



# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**AHOY SHIPMATES** We are almost into the final quarter of our 75th anniversary year but we still have a clutch of significant events to come. Next week (4 October) is the Uckers World Championships in Portsmouth, followed by our Charity Fundraising Concert at Portsmouth Guildhall (22 October) – the day after Trafalgar Day, and a week or so before Pickle Night (early November). By then we are into the season of Remembrance. Make sure you let the Comms team know about your Branch’s activities in the coming weeks.

**PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000**

**PLAY NOW**

**SARA’S A WINNER** Hearty congratulations to Sara Smith, Head of Operations at the Naval Children’s Charity (NCC), on winning the Charity Leader of the Year category at the Association of Charitable Organisations annual awards ceremony in London last week. The NCC has been helping the children of serving and veteran Naval personnel for exactly 200 years as the charity is celebrating its bicentenary in 2025.



**TON UP FOR DOUGIE** World War 2 Royal Navy veteran Dougie Shelley, has celebrated his 100th birthday with a mountain of birthday cards. His local RNA branch, Southend-on-Sea, set themselves a mission to get him 100 cards for his 100th birthday – and so far Dougie has had more than 16,500 cards delivered, with Moonpig and Card Factory donating cards for the public to show their appreciation for the sprightly centenarian.

**SIGN ON, SAIL OFF** The Royal Naval Sailing Association is offering free sailing courses at certain locations for partners and children (aged 11-17) of serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines and RFA personnel. The youth sailing courses are run during the school half-term holiday. For full details see the flyers [attached](#) to this edition of the Short.

**DICEY BUSINESS** While the World Uckers Championships, which take place in Portsmouth next week, is an event organised by the RNA, we are most grateful for the support we receive from two other organisations. The venue is the Royal Maritime Hotel in Queen Street, Portsmouth, which has proved a popular location for this prestigious event in the world of naval board games. The other is Uckers Ya Uckers, which sponsors the World Championships and provides boards for the event, and is a driving force in the initiative to develop and promote the game. Uckers Ya Uckers (<https://uckers.uk>) produces a wide range of high-quality Uckers boards, from quad-fold travel boards starting from £26 to standard solid wood board at just over £50 to personalised boards at around £80. Remember, you can just turn up and play at the World Championships on Saturday 4 October – though it would be useful if you could let us know in advance if you intend to compete; contact Milly at [ceo-qa@rnassoc.org](mailto:ceo-qa@rnassoc.org) including your name, contact details and whether you are entering solo or with a teammate in the doubles tournament. Registration opens at 0900 on the day, with the first roll of the dice at 1000.

**ARMY v NAVY** Tickets for the 2026 Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham on Saturday 2 May are on sale at early bird prices – and there is a special rate of £44.20 with access to a bar next to the RNA allocated seating area. Use the link [here](#) to register your interest in these tickets.

**CIRCULAR DEADLINE** Submissions for the October edition should be with us by 1000 on Weds 1 October.

**FIRESIDE CHATS** Our next Fireside Chat is on Monday (29 September) when the Warrant Officer of the Royal Navy, WO1 Si Hansen – First Sea Lord’s right-hand man – will give an update on the Royal Navy. Fireside Chats start at 1830 every Monday, and to access the chats, log into Zoom [here](#). The meeting ID is 288 830 5105 and the access password is Shipmate.

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**ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION**



**New for 2025!**

**Free sailing courses for the Partners of serving members of the RN, RM and RFA.**

**Book now for your RYA Level 1&2 course at Horizons**



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# YOUTH CREW

**Young people from serving Royal Navy, Royal Marines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary families**

**You are invited to**

**a FREE Sailing Course !**

**October Half Term 27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

**ASC Portland, Reading & Birmingham**



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