

Royal Naval Association

No. 4 Area (South Western Flotilla)

Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting

Saltash, Saturday, 21st January, 2023.

Shipmates,

My Annual Report to the AGM this year takes the rather unusual form of an open letter **to ALL RNA members within No. 4 Area**. For those Branches who have their monthly meetings between now and the date of the Area AGM may I request that Branch Secretaries place this on the agenda as a Matter of Urgency. Alternatively, I would appreciate your cooperation in circulating this to as many of your members as possible in the time available.

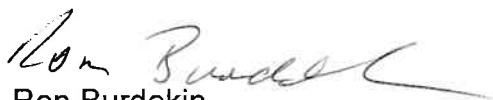
Currently, our Area is in a very difficult situation. In fact I would go so far as to describe the situation as CRITICAL. In 2021, when my previous two-year period in office expired I had intended to stand down. My reasons for so doing were various, but included several and complex health issues; advancing age; and family and personal commitments.

As has so often been the case in the past, apparently nobody was prepared to step up to the plate to succeed me. In the absence of any nominee successor, and to avoid the possibility of the Area being disbanded due to a breach of the Royal Charter, I agreed, with some reluctance, to continue in office for a further two years. This period will expire in January 2024, by which time I shall be a few weeks short of 86 years of age. I pledge to serve the Area to the best of my ability until then, but after ten years as No. 4 Area Chairman I cannot serve beyond that date.

The Royal Naval Association is governed by Royal Charter, as approved by the Privy Council. Under the Royal Charter each Area must have an elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, each of whom has been a Full member of the Association for a minimum of three years.

Regrettably, the lack of those coming forward applies not only to the post of Area Chairman but to several others as well. I understand from the Area Secretary that he has circulated nomination forms for five vacant positions on the Area Committee, but as of now, he has received only ONE nomination for one post. If the Area of which we are all so proud is to survive it is VITAL that eligible shipmates come forward to take up these vacancies, and I appeal to each and every one of you to give this your urgent consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Ron Burdekin
Chairman
No. 4 Area
Royal Naval Association

9 January 2023,