



Royal Naval Association Portland Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre
Wednesday 5th February 2025

The meeting was opened by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller at 20.05. 31 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 15 Members.

2. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM this evening. At this point, he asked everyone to be upstanding for a few moments of respect for the Shipmates who have Crossed The Bar this year:

S/M Mickey Caswell
S/M Yvonne Copus
S/M Mike Tuck (former Member)
S/M Martin (Jan) Isaac
S/M Roger Court
S/M Pat Hudson

Thank you Shipmates

It has been a good year with more Shipmates attending the very sociable monthly meetings. All the socials have been very well attended and hopefully it will continue this year. For the Annual Dinner in April, the Guest of Honour is Commander Matthew Court RN, Captain of HMS Portland, and for the Trafalgar Night Dinner in October, the Guest of Honour is Commander Sean O'Reilly RN (Rtd) who was Captain of HMS Bridport.

S/M Dusty thanked S/M Dave Prowse for all his hard work and effort in not only arranging the dinners but also the away weekend and socials. Torquay was a great weekend with Shipmates going off to Dartmouth, Paignton, going on steam trains and enjoying social evenings to boot! The next weekend is to Eastbourne and it will be worth going just for the firework display on the Saturday night!

S/M Dusty thanked S/M Christine for all the hard work and a fantastic job that she does as Secretary and making sure that Meetings run smoothly, or as smoothly as they can.

S/M Dusty congratulated S/M Karen Miller on her award of the Certificate of Appreciation; S/M Ben Cartwright has been elected Vice Chairman of Area 4, taking over from S/M Pete Shoemith who has been elected DNCM Area 4.

Plus the Chairman thanked all Committee Members who do a sterling job behind the scenes running the Branch to such a high standard and without them the job of Chairman would be difficult and the Branch would not run as smoothly as it does. Thank you also, to those who attend the General Meetings each month.

If you have any ideas or topics for the Branch Newsletter please let me know. This year we have raised money for the Island Community Action. If you have any ideas for the next charity, please let me know. So far we have the Island Leg Clinic. We are also looking to nominate a charity for the Bideford Reunion and so far have the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

This leads on to membership numbers. At present we have:

Life Members 6
Full Members 54
Associate Members 30
Affiliated Members 3
Serving 1
Honorary 1
A total of Membership of 92
Plus 3 Affiliate Members

So we are still a strong Branch and still the best in the No 4 Area!

S/M President Ben Cartwright thanked S/M Dusty for running the Committee who run the Branch.

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

Matters Arising: Nil.

Proposed by S/M Ian Tate Seconded by S/M Jinge Sarsfield
For: 29 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The Branch Account stands at £6298.17. The Treasurer S/M Pete Shoesmith gave a detailed account of the Branch finances stating that they are in a healthy position. He thanked S/M Bill Gear for examining the Branch accounts. The report was accepted.

Matters Arising: Nil.

Proposed by S/M Pete Foster Seconded by S/M Dodge Howes
For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 1

5. Election of Officers

Vice Chairman

S/M Nigel Rimell

For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Carried unanimously

Secretary

S/M Christine Tuck

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Membership Secretary

S/M Karen Miller

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Assistant Treasurer

S/M Nigel Rimell

For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Carried unanimously

Assistant Welfare & Wellbeing Rep

S/M Lin McCormack

For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Carried unanimously

Webmaster

S/M Bob Featherstone

For 31 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Conference Delegate

S/M Dusty Miller

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Area Delegate

S/M Peter Shoosmith

For 30 Against 0 Abstentions 1

A mandate was given for the delegate to vote for the Branch as he sees fit at the National Conference.

A mandate was given for the delegate to vote for the Branch as he sees fit at the Area Meeting.

A mandate was given for the Branch Committee to carry out the day to day business of the Branch.

6. **AOB**: Nil

7. **Date of Next Meeting**: - Wednesday 4th February 2026.

8. **Meeting Closed at**: 20.20.

Chairman.....

Secretary.....