

# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**GREETINGS SHIPMATES** and welcome to this week's Semaphore Short. We now have details of the RNA's Standard Bearers Competition (see below), entries for which must be in by the end of this month. Once again, we would urge delegates to book their places for the RNA National Conference weekend (14-16 June) and AGM (15 June) in Cardiff; the paperwork can be found at the back of February's Semaphore Circular – use **this link** to for the relevant download page of the RNA website.

**PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000** [PLAY NOW](#)



**RAISING THE STANDARD** The RNA Standard Bearers Competition will take place on Saturday 18 May at HMS Excellent on Whale Island in Portsmouth – and entries close at the end of the month. The event is in two parts – the Chester Cup for experienced standard bearers and the Novice Cup for those who are new to the discipline or have less experience. The winner of the Chester Cup will become the RNA National Standard Bearer for the following two years. On Friday 17 May there will be a training session where ceremonial advisors and parade marshalls will be available to offer advice, and there will be an opportunity to run through the competition routine where guidance and notes will be given by the judges. Entries must be made by 29 February to the RNA National Ceremonial Adviser, S/M Mike Smyth, on [nca@rnassoc.org](mailto:nca@rnassoc.org), giving your name, branch and whether accommodation is requested at HMS Excellent.

**CHAINSAW EXPERIENCE DAY, SOMERSET, SATURDAY 16 MARCH** There are still a limited number of places left on our chainsaw experience day in Somerset next month. All participants will be welcomed by an open fire, kettle on and shown how a chainsaw works, and how to maintain and operate it safely. The pros and cons will be explained, and other matters discussed will include modern PPE, costs, work, earning from chainsaw work, health & safety and legalisation within the industry. You will, of course, also get to use the chainsaw – different types, both petrol and battery-operated, and versions to crosscut various size timber. If you would like attend, all booking are through Chris 'Scouse' Reeves on [scc@rnassoc.org](mailto:scc@rnassoc.org) on a **first-come, first-**

**served** basis. Bookings close on Friday 8 March. Other activities planned under the RNA's Thriving Together programme include:

- **Walking and waterfall** Weekend (12-14 Apr);
- an **outdoors weekend** including bushcraft, axe throwing and coasteering (27-28 Apr);
- a **Snowdon walk** (18 May);
- **Introduction to surfing** (15-16 Jun);
- **Women-only walking and waterfall** weekend (28-30 Jun);
- **Introduction to dry stone walling** (13 Jul);
- a **Surfing weekend** (20-21 July)

Contact Scouse on [scc@rnassoc.org](mailto:scc@rnassoc.org) for further details, or if you have an idea for an activity for the programme.

**FAREWELL TO ERIC** The funeral of much-loved and respected Shipmate Eric Holmwood, of Wrexham branch, saw an impressive gathering of standards and RNA members from around the country – including a delegation from Central Office. For a full account of the funeral see the March edition of the Semaphore Circular, out next Friday (1 March).





**UP AND RUNNING** RNA FC (dark blue shirts) played out a competitive 0-0 draw with the Eastern Region Veterans in their debut match - a very pleasing result against good opposition for a team which met up for the first time that evening, with some players travelling a considerable distance – one member of the team drove down from Bedfordshire to play his part. For a full report on the match at HMS Temeraire, and more images, see the March edition of the Semaphore Circular, due out next Friday, 1 March. The RNA FC team is part of RNA Sports and Comradeship Coordinator ‘Scouse’ Reeves’ wider Thriving Together programme - and as well as organising the fixture, Scouse (above, No 7) also proved a handful for the Eastern Region defence. Image by S/M Nigel Huxtable.



### FIRESIDE

**CHATS** The next scheduled Fireside Chat (Monday 26 February) is on the subject of ‘Uncovering Financial Fraud’ by Pete Sharples, which was held over from last Monday. Fireside Chats take place every Monday at 18:30 and to access the chats, log into Zoom here. The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.



**PRESENTATION** The Women’s Royal Naval Service Benevolent Trust (WRNS BT) Annual Presentation will be held on Thursday 9 May at the Princess Royal Gallery, National Museum of the Royal Navy in Portsmouth Naval Base (late morning, time to be confirmed). All serving members of the Royal Navy who joined before November 1993 and all former members of the Women’s Royal Naval Service are cordially invited to attend the event. Guest speaker for the event is Captain Millie Ingham, Royal Navy. Please can members confirm if they wish to attend by Monday 22 April, as this is an “invitation only” event due to security requirements. Those who would like to attend should email: [theteam@rnrmc.org.uk](mailto:theteam@rnrmc.org.uk) or call 02393 871520.

**LOOK OUT FOR THE BUS** The Association’s South West minibus is out and about today, ending up at a rugby match. The RNA’s ‘man out West’ S/M John Sweet is spending part of the day at HMS Raleigh with the Raleigh Mentors, then heading further west to the Cornish Pirates Ground, Mennaye Field, Alexandra Road, Penzance (postcode TR18

4LY) where the Pirates will be taking on the RN Senior XV, kick off 1930. The RNA has three minibuses that shipmates can book – this one in the West Country, one in the North West and one in Portsmouth. If you have any questions about the minibuses and would like to book, please email Sara on [ams@rnassoc.org](mailto:ams@rnassoc.org)

RNA Central Office,  
Building 1/087, Scott Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LT  
[comms@rnassoc.org](mailto:comms@rnassoc.org)  
[www.royal-naval-association.co.uk](http://www.royal-naval-association.co.uk)



The Royal Naval Association is incorporated by Royal Charter. Full recognition by the Royal Navy. Registered charity No. 266982