

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short

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Date: Monday, 8 February 2021, 15:41 GMT

SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 08 FEBRUARY 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Victory Scotland

Well, we have one very happy General Secretary after this weekends result! Congratulations to all of our Scottish members out there, and lets hope some of us can be there in person when the Cup is battled for again next year.

And on the topic of sport and activities; we'd love to hear from anyone interested in setting up a Special Interest Group for the RNA community. We

would love to be able to offer a comprehensive list of activity groups, clustering likeminded individuals who can share their love for a certain sport or activity in both a virtual community and with national/regional meet ups. Our successful Riders Branch is a great example of this.

Rugby, kayaking, cycling, rock climbing, music, baking, pottery – you name it, we would love to see it. Please email admin@royalnavalassoc.com with your idea if you would like to pioneer a new group...



Project Semaphore update

Julie would like to say a huge THANK YOU to those volunteers who are supporting candidates with iPads. Project Semaphore is very much still active within the RNA.

We are currently on a support phase and a reserve list is being compiled for as and when iPads are returned to Julie. If you know of a member who has crossed the bar and has a Project Semaphore iPad, then the iPad should be returned to the Project Manager and not issued to any other RNA members, until, for security reasons it has been reset and an application form has been completed. Anyone who is 65+, digitally isolated and has served in the RN/RM (or tri-service, with restrictions) then please get in touch with julie@royalnavalassoc.com.

We have applied to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund for further funding to extend the project for another 12 months, after the importance of such schemes has been exacerbated by Covid-19. A decision should be made by the end of this month, so we hope to update you with some further good news soon...



Disability Unit

UK Disability Survey

This survey asks for your opinion about the attitude and abuse towards those with disabilities. This survey is aimed towards carers, disabled people and the general public.

The survey will help to shape UK government and NHS policies and services for those with disabilities. Although the survey is open until 23rd April, in order for your data to be used to influence the National Strategy for Disabled People, **please complete the survey by 13th February.**

If you could spend a few minutes of your time completing the below, that would be very helpful:

[Complete Survey Here](#)



Armed Forces Pension update

The Government has announced the outcome of the public consultation on how to remove the discrimination identified by the courts in the McCloud/Sergeant case. The consultation affects eligible Armed Forces personnel and it has been decided that the Deferred Choice will be taken forward as the way to remedy the identified discrimination.

To be eligible personnel must have been in the Armed Forces on or before 31 Mar 12 and on or after 1 Apr 15. This includes those with a break in service of less than 5-years. Personnel who moved to the reformed pension schemes on 1 Apr 15 will firstly be placed back into their legacy pension scheme for the remedy period 1 Apr 15 to 31 Mar 22 which will remove the discrimination. They will then receive a choice at the point at which they leave with benefits in payment whether to take legacy pension scheme benefits or reformed scheme benefits in relation to that period

Personnel who continue to serve in the Armed Forces from 1 Apr 22 will do so as members of the 2015 scheme, regardless of age, with all legacy schemes being closed from that date. This will mean that all members will be treated equally and no further discrimination will exist in the future.

[Learn more here...](#)



What's on this week (8th – 14th Feb)

- Monday Night Fireside Chat: An evening with Sir Robin Knox-Johnson

The weekly Fireside Chat will be hosted again on Zoom **tonight**, where we will be joined by Sir Robin Knox-Johnson for tales of his life at sea. Join us at **1800** with a glass in hand and your tot at the ready!

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

- **Tuesday Night: Dive into the Silent Service**

On **Tuesday at 2000** the Submarine Service are hosting a virtual event to offer insight into life on Royal Navy boats in 2021. This is designed as a recruitment event, but should be interesting to those with or without submarine experience too.

[Free Ticket Here](#)

- **Join 'The Royal Naval Association: Community Site' on Facebook**

If you haven't done so already, join the growing community group on Facebook where our members spin dits, host Zoom nights and update each other on branch activities. It's the best place to get your news hot-off-the-press...

[Join the Facebook Group](#)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

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