

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES While Conference might be just under four months away there is much to do before we decamp to Salford for what promises to be a cracking weekend. Two important elements of the AGM, to be held on Saturday 13 June, is the election of National Council Members and their Deputies for a number of Areas, and the submission of Branch motions for discussion – and the deadline for submitting names and ideas for both is 4pm **today**, so use the documents [here](#) if you would like to make your mark.

PLAY THE ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION WEEKLY LOTTERY AND WIN UP TO £25,000 [PLAY NOW](#)

LAST OPPORTUNITY

Nominations for the Scottish Veterans Awards close on Sunday (22 Feb), so if you know of an individual or group who deserve to be considered for this event (with an awards evening on 29 April in Edinburgh) see [here](#) for details or tell us about it by email to cml@rnassoc.org. Nominations for the Welsh Awards open on 1 March and close on 22 May (see [here](#)) with an awards ceremony on 8 July near Cardiff, while nominations for the English Awards open on 1 June until 17 August, with an awards evening on 1 October at the De Vere Cotswold Water Park – the link is [here](#). And while on the subject of awards, the Armed Forces Community Awards (Soldiering On 2026) nominations process is now open, and runs until 29 March. For details see the Soldiering On website [here](#).



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

TELIC SERVICE The Royal British Legion is hosting a daytime commemorative event at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on Friday 22 May to mark the 15th anniversary of the end of Operation Telic – UK military operations during the Iraq War. They warmly invite those to attend from the serving and veteran communities who served in the Iraq War (Op Telic: 2003-2011), families of those who served in Iraq (including the bereaved), and those who worked as civilian contractors supporting British Forces and civil society in the country. If you know of any individuals who may be interested in attending, they ask that they register their interest via [this link](#).

FIRESIDE CHATS

Our next Fireside Chat will be on the subject of Royal Navy Cadets and Youth, and will be presented by Capt Terry Tyack RN on Monday (23 February). 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.

WEAR AND WHEN Coming with us to the Army v Navy match on 2 May? The RNA has teamed up with the Royal Navy Rugby Union, in partnership with VX3, to launch some standout new kit you'll be proud to wear at Twickenham This unisex polo (£32) and rugby (£50) top don't just look the part – they directly support the RNA, helping us continue our work celebrating Naval Service and supporting our Naval family. Follow the link [here](#) to pre-purchase now! As this is a pre-order item, note that delivery is expected mid-April 2026. Pre-orders close **TODAY**, so don't miss out. Important ordering information:: VX3 does not split club shop orders. If your basket includes additional items, your entire order will be dispatched once this pre-order item is in stock. If you need other items sooner, please place a separate order. A huge thank you to the Royal Navy Rugby Union and VX3 for their continued support – this collaboration makes a real difference!

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ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Welsh Open Uckers Tournament



Welsh Open Uckers Tournament

To be held at HMS Swan, Builth Wells Rugby Club

6th June 2026 First Roll of the Dice 10:00

Buffet Available 12:00 to 16:00

Entertainment by

Lower Deck Shanty Men

19:00 onwards

2000 Grand Draw

All this for only £5 per entrant

Please Register ASAP with davebuckingham10@gmail.com

NOMINATION FORM
ELECTION OF MEMBERS AND DEPUTY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL 2026
(Revised RNA Bye-Law 7)

For the attention of All Branch Secretaries:

NCM in Areas 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12 and DNCM in Areas 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12

Each Branch may nominate **one full or life member** from any Branch within its own Area, as a Candidate for election to the National Council, and **one full or life member** for election as the Deputy National Council Member **subject to the approval of the Branch to which both persons belong.**

Please note that our current governance construct means that National Council Members are automatically Trustees of the Royal Naval Association (Charity no: 266982). Nominees for NCM should therefore ensure that they are not in any way disbarred from holding a trusteeship. If unsure, please check the Charity Commission website.

Names of Nominees

NCM **DNCM**

Proposed by **Branch** **Area**

Address of Nominee

NCM.....

..... **e mail**

DNCM.....

..... **e mail**

Brief history of nominees in the Association. (Continue on separate sheet if necessary)

NCM-

DNCM -

Chairman (signed)(dated).....

Secretary..... (signed)(dated).....

If the Candidate is **not** a member the proposing Branch, this section is to be completed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Candidate's **own** Branch.

Candidate's Branch

We are aware of the above nomination.

Signature of Chairman (Candidate's Branch)

Signature of Secretary (Candidate's Branch)

Candidate

I accept the nomination and promise to attend as many National Council Meetings as is possible and to sit on any Committees to which I may be elected.

Signature of Candidate Dated

The envelope containing this completed form should be marked **NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL COUNCIL** and must reach RNA HQ no later than **1600 on 20 February 2026.**

Alternatively, you can scan the fully signed form and email it to ams@massoc.org

PROPOSED MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

Proposals must reach The General Secretary by **1600 20 February 2026**

Name of Proposing Branch:

Motion / amendment

Explanation of the Motion / Amendment (To be included in the notes for Conference)

Hon Secretary(signed).....(dated)

Name of Seconding Branch:

Hon Secretary(signed).....(dated)

Notes

- a. A motion is submitted in the name of a Branch. Secretaries of proposing and seconding Branches are **certifying** that the motion or amendment reflects the view of the Branch meeting (not a committee); and that voting was conducted in accordance with Rule 20.
- b. A separate form is required for each Motion or Amendment
- c. A manuscript copy is acceptable for additional Motions or Amendments if the printed form is not available.
- d. The Motion or Amendment should be as short and precise as possible avoiding ambiguity. A Motion should normally start with the word 'THAT'
- e. The explanation is to assist the scrutiny of the Standing Orders Committee in understanding the intention behind the Motion so that they may be able to consider its presentation so it can be improved and implemented as soon as possible (Conference Bye Law C4)
- f. Motions may be submitted at any time but must reach the General Secretary by **20 February 2026**.
- g. Motions of Urgency should reach the General Secretary not less than 48 hours before Conference. (In accordance with Conference Bye Law C6.) and include an explanation about the urgency.
- h. Amendments to Motions should also normally reach the General Secretary not less than 7 days before Conference. The provision for the submission of amendments during Conference is in the Conference Bye-Laws.
- i. Bye-Laws. A Motion to Conference may propose that a Bye-Law be set aside or it may ask the Council to consider making or amending a Bye-Law.
- j. The Branch Proposing a Motion **must** have it Seconded by another Branch before forwarding it to the General Secretary. (Conference Bye Law C3a)