



CONFERENCE OF NAVAL ASSOCIATIONS



Draft Minutes - Conference of Naval Associations Meeting

8 March 2019

Held in the Wells Room, HMS Excellent, Whale Island, Portsmouth PO2 8ER on Thursday 7 March 2019.

Chairman: Admiral John McAnally CB LVO
General Secretary: Captain Bill Oliphant, Royal Navy
Secretary: Sarah Clewes

Association Representatives Present

Gary Bassett	MSSC	David Morgan	Type 21 Club Association
Harold Burke	The UK Holiday group	Grant Nicholson	HMS Ark Royal Association and Fisgard Assoc.
David Cross	HMS Ganges Association	Mike Noonan	Bulwark, Albion and Centaur Association
Bob Dean	Ton Class Association	Gareth Peaston	Merchant Navy Association
Sue Dunster	Association of Wrens	Wilf Pickles	HMS Lowestoft Association
Andy Fletcher	Association of Royal Yachtsmen	Michael Robson	Association of Royal Yachtsmen
Peter Godwin	County Class Destroyers Association and the Type 21 Association	Margaret Scully	Loch Fada Association
Roy De La Haye	Loch Fada Association	Tas Scully	Loch Fada Association
David Lodrick	Regulating Branch and Royal Navy Police Association	Chris Smith	Type 42 and HMS Birmingham Association
David Macalister	HMS Tenby Association	Charlie Wilson	RMA
Ian Millen	Veterans Outreach Support	Michael Worship	FAA Association

Item 1 - Chairman's Opening Remarks:

The Chairman welcomed all to the Wells Room, from where CONA first began! Round the room introduction from all attendees, stating their name and the Association represented.

Item 2 - Introduction from the new RNA General Secretary, Captain Bill Oliphant RN:

After an extensive handover from Captain Paul Quinn, Bill has been in post as RNA General Secretary since Dec 18. His last role in the RN was Captain of the Base in Portsmouth and he was privileged to have been involved in the preparations and indeed for the arrival of HMS Queen Elizabeth. Mindful that Association numbers are diminishing and therefore a common issue for us all, whilst certainly not a take over bid, the RNA is happy to embrace Veterans where smaller organisations are no longer viable and who which to continue to enjoy the camaraderie that association brings.

Item 3 - Captain NCR Cooke-Priest RN, Commanding Officer HMS Queen Elizabeth:

CONA were honoured and delighted to hear from the Commanding Officer; his presentation, delivered with obvious enthusiasm was most informative and sparked a range of questions. It was fascinating to realise the required shift in routines and processes once familiar to us all (including Defence Watches, Duty Watches and Rounds routes) and enforced the enormity of the vessel – 850 ships company for over 3000 compartments! The Chair offered our sincere thanks to Captain NCR Cooke-Priest RN for his inspiring presentation.

Item 4 - Chairman of the CONA Working Group – RNA and CONA:

Bill Oliphant acknowledged the importance of CONA and was delighted to meet representatives from a range of Associations at the meeting today. He is conscious that the RNA is perhaps better resourced than many of the CONA Associations and offered any support where possible.

Item 5 - Naval Service Command Needs Analysis – Feedback:

NavSec has tasked RNRMC with the delivery of a number of Workshops to address prevalent issues faced by serving personnel; Bill and Sarah attended to represent the RNA. Whilst some current issues are new, the need for camaraderie and friendship remains and more so within the Veteran community to address social isolation and loneliness. Belonging to an organisation and interacting with like-minded people is good for general well-being: reunions, meetings and social events led by CONA committees are very much appreciated not only to keep naval traditions alive but to offer a sense of belonging. Ian Millen from Veterans Outreach Support ([VOS](#)) added that as well as access to a range of health professional and delivery partners, the Monthly VOS Drop-Ins at both Portsmouth and the IoW provide Veterans with the opportunity to socialise; to enjoy having some company for a while and to meet new friends. This aligns with the idea of ‘social prescribing’ read more about it at this [Link](#)

Item 6 - CONA Conference held in Sep 2018 – Feedback:

The interactive format of the Conference was well received. We heard from the following Organisations in 2018:

Association of ex Service Drop-In Centres ([ASDIC](#)),
National Energy Action (a Fuel Poverty [Charity](#))
Forces Pension [Society](#)
Project Semaphore – iPads for Aged [Veterans](#)
Veterans Welfare [Service](#)
Cybercrime Awareness Project by Portsmouth [University](#) as well as in house advice on engaging your Members (Newsletters, social media) and Your Branch Matters; sustainability, attracting and retaining members.
The UK Holiday [Group](#) and [Motorfinity](#) attended the Conference with their Information Stands.

ACTION All: Please contact Sarah with ideas and suggestions as to which Organisations/Charities you would like to see at the CONA Conference in Sep (date tbc) in 2019.

Item 7 - Short reports distributed with the final Agenda:

Reports received from The Royal Marines Charity, Association of Royal Yachtsmen, Association of Wrens, and Loch Class Frigates Association were distributed with the Final Agenda and hard copies available at the meeting.

Item 8 - Chairman of the CONA Working Group – Commemorations:

As General Secretary of the RNA, Bill expressed his enthusiasm for extending the benefits of membership of the RNA and wider CONA. To that end he extended an invitation to all CONA Members to join the RNA at a variety of events (as listed below) to enjoy the experience, promote what they offer and to encourage groups of like-minded Veterans to meet up. Both Peter Godwin and Chris Smith stated they have attended the Biennial Parade for several years and recommend this particular event to CONA members.

A list of Ceremonial and Sports & Social dates are at the Annex.

ACTION Sarah: Promulgate closing date to attend Biennial Parade and guidance regarding Standards.

Any other business:

1. The importance of Making a Will and Lasting Power of Attorney - This recent guidance issued by RNA as featured in Feb 19 Circular:

Making a will - is vital if you want to be sure your wishes are met after you die. That is the only way you can be sure that your money/property/possessions and investments (known as your estate) will go to the people and causes that you care about. If you and your partner are not married or in a civil partnership, then your partner will have no right to inherit on your death. You can find very comprehensive help and advice on the Age UK site or by calling 0800 055 6112 0800 –1900 every day of the year. They will send out the appropriate leaflets and also advise you on the documents relating to your will that you need to keep together. The Royal British Legion also offer free will making service just go to

freewills@brishlegion.org.uk or call 0203 053 7087 0203 207 2253 and they will inform you of solicitors in your area who are ready to help. • Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) - An LPA is a way of giving someone you trust the legal authority to make decisions on your behalf. There are two types of LPA for financial decisions LPA for health and care decisions. Finance If the time comes when you cannot make a particular decision and you haven't created a valid LPA then the Court of Protection may need to become involved. Health and Care Without an LPA and you no longer have mental capacity the Court of Protection would make the decisions on where you live, your health care, your contacts in fact all aspects of your living. Both LPA's can be a safeguard if you do not wish to make decisions on your way forward. It does not necessarily mean you have lost mental capacity but are perhaps just not well enough to consider anything relating to finance or care. Someone needs the authority to pay the bills or deal with any household problems liaise with your GP. You can download all the necessary forms to complete both LPA's on line and then print them off to be signed by going to this Link www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/make-lasting-power The LPA's need to be registered with the Office of Public Guardian for which there is a charge. This can vary according to any benefits you may be claiming. This information applies to England and Wales for Northern Ireland and Scotland go to appropriate site. If in doubt, then go to customerservices@publicguardian.gsi.gov.uk or call 0300 456 0300 charges may vary according to your supplier.

Personal alarms for the elderly or those living alone – Useful guidance (not recommendations) around the range of available products at this [Link](#)

2. Tours of Whale Island - Royal Navy Gunnery Instructors Association welcome CONA members to join them for a tour of the Island to include the State Gun Carriage and refreshments in the Mess. Please contact Frenchy De La Haye for further details f390.sec11@virginmedia.com

Date of next Meeting:

September 2019 (date tbc) – CONA Clear Lower Deck Conference, Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth.

Sarah Clewes
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Ceremonial and Sports & Social - key events/dates

16 Mar	Jutland Wood Planting Event - Langley Vale
28 Mar	Inter Services Elite Boxing Championships - HMS NELSON NBC has offered free admission for veterans
05 Apr	RAF v RN Rugby - The Stoop, Twickenham
30 May	Inter Services T20 Cricket - Lords
01 Jun	HMS COLLINGWOOD Field Gun Day
06 Jun	D-Day 75 - Portsmouth and National Arboretum
7-9 Jun	RNA Annual Conference – Wyboston, St Neots
29 Jun	Armed Forces Day – Salisbury
8 Sep	RNA Biennial Cenotaph Parade
10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday – Cenotaph