

Association Newsletter, November 2020

EDITORIAL

When we thought that we were all back on track, lockdown has once again intervened, resulting in immediate revision of the remainder of our 2020 programme of events! It is with regret therefore that our November AGM/Lecture/Lunch has now had to be cancelled. Our Chairman, Richard, has outlined the changes in his letter below.



Following the resignation of our Treasurer Dusty, who has had to relocate to the USA in order to continue his career in aviation, Joe Kirk has reverted to the position of Treasurer and Ian Wright has assumed the responsibility of Membership Secretary.

Sadly, three of our members have recently passed away and abbreviated obituaries are included in this Newsletter. Full obituaries are to be found on the SANO website, [Obituaries](#) page.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

SANO members will appreciate that the total lockdown earlier in the year together with the various restriction regimes in place since, have curbed our ability to meet and eat. Our Constitution requires us, in common with all such organisations, to hold an annual meeting where we review the past, consider the present, plan for the future and confirm membership of the Executive Committee.

It was the EC's intention to squeeze the AGM in with our last formal meeting of the year – the November Lecture/Lunch. Consideration was also given to running this as a virtual meeting but it is your Chairman's experience (with a couple of different hats on) that the SANO world is not ready for the related problems of insufficient bandwidth, video/audio cutting in/out, inattention to virtual meeting etiquette and general UNSAT performance.

Therefore, taking into account the recently announced second lockdown restrictions, it has been decided to cancel the November meeting and to postpone the associated AGM into the New Year, probably at its normal time around Easter. Current EC membership will continue as-is noting that Dusty Miller, our Treasurer has flown away and handed back the books to his predecessor, Joe Kirk who in turn has handed over his Membership Sec duties to Ian Wright.

Normally, the EC would hold an informal Strategy Meeting in the last weeks of the year when SANO's direction and ideas/suggestions for the following year's programme would be discussed, agreed and set out. Again, for the above reason, this meeting is being cancelled and will be rescheduled later in the New Year when hopefully restrictions will have been lifted or suitably eased. Whilst I have your attention, I would like to take this opportunity to warm the bell a little and hope that you and your families will take every opportunity to enjoy the next few months (which I am now constantly reminded includes some festivities) to the very best of your abilities.

Aye,
Richard Stanton
Lt Cdr RN
Chair SANO

OBITUARIES

COMMANDER MIKE PORTER, OBE RD* RNR

Commander Mike Porter, who has died aged 82, was for many years in HM Customs & Excise and also an officer in the Royal Naval Reserve.

An indication of the high regard in which he was held in both civilian and naval life is that in 1991 he was unusually nominated for two OBEs at the same time; one military and one civil. He accepted the civil one which was for outstanding work on a Customs project.

Michael Henry Porter was born in 1938 at Guys Hospital, London and lived in the London area for all his younger life. At the age of 16 he joined the Sea Cadets and subsequently the Royal Navy. In the RN he saw service in the Radar Plot Branch and spent time in the Far East.

After leaving the RN he joined HM Customs & Excise and also the RNR. In the RNR he was in Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) and due to his moves with the Customs he served in HMS WESSEX, HMS SUSSEX and HMS ESSEX. Whilst at HMS SUSSEX in the 1970s he was for a time NCS Training Officer and he undertook exercises in the senior role of Staff Officer NCS, where he was able to apply his wide knowledge of ships and shipping.

He joined SANO (or the Sussex RNVR Officers Association as it was then) in 1976, when he was still on the active list of the RNR. During his time at HMS SUSSEX and living in Hove he was a regular and popular attender at Association functions.

LIEUTENANT LAURENCE HARDY, RN

Laurence Carey Hardy was born at Horsted Keynes in 1929, the youngest of three children.



The young Laurence won a scholarship to Dartmouth in 1942. Dartmouth having meanwhile been bombed, he entered Eaton Hall in January 1943 at 14.

After training he served in, principally, HM Ships Flint Castle, *Glory*, Loch Ruthven, Veryan Bay and Orwell, latterly specialising in navigation. After *Glory*, Laurence was appointed, at 22 in November 1951, to command SDML 3508 of the Royal Malayan Navy.

After naval service, he worked until 1985 with Allied Leather Industries, his step-father-in-law's firm, rising through the group as it expanded and diversified. After the restructuring and sale of the companies, he became Executive Chairman of the Hardy family firm, Freshfield Lane Brickworks Ltd, with his son as MD. He joined SANO in 2004.

MAJOR MALCOLM WEOBLEY, RMR

Malcolm ("Mal") Weobley, whose death was announced in August, was a major in the Royal Marines Reserve, which he joined in 1981. In civilian life he had been a divisional manager for residential and day care services in West Sussex, and following his retirement he took a keen interest in service related organisations, including ARNO and the Royal Naval Association. He also acted as an instructor for his local Sea Cadet Unit. Although he joined SANO fairly recently, he attended several of our events and greatly enjoyed them.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE!

Do you recognise these Admirals?

a



b



c



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

This space would normally be occupied by our future programme. However, for reasons given above this is not possible at the moment. We will, at the earliest opportunity, formulate a programme for 2021 for you to enter into your diaries.

TAILPIECE

“In a local cricket match a batsman was given ‘out’ in an atrocious lbw decision. As he passed the umpire who had given him out, he said: ‘I wasn’t out you know.’ The umpire could not resist the old hackneyed retort: ‘Oh, weren’t you, well, you look in ‘The Chronicle’ next Friday and see whether you were or not.’”
Before he could enjoy his triumph the batsman answered:
No, YOU look—I am the editor of ‘The Chronicle’. (the late John Arlott)

Best wishes

Bob