



Royal Naval Association Portland Branch
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre
Wednesday 4th February 2026

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

1. **Apologies:** were received from 11 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 in the last year:

S/M Pete Foster

Mrs Pauline Isaac, widow of S/M Jan Isaac

S/M Janet Evans

Thank you Shipmates

I can safely say that the Branch has had a good year. The monthly Branch Meetings average 33 Members per meeting, actually 32.8, but 33 will do. So thank you all for supporting us every month. The Socials have been well attended, bar the Christmas Social, but what we lacked on numbers we made up by having a really good night!

The Guest of Honour for our 70th Anniversary Dinner is Andy Christie, the RNA National Chairman and for the Trafalgar Night Dinner it is Cdr Louis Wilson-Chalon (RNR) ex Flight Commander from HMS London and CO 815 NAS.

So on that note I'd like to thank S/M Dave for all his hard work, not only in organising the dinners and socials but also the trip to the cricket and the Away Weekend to Eastbourne and welcome S/M Lynne Rimell as Assistant Social Secretary.

I'd also like to thank S/M Christine for all the hard work she does as Secretary. Without her, the Meetings would end up in chaos!

I'd also like to thank all the Committee Members whose hard work and dedication make the Branch run smoothly and make my job so much easier.

S/M Bob for all the work on Facebook and our Website.

S/M Karen for her work in getting Members to join and collecting all the subs. Also doing all the charity fundraising.

S/Ms Gill and Lin on all the Wellbeing work they do and the training and paperwork they now have to do.

S/M Lynne for helping Dave with the Social side of things.

S/M Nige for being my Deputy and Pete's Deputy as Assistant Treasurer, plus all the Nil Reports we get as HMS Portland Liaison Officer!

Plus a big thank you to you all, for supporting the Branch and attending the Monthly Meetings.

My final thank you's must go to S/M Ben who has stepped down as Standard Bearer after over 20 years outstanding service. And S/M Pete who is stepping down next Christmas and by then will have served 40 years as Treasurer. Thank you both for the years of hard work and dedication.

The position of Standard Bearer is still vacant.

This year we are raising money for the Island Leg Club which is coming along well. For next year I have received nominations for the Portland Sea Cadets and Little Troopers. We have nominated the Sea Cadets as one of the Bideford Reunion Charities.

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

6 Life Members
56 Full Members
30 Associate Members
2 Serving
1 Honorary
A total of Membership of 95
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 his hard work and leading the Branch.

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

Matters Arising: Nil.

Proposed by S/M Doc Foster Seconded by S/M Alex Oswald

For: 35 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

4. **Secretary's Branch Activity Form (2025)**

S/M Christine read out the Branch Activity Form (Form 5) so that all Members could discover exactly how much the Branch takes part in throughout the year and in what activities and events. We have a Branch to be proud of. Thank you Shipmates for all your support.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Branch Account stands at £4442.17. 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 and S/M Nige for duplicating copies. Thanks also to S/M Karen for her fundraising and to all Branch Members who purchase raffle tickets and make donations. The report was accepted.

Matters Arising: Nil.

Proposed by S/M Ginge Sarsfield

Seconded by S/M Tony Seal

For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 2

6. Election of Officers

Chairman

S/M Alexander (Dusty) Miller

For 35 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Treasurer

S/M Peter Shoesmith

For 35 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Assistant Secretary

S/M Bob Featherstone

For 35 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Welfare & Wellbeing Officer

S/M Gill Essom

For 36 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Carried unanimously

Assistant Social Secretary

S/M Lynne Rimell

For 35 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Committee Member

S/M Steve Skerman

For 35 Against 0 Abstentions 1

Conference Delegate

S/M Alexander (Dusty) Miller

For 34 Against 0 Abstentions 2

Area Delegate

S/M Peter Shoesmith

For 35 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.

7. **AOB:** Nil

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 3rd February 2027.

9. **Meeting Closed at:** 20.30.

Chairman.....

Secretary.....