

From: Mary Prescott <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
To: Mary Prescott <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
Date: Feb 21, 2022 1:52:32 PM
Subject: FW: ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short




Good afternoon to you all

I hope you are keeping safe on (hopefully) the last of the storms. I can hear Fencers up and down the country rubbing their hands with glee at the business that is coming their way.

Here is this weeks Semaphore Short, I hope you enjoy.

Kind Regards,

Mary Prescott

	<p>Mary Prescott Communications Co-ordinator</p> <p>comms@royalnavalassoc.com 02392 720782 Royal Naval Association Portsmouth PO1 3LU, UK</p> <hr/> <p>royal-naval-association.co.uk   @royalnavalassoc</p>	 <p>JOIN FOR FREE</p> <p>Shop our official RNA collection online at royalnavyshop.co.uk</p>
---	--	--

Royal Naval Association, Bldg 1/087 Scott Rd, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth, PO1 3LU

023 9272 2983 www.royal-naval-association.co.uk Charity Reg 266982

From: Charlotte Darlington <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
Sent: 17 January 2022 09:53
To: Charlotte Darlington <comms@royalnavalassoc.com>
Subject: ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION: Semaphore Short

SEMAPHORE SHORT

MONDAY 21st February 2022



ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Keeping a weather eye...

Welcome to the latest Semaphore Short, and we hope you have not had to do too much repair work after the storms of the past few days. Of course, the gales have given some shipmates the chance to reminisce about the storms they endured at sea – including the Great Storm of 1987 when numerous Royal Navy ships left port and headed into the weather as it was safer than being trapped in the confines of the harbour... For some these days, it's more a question of keeping a weather eye on the patio doors to make sure they don't blow in (hope the homestead is safe and secure, S/M General Secretary!)

Fireside Chat with Sir Ian McGeechan OBE

This evenings Fireside Chat features **Scottish rugby legend Sir Ian McGeechan OBE**, capped more than 30 times by his country (and captain on nine occasions) as well as touring with the British Lions in 1974 and 1977.

'Geech' went on to coach Scotland, winning the grand slam in 1990, and was head coach for the Lions for a decade.

Please join us with a tot in hand at **6.30 this evening (Monday 21st Feb)**...

[Join the Fireside Chat here](#)

Falklands 40

There is already plenty of interest in the events that the Association is organising or involved in during the Conference weekend of June 17th – 19th in Portsmouth, some of which have limited space and are therefore ticketed.

For details of what is happening and how you can become involved in the events, which incorporate the themes of **Reunite...Relive...Remember...**, follow this link to see the latest Semaphore Circular and the associated F40 booking form: <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/2022/>

SOS – Save Old Ship!

Enthusiasts are launching a final bid to **save the Ton-class minesweeper HMS Bronington**, which was once commanded by the Prince of Wales.

The Wooden-hulled ship spent more than 30 years in service before becoming a museum ship in the North-West, but when cash dried up she fell into a state of disrepair, **and sank at her moorings on Merseyside in 2016.**

Now a new trust has been formed to prevent her rotting beyond salvation, and has hopes to turn her into a working ship or a static museum platform once again.

For more details follow this link: <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2022/february/17/20220217-last-push-made-to-save-veteran-minesweeper-hms-bronington-prince-charles-warship>



National Standard Bearer's Competition

Standard Bearers are gently reminded that applications for the 2022 **National Standard Bearers Competition in HMS Collingwood on Saturday 7th May 2022** are now being accepted. There are two competitions; the **National Standard Bearer Open Competition** and the **Novice Competition** so whatever your level why not come along and join in the fun.

Please submit names to either S/M Andy Christie: andy@royalnavalassoc.com or the National Ceremonial Advisor, S/M Bob Coburn: robertcoburn001@btinternet.com. Please include competitors name with the DoB and name of any guests with DoB's. As well as need for accommodation in HMS Collingwood if required on Friday/Saturday night and your vehicle registration if you are driving. **Entries for competitors close on 2nd April 2022.**



Cork & County Branch HMS MARS project

Twelve Royal Navy sailors were killed when a gun exploded on HMS MARS during gun practice off the coast of Ireland on the 14th April 1902. Two of the casualties were buried at sea, one of the sailors was repatriated to the south of England and the remaining nine of the sailors are buried in Cobh, Country Cork.

The Cork & Country Branch of the RNA hope to mark the **120 year anniversary** in April 2022. As you can imagine, the intervening years have taken their toll on the headstones and professional help is required to refurbish them. As this disaster occurred during training and was pre-war, none of the statutory bodies will consider grant aid towards the refurbishment. The actual cost of refurbishing the headstones is in the region of

€2,500 and it is beyond the small local Branch to cover it. Any assistance with this very worthwhile project would be greatly appreciated by the Shipmates of Cork & County Branch.

Donations can be sent to RNA Central Office marked for the HMS MARs Project, or donations can be made via BACS payments to: Royal Naval Association, Reference: HMS MARS, Sort code: 60-05-14, Account number: 29671612.

Royal Navy Rugby League match

The Royal Navy Rugby League team have made the 4th round of the challenge cup, **the first armed forces team to do this**. They are playing the Batley Bulldogs commencing at **1300 on the 27th of February** (see address of stadium below). Ticket prices are £10.00, and £2.00 per admission is going to a charity of the RN team's choice. **Come and support our lads!**

Fox's Biscuits Stadium

Heritage Road

Batley

WF17 7NZ

Sandown Racecourse Grand Military Gold Cup Day

A wonderful afternoon of military racing with the Grand Military Gold Cup as the feature race. It is a race that is guaranteed to feature some of the country's finest military amateur jockeys.

Have yourself a day out at the races! Follow this link for ticket information:

<https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/sandown/events-tickets/grand-military-gold-cup-day/>



- **Saturday Night: Virtual Tot Time**

Every Saturday Night, for almost 2 years 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](#)

THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Bldg 1/087 Scott Road, HM Naval Base Portsmouth, PO1 3LU

Charity Reg: 266982

www.royal-naval-association.co.uk