

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION – PORTLAND BRANCH  
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB ON  
WEDNESDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2018

1. The meeting was opened by the Chairman 2015. 38 members attended.
2. APOLOGIES – were received from 27 members.
3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The month of August saw us manning a stall at the Southwell Street Fair. Compared to the previous week's wind and rain, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> turned out to be hot and sunny with very little wind. With help from the keen working party that turned out, rigging the Pusser's Rum gazebo was a doddle. Taking it down proved rather more of a challenge.

The Tombola stall organised by S/M Lynn was very successful, so a big thank you to her and to those who donated prizes. At the end of the day we made almost £200 for Branch funds. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day.

The rest of the month was very quiet, mainly I think due to holidays.

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September there was a Merchant Navy Day Ceremony at the Memorial on Weymouth esplanade. I would like to thank S/M Dave Thompson for being our Branch Representative at the service.

The Merchant Navy Day Civic Service at Portland took place at St George's Churchyard on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The Memorial stone has been placed on the grave of six souls who perished following the Avalanche Forest disaster in 1877. The Merchant Navy Area & National Standards were joined by Standards from Portland, Weymouth and Dorchester Branches. Many Merchant Navy veterans and members of the public attended as well as Portland Branch members. The service was conducted by the Rev Tim Gomm, Cllr Charlie Flack, Town Mayor (and Portland Branch member) gave the Bible reading.

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the sinking of the SS Avalanche will be held at St Andrew's church, Southwell on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

It has been pointed out by S/M Sherren that there was an error in the June minutes, under Standard Bearer's report. It should read "S/M Cartwright thanked S/M Sherren (not S/M Larkin) for carrying the standard when he was unavailable". The minutes will be corrected by the Secretary.
4. NEW MEMBER

CHRISTIAN HAW –FULL was warmly welcomed to the Branch.
5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – were read and accepted. Proposed by S/M Karen Miller seconded by S/M Bill McMurray 31 for with 7 abstentions.
6. SECRETARIES REMARKS & CORRESPONDENCE

Nil report.
7. ITEMS DISCUSSED AT COMMITTEE MEETING

Health concerns re Asbestos.  
Diamond Award.
8. S/M Gray said quite a few of our members have worked on Sea King Helicopters in the past and may have come into contact with Asbestos. He gave a report on the repercussions that may affect people. More information is now available on the website.
9. DIAMOND AWARD

The winner of the Diamond Award was S/M Pat Hudson. The Chairman presented her with the award and she was thanked for all her work in selling the raffle tickets at meetings.
10. STANDARD BEARERS REPORT

S/M Cartwright said the Avalanche Service will take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September at St Andrews Church, Southwell.

S/M Cartwright said the RNA is introducing Metal Beret badges. Standard Bearers will wear theirs from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Members from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020. More information regarding this is available in Septembers Circulars.
11. FUND RAISING REPORT

S/M Shoemith gave a financial report on fundraising.
12. WELFARE REPORT

S/M White reported that he has had a chat with Dick Pearce. He appreciates all the support and help received from the Branch.

Bill Gear's wife Pam still has problems.  
Pauline Isaac seems quite cheerful.
13. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

S/M Karen Miller said there are only 4 forms to come back.

14. TREASURERS REPORT

The Branch Account stands at £3536-82. Proposed by S/M Charles H Thompson, seconded by S/M Karen Miller. 35 for with 3 abstentions. The raffle raised £37-50 with donations of £5 to the Branch funds.

15. WEBMASTERS REPORT

Nil report.

16. SOCIAL REPORT

T20 Blast at the Ageas Bowl on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August was a good evening. Although it was a bit of an anti-climax as Hampshire failed miserably to get the required modest total to win. Once again a big vote of thanks to Vaughan for hiring and driving the minibus.

Buckham Fair on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August was an enjoyable day out. Just for a change it didn't rain and we came home looking like Redskins. Special thanks to Keith for driving the ICA minibus. I hope we can hire it in the future, it's a shame they only have an 11 seater.

Away weekend from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October to the Somerset Hotel, Llandudno with Daish's. They have been paid in full. We have two places available, double room with sea view, due to cancellation. The cost is £155-00 per person, which includes three nights half board, return coach travel and excursions on the Saturday and Sunday. Please let me know this evening if you are interested. We start pickups at Victoria Square at 0830 on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure you use the Daish's luggage labels which I'm distributing.

Christmas Social Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in the Jubilee Hall. Catering – Hannah Barnwell. Entertainer Mike Walker.

Annual Dinner 2019 will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at the Masonic Hall, Victoria Square. Hall booked and paid for.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

S/M Matthews said the HMS Illustrious Memorial Service will take place on Sunday 21 October at Portland Marina at 1200 hrs.

S/M Rimmel said HMS Portland is now in dry dock.

Next Meeting Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018.

18. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2124.

Chairman

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