

# SEMAPHORE SHORT

**AHOY SHIPMATES** It's always nice when shipmates' efforts are recognised, as was the case when the RNA Mentors at HMS Raleigh were short-listed in the 2025 English Veterans Awards. Nominations for the Scottish Awards close on 22 February, so if you know of an individual or group worth consideration, see the website [here](#) for details or, better still, tell us about it on [cml@rnassoc.org](mailto:cml@rnassoc.org). Nominations for the Welsh Veterans Awards run from 1 March until 22 May; English nominations are open from 1 June until 17 August.

**ANSWERING BACK** The popular Friday night RNA Quiz, organised by Welfare and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Jon Everett, returns this evening at 1900, so stick a pizza in the oven, open a bottle of something and settle down for a fun and friendly online quiz evening for individuals or teams – the perfect night in! The quiz begins at 1900, but come on board a bit before if you want a chat) – join in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85082417512>

**RNA NATIONAL CONFERENCE** A reminder that the outline programme for the RNA National Conference, based around Salford Quays, can be found in the December Semaphore Circular (click [here](#)) as well as documentation for potential delegates, for the submission of Branch motions and nomination forms for those shipmates who would like to be considered in elections for members and deputy members of the National Council.

**FIRESIDE CHATS** Our third Fireside Chat of 2026 will be held next Monday (19 January), when Russ Timpson will talk on the subject of 'Royal Navy Submarine Victoria Crosses'. 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.



**ARCTIC ACTIVITIES** Royal Navy and Royal Marines units have been practising their Arctic combat and logistics skills in the far north of Norway under a new agreement between the nations that will help defend the northern flank of NATO. Commando units, ships and helicopters have been involved in the long-running Operation Clockwork, preparing British forces for the wider, large-scale multinational Exercise Cold Response. The new agreement will see British cold-weather specialists work and train alongside their Norwegian counterparts all year round as they step up readiness to war-fight alongside allies in the High North.

**STEPHEN STEPS UP** The RNA is delighted to announce that S/M Stephen Elliot (pictured right) is taking over as National Vice Chair of the Association. Stephen is currently Chair of Edinburgh Branch and National Council Member for Scottish Area. We thank previous National Vice Chair, S/M Pete Chivers for his dedicated and excellent service. BZ Stephen for stepping up – we are all very grateful for your support.



**LEARN TO SURF** Shipmates are invited to join a special Thriving Together weekend as part of the RNA's Welfare and Wellbeing programme. The weekend, on 15-17 May at Westward Ho! in Devon, will include professionally-delivered surfing lessons as well as other wellbeing activities. The event is designed to help shipmates build confidence, strengthen resilience, and reconnect with themselves and with others. For full details, including eligibility, see the RNA Facebook page [here](#).



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

[PLAY NOW](#)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** The RNA is looking for volunteers to join the National Welfare and Wellbeing Support Team (NWWST), which has succeeded the former Welfare & Wellbeing Implementation Group (WWIGS). This dedicated team of volunteer shipmates brings together occupational experience and professional expertise to strengthen welfare and wellbeing support across the RNA. For more details see [this link](#). If you are interested, contact Jon Everett at [wws@rnassoc.org](mailto:wws@rnassoc.org). It is planned that the NWWST will meet in late January or early February.

**BOOK OUT** The RNA comms team has finished the 2025-26 RNA Yearbook, which has been printed and is now being distributed. Shipmates can expect to receive their copy shortly, and it will also appear online on the RNA website in due course.

**ARMY v NAVY** Tickets for the Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham on Saturday 2 May are available to RNA members at a discounted price of £44.20, providing access to a private bar adjacent to RNA-allocated seating. Use the link [here](#) to buy your tickets – once you have stated your required tickets the Rugby Football Union (RFU) will contact you to complete the transaction.

10% discount on tickets for RNA members and your guests



Saturday May 2

**ARMY v NAVY**

Twickenham

**Discounted tickets**

**Free access bar next to dedicated RNA seating**

**Seats on the centre line**

**ONCE  
NAVY  
ALWAYS  
NAVY**



**SERVICE  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



**scan to book  
or email**

**cml@rnassoc.org**