINCE OF WALES alongside in Portsmouth. Membership was steady and it was pleasing to see that the cohort of Lt Cdrs was growing steadily. Our charitable objects had been met in full in support of 5 memorialists, although one had since passed away at the age of 102 years. Both of our funds, General and Surplus, remained fit for purpose and the Committee had considered how best to use the surplus built up in the General Fund through a lack of dinner subsidy, some £7000. More Club prizes would be purchased and some money kept in reserve to offset the forthcoming and deliberately more expensive than usual dinner programme. There were no questions.

4. General Fund Accounts. The Secretary presented the General Fund Accounts for 2021/22 drawing attention to the “clean audit” achieved, with no pick-up points. Cash held throughout the year had been healthy and there were no debtors. As there had been fewer dinners held, only one out of three, the dinner subsidy was much less. The end of Financial Year result saw a surplus, with expenditure tightly controlled. As is customary, £500 had been transferred to the Surplus Fund. In summary a satisfactory year with all aims met, all bills paid, cash healthy, books balanced and a surplus. Forecast for the following year was a deficit, but entirely planned and containable. A copy of the approved and signed audited accounts had been posted on the website. Overall, the General Fund finances were in good order. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for his report.

5. Surplus Fund Accounts. In the absence of the Chairman of Trustees, RAdm Niall Kilgour, the Vice Chairman RAdm Iain Henderson reported that the Surplus Fund was in a healthy condition albeit challenged by a reduction in income caused by the Ukraine War’s impact on the Investment Market. Value of investments was down and thus income around £39,000 expected instead of above £40,000. The audit had again been “clean” with another modest deficit at year end. The trustees had decided not to support a potential memorialist after finding him an unsuitable proposition. Cashflow was satisfactory and in year finances sound, albeit in temporary deficit. As mentioned, the General Fund had passed across £500 which was welcomed. The Surplus Fund continued to be in good health, achieving its charitable aim, but his plea was for members to continue to keep a good lookout for potential beneficiaries needing our help. He ended by thanking the Secretary for keeping a tight rein on the finances over the financial year.

The Chairman thanked him for his report and asked for questions on either fund: there were none.

6. Members in Arrears of Subscription. The Secretary reported that there was none who yet qualified under Rule IV.

7. Amendments to Club Rules. There were no amendments proposed.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner. A resolution to re-appoint Mr Malvern Carvell for a further year as Independent Examiner was proposed by the Chairman, seconded and agreed unanimously.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no other business raised. In closing the AGM, the Chairman wished to record his immense gratitude to all those who have served as either committee members or trustees during his time in the chair, and to the Secretary. The pandemic had caused difficulties and turbulence which had required careful management and extra effort by all concerned, for which he was indebted. He ended by informing the AGM that he would be handing over the chairmanship to Admiral Sir Philip Jones in October, immediately on conclusion of the Committee meeting, and then warmly welcomed Sir Philip who had joined the AGM by ZOOM.

Commander B P BOXALL-HUNT OBE
Royal Navy
Secretary

Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL
Chairman



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Royal Navy Club 1765 & 1785 will be held at 1730 on Thursday, 7th September 2023 in the Nelson Lounge of the Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth. Post a resolution passed at AGM 2021, and following the great success of last year's, this will be the second AGM under the new routine of being separated from the day of Trafalgar Dinner and in a regional location, with drinks/food, guest speaker and combined in-person/ VTC. This venue has been chosen so that we can easily combine actual attendance with members who cannot and CDR TEILO ELLIOT-SMITH RN, CO HMS TAMAR deployed in the Far East, has kindly agreed to be the guest speaker. **All members are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting and those wishing to attend either in person/or connect by ZOOM are requested to inform the Secretary no later than 23 August 2023.** Should unusually large numbers necessitate a different means of supporting the AGM (e.g a webinar), further guidance will be issued.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Exeter University on Thursday, 1st September 2022
2. Matters arising from these Minutes
3. Chairman's report
4. General Fund Accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 **: presented by the Secretary
5. Surplus Fund Accounts for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 **: presented by the Chairman of Trustees, Commodore Mike Walliker
6. Members in arrears of subscription for removal of membership (Rule IV)
7. Amendments to Club rules (if any)
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner: It is proposed that Mr Malvern Carvell be re-appointed as independent examiner.
9. Any Other Business.

Signed on original

B P BOXALL-HUNT OBE

Secretary

16 July 2023

** The report by the Independent Examiner is available on the Club website or on application to the Secretary.

THE ROYAL NAVY CLUB

DINNER CARD FOR 2024

DATES	DINNERS	VENUE	MEETINGS
Thursday 26 October 2023	Guest Night To commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar	BRNC DARTMOUTH Devon Guest Night ****	1430 Committee Britannia Room BRNC Dartmouth
Thursday 1 February 2024	To celebrate Founders' Day * and to entertain the Admiralty Board	ARMY & NAVY CLUB London (No Members' Guests)	1430 Committee ARMY & NAVY CLUB London
Friday 14 June 2024	Guest Night *** To celebrate HM The King's Birthday and to commemorate OPERATION NEPTUNE 6 JUNE 1944	RY BRITANNIA Leith, Edinburgh Guest Night Spouses & Partners welcome	1430 Committee Board Room RY Britannia
Thursday 17 October 2024	Guest Night To commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar	ROYAL MARITIME CLUB Queen Street, Portsmouth Guest Night ****	1430 Committee Royal Maritime Club **
Thursday 7 February 2025	To celebrate Founders' Day * and to entertain the Admiralty Board	ARMY & NAVY CLUB London (No Members' Guests)	1430 Committee ARMY & NAVY CLUB London

* Not a guest night. Club dines the Admiralty Board. All other dinners are guest nights.

** Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth PO1 3HS (previously the "Sailors' Home Club")

*** Dinner charge for RY Britannia, being so special, is same as London rates

**** **For Guidance on Guests, please see Home Page on Website**

TIME 6.15 for 7.00 p.m London dinners; 6.45 for 7.30 p.m. dinners elsewhere

DRESS Dinner Jacket without Decorations or Medals

DINNER CHARGE (NEW) London: Members **£90**(80), Guests **£100**(90); Elsewhere: Members **£75**(65), Guests **£85**(75)

ARRANGEMENTS Members intending to dine should consult the relevant Website Notice and are requested to:

- if possible, give at least seven days notice to the **Secretary of The Royal Navy Club** at the address on the reverse
- if invitation card to guest(s) is wished for, notify Secretary with the names, addresses & post nominals of guest(s)
- make payment of the appropriate dinner charge in advance of the dinner - **payment on arrival is undesirable and stands the risk of being mislaid during a good dinner! Please see reverse for notes & payment procedure**

There will be a seating plan for all dinners. Members should make known any seating preferences on notifying the Secretary of their intention to dine, and include any need for pre-dinner changing facilities.

This Dinner Card (except bank a/c details in Notes) may be viewed on the Club website at www.royalnavyclub.org

NOTES

PAYMENT. Members are encouraged to pay on line direct to the Royal Navy Club account at Holt's Military Banking, sort code 16-19-26, Account No 16569216 **and are requested please to inform the Secretary in advance of their intention. Surname, initials & month of dinner must be used as the reference.**

Cheques should be made payable to: *The Royal Navy Club.*

MEETINGS. Committee and Trustee meetings are confirmed and published separately in meeting minutes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

Thursday 7 September 2023 in the Royal Maritime Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth

Thursday 5 September 2024 in HMS COLLINGWOOD, Fareham

NOTICES OF DINNERS, with the names of Presidents and Principal Guests, are posted on the web site. Reports of dinners are published by *The Daily Telegraph* the next day.

IMPORTANT: For Guidance on Guests, please see Home Page on Website or consult the Secretary

THE SURPLUS FUND is a registered charity, the purpose and administration of which are described in Rules XII - XIV. Funding is available to deal with emergencies. **ALL MEMBERS ARE PARTICULARLY REQUESTED TO INFORM THE SECRETARY OF ANY CASES KNOWN TO THEM WHICH MAY QUALIFY FOR HELP.**

The Army & Navy Club (the "Rag") 0207 827 8029 and the Naval & Military Club (the "In & Out") 0207 827 5757 offer temporary honorary membership to those dining with the Royal Navy Club in London for the night of the dinner.

CHANGES OF EMAIL, ADDRESS, STYLE OR TITLE. Members are requested to notify these as soon as possible to The Secretary Tel: 01363 773421, mobile 07749 380338, or email secretary@royalnavyclub.org

2nd June 2023



ARE YOU THERE MORIARTY??

List of “Missing” Members 2023

The secretary would be most grateful for any contact information members may have on the following Fellow Officers whose correspondence, or email, is being returned to him unopened. Either a postal address, email or phone number (or all 3) would be most helpful. Many thanks.

ATKINSON E C Captain

RIMMER M Commander

BOURNE C M Commander

HARDY A Commander

O’SULLIVAN M L J Commander