



ROYAL NAVAL  
ASSOCIATION



# The Semaphore Circular

No 671

*The Beating Heart of the RNA*

July 2017



*The swirl of the pipes on a fine Sunday morning in Perth as the Perth City Pipe Band lead the RNA to the Church service at St Johns Kirk. The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed the National Standard is wearing a mourning silk in respect of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in London on the previous evening.*

*This edition is the on-line version of the Semaphore Circular, unless you have registered with Central Office, it will only be available on the RNA website in the 'Members Area' under 'downloads' at [www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk) and will be emailed to the branch contact, usually the Hon Sec.*

## Daily Orders [follow each link]

1. [Perth Conference Report](#)
2. [Project Semaphore – iPads Update](#)
3. [RN VC Series – Commodore Augustus Agar VC DSO](#)
4. [RNA Poppy Badge](#)
5. [RNA and Naval Associations Biennial Parade 10 Sep 17](#)
6. [A Puzzle to Test you](#)
7. [November Cenotaph Remembrance Parade – 12 Nov 17](#)
8. [Finance Corner](#)
9. [Guess Where?](#)
10. [Joke – Ride me funky Moped](#)
11. [Naval Service Memorial Figurine](#)
12. [North Korean Medal Presentation](#)
13. [RNA Tartan Tie or Bow Tie](#)
14. [Northern Ireland Veterans Association – Service of Remembrance](#)
15. [Motorfinity Partnership](#)
16. [Joke Time – Married Life](#)
17. [Ganges Association – Solent Annual Church Service](#)
18. [Fly the Red Ensign](#)
19. [Design of the Month](#)
20. [Veterans Medical Assistance](#)

## Glossary of terms

<b>NCM</b>	National Council Member
<b>NC</b>	National Council
<b>AMC</b>	Association Management Committee
<b>FAC</b>	Finance Administration Committee
<b>NCh</b>	National Chairman
<b>NVCh</b>	National Vice Chairman
<b>NP</b>	National President
<b>DNP</b>	Deputy National President
<b>GS</b>	General Secretary
<b>DGS</b>	Deputy General Secretary
<b>AGS</b>	Assistant General Secretary
<b>CONA</b>	Conference of Naval Associations

Throughout ☆ indicates a new or substantially changed entry

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or

RNA Website / Members Area / Downloads /  
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### Snail Trail Mail - Postal Address

RNA Central Office,  
Room 209, PP70,  
Semaphore Tower,  
HM Naval Base,  
Portsmouth  
Hants PO1 3LT

## Dear Shipmates

It was a red letter day for the Royal Navy this week, with the sailing of HMS Queen Elizabeth from Rosyth for Sea Trials. Our NP sent a note of congratulations to the First Sea Lord, in his response Admiral Jones said that despite millimetric lazer technology, Captain Jerry Kyd the CO had confirmed the clearance under the Forth Rail Bridge with his 1830 sextant!

The date of the Ship's entry into Portsmouth is not yet public knowledge for a range of good reasons (wind and tide being two – and sea trials being another!). I have met with the QE entry team and **they have promised plenty of places for veterans** to witness at the old HMS DOLPHIN or South Railway Jetty. I **will** have a last minute call for standard bearers to play a **prominent part** in the welcome. . If you are interested please let Nigel or Andy know and we will be in contact when the date firms up – (notice might be quite short).



Quote from National Standard bearer  
'Which way do I go now?'

A big Bravo Zulu to the Scottish Area and Perth branch for a superb conference. Full details in the Circ, but a great day for all.

There are some important events coming up and I would draw your attention to:

- The 2018 Standard Bearers competition will be in HMS COLLINGWOOD on 12 May.
- The Biennial Parade on 10 September at the Cenotaph
- The Welfare Seminar 20-22 April 18, Stoke on Trent.

The good news is that the LIBOR buses are now nearing completion and I have arranged insurance. They will be delivered to Portsmouth and it is planned that all 3 will take part in the Biennial Parade, with the hosts taking the buses off to their new homes afterwards, and available for use. The arrangements will be published next month and directly to branch secretaries by email. The key points are drivers age 30 to 70, but insurance for older drivers may be arranged directly with the insurer. UK only, but trips to Eire and Northern Europe are subject to individually arranged and paid for insurance. The buses have a capacity for driver plus 8 passengers and can also be configured to take luggage/goods if seats are removed. The wheelchair lift has a 300Kg capacity which should be good enough for any chef or someone on a scooter.



We have decided to dedicate the buses to modern Naval heroes and holders of gallantry medals. I have to do a final check with the RN, and will let you know the names next month.

Thanks to demand we have **two new items** for you. The RNA poppy pin and a wonderful figure of the Naval Service Memorial Sailor produced by the sculptor, Graeme Mitcheson. The figure would make a perfect thank you gift for a retiring branch official, or someone with good taste!

Photos in the Circ. If you pick up the figure from Central Office you can save £5 postage. A saving of £25 on Arboretum or Naval museum prices!!

The booking form for the Dublin 2018 Conference is attached to this Circular. This Conference is going to be a highlight, with a great hotel right by the sea, Irish hospitality and a tour of the Guinness factory at some stage.



I would like to say a huge thank you to Aldershot branch who have donated £10,000 to the Central Charity Fund as part of their management of a large legacy by S/M Tom Watson. The presentation photo is with S/M Ray Pullen from the Branch. Also a big thank you to Riyadh branch who have donated £5,000 this month.

On an admin note I draw your attention to the note regarding claim forms for Delegates for Conference. Forms **must be** with us by 31 July at the latest, no exceptions I'm afraid.

We are now starting in to the summer leave period, when we may have fewer staff members in Central Office than you are used to. Remember that we only have 4 full time staff (plus Chrissie as our S&O administrator), so answering the phone or sorting slops or membership issues may take longer than usual. I'd ask for your patience and forbearance please.

I have a few remaining RNA leather bound new testaments from the Church service at Perth. If any Shipmate is interested in having one, please let me know.



Finally, a unique picture of your GS in a kilt for the first time! a big thank you to Bob Coburn for organising it. Very comfortable item of clothing I have to say, especially when the sea breeze is coming in! (Note Andy is pressing me to say if I was a true Scot, or not. Suffice it to say I maintained standards as a senior naval officer!)

*kindest regards from me and all at  
Central Office*

*Paul*

## 1. ★ Conference Report 2017 – Perth

The Association met for its annual reunion at the Station Hotel Perth from Friday 2 June to Sunday 4 June. 250+ Shipmates booked into the Station and Queens Hotels or made their own arrangements. Everyone met on Friday night for the informal reunion with many old friends meeting up. The Perth and Kinross Sea Cadets did a very smart sunset, which was much enjoyed. We were joined by Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, FOSNI, who met many shipmates. The bars were long closed when the Deputy National President, S/M Cdre Mark Slawson eventually arrived at 1.30 am after a 13-hour flight from Southampton! (Well OK he got the flight times wrong!!).



The National Council had a good set of meetings on the Friday and the Central Office team were able to set up the Conference Room on Friday afternoon, which was a big help – allowing Michelle a welcome lie-in. After the usual 10-course cooked breakfast, the Conference got underway promptly at 1000 with 69 delegates registered for attendance. The Conference room was perfect, being roomy and well-lit. Bob Coburn marched in the National Standard and Rev Ian Wheatly opened with a prayer and a brief reflection on the day ahead.



The Provost of Perth Councillor Dennis Malloy opened conference and welcomed the RNA to Perth.

Cllr Malloy has only just been elected as Provost and is the first Conservative for 20 years. The National President took delight in telling us that the Provost was an accomplished Ballroom dancing instructor and that we were only his second gig in his new role!



Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, Rear Admiral John Weale OBE, provided the keynote speech. He covered the role of Scotland in shipbuilding, the fact that a third of the RN was in Scotland. He praised

the RNA for its work with Shipmates and Oppos, mentoring and acting as Ambassadors for the RN in regional and local communities. He took Conference through the present commitments of the RN – especially how busy the Russian Navy is keeping us. He talked, as Rear Admiral Submarines (the second of his 3 jobs), with pride of the 350<sup>th</sup> deterrent patrol with 48 continuous years – and 2019 as a special year. He covered the great success of the Type 45 radar and command systems and the propulsion get well programme that is progressing satisfactorily. He looked forward to the dawn of a new carrier age and force generation by Carrier Group (a mix of T45, T23, SSN and AOR). The RN is already cutting steel for the SSBN successor (Dreadnought) and the 4<sup>th</sup> Astute is in the water (HMS AUDACIOUS).



He mentioned the many manpower challenges of developing sufficient quality, trained personnel. He asked the RNA to help engage with the younger generation to encourage recruiting. Admiral Weale enjoyed accepting a decanter of Pusser's Rum as a thank you for giving his Saturday up.



The National President made his address to Conference. He mentioned that the RNA has had a busy year, in particular the progress of Project Semaphore aiming to connect digitally isolated naval veterans – inviting each branch to find 3 candidates, the benefits of bringing families closer together and broadening the horizons of those coming into the programme are marvellous. The fitting of Pembroke House was a particular highlight. He reflected on the LIBOR minibus project for socially isolated veterans and bringing veterans together. He announced that we hoped to have all 3 buses at the Biennial Parade. He covered other initiatives such as the Branch Secretaries Guide, trademarking of the RNA logo, and co-investing with the RNRMC to get better returns and lower fees. He finished with 'You have a great story to tell our local community .. so lets go out and recruit'. He answered one question about providing a draft advert for use in Local Papers. GS then read out the letter from Her Majesty and other supporters.

So S/M Ivan Hunter the new Chair of the Standing Orders Committee got us going with the approval of the standing orders for Conference

We got on with the President's Prizes With 6 Area winning the Tasker Bowl, 3 Area the Sword; Newton Abbott the Brigg's Dirk, City of Edinburgh the Rose Bowl and Torrevieija and Riyadh the overseas certificates. Well done to all!



The Chair of the SOC announced the fact that there were 69 delegates and the results of the elections.

Area	NCM	DNCM
2	Allen	Cox
5	Hammond	-
6	Ridley	-
7	Williams	Warner
8	Godwin	-
9	Crawford	-
10	Wright	Simmons (For one year only to balance elections)
11	McQueen	Rooney
Scotland	Irvin	McPhillips

SOC Election (Supervised by NC)  
2 places available  
S/M P Harries  
S/M T Howard

The Hon Treasurer then took us through the Accounts for the 2016 Financial Year (not repeated here since the Accounts have been sent to branches). Uniquely there were no questions. Delegates appeared content with a sound financial performance underscored by good legacy income and investment performance.

The National Chair made his annual report of the NC to Conference, covering the details of 2016 and a bit of an update for the first half of 2017. He thanked the Scottish Area for hosting an excellent Reunion and Conference. He reflected on the good numbers of on-line joiners and a reduced rate of membership loss and announced that the National Council are setting a branch recruiting and retention group. He encouraged shipmates to support



the Jutland Wood Project. He also covered the success of the Shipmates and Oppos programme, as well as Central Office Open Days. He was most complementary about Central Office and the support they provide. Again, no questions at the end of the presentation. The General Secretary gave an update on Project Semaphore and on the LIBOR buses, supported by Sarah Clewes and Branch Support Officer Alan McGrath. Alan mentioned the difference that going on-line has made to two of his candidates saying that the difference is heart-warming and heart-breaking too. The GS showed a video of the wheelchair ramp in operation on the first bus – and announced a ‘Name the Bus competition for Conference’.



Warrant Officer 1 Andy Stevenson gave a brief presentation on the great work of the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Charity, encouraging members to engage and contribute. The RNRMC is the RNA’s preferred charity

After a soup and sandwich lunch provided by the City of Perth we moved onto the motions before Conference. The first three NC motions went through quickly and on very large majorities. One resolved a voting anomaly that had occurred last year, the second regularised the practice of branches using members from other branches as their delegates and finally a tidying up on the appointing of MA to Area committees and as delegates. The NC withdrew Motion 4 which looked to lower the age of AM below 18, but after a GS brief on the requirements of Safeguarding etc to manage children the motion was dropped.



There were 3 branch motions. The first invited NC to review the arrangements for Conference and with NC support went through on the nod. Motions to put a discussion period into Conference and to allow postal voting for AGMs both failed. A motion of urgency to hold the 2019 Conference in 6 Area was passed.

Raffle results:

1<sup>st</sup> Runcorn Branch

3<sup>rd</sup> Huddersfield Branch

2<sup>nd</sup> S/M Coulston

4<sup>th</sup> Newark Branch

Rum Raffle

1<sup>st</sup> S/M Reed 2<sup>nd</sup> S/M Clarke 3<sup>rd</sup> S/M Champion which raised £2,000 for the Jutland Wood Project.



Thirsty delegates repaired to the bar after the Conference was closed. The Gala Dinner followed, which was a first class buffet, with S/M Jimi Tubman winning the ‘Name the bus competition’ for his idea of modern naval heroes. Dancing and frolics followed and a late night for many (including our beloved National President).

A wonderful Church Service followed on Sunday morning at St Johns Kirk with 22 standards parading, behind the Perth Pipe Band who were marvellous.

The Lord Lieutenant and Provost joined us and Rev Ian Wheatley gave a brilliant sermon – many saying this was the best service for years – with the Kirk’s choir providing both an Introit and an Anthem. A leather-bound RNA New Testament was presented to all. A Salute by the VIPs and parade to the





Black Watch memorial and the National President's traditional end of Conference chat completed a marvellous weekend.

## 2. ★ Project Semaphore iPads - Update

Dear Shipmates,

With over 200 applications for iPads this Project has made a significant impact to many already. I am receiving many great stories on how individuals are using the iPads to benefit their lives including: Google translate when learning a new language, email and skype for keeping in touch with family and friends, the camera for capturing moments to share, watching speedway, filling the void a dearly departed has left, scrabble and many others.

Sarah Clewes has been out and about again this time she has visited the Royal Star and Garter care homes in Surbiton and Solihull and in the north Alan Magrath has been visiting the care home Broughton House. Both Sarah and Alan we met with great interest and they supported Maritime Veterans getting online through the iPad.

*Picture: Sarah at Royal Star and Garter during iPad training.*



Gary Daisley, from RNA Rayleigh, has been doing an amazing job in Area 5 delivering not only training to his local candidates but he has provided training to a new Volunteer in the Norwich branch which allowed the issue of many more iPads to that area. I cannot thank the volunteers enough for all their hard work and dedication to this project without which this Project just would not be the success it is. It is a huge challenge to provide training and support on a full national coverage and I recognise many of our volunteers are travelling a considerable distance to provide support.

*Picture: Gary Daisley preparing for a group iPad issue and training session.*



As a reminder the eligibility criteria is: to be a Maritime Veteran, over 65 years old and digitally isolated, which not actively online or access to personal IT and able to have enjoyed the benefits this can give. Furthermore, something the Project had not considered as an eligibility but had to be clarified, as a candidate you must be resident in the UK. All the eligibility criteria have been set by the funding provider. Any queries please email me on [sarah@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:sarah@royalnavalassoc.com) or write to the RNA HQ.

I look forward to receiving further news of our candidates online. I urge all Branches to share the benefits of this amazing Project and look out for eligible Shipmates who we can assist.

Sharon Brown, Project Manager, Project Semaphore.

### 3. ★ RNVC Series - Commodore Augustus Agar VC DSO Royal Navy

Augustus Willington Shelton Agar was born in Kandy Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and was sent back to Britain to be educated at Framlingham College in Suffolk. He joined the RN in 1904 as a Naval Cadet Officer and completed his training at BRNC, which was still the hulk HMS Britannia. On completion of training he served in a variety of ships ranging from the battle ship HMS Prince of Wales to Torpedo Boat 23. He remained in the Navy until 1946. During his service career he was awarded a Victoria Cross and DSO.



During the early part of the First World War he saw service in HMS Hibernia in the Dardanelles during the ill fated Gallipoli Campaign and joined HMS Iphigenia as Executive Officer which was deployed to Murmansk in March 1917 at the start of the Russian Revolution, the ship operated out of Archangel. It was a difficult and occasionally dangerous mission which occupied the *Iphigenia* until the end of February 1918, when worsening conditions and a hostile Bolshevik government prompted a withdrawal. The British were able to take away with them a number of Russians fleeing the Bolsheviks.

Agar then served in Coastal Motor Boats during the later part of the war. These ships weighed in at 5 tons and were 44' or 45' feet long compared to the average WW1 destroyer weighing in at 1,100 tons. They were extremely shallow drafted and could operate close inshore their primary weapon system was the torpedo. They could also carry mines. Agars' CMB was involved in the Zeebrugge raid. In late 1918 he volunteered for an operation involving CMBs, which because of their utility, were ideal for ferrying British agents back from Russia.

Agar set up a small base at Terijoki, just inside Finland and close to the Soviet frontier. From here he undertook a top secret and dangerous mission to retrieve Paul Dukes, a man he knew only by the MI6 codename ST-25, from the coast of the Bay of Petrograd. The last British agent left in Russia, Dukes had been infiltrating the Bolshevik government for some time and had made copies of top secret documents. A master of disguise, he was known as "The Man with A Hundred Faces", but his resources had run out by this time. In order to spirit Dukes away, Agar's boats had to cross Bolshevik minefields and pass by a number of forts and ships guarding the entrance to the Bolshevik naval base at Kronstadt and to Petrograd, now St. Petersburg.



Also operating in the eastern Baltic Sea was a Royal Navy detachment of light cruisers and destroyers under Admiral Sir Walter Cowan. Though technically not connected, Agar regularly reported to Cowan and received assistance from him. Cowan's mission was to keep the sea lanes open to the new republics of Finland, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, which were under threat of being overrun by Soviet Russia.

On their missions Agar and his crews dressed in civilian clothes to maintain the fiction that Britain was not involved. They had a uniform on board in case they were in danger of capture. Without the uniform, they could be shot as spies. Agar felt that his small force should be doing more than acting as a shuttle service. The Bolsheviks had seized much of the Russian fleet at Kronstadt, and Agar considered these vessels a menace to British operations and took it upon himself to attack the enemy battleships.

He set out with his two boats, HM *Coastal Motor Boat 4* and another, on 17 June 1919. One had to turn back before completing its mission, but Agar continued into the bay. The battleships were not in the harbour though. *CMB4* penetrated a destroyer screen and was closing on a larger warship further inshore when *CMB4*, whose hull had been damaged by gunfire, broke down. She had to be taken alongside a breakwater for repairs and for twenty minutes was in full view of the enemy. The attack was then resumed and a Russian cruiser, the 6,645 ton *Oleg* was sunk, after which Agar retired to the safety of the open bay under heavy fire. For this he was awarded the Victoria Cross and was promoted to lieutenant commander on 30 June 1919.



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Not satisfied with being awarded the VC on 18 August 1919 he was involved in a second action which resulted in the award of a DSO

#### 4. ★ RNA Poppy Badge

By popular demand and Available Now! The New **RNA Poppy**. Please note the 'safety' type pin so you don't lose it. The photo opposite shows the pin in all its glory and scale against a standard RNA badge.

Costing £1 each or 50 pence each if you are a Branch buying them in bulk orders of 30 or over. The prices include postage and are designed to allow you to make the profit from selling them on. Suggested price is £1.50.

Orders with cheques etc to Nigel in Central Office as usual. Also if you don't do cheques and you want to pay by card just give Nigel a call on 02392 723747 or we can arrange a BACS transfer.



## 5. RNA and Naval Associations Biennial Parade – 10 September 2017

The RNA / Naval Associations Biennial Parade will be held at Whitehall on Sunday 10 September 2017. The Second Sea Lord, Vice Admiral Jonathon Woodcock OBE has confirmed as the Guest of Honour and the VIP party will include the Minister for the Armed Forces, Rt Hon Mike Penning MP, Flick Drummond MP, (Portsmouth South), Captain Andy Jordan ADC Royal Navy, Commanding Officer HMS Collingwood and Mrs Gillian Molyneux and her daughter Bethany, Mrs Molyneux is the widow of Lt Cdr Dean Molyneux who was killed whilst serving in HMS Astute.

It is envisaged that that over 500 personnel both Veterans and Serving will be on parade. As well as representatives from the many naval associations, including from Belgium and the Republic of Ireland. Trainees from HMS Sultan and HMS Collingwood will parade, as will members of the Sea Cadet Corps. Music will be provided by the volunteer band from HMS COLLINGWOOD.

The programme for the day is as follows;

- 0900 RNA Central Office staff on site, meet with Met senior officer.
- 0910 Set security points
- 0915 Civil Service Club opens for coffee and toilets (80 metres from Coach parking)
- 0930 Parking for coaches and minibuses in Whitehall Place (pass required from Central Office) All coaches + Cars to be clear of Whitehall Place by 1300.
- 0945 All Vehicles to be parked,
- 0950 Whitehall Place and South Whitehall closes.
- 1010 **Standard bearers brief by NCA**
- 1025 Parade musters and is briefed by Parade Commander.
- 1040 Parade steps off, from Whitehall Place
- 1055 2SL, Min (AF), Flick Drummond MP, Capt Jordan, Capt Towell Mrs and Miss Molyneux +, VIPs join the parade
- 1100 Service starts, 2 minute silence
- 1102 Service at Cenotaph led by the Chaplain of the Fleet
- 1127 Parade steps off, review by 2SL
- 1140 Parade addressed by NP/2SL
- 1146 Issue of Standard Bearers 'Tots' outside Civil Service Club
- 1147 Bar opens in Civil Service Club – 2SL and VIPs meets Shipmates
- 1200 Sandwiches and Chips served at no cost to participants
- 1200 Parking restrictions restored in Whitehall Place



**Dress** Will be uniform for those serving and RNA / Association rig with medals or equivalent for everyone else, polished shoes. Berets for standard bearers and optional for marchers. Standards should wear the NSM pennant (if entitled).

**Briefs** Standard bearers should note the early brief for them at 1010 in Whitehall place by the National Ceremonial Advisor.

**Security. Very Important - Everyone attending should ensure they carry photo ID and their RNA membership card.**

**Band** The band will be the Massed Royal Navy Volunteer Band.

**Wreaths.** Any branch, Area or individual may lay a wreath during the ceremony, please let Nigel know if you would like to.

**Mobility.** The march is of the order of 450 metres there and 450 back with just over an hour on our feet. Those with mobility issues should make their way to the front of the FCO where an area will be reserved

\*\* Parking Details will be advertised once confirmed with Met Police.

## 6. ★ A puzzle to test you!

Thanks go to Shipmate Ian McQueen for this little brain tester.....



Answer at the rear of Circular.....

## 7. November Cenotaph Remembrance Parade 12 Nov 17 –Ticket Allocation



Shipmates who would like to attend and march at the November Remembrance parade at the Cenotaph are advised that once again enhanced security measures will be in place. This will involve the Met Police conducting individual security checks on all participants. Therefore Basic Personal Information will be required in advance for each applicant and ticket holders will need to bring photo ID and a document showing proof of their address for access to the parade at Horse guards via manned Police entry points. Disabled shipmates are

reminded that this year they can be accompanied on the parade by their carer. However the carer's will be subject to the same security procedures and must forward their details to Nigel.

All Shipmates hoping to march in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph **must** forward the following details to Nigel at Central Office (HQ) – [nigel@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com) by **Friday 1 September 2017**

Title/Rank, First Name (**This must be the name on the photo ID**), Last Name, Date of Birthday (DD/MM/YYYY), Place of Birth, First line of address, Town, Postcode, Service number (Where applicable)

Finally, Individually **Named** tickets will be despatched in October and Shipmates should be aware that there will be a **compulsory 'no ticket no entry'** policy in operation on the day.

## 8. ★ FINANCE CORNER

Dear Shipmates,

Michelle is on well deserved post-Conference leave. The main Message is for Conference Delegates who want travel costs refunded under the Pooled Fares Scheme. Claim forms **MUST** be with Michelle by 31 July absolute latest (not posted, but arrived). GS will not approve claims after that date, since we have to draw the line to work out pooled fares for the termly accounts.



Please sort out with your Conference Delegate asap.

Final point, the passenger rate on Conference claims are only for other Delegates, not observers, your toy boy or mistress, the dog etc.

## 9. Guess Where? An Establishment



This month can you name this establishment? As it is difficult I have provided a then and now photo. Remember no hovering or looking on Google or Wiki!!

The answer will be in next month's edition.



*Last month's answer: Was relatively easy and a number of Shipmates e-mailed in with the answer including; Derby Allen (first), Bobby Thorne, George Shelton, Keith Jones.*

*It was of course HMS Vernon with Gunwharf Quays in the background.*

## 10. ★ Joke – Ride me funky Moped!



An elderly man, looking about 100 years old, and on a Moped, pulls up next to a doctor at a street light. The old man looks over at the sleek shiny car and asks, 'What kind of car have you got there, young fella?'

The doctor replies, 'A Ferrari GTO. It cost half a million pounds' 'That's a lot of money,' says the old man. 'Why does it cost so much?

'Because this car can do up to 320 miles an hour!' states the doctor proudly. The Moped driver asks, 'Mind if I have a look inside?' 'No problem,' replies the doctor. So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Then, sitting back on his Moped, the old man says, 'That's is a fantastic car.... But I'll stick with my Moped!'

Just then the light changes, so the doctor decides to show the old man just what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 160 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer. He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly WHOOOOSSSHHH Something whips by him going much faster! 'What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari ?' the doctor asks himself.



He presses harder on the accelerator and takes the Ferrari up to 250 mph. Then, up ahead of him, he sees that it's the old man on the Moped! Amazed that the Moped could pass his Ferrari, he gives it more gas and passes the Moped at 275 mph. He's feeling pretty good until he looks in his mirror and sees the old man gaining on him AGAIN!

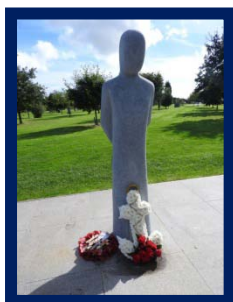
Astounded by the speed of this old fella, he floors the accelerator and takes the Ferrari all the way up to 320 mph. Not ten seconds later, he sees the Moped bearing down on him again! The Ferrari is flat out, and there's nothing he can do! Suddenly, the Moped plows into the back of his Ferrari, demolishing the rear end. The doctor stops and jumps out and unbelievably, the old man is still alive. He runs up to the banged-up old chap and says, 'I'm a doctor.... Is there anything I can do for you?'

Wait for it.....

**The old man whispers, 'Unhook my braces from your side mirror'**

## 11. ★ Naval Service Memorial Figurine

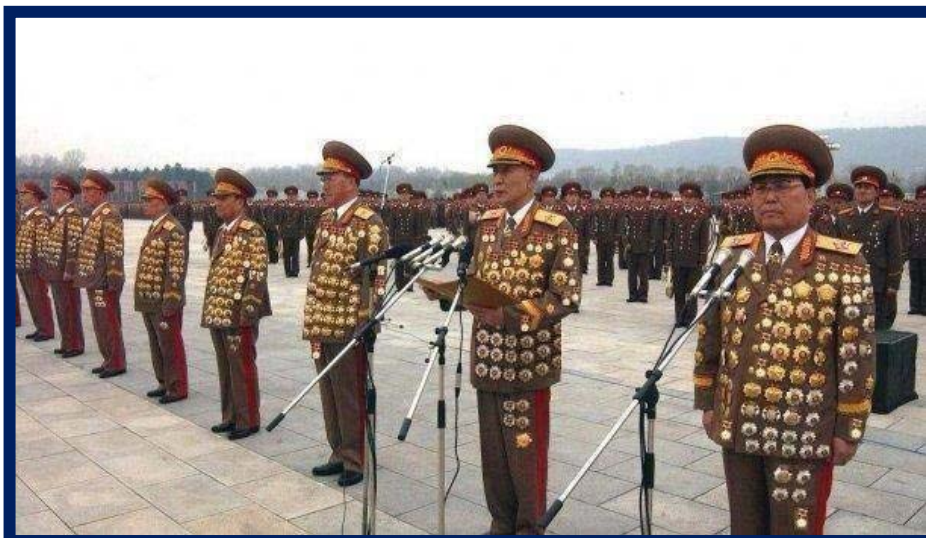
Graham Mitcheson, the sculpture of the Naval Service Memorial, has produced a miniature figurine of the Sailor (approx 9" high) who sits adjacent to the NSM. The figurine is now on sale at the National Arboretum, where it is on sale for £95. However Shipmates may purchase the figurine at a discounted cost of £75 (including Post) from Nigel at Central Office. Nigel can be contacted at [nigel@royalnavalassoc.com](mailto:nigel@royalnavalassoc.com)  
Or by telephone on 02392 723747.



## 12. ★ North Korean Medal Presentation Divisions!

The photo below shows a medal presentation in progress at an undisclosed establishment in North Korea. I will leave it up to you to draw your own conclusions.....

One Shipmate, using a disguise although a member of a branch from 4 Area with a softly spoken west country accent quietly suggested to the MOD that there may be an extremely easy way of defeating the Korean Forces, if it came down to it, by pointing a 'giant magnet' at them !





### 13. ★ RNA Tartan Tie or RNA Tartan Bow Tie



Some Shipmates may have missed the opportunity to purchase your very own RNA Tartan tie or bow tie.

So if you missed out at Conference here is another chance for you to obtain one of these unique pieces of clothing.

Available from Central Office for the special price of .

Tartan Tie    £12.00

Bow Tie        £11.00

(Prices include Post and packaging.)

### 14. Northern Ireland Veterans' Association – Service of Remembrance 16 Sep 17

NIVA Admin Mike Sangster would like to advise Shipmates that the this year's service will be held at 11.30 on Saturday 16th September 2017 at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

The service will commemorate and remember all those who lost their lives in service of the Crown as a result of the conflict in N. Ireland. The service will be followed by a parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove for the laying of wreaths. Following the laying of the wreaths, there will be a 20 minute pause before the parade forms up for the return march to the visitor centre during which the guest of honour will take the salute.

The service is open to all, and all Associations are welcome to parade their standards. It would be appreciated if Associations arranging for groups of their members to attend could notify us of numbers and confirm if their standard will be parading. We look forward to welcoming you to our annual memorial service.

For further information please visit our website at: [www.nivets.org.uk](http://www.nivets.org.uk)

### 15. Motorfinity Partnership



Shipmates should be aware that the Royal Naval Association and the Conference of Naval Associations (CONA) are delighted to appoint Motorfinity as their exclusive motoring partner offering discounts on cars,

commercial vehicles and motoring related products such as used cards and motorcycles for the benefit of members. Motorfinity works with all of the top motoring brands in the UK offering great offers and discounts which are easily accessible.

- **Save £1,000s** on your next new car
- **All models** available from leading manufacturers
- Motorfinitly only works with **manufacturer approved suppliers**
- All finance options are available including **cash, Hire Purchase (HP) and Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)**
- Part exchange service
- **No fees** or charges for using the service

Take a look at some of our offers and submit your enquiry online at the dedicated Royal Naval Association website – [www.motorfinitly.uk/rna](http://www.motorfinitly.uk/rna)

### ***Motorfinitly - Hot off the press.....***

This month we are launching our deal of the month which is the Nissan Juke. We recently partnered with Nissan UK to promote their nationwide scheme for Military and Police personnel. Customers are able to simply submit an enquiry and their local dealer will then call them to arrange a test drive and process their discounted order. The discounts are great and are coupled, should the customer wish, with a PCP offer which is often supported with a deposit contribution from Nissan in addition to the discount. Win-Win!

### **16. ★ Joke Time – Married Life**

After being married for 50 years, I took a careful look at my wife one day and said, "Fifty years ago we had a cheap house, a banger for a car, slept on a sofa bed and watched a 10-inch black and white Tele, but I got to sleep every night with a hot 23-year-old girl.

Now ... We have an £800,000 home, a £50,000 car, a nice big bed and a large-screen TV, but I'm sleeping with a 73-year-old woman. It seems to me that my wife is holding up to her side of the bargain."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 23-year-old girl and she would make certain that I would once again be living in a cheap house, driving a crap car, sleeping on a sofa bed and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.



Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve an old chaps problems!

### **17. ★ HMS Ganges Association – Solent Division – Combined Services Annual Church Service**

The Solent Division of the HMS Ganges Association are holding their annual church service this year at St. George's Church at Portsea, commencing at 1200 on Sunday the 16th. July 2017.

For the past two years we have encouraged other associations to join with us and it is now called the "Combined Services Annual Church Service". All standards welcome. It is an informal

service and is officiated by The Reverend Belinda Davies, Vicar of St. George's Church and Collin Noyce our own Padre.

After the service we meet up at the RNOC/RNA in Lake Rd., Portsmouth for a refreshments, a chat and a bit of "lamp swinging", it gives us a chance to talk to those who attended the service and any idea's they may have to improve it

Interested persons are requested to contact myself, Bob Campbell of the Solent Division of the HMS Ganges Association by telephone on (023) 8073 4915 but preferred email me at [gangesbob@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gangesbob@hotmail.co.uk) ( I am a little hard of hearing but not an insurmountable problem)

## 18. Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day – 3 September 2017

Seafarers UK have launched a 'Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day' campaign which Branches and Shipmates may wish to participate in on 3 September.

With the support of the Merchant Navy Association and the Federation of Merchant Marines, Seafarers UK is promoting the campaign to 11,500 local councils this year. But it's not just councils that they want to take part. Any association or organisation that wishes to get involved will be welcomed – the more the merrier!



As Merchant Navy Day this year falls on a Sunday, the day of the MNA's National Service at Tower Hill, they are encouraging local civic flag hoisting ceremonies and events to be held on the preceding Friday, with Red Ensigns flying over the whole weekend.

For further information please contact Nick Harvey, Seafarers Campaigns Manager, on 020 7932 5969 or [nick.harvey@seafarers-uk.org](mailto:nick.harvey@seafarers-uk.org) or follow the links below;

<http://www.merchantnavyfund.org/merchant-navy-day>  
<http://www.merchantnavyfund.org/dl/MerchantNavyDay2017Flyer.pdf>

## 19. ★ Design of the Month

Just received in from in Area 2. A Older Shipmates eating appliance, probably as effective as 'dog trays' How clever are some of their Shipmates?

Bet that you cannot come up with something equally imaginative. How cool is this....



## 20. ★ Veterans Medical Assistance – trouble with knees and things.

Shipmate Glyn Jones (Hon Sec Mansfield and District Branch) has forwarded the following information for Veterans who need orthopaedic assistance.

*I thought this might come in useful for all our Veterans who have need of new hips and/or knees...*

*Trouble with knees and things..... Did you know.....*

*As a veteran, you can ask for a referral to a specialist Orthopaedic clinic at The Robert Jones & Edith Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AG. There is a specific Veterans Clinic run by Lt Col Carl Meyer, an Army Reserve consultant surgeon who also works with 202 Field Ambulance and Reserve Hospital.*

*A friend applied for a referral on 16 March, this year, and on 3rd May, a week ago, had a hip replacement, a total of just over 6 weeks. Lt Col Meyers specialises in hips and knees. If you don't mind a few days away from family, He can assure you it's more like an hotel than a hospital, and the foods really good. Having a long wait ahead of you at your local GP and hospital, this might be the way to go to achieve a much quicker result.*

*What is it? A service for military veterans to have their hip or knee arthritis assessed and, if appropriate, have joint replacement surgery and is led by Lt Col Carl Meyer, Military Consultant Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Surgeon at Oswestry's specialist orthopaedic hospital. Lt Col Meyer is an Army Reserve officer who has been on three tours to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. He is an Orthopaedic Trauma Surgeon with 16 Medical Regiment, 202 (Midlands) Field Hospital.*

*Who is it for? Anyone who has been in regular military service, including national service.*

*Where is it? The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH), Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 7AG ,and is a centre of orthopaedic excellence specialising in lower limb replacement surgery.*

*When is it? Outpatient clinics are held fortnightly at RJAH. (Normally on a Wednesday)*

*How do I obtain an NHS referral ? Through your GP - Ask to be referred to the VETERANS' HIP & KNEE SURGERY SERVICE at Oswestry - And ask your GP to make a named referral to Lt Col Meyer. Contact information Email: [rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk](mailto:rebecca.ann.jones@rjah.nhs.uk) Fax: 01691 404067 Tel: 01691 404344*

*Your records at your GP needs to be annotated with the NHS issued codes for military/veterans, take photocopies of your red discharge book, because he will ask for proof that you're a veteran.*

*Lt Col Meyer wants to "do" more operations for veterans, but he has two problems,*

*1; finding the patients, he knows that we are out here, it's letting us know he's there for us, and*

*2; getting the money from the NHS, but, the more ops he does the more money they will give him, therefore the more ops he can do. So, come on, I've had 3 enquiries so far, there must be more than us 3. If you are members of other military Facebook sites please, please, please copy and paste to these pages and let as many veterans know about this brilliant service that's just for us. It's about time us vets got something back for our years of loyal service.*

<http://www.rjah.nhs.uk/Our-Services/Orthopaedic-Surgery/Veterans-Clinic.aspx>

## RNA Longcast

2017	
30 Jun	Open Day
01 Jul	RNA Dublin Summer BBQ
27 Jul	Mid-year Budget Review
05 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly Meeting - Stowmarket
11 Aug	Open Day
18 Aug	FAC
19 Aug	AMC
01 Sep – 31 Oct	Possible arrival window of HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth - TBC
06 Oct	Open Day
09 Sep	National Council Meeting – Victory Services Club
10 Sep	<b>Biennial Parade</b>
29 Sep - 02 Oct	CONA Cruise ( Liverpool –Dublin- Bristol)
30 Sept	Chichester Branch 70 <sup>th</sup> anniversary event
11 Oct	Sea Farers Service St Pauls Cathedral ( Ticketed entry only – requests for tickets to Nigel by end September please)
20 Oct	RNA Dublin- Trafalgar Night Dinner
21 Oct	RNA Chard -30 year Commissioning Anniversary and Trafalgar Night Dinner
04 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly - Harwich
12 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph Parade
17 Nov	FAC
18 Nov	AMC
25 Nov	6 Area Meeting – 1300 Royston RNA (Eternit Sports & Social Club)
09 Dec	National Council Meeting
2018	
03 Feb	Area 5 AGM / Quarterly – Southend RNA Club
16 Feb	FAC – SOC Meetings
17 Feb	AMC
10 Mar	National Council Meeting (Trustee Report/Motions for Conference/ Annual Financial Forecast)
05 May	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
18/19/20 May	Londonderry Branch Battle of the Atlantic Commemoration 2018
12 May	National Standard Bearer Competition – HMS Collingwood
8/9/10 June	
8 Jun	National Council/AMC/FAC/ SOC Meetings
04 Aug	Area 5 Quarterly – United Services Club Harwich
17 Aug	FAC
18 Aug	AMC
08 Sept	National Council Meeting (Election of NCh/NVCh – motions action)
03 Nov	Area 5 Quarterly – RBL Club Rayleigh
16 Nov	FAC
17 Nov	AMC
08 Dec	National Council Meeting (Budget)

## RNA Members Benefits

### UK Holiday Group /CONA Holiday Service

- Variety of special deals for both Groups and Individuals. 1% of turnover thorough CONA Holiday Service is returned to the RNA. <http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk/news/323/members-holidays-service>

### Coleman/Ansvar Insurance

- Discounted Branch and House hold Insurance - 01323 744149  
<http://bit.ly/RNACona>

### Funeral Service

- Significant discount form Veterans UK [www.veteranfunerals.co.uk](http://www.veteranfunerals.co.uk) Tel 07889 009393

### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard



- RNA member entry just £10 plus four guest at £10 each provides access to the all attractions including the Submarine Museum, RM Museum and Explosion!.

### Legal Services



Free 30 minute legal advice with Coffin Mew.  
[armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk](mailto:armedforces@coffinmew.co.uk) 0800 827168

### Breakdown Service



- RAC Breakdown and recovery service  
[asec@arno.org.uk](mailto:asec@arno.org.uk) or 0207 4025231



*Organisers of Reunions should be aware the CONA Travel will match or better any other 'like for like' Reunion/Group Trips bookings so why not give them an opportunity to impress you. 0844 264 2122*

[conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk](mailto:conatravelservices@justforgroups.co.uk)



- Discounts on a large range of new Cars [www.motorfinity.uk/rna](http://www.motorfinity.uk/rna)