



AN OPEN LETTER TO FELLOW OFFICERS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES OF THE SURPLUS FUND

You may recall that I and my fellow Trustees of the Surplus Fund, the charitable side of the RN Club, have spent the last couple of years tussling with the problem of ensuring that our charity is meeting its charitable aim in a financially efficient manner. We are only supporting two “memorialists” (beneficiaries) and have reached an untenable situation where our overhead all but matches our charitable disbursements. As we enjoy a relatively fixed income, this balance will not change much even in the unlikely event of more memorialists coming forward. Given this, we have unanimously resolved to seek a merger with another RN charity with similar charitable aims. This would enable us to maintain our charitable aims, but in a more efficient manner.

The process is underway with a view to ceasing being a registered charity by 31 March 2026: the Secretary has been authorised to open discussions with a suitable fellow charity such as RNOC, and to take legal advice.

Although some may be disappointed that the charitable side of our Club started by our Founders will no longer be a separate entity, I would wish to reassure all fellow officers that all those entitled to our help, when made known to us, will be supported by our funds, albeit through the offices of a separate organisation.

Although it is early days, we aim to have a process in place, alongside the transfer of our funds, which will monitor and ensure that the intent and spirit of our Founders is maintained. As the Club Chairman has stated, the main business of our auspicious Club, namely dining and fellowship, will continue unchanged and an element of annual income will continue to be allocated to the financial support of those who qualify for it.

Although the Trustees are committed to a necessary course of action, with the full support of the Club Chairman and the Committee, there will be an opportunity for consultation and discussion at the forthcoming AGM. I very much hope that Fellow Officers will understand the circumstances and resolution made and will unite in support of it. Any feedback or concerns will of course be genuinely welcome, and I will bring them to the attention of the Board of Trustees and the Committee.

A formal merger plan will be briefed to Fellow Officers at the AGM next year to enable necessary amendments to Club Rules to be agreed and put in place, to enable the resolution to take effect from 31 March 2026.

M J D WALLIKER CBE

JULY 2024

Commodore Royal Navy (Retired)

Chairman, Board of Trustees, Surplus Fund of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 & 1785