

SEMAPHORE SHORT

AHOY SHIPMATES! Just three weeks to go until Conference, and the full timetable has been finalised. Some key times are outlined below, but for full details see the May Semaphore Circular download page on the RNA website, where other Conference documents – including the agenda and annual report – are also available. And it is not too late to register as a Branch delegate for Conference – that form is in the May Semaphore Circular, available at the same location – <https://royal-naval-association.co.uk/members/downloads/may-2024-and-conference-documents/>

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HIGH STANDARDS Competitors line up at HMS Excellent in Portsmouth during the RNA Standard Bearers competition. Congratulations to S/M Steve Champion, who retained the Chester Cup, and S/M Gail Foster, who won the Novice Cup. For more results and images see the June Semaphore Circular, out on 7 June. *Image by S/M Nigel Huxtable*

SHARKEY WARD The Times has an obituary online to 'Mr Sea Harrier' Cdr Sharkey Ward, the Fleet Air Arm fighter pilot who played a key role in the Falklands Conflict and who died on 17 May at the age of 80. See <https://tinyurl.com/zanxuecj> (note, this article is behind a paywall)

FULL TIMES The full programme for Conference weekend is now available at <https://tinyurl.com/98pv2hbx>. Among the times to bear in mind are the start of the Meet and Greet at 1800 on Friday 14 June in the Conference area of the Voco St David's Hotel Cardiff; delegates and observers must be seated in the Conference hall by 0855 on Saturday 15, and diners should be seated for the Gala Dinner that evening by 1855.

NEW DATE FOR WORKSHOP The Welfare/Wellbeing Workshop planned for Cardiff prior to the Conference has been postponed. This event will now take place on Saturday 22 June in Manchester and invitees will receive a letter from the General Secretary shortly. Attendees will be drawn from those who meet the criteria of the Association Welfare/Wellbeing Officer, those with a professional background in Health, Policing, Social Services, Local Government and or Volunteers with a significant amount of experience supporting Shipmates. The number of attendees will be circa 20.

WALK THE WALK There are still a handful of places left on the women-only weekend walking on 28-30 June. The event includes a hike up Pen y Fan mountain in the Brecon Beacons, walking past waterfalls, BBQ evenings and the chance to connect/reconnect with other female shipmates. Details from RNA Sports and Comradship Coordinator Scouse Reeves on scc@rnassoc.org

MATCH OF THE DAY RNA FC take to the field for their second match at HMS Temeraire in Portsmouth this evening, kick off 1930 – and there will be a cash bar available. Spectators welcome!

FIRESIDE CHATS Please note there will be no Fireside Chats on the next two Mondays (27 May and 3 June). Our next Fireside Chat, by Chris Taylor, will be on 10 June on the subject of '9 Lives, 4 collisions and a ditching – Part II'. 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.

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