



**Minutes of**  
**RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

The meeting was opened by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller at 20.05. 36 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 7 Members.

2. **Chairman's Opening Comments:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting. It's nice to see so many here tonight. Thanks to those who helped set up the room as it was empty when we arrived tonight. S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the May General Meeting and the Monthly Newsletter.

3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting** were accepted.

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Steve Skerman

Seconded by S/M Pam Oswald

For: 30

Against: 0

Abstentions: 6

4. **Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence:**

Various emails from Brian Hodder of the Submariners Association ref HMS Sidon Memorial Service 2025. Details sent to the eight Members who have expressed an interest in attending.

Email from St Austell Branch ref Invitation to send a Branch team for a Croquet Competition on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Unfortunately, there are no Members who play croquet on Portland.

Email from Sara Field, Central Office, ref RNA AGM 2025. S/M Pete to present details later.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. **Items discussed at Committee Meeting**

Donation to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance from the Reunion Charity Chest – S/M Pete Shoesmith explained that £1000 has been allocated for the charity. The ambulance is based in Wellington, Somerset. He said that Portland Branch suggested this charity; we invite the representative to the July General Branch Meeting for the presentation. They will give a talk as well.

## Voting Items for the National Conference – S/Ms Pete Shoesmith & Dusty Miller

Motions of Urgency:

### **Council Motions of Urgency:**

That Conference agrees to reorganise and separate the current Conference weekend into two distinct events: an AGM and Conference, and a separate and new Social Weekend, starting in 2027. This separation will enable the RNA to manage routine AGM business and governance more effectively while providing an opportunity for a more inclusive and engaging Social Weekend that includes participation from HQ Roll and Sport Group members.

The Committee discussed this and thought that the expense of attending two separate weekends would be too much. This will be voted on later in the Meeting tonight.

### **Branch Motions of Urgency:**

That the City of Salford Branch hold the 2026 National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Association in Manchester.

The Committee thought that this would be fine.

This will also be voted on later tonight.

## **6. Reports:**

### **a. Standard Bearer's/Ceremonial Report – S/M Ben Cartwright reported:**

S/M Ben reminded Members about the Portland D-Day Service this Friday 6<sup>th</sup> at Victoria Gardens at 11.00. Also, the HMS Sidon Memorial Service on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June, where the muster is 10.50 for the 11.00 Service. Anyone can attend (especially now numbers are not required due to the cancellation of the buffet). Finally, the Veterans Parade at the Weymouth Armed Forces Weekend on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Muster at 10.30 on Astrid Way.

Diary events include:

DAY	DATE	LOCATION	Time	EVENT
Friday	6 June	Victoria Gardens	1100	Portland D Day Service
Monday	16 June	Sidon Memorial near Portland Heights	1100	HMS Sidon Memorial Service, including laying of wreaths
Friday	20 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Esplanade		Military Vehicle display; music from the40's and information stands

Saturday	21 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Esplanade		Entertainment at the Jubilee Clock
Sunday	22 June	Armed Forces Weekend Weymouth Astrid Way	1000 1030 1100 o/c	Esplanade closed to traffic Muster Service at War Memorial Veterans Parade to the Pavilion
Week End	22-28 June	Weymouth		Armed Forces Week
Monday	23 June	Victoria Square and gardens	1000	Armed Forces Flag Raising
Friday	15 August	All Saints Church	TBA	VJ Service
Saturday	16 August	Nothe Fort	All day	VJ picnic and concert. Take your own food
Wednesday	3 September	St Georges Church	TBA	Merchant Navy Day Service
Sunday	9 November	Drill Hall Cenotaph	1000 1030 for 1100 1230	March to Cenotaph Remembrance Sunday  US Memorial
Tuesday	11 November	Cenotaph	1045 for1100	Armistice Day
				Illustrious

b. **Social Secretary's Report** – S/M Dave Prowse reported:

Skittles at Dorchester – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 19.00 for 19.30, in the Trinity Club with Dorchester and other branches. 13 names on the list. S/M Dave will inform those going on the minibus of the pickup times. Raffle prizes would be appreciated. We must remember to take back the trophy that we won last year!

20/20 Cricket at Southampton. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July. It is a double header with Hampshire Women v Bears at 11.00 and Hampshire Men v Sussex at 15.00. We now have 11 going. S/M Dave has received the tickets and parking is booked and paid for.

Away Weekend – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Imperial Hotel, Eastbourne. There are 35 on the list. The balance is required by the August Meeting, so there's only this evening and the next Meeting if you wish to make any earlier payments. You are advised to arrange travel insurance. We still have an option on two more twin rooms if anyone else would like to go.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainment is Steve Williams Disco.

Christmas Social – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainer is Georgy Broad.

Annual Dinner 2026 – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. We would have preferred 25<sup>th</sup> April but the hall is already booked.

c. **HMS Portland Liaison Officer Report** – S/M Nigel Rimell reported:

Nil report.

d. **Fundraising Report** - S/M Karen Miller reported:

S/M Karen reported that our stall at the Bash, now renamed the Love Portland Festival, will happen. It is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August. This will help boost the Branch's charity, as last year we made over £100. We will have books, jigsaws and a children's tombola. Donations will be gratefully received at next month's Meeting or contact Karen if you would like her to collect them.

e. **Membership Secretary's Report** – S/M Karen Miller reported:

One new full Member S/M Di Bedford has joined the Branch and we now have 95 Members. S/M Pete Foster Snr who joined last month was presented with his badge.

f. **National Area/Conference Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

The Area Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at St Austell was attended by S/Ms Pete, Ben and David White. It was an excellent venue. 18 Branches attended. The main news was the distribution of the Reunion Charity Chest which totalled a wonderful £3500:

- £1000 to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance -suggested by Portland Branch
- £1000 to Aggie Westons -suggested by Chard Branch
- £1000 to Walking with the Wounded -suggested by Frome Branch
- £500 to St Austell Sea Cadets

Dates for the Reunion 2026 at Bideford are 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> March.

Malcolm Day, the Area Ceremonial Officer has resigned after 14 years. Numbers attending the training sessions has fallen recently, which is a great shame.

National Conference Venue 2025 is Portsmouth; proposed future venues are 2026 Manchester, 2027 Durham, 2028 China Fleet Club hopefully.

The Minutes for this recent Area Meeting will be delayed due to Secretary S/M Alan Cox being taken unwell on the day. He is progressing well now.

We have arranged that the presentation of the cheque to the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance will take place at our July Branch Meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Their representative will come along and also give a short talk to Members about all that they do.

g. **Webmasters Report** – rnaportland.org S/M Bob Featherstone reported

Although some background issues, beyond the Webmaster's control, remain unresolved, the website is fully updated and continues to operate smoothly.

Appreciation was extended to those who contributed VE Day images on Facebook. These photos were featured in the News section and are accessible in the website Photo Gallery.

In an attempt to publish more recent news on what we do, it is requested that members who take photos at any attended events and don't mind them being shared on the website, please forward to me at [webmaster@rnportland.org](mailto:webmaster@rnportland.org) or [bobfeatherstone@outlook.com](mailto:bobfeatherstone@outlook.com).

h. **Wellbeing Report** – S/M Gill Essom reported:

Mrs Jean Charnock, a card has been sent to her family.

S/M Josie Cartwright is doing well after her operation and is under the care of nurse Ben.

S/M Ben thanked everyone for their good wishes for Josie. S/M Dusty passed on regards from the Branch.

i. **Treasurer's Report** – S/M Pete Shoemith reported:

The Branch Account stands at £4,952.75

The Social Fund stands at £510.19.

The Annual Charity Fund (Island Leg Club) stands at £58.75 (after 2 months)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M Ginge Sarsfield                      Seconded by: S/M Ian Tate

For: 35                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 1

7. **Any Other Voting Items** :

**Conference Motions**

That Conference agrees to reorganise and separate the current Conference weekend into two distinct events: an AGM and Conference, and a separate and new Social Weekend, starting in 2027.

For: 0                      Against: 36                      Abstentions: 0

That the City of Salford Branch hold the 2026 National Conference and Annual General Meeting of the Association in Manchester.

For: 36                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 0

S/M Nige Rimell reported that the Skittles team registration fees are now due. Would the Branch continue to pay the fees? Unfortunately the price has risen this year to £100.

Proposed by: S/M Dusty Miller                      Seconded by: S/M Karen Miller

For: 36                      Against: 0                      Abstentions: 0

**8. AOB**

S/M Karen said that at the Summer Fete any help and assistance will be much appreciated, both manning the stall and/or helping to set up and take down. The event starts at 12 noon so she would like to set up at 10.00. Several people volunteered the use of a table for the stall.

S/M Pete thanked S/Ms Dusty and Karen for attending the National Conference on behalf on Portland Branch. Dusty has been given a mandate by the Branch to vote on our behalf.

**9. Chairman's Closing Comments:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting, in which quite a bit was covered. We look forward to seeing you all next month when we will have the talk about the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and the presentation of the Reunion Charity cheque.

10. **Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025.

11. **Meeting Closed at:** 21.15

Chairman .....

Secretary .....