



Minutes of
RNA Portland Branch General Meeting held at the Masonic Centre
Wednesday 1st April 2026

The meeting was opened at 20.00 by Chairman S/M Dusty Miller. 37 Members were present.

1. **Apologies:** were received from 13 Members.

2. **Chairman's Opening Comments:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and said it was nice to see so many here tonight. Next month's Meeting will be held in Shaftesbury Hall, on the right as you come in the porch, as there is a large function here in the Main Hall.

S/M Dusty asked if everyone had seen a copy of the Minutes of the March General Branch Meeting and the Monthly Newsletter.

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

Matters Arising: Nil

Proposed by S/M Ian Tate

Seconded by S/M Vaughan Nelson

For: 34 Against: 0

Abstention: 3

4. **Secretary's Remarks and Correspondence:**

Email correspondence with Andy Christie, RNA National Chairman, ref 70th Anniversary Annual Dinner. Details of hotel accommodation and menu choices were sent. Menu choices were completed and returned.

Email forwarded by S/M Brett Crabtree, Area 4 Secretary, ref Annual Memorial Ceremony on Sunday 26th April for Lt Cdr A L Harrison VC RN by Torbay Branch. Details posted on our Facebook page and Website.

Email forwarded by S/M Brett Crabtree, Area 4 Secretary, from S/M Lee (Fred) Perry, Area 4 Ceremonial Officer, ref Standard Bearer Training and also thanking Standard Bearers for the Bideford church service parade.

Thank you from Lt (SCC) Rachel Harris RNR, CO of TS Penn Portland Sea Cadets, for choosing them as our charity for the next year.

Matters Arising: Nil

5. Items discussed at Committee Meeting

Determine amounts of donations to the Leg Club, RNA and Lodge - S/M Pete Shoemith.

It was proposed that the Branch donates £500 to the RNA (with part going towards the RNA Memorial restoration at the National Arboretum), £300 to the Lodge and make up the charity amount to £800 for the Island Leg Club. To be voted on later tonight.

Guest speaker and handover of charity cheque – S/M Dusty Miller.

The following has been arranged:

6th May Meeting – Helen from the Island Leg Club will come to receive the charity cheque.

3rd June Meeting – Rachel from the Portland Sea Cadets – our next charity, will attend to explain what the money is required for and what the cadets have been doing.

1st July Meeting – Wayne Ingram is not available so we are waiting to hear when he can visit.

6. Reports:

- a. Ceremonial Report/ Diary – S/M Ben Cartwright reported:

Details of the Annual Memorial Ceremony by Torbay Branch, on Sunday 26th April for Lt Cdr A L Harrison VC RN can also be found in Circulars.

Thanks to everyone who attended the HMS Attack memorial plaque unveiling on Monday 30th March. This was for the WW2 Coastal Forces base, which was just inside the Naval Base.

ANZAC Day Memorial Service is on Saturday 25th April at 11.00 at the ANZAC Memorial on the Esplanade.

National Standard Bearer's Competition is on Saturday 9th May at HMS Collingwood at 10.00. Training will be given on the day before. All details are in the February Circular.

Weymouth Veterans' Parade is on Sunday 21st June.

- b. Social Secretary's Report – S/M Dave Prowse reported:

70th Anniversary Annual Dinner – Saturday 18th April in the Masonic Centre Main Hall at 18.45 for 19.15. Guest of Honour is S/M Andy Christie, RNA National Chairman.

Entertainment – Steve Williams Disco. £30 per person. 50 on the list, thanks for your support. The few that haven't paid yet or passed on their menu choices, please do so this evening.

Dorchester Skittles Evening – Friday 5th June at the Trinity Club, Dorchester, with Dorchester Branch and others. Further details to follow.

Vitality Blast 20-20 Cricket – at the Utilita Bowl near Southampton. Sunday 5th July.
'Double header' v Kent Spitfires – women's match at 11.30, men's at 15.30. Early bird group tickets at £24.00 – 15% =£20.40 each available until 30th April. 10 have expressed interest. Please give S/M Dave your money ASAP. Transport to be arranged.

Buckham Fair – Sunday 2nd August. Advance tickets £20 available now. Supporting Dorset County Hospital. 7 have expressed interest. Further details to follow.

Away Weekend 2026 – Thursday 8th to Monday 12th October at the Daish's Hotel, Shanklin, Isle of Wight. We now have 31 on the list. We will be sharing a coach with pickups at Bridport bus station, Victoria Square on Portland and Weymouth Esplanade. All have paid the interim deposit of £30 per person and this has been sent to Daish's. The balance will be required in August. S/M Dave will collect any amount that you wish to pay at each meeting to spread the cost.

Trafalgar Night Dinner – Saturday 24th October in the Masonic Centre Main Hall.
Entertainer – Donna.

Christmas Social – Saturday 5th December in the Masonic Centre Main Hall. Entertainer to be booked.

c. **HMS Portland Liaison Officer Report** – S/M Nigel Rimell reported:

Nil report.

d. **Fundraising Report** - S/M Karen Miller reported:

S/M Karen said that the Branch we will be holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 15th August at Easton Methodist Church Hall, between 10.00-12.00. Raffle prizes will be required if anyone has anything suitable but no alcohol can be permitted. Volunteers and helpers will also be needed on the day for making teas and coffees and washing up. Cakes will also be required so if you can bake or arrange for one to be made that would help greatly.

Karen has also asked if we can get on the list of charities at St Andrew's Church, Southwell for their coffee mornings. We would need to supply the raffle prizes here. Further details to follow on this.

e. **Membership Secretary's Report** – S/M Karen Miller reported:

Nil report.

f. **National Area/Conference Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

Did everyone receive their RNA Yearbook? Pete will check about the one not received.

Bideford Reunion weekend - everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There have been no bad reports.

The next Area Meeting is on Saturday 16th May at St Austell. S/Ms Ben, Bob and David White will be going. S/M Pete will not be attending this one.

The proposed donation of £500 for the RNA, I suggest that it is broken down as £250 for Central Office and £250 for the restoration of the Memorial at the National Arboretum.

S/M Pete is selling Conference Draw tickets if anyone would like to purchase some.

g. **Webmasters Report** – <https://rnaportland.org> S/M Bob Featherstone reported:

S/M Bob reported to the Committee last week that the Branch website appeared to be experiencing some complications which affected his ability to upload items to the site. New security protocols are now in place and daily scans are providing increased assurance that the issues have been resolved and normal service has been restored.

The Area Website was not affected.

h. **Wellbeing Report** – S/M Gill Essom reported:

S/M Malcolm Baldwin is now out of DCH. Valerie hopes to attend a Meeting here soon.

S/M Arfer Copus is doing well and has been seen out and about.

S/M Ben is not well and awaiting appointments.

S/M Len Christopher is in DCH having further surgery.

S/M Peter Hall is still unwell.

S/M Charles Davis, Chairman of Bridport Branch has Crossed The Bar. Funeral details will be available soon.

i. **Treasurer's Report** – S/M Pete Shoesmith reported:

Bank charges are £4.50 per month. Also, 42p per cheque paid in and 50p per cheque made out. Cash is much preferred if you can please.

The Branch Account stands at £4,189.12

The Social Fund stands at £510.19

The Annual Charity Fund (Island Leg Club) stands at £757.60 (after 12 months)

Matters arising: Nil

Proposed by: S/M Ginge Sarsfield Seconded by: S/M David White

For: 37 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

7. Any Other Voting Items :

It is proposed that the Branch donates £500 to the RNA (with £250 to Central Office and £250 going towards the RNA Memorial restoration at the National Arboretum), £300 to the Lodge and make up the charity amount to £800 for the Island Leg Club.

Proposed by: S/M Karen Miller Seconded by: Daz Askew.

For: 37 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

8. AOB

S/M Dusty mentioned the visit to Central Office on Friday 17th July. We will meet in Portsmouth at Head Office at 11.00. Then lunch in the garden., followed by a trip round the harbour in a boat. Finally, to the Museum or Ship Anson. There are still some places left if anyone wishes to go and then we'll decide about transport.

S/M Dusty said that the next rum raffle will be at the June meeting. Next month we'll have the numbers raffle.

S/M Pete added that the RNA national Facebook page seems to contain more details than Circulars does. It has a lot of information.

9. Chairman's Closing Comments:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending tonight's Meeting. Another reminder that next month we'll be in Shaftesbury Hall. See you then or at the Annual Dinner on Saturday 18th April.

10.**Date of Next Meeting:** - Wednesday 6th May 2026.

11.**Meeting Closed at:** 21.00

Chairman

Secretary