



## Royal Naval Communication Chiefs' Association (RNCCA)

# Committee Election & Reappointments – AGM 12<sup>TH</sup> September 2020

### Rapid Response

Planning and preparations for this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was largely driven by the pandemic governance issued by HMG. Despite the Committee's best efforts to set a definite date and permit a customary return from our membership, events started to rapidly unfold during the remaining weeks of August 2020 that prompted an immediate change.

The original date to hold the AGM was set for Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September in Portsmouth and to coincide with the cancelled Annual Reunion at Chester. This would at least provide some continuity in these unprecedented times. Just like a FOST WPP Amendment One to keep us on our toes, the "Six" person rule was announced resulting in the AGM being brought forward by a week in order for us to comply.

### Great Venue

Fortunately, The Rose in June pub was chosen as the most suitable venue that enforced the local authority guidance. The pub's Function Room was reserved for the RNCCA Committee with tables set out to satisfy social distancing. Paul, the landlord and his staff made us very welcome and kindly explained how the restrictions had to be observed during our visit. Food and drinks were provided to the room to ensure the Committee were suitably confined to their own room.



Given the layout of the Function Room it ideally lends itself to combine business and social events in a private area and naturally facilitates the Committee to get on with it! On departing, Paul and his staff were enthusiastically thanked for helping to make the evening such a wonderful success.

### Conduct of Business

Several contributing factors precluded making this a traditional AGM that usually takes place on the Sunday morning following the Reunion Dinner & Dance. Notwithstanding the perceived obstacles stemming from the pandemic, the principal items on the published agenda were addressed and concluded, namely the Chairman's election and handover, reappointment of the Committee members and a surprise raffle that raised £300 for our two charities. Both the Leydene Sustainability Centre and RNBT received £150 each.

Other agenda items included adopting the proposed amendments and submitting reports.

## Time Stood Still

Following the conclusion of the AGM's agenda we moved to the outgoing chairman's presentation of a time piece that had been especially selected to mark the passing of eighteen years in the hot seat. This gift was to mark the grateful thanks on behalf of the membership for Paul and Mary's dedication and commitment to the RNCCA. Paul himself acknowledged that with Mary's unstinting support over such a considerable period has undoubtedly made his job easier.

The wall clock has been adorned with a solid brass plaque that carries an engraving as a testament to the appreciation that the entire RNCCA has for the devotion and dedication to the association.



## We Did Prevail

Undeterred by these unusual circumstances our very own Vice Chair Sue ensured that the customary raffle *would* take place! In time honoured fashion, tickets were flouted and bought with real money changing hands; no wireless credit/debit card transactions to be entertained. The resulting £300 raised was a combination of the £250 making up the annual association donation and £68 worth of proceeds from this raffle. Rounding the total to £300 enabled each charity to receive an equal amount of £150.



*All members of your Committee took part in the raffle to raise a total of £300. The clock may not be the only time piece present!*

## Controlled Exit

The evening concluded with a sense of satisfaction among the representatives that we had succeeded in convening the AGM, witnessed the formal process of chair handover, reappointed the Committee members

for a further twelve months and raised some money for our charities. Departures from the Function Room were reminiscent of leaving Portland Harbour on a Monday morning in Formation One, albeit with plenty of chatter on LCN, it was abundantly clear that the EMCON policy was being abused!

Part of the handover of Chairman was taking custody of the “Bell” that used to hang in the WO &SR’s Mess at HMS Mercury. This magnificent memento has been transformed to a *portable* and weighs about the same as a 634 to boot! The architect of the portable frame that the bell is now housed within is CCY Nobby M J Clark (No 581) who has worked a world of magic in woodwork and metalcraft to preserve the significance of a treasured part of our Royal Navy Communications history. BZ Nobby and thank you.

Having carried it a couple of streets from the Rose in June to my car I can confirm that it is a nice lump of brass! Anyone who wishes to volunteer to transport it to next year’s Annual Reunion in Chester please get in touch.

Please rest assured that your Committee continue to beaver away at their respective duties and promoting your interests. I sincerely hope that next year’s Annual Reunion will go ahead as planned and I look forward to meeting you in Chester.



Yours aye

Stephen Kerslake