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Subject: ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short
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SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 31 AUGUST 2021



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

The final countdown to Conference...

Conference is now just days away and Central Office is pretty frantic as a result! Attached to this email, you will find the Agenda for the AGM and Conference.

As we mentioned last week, we will be broadcasting the AGM from the Conference on Saturday 4th September via Zoom, for those who would like to attend virtually.

Delegates who want to represent their Branch digitally must still register their intention with Nigel/Sara in Central Office by 1200 on Wednesday 1st September.

You'll be able to access the Zoom meeting by clicking the link below. It will be live from 1000 on Saturday 4th September. Please mute your microphone but have your camera on. If there are any changes to this arrangement then you will be notified in advance.

[**Join Conference virtually here**](#)

First Sea Lord's statement on Afghanistan

Alongside our AGM Agenda, you will also see a second attachment to this email which offers First Sea Lord's statement on Afghanistan in full, issued today.

He begins, "I wanted to recognise the sad and difficult scenes we have all been witnessing in Afghanistan and reflect on the Service's role in Afghanistan alongside our Defence colleagues and international partners and allies. The last couple of weeks have seen a humbling and remarkable effort by the three Services and their Diplomatic Service colleagues to bring over 15,000 British nationals and vulnerable Afghans to safety in very trying circumstances".

We'd like to encourage anyone struggling at this time to make use of the wealth of support services available through partner charities and organisations. Please visit the link below for a list of suggested support...

[**Click here**](#)



Spread the word!

Do you have a branch member who will no longer attend meetings in a Covid world? Have you had members leave altogether because they feel they can no longer be involved in the RNA? Have you had members lose a spouse, meaning they now live alone? Or have members who struggle to leave their home due to mobility issues?

Any of these people could really benefit from RNA Sparko TV, which is essentially a simplified version of the internet which can be accessed from the comfort of your sofa/armchair, through your TV, and best of all, through us and the RNRMC, it's COMPLETELY FREE!

Please get in touch with Lynda Pearson, our Welfare Programme Manager to find out more about this project and begin an application for yourself or someone you know.

lynda@royalnavalassoc.com / [02392 723747](tel:02392723747)



Elections for RNA National Council

Each year, the RNA holds elections for 50% of the National and Deputy National Council members. Details were promulgated in the Semaphore Circular earlier this

year. The following nominations have been received:

Area	NCM	DNCM
2.	<i>None received.</i>	<i>None received</i>
6	<i>Keith Ridley</i>	<i>Anthony J Boddrell</i>
7	<i>Lance Higgon Young</i>	<i>Graham Warner</i>
8	<i>Peter Godwin</i>	<i>George Barbrook</i>
9	<i>Keith Crawford</i>	<i>Kevin Winter</i>
11	<i>Ian A McQueen</i>	<i>Roslyn Hastie Murray</i>
Scotland	<i>Stephen Elliot</i>	<i>Ian Irvin</i>

Where more than one nomination is received, an election is held. This year, only one nomination has been received for each office, with the exception of Area 2, where no nominations have been received.

The above nominations will be reviewed by the Standing Orders Committee, in advance of Conference and the NCMs and DNCMs will be announced by the Chair of the Standing Orders Committee at Conference.



What's on this week (31st August – 5th September)

- **Wednesday evening: Afghanistan: A nation abandoned?**

On **Wednesday 1st September at 1830**, The Independent (newspaper) is holding a virtual event to discuss the future Afghanistan faces and what lessons can be learned from the past. They are welcoming questions in advance, to direct the conversation on the day.

The event will be hosted by foreign editor David Harding and the panel will consist of foreign correspondent and commentator Patrick Cockburn, Camelia Entekhbifard, editor of Independent Persian, Lieutenant General Sir Simon Mayell, a commander who was the Middle East advisor in the Ministry of Defence and Kim Sengupta, the Defence and Diplomatic Editor.

[Register Here](#)

- **Wednesday evening: What is Mental Health First Aid?**

Join Kev Beresford, a First Aid at Work instructor at Whitecat Wellbeing, on **Wednesday 1st September at 1900** to find out:

- What mental health first aid is and what it is not
- Why mental health first aid is a useful tool for managers
- The benefits of having mental health first aiders within the organisation
- Why proper training is essential
- How mental health first aiders get trained

Kev Beresford is a former RAF Flight Engineer and Human Factors Specialist. Kev applies and teaches Mental Health Awareness, Mental Health First Aid, Personal and Workplace Wellbeing within the MoD and to private and public organisations. He is a member of the RAF Mental Health Network Governance Board.

[Register Here](#)

Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time

Every Saturday Night, for over 12 months now, members from the Wrexham Branch have been hosting a Virtual Tot, inviting members worldwide to join in with them over Zoom. It's proven a lifeline and outlet for many of the RNA community, and they don't intend to wrap it up any time soon. To be involved, click on the link below...

[Find out more](#)

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](#)



Agenda - R...ference.pdf
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