

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 This means that he either has no email address for you or one that is out of date.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 starting 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 fourteen 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 inform the Secretary on booking.

GUIDANCE FOR INVITING GUESTS (as listed on the Website).

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. 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. As the Chairman writes above: it is your (our) Club.



ANNUAL REPORT & NOTICES

Chairman's Annual Report for Financial Year 2025/2026

I am delighted to present my first annual report of the Royal Navy Club of 1765 & 1785 (United 1889) having taken over as Chairman in October 2025.

Overview

I would like to begin by expressing my personal thanks to my predecessor, Admiral Sir Philip Jones, for his calm and thoughtful stewardship over the last three years; the club gently evolved during this period and thus remains strong, cherished and vibrant which is testament to his steady hand on the club's tiller. Naturally, the primary purpose of our club is to engender a spirit of comradeship amongst sea command qualified officers through convivial dining events which, through a varied programme brilliantly pulled together by our Secretary, I believe has been successfully achieved. I draw your attention to the following summary of activity:

- We held an excellent series of dinners through the year starting onboard HMS BELFAST in June to mark RN operations against Japan in the Pacific 1942 – 1945. Thereafter the Club dined in HMS NELSON to celebrate the victory of Trafalgar. Our Founders' Day dinner in February was at the Victory Services Club in London during which members of the Admiralty Board brought club members up to date with current issues in the Royal Navy and outlined future plans. Attendance levels continue to be healthy and I'm glad the revised guidance on guests attending has been well received; it has been a great pleasure to see many new faces at our events. That said, Founders' Day remains a member only event to allow a traditional naval evening that allows the members of the Admiralty Board freedom to speak openly.
- Recruitment of new members has been encouraging, nevertheless a combination of club demographics and a smaller Fleet means membership continues to gently decline by around 10 per year; this has been the case for many years. A recent Committee initiative to reconnect with those qualified officers who missed the opportunity, or who had declined to join, has reaped a good response and as a result a clutch of new members have been welcomed onboard. I fervently ask all members to please keep a close eye out for potential members and bring them to the Secretary's attention. Tracking down those retired officers who left the Service before joining us remains a significant challenge – any assistance from the membership would be gratefully received!
- This year's annual mailshot, of which this report is part, has now been delivered largely by email, which is much more cost-efficient way of communicating, however we still cater for those who prefer to receive a paper copy in the post.
- I am pleased to report the process to merge the Surplus Fund with the larger RN charity, Royal Naval Benevolent Society for Officers (or RNOC), on 1 April was completed successfully. I must pay tribute to Commodore Mike Walliker and his Surplus Fund trustees, for guiding the process through the byzantine jungle of charity law with a laser like focus – it was an impressive piece of work. The fund has now been wrapped up, however, we will continue to support the RNOC with suitable donations of surplus money as and when they arise and they are remitted to look after any of our potential beneficiaries. As always, should you identify anyone who merits support, please bring to our attention and we will ensure the RNOC takes appropriate action.
- The Club's finances remain healthy and following a "clean audit" we remain a "going concern" – good to hear! In future, without the benefits of cost sharing which we enjoyed

with the Surplus Fund, the Club committee will exercise extra care with the Club's finances, however, do rest assured, there is no need for any concern. To keep abreast of inflation, dinner charges and annual subs will continue to be modestly increased as necessary and probably every 3 – 4 years.

- Finally, the end of the Surplus Fund required a refresh to our club rules which has been done. During this housekeeping activity, the Committee reviewed Rule XVI (Powers of the Committee regarding conduct of members) and modernised procedures for this rarely used process. As is usual, this will form part of an AGM resolution notified to all.

Membership and Dinners

Membership continues to gently decline but remains healthy at around 750. The Committee are actively engaged in the process of recruitment, particularly the newly qualified, but I do ask all of you to remain on the lookout for potential new members and bring them to the Secretary's attention.

The dining programme for the next financial year has plenty of variety and kicked off in June with a well attended dinner in BRNC Dartmouth. In the autumn, we will dine onboard HMS WARRIOR to mark Trafalgar Night and also celebrate 234 years of the Surplus Fund – many members receive multiple invitations for Trafalgar dinners thus are judicious in their down selections; our annual dinner promises to be a splendid and very cost effective affair so look favourably on the Club's invite. Founders' Day 2027 will be in the Victory Services Club and the 'RN Club on Tour' will dine in the wonderful New Club in the centre of Edinburgh on 4 June 2027 to commemorate RN Submarine Command in the Cold War – a timely reminder that members qualify through their command above, or below, the waves – sometimes both.

It was unfortunate that HM the King's diary commitments preclude His attendance at dinner this Autumn, not only as our Patron but to mark the 50 th anniversary of His own sea command. It is hoped that His Majesty will join us at an event at some stage, in the next few years.

General Fund

The annual accounts were audited at the end of the financial year 2025/26. In surplus at £5,660 having settled all accounts, making a final contribution to the Surplus Fund and subsidising the various dinners to the tune of £5,710 - this was a creditable performance. As always, the credit for this financial wizardry goes to our secretary who runs a tight ship on our behalf for which I am most grateful.

2025 AGM: HMS COLLINGWOOD.

The 2025 AGM, held in HMS COLLINGWOOD continued the successful formula of a 'hybrid' in-person/VTC event with the additional benefit of a guest speaker – on this occasion it was a brief by HMS DIAMOND's AAWO on the highly successful air defence action in the Red Sea. AGM 2026 on 10 September will follow the same format with COMSUBOPS Cdre Dan Simmonds briefing attendees on some of the current command challenges being encountered in the submarine flotilla. This is the opportunity to express views and you are all encouraged to attend either in person or online. For those who do make the trip to MWS, there will be drinks and a light buffet reception and, of course, the chance for an informal catch up; details will be forwarded by the Secretary shortly.

Annual Prize

As is now well established, the RN Club prize awarded to the officer gaining the highest marks in the annual CQ2 (sea command in old currency) examinations is presented at the Founders' Day dinner. This year, smart polished brass Pusser's sextants (in their original boxes) for both 2024 and 2025 were given to Lt Cdrs Philip Boak and Cheryl Goodwin respectively. BZ both! This prize connects the Club directly to its main raison d'être of RN sea command.

In Conclusion

At the end of another excellent year for the Club, my first as Chairman, I would like to give my warmest thanks to the Committee members and Trustees, and most notably the Secretary, who have all ensured our Club remains relevant and our activities well balanced and has adapted to

the changed status as we forge a new relationship with RNOC. The governance is sound; we remain financially secure therefore there can be no excuse for not enjoying the convivial events ahead. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next 12 months.

Vice Admiral Peter Hudson CB CBE
Chairman
July 2026

NOTICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

This year's AGM will be held in the Wardroom, HMS COLLINGWOOD at 1800 on Thursday 10 September 2026. I shall chair the meeting, and we will be joined by our guest speaker, COMSUBOPS, Cdre Dan Simmonds OBE. Drinks and a buffet will be available on completion at around 1900. All are encouraged to attend, but if not able to we will be connecting by MS TEAMS also, following similar, highly successful events of recent years 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

The next dinner, commemorating the **BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR** will be on **Thursday 29th October onboard HMS WARRIOR, Portsmouth**. Given that the Surplus Fund, our Club's charitable side, recently merged with the RNOC, the Dinner President will be Cdre Mike Walliker its final Chairman of Trustees. Additionally, and most importantly, opportunity will be taken to celebrate 234 years of charitable operation with the cost of dinner subsidised by the fund before closing, hence the remarkably reduced price for diners at such a distinguished venue yet to be confirmed but likely in the region of £50. Admiral Sir Keith Blount KCB OBE, recently retired as Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, has generously agreed to be our Guest Speaker. With a maximum capacity of 240 there will be plenty of room and members are strongly invited to sign-up, and bring guests if you wish, for what promises to be a unique and splendid dinner celebrating a special occasion in the illustrious history of our Club. Diners onboard sit at individual tables of 10 between guns, on benches, which are comfortable enough but for added comfort the dinner charge will include a seat cushion which may be taken home afterwards. Pre-dinner drinks will be at 1845.

FOUNDERS' DAY 2027 will be celebrated on **Tuesday 2nd February 2027 in the Victory Services Club, London, once again, following our last excellent dinner there**. Overnight Club accommodation will be available: a block of rooms has been reserved and the Secretary will advise. 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 2027 will be celebrated in Scotland in the **New Club, Edinburgh** (Scotland's oldest club and affiliated to the RAG in London) on **Friday 4th June 2027. Opportunity will be taken to commemorate the role of RN Submarine Command in the Cold War, thus emphasizing that our Club includes membership of those qualified to command at sea both on and under the surface**. The Dinner President and their guest speaker will be announced later. As is now a well-established Club custom, this dinner will welcome spouses or partners along with other members' guests should they so wish.

A location worthy of a weekend visit with spouse or partner, and other guests.

THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 2027 will be commemorated on **Thursday, 14th October 2027 in the Wardroom HMS NELSON, Portsmouth**. The Dinner President and their guest speaker will be announced later.