



EDITORIAL

The main purpose of this newsletter is to inform members of the forthcoming AGM of SANO which is to be held at the **Hove Club on Saturday 18 March commencing at 1045**. The present members of the Executive Committee are prepared to stand for re-election. The meeting will be followed by a Lecture/Lunch when the speaker will be Dr James Bobotinis of Kings College London and his topic is QE Class Carriers and the Geopolitical implications.

Full details can be found on the calling notice. All the necessary documents for the meeting are attached to this Newsletter.

OBITUARY

CDR TREVOR KIRBY OBE FRAeS RN (RIP)

It is with sadness that SANO announces the death of Cdr Kirby. Trevor was a naval aviator, accomplished Sea Vixen pilot and also a test pilot, ultimately Head of Force Plans Analysis for NATO. His funeral has taken place.

SANO MEMBERSHIP

I have included this once more and you would be most welcome to contribute.

Who do you know and what do you know of them? This statement was prompted by a discussion at the recent Lecture/Lunch. One of our members was surprised at the depth of experience and the inter-connecting circles of service (old ships) amongst the membership and suggested that we print the occasional CV of a member (with permission of course). This would involve sending in a CV covering your career/association with the RN/RNR/MN or related service

HMS AMBUSCADE

A Falkland's warship that was originally launched in 1973 is to be preserved and turned into a museum in Glasgow.

HMS Ambuscade had been decommissioned by the Pakistan navy and will become a shipbuilding museum the River Clyde.



Built at Yarrows Shipbuilders at Scotstoun, the Type 21 Frigate launched in 1973 before entering service with the Royal Navy two years later.

The ship is claimed to have saved Task Force Flagship HMS Hermes, from Argentine Exocet attack

while two of her sister ships, HMS Ardent and HMS Antelope, were sunk during the campaign.

In 1993, HMS Ambuscade was decommissioned and sold to Pakistan where it was recommissioned as PNS Tariq, and remained in active service. (STV NEWS)

NEW SUPPORT BOATS FOR THE ROYAL NAVY

The final of six new boats to improve support to Royal Navy divers has been delivered. Replacing outdated vessels, the 15m Vahana boats provide improved speed, operational range and navigation equipment – all vital to diving operations.



The £51m project has seen the boats delivered over five years and the sixth and final one has now been handed over.

Two of the vessels are based at the Defence Dive School in Portsmouth, with the others operated by the Fleet Diving Units in Portsmouth, Plymouth and Scotland. One of the boats is also working in Gibraltar.

Commander Sean Heaton, commanding officer of the Diving and Threat Exploitation Group, said: “These boats are replacing models we have had since the 1990s and will be used by the unit across the UK.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
Sat 18 ^h March	1045	AGM/Lecture/Lunch	Hove Club	Dr. James Bosbotinis	QE Class Carriers Geopolitical Implications
Wed 19 th April	TBA	Visit Lunch in "HOR-NET"	QINETIC Haslar		
Sat 3 rd June	1830	Mess Dinner	Hove Club	tba	
Sat 15 th July	1100	Curry Lunch/ Lecture	Hove Club	Mr Harry Ferguson (retired spook)	True story of MI6
Thu 7 th September	1200	Visit	Shoreham Fort	Followed by pub lunch Swiss Cottage	
Sat 28 th October	1830	Trafalgar Night Dinner	Hove Club	RA Jude Terry (TBC)	
Sat 25 th November	1100	Lecture/ Lunch	Hove Club	Bill Paterson	MET Police/FCO

Key dates:

7th April Good Friday, 10th April Easter Monday, 1st May Day Bank Holiday, 6th May Coronation, 8th May Coronation Bank Holiday 29th May Spring Bank Holiday, 28th August Summer Bank Holiday, 25th December Christmas 26th December Boxing Day.

Best wishes, Bob