



RFA Association Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held at the Livermead Hotel, Torquay.
Saturday 31st May 2025. Time: - 1500

RFAA Trustees present:

Andrew Morle- Chairman
Martin Troman-Welfare Director
Ray Bennett- Membership and Communications Manager
Peter Fry - Deputy Chair and Treasurer
Gill Forth
Andrew August -Archivist
Anthony Sherlock

RFAA Member 31 Voting members present plus 57 postal votes.
Apologies were received from: George Norcott and Ian Thompson

1. The chair introduced the trustees and welcomed everyone present, thanking them for travelling to Torquay. Thanks were also given to the Plymouth and South West branch for hosting the 2025 event.
2. The minutes of the 2024 AGM were accepted with two amendments, Para 3 Correction to the spelling of Jerry Carew's name, and para 9, correction to the spelling of Stuart Pearce's name. Proposer Phil Forth, seconded by John Finch.
Actions from previous AGM Minutes:
 - i. Ian Thompson's name has been removed from current official records.
 - ii. Frank Andrews will arrange to pass on relevant documents, NB anyone with anything of historical value is asked to pass it to the Association. (Not uniforms). Some material is retained at the Portsmouth Naval base but there is limited access, other materials have been sent to the Royal Navy Museum in Hartlepool.
3. The chair stated all reports for this year were now on the RFAA website.
Membership has decreased in the past year and now stands at 595, there are some new people joining including the RFA chaplain who will become the Association's Chaplain. Most of the membership is found within the Solent and Plymouth and South West branches.
Peter Fry was thanked for his work as treasurer, whilst numbers are declining, finances remain healthy with 7 years' reserves. The current balance is £214,000.
Thanks were given to Andy August as Archivist for continuing to work to sort the artefacts held at the Naval base and for liaison with the museum in Hartlepool. They

are looking for items that tell a personal story e.g. the Sir Galahad lifebuoy, which was held at RNLI Tenby and is moving to the RN museum at Hartlepool, along with a narrative recorded by Phil Roberts.

Access to the base is limited and work continues to improve this

The RFAA handbook was issued in February as a slimmed down version. This was the result of some major issues –advertising no longer covers the production costs and the association had provided £1000 subsidy also Data Protection laws meant the removal of personal information. Members are advised to contact Ray Bennett if they need to find people.

Remembrance services were attended by members across the country, with poppy wreaths which are funded by the RFAA. 14 members attended the service in Whitehall.

The Golf Tournament held in July was very successful recording a £8.5K profit.

The Risk register was continually updated at Trustee meetings and there is nothing that requires immediate attention

The constitution was amended in 2024, with a change to the quorum required to attend annual or extraordinary meetings.

The RFAA facebook page now has 3000 members

The chair and treasurer met the Commodore in February, membership was one of the topics discussed. AS a result the chair was asked to talk to Collingwood Apprentices about the association. It was suggested that Armed Forces Day was another potential event to foster interest, as well as 'Pompey Pals'.

This year is the 120th anniversary of the RFA, a dinner had been held onboard HMS Victory attended by the chair, current and previous commodores. The association is awaiting dates for further events and will publicise when received.

The annual seafarers service at St Paul's cathedral will focus on the 120th anniversary.

4. Peter Fry presented the annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024. The Charity Commissions rules have been met and all policies are in place. Current income is £29,615, down £1600 on the previous year. Income mainly comes from the Golf Tournament and sponsors particularly Portland Ports. Membership raised £4500, with other smaller amounts from the reunion, branches and sale of merchandise. Expenses at £26 930, show an increase of £2420. Expenses include, increases in the Golf Tournament costs, payment to the bookkeeper, website, welfare grants, trustee expenses, postage, which is less due to the smaller yearbook, and insurance for public liability, fraud, theft and legal protection. The full statement of accounts is on the website and has been audited.
5. Martin Troman reported that 25 requests have been made for help resulting in 11 grants totalling £9k. Most requests are for help with household goods. Two requests have been to help with home adaptations following Occupational Therapist

assessments The Association continues to work closely with SSAFA re welfare requests.

6. Ray Bennett reported a drop in membership to around 600 from 620 mostly attributed to an ageing membership. He acknowledged that persuading serving RFA to join is difficult, possibly down to the change in culture within the organisation. He made a plea to be updated when contact details change.

7. AGM Voting

Vote to receive the Annual Report and Accounts. 88 for, 0 against 0 abstained.

Vote to appoint Mr Peter Nicholls as Independent Examiner of the accounts. 88 for, 0 against, 0 abstained.

Election of RFAA Trustees:

Trustee	Votes for	Votes Against	Abstained
Andrew August	88	0	0
Ray Bennett	88	0	0
Gill Forth	88	0	0
Peter Fry	88	0	0
Andrew Morle	88	0	0
Anthony Sherlock	88	0	1
Martin Troman - Welfare Director	88	0	0

All were duly elected to act as trustees of the Association. There were no spoiled ballot papers.

8. Any Other Business

None received

9. Questions and Answers

Comment made re the dropping of the handbook and a move to electronic communication. Some had not received the notification, Ray Bennett does receive notification of email bounce backs, but it is possible that some mail may go in the junk folder.

Jan and Maurice from the Plymouth branch are standing down on 31/12/2025, from running the merchandising. Volunteers are being sought to take on this role

The role of Corporate Liaison still needs to be filled. Robin Locke has continued in the role, but a replacement is needed. Main activity is to keep sponsors like A and P, Portland Ports etc in the loop and informed of activities.

Mention was made by Richard Walker that the historical web site lacks some detail around some ship activities in recent years. It was acknowledged that discharge books may inform the gaps. The trustees stated that they had had agreed to take ownership of the Historic

Website to protect the data but had no resource to be able to add to or update it unless a , willing volunteer came forward to undertake this..

Graham Turner thanked the Trustees for their work, endorsed by Andy Morle who commented that his role would be difficult without the support of the other Trustees.

10. There being no other business the meeting was closed at 16.19

11. The next AGM will be in May 2026 in Portsmouth venue and date to be confirmed.

Andrew Morle
RFAA Chair

Date: 31st May 2025