



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

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

held in HMS COLLINGWOOD, on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 1800

32 Members attended: 21 in person and a further 11 connected by VTC

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

In opening the Annual General Meeting 2025 the Chairman bid a warm welcome both to those present in the Wardroom Mess of HMS COLLINGWOOD and to all those who had joined on-line through ZOOM VTC. It was once again a very encouraging turnout for the fourth AGM under the revised format with plenty of scope, it was hoped, to include far more attendees at future AGMs. He thanked Captain Tim Davey for providing the venue and noted that in Lt Cdr Matt Johnson, recently AWO OF HMS DIAMOND, we had a very interesting speaker to talk about Op PROSPERITY GUARDIAN and T45 destroyer operations in action in the southern Red Sea against Houthi air attack in late 2024/early 2025.

1. **The Minutes** of the Annual General Meeting 2024 were confirmed and signed.

2. **Matters arising.** There was none.

3. **Chairman's Report.** Admiral Sir Philip Jones drew attention to his Chairman's Annual Report, his final or Haul Down as Chairman of the Club, which had been mailed to all members, and sought to draw out the key points. The Chairman reflected on his 3 years in post which he had enjoyed and considered a huge privilege. The Club had an excellent year with a good dinner programme, membership numbers holding up fairly well albeit with a gentle decline after some deaths and resignations, and finances in good shape. Trafalgar Night onboard HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH, presided over by the CO and Fellow Officer, Captain Will King, had been superb and a longstanding aspiration achieved, the Victory Services Club in London (our first there) had provided an excellent Founders' Day dinner and HMS BELFAST on a warm June evening with RAdm Rob Pedre as President had been first class with many guests including spouses and partners.

The Club continued to be well supported by the Committee and he thanked RAdm Rob Pedre in particular for his support as Vice Chairman. The Club would be returning to the Victory Services Club in February 2026 and then to the West Country at BRNC Dartmouth. Our charitable objects had been met in full although, with only 2 beneficiaries, the Trustees were rightly on the path to merger with RNOC as previously announced. Both of our funds, General and Surplus, remained fit for purpose with healthy cash reserves at bank. He ended by emphasizing the importance of attracting new blood into the membership, thanking Captain Tim Davey in the

vital role of CO COLLINGWOOD for his crucial part, and wished his successor VAdm Peter Hudson (on VTC from Lords Cricket Ground) good fortune, particularly with attempts to dine with our Patron, HM the King in 2026. There were no questions.

4. General Fund Accounts. The Secretary presented the General Fund Accounts for 2024/25 drawing attention to the “clean audit” achieved, with no pick-up points. Cash held throughout the year had been satisfactory and there were no debtors. The end of Financial Year result saw a solid surplus of some £5,082, increased from the previous year’s £2,566), having paid all bills and enjoyed 3 good dinners the subsidy for which had been within plan at £6,535. Expenditure was tightly controlled, but the cost of the annual mail shot now circa £3,000 would be incurred for the last time with annual mail going out to members by email from August 2026, as announced at last AGM. As is traditional, a donation of £500 had been transferred to the Surplus Fund. In summary a satisfactory year with all aims met, all bills paid, cash healthy and books balanced. Forecast for the following year was another sound surplus. 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. The Chairman of Trustees, Commodore Mike Wallicker, gave an upbeat sitrep on the Surplus Fund and declared that it was in a healthy condition albeit with a reduced surplus on last year of £2,086 due to legal fees and other merger costs. The audit of the fund had again been “clean”. The Investment Portfolio continued to be well managed by Quilter Cheviot, with its value at £1.4m: income this year had increased to £42,986 after £41,405 last year. Cashflow was satisfactory and in year finances sound, with around £84,000 in the bank. The Surplus Fund continued to be in good health and a “going concern”, achieving its charitable aim by supporting 2 memorialists, although is was widely known active preparations were in hand and proceeding well to merge with RNOC. He emphasized once again that this should not alter the main operation of the Club with its central purpose of dining 3 times per year and was a responsible and natural response to the facts as they stood: overheads were matching disbursements which was an “inefficient” use of charitable money, particularly within the RN benevolent community. All were supportive.

The Chairman thanked him for his report, asking for final questions on either audited fund: there were none and they were both accepted.

6. Members in Arrears of Subscription. The Secretary reported that there was none.

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 Cdre Dick Twitchen, seconded by Cdre Mike Walliker and agreed unanimously.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no other business raised, although in order to stand best chance of Ministers attending the annual Founders’ Day dinner, it was suggested that we be in touch with their office them well in advance. In closing the AGM, the Chairman wished to once again record his immense gratitude to all those who have served as either committee members or trustees during the year and to the Secretary. VAdm Peter Hudson confirmed that “he now had the ship” and was indeed absolutely delighted to take over as Chairman, albeit a hard act to follow.

Commander B P BOXALL-HUNT OBE
Royal Navy
Secretary

Admiral Sir Philip Jones GCB DL
Chairman