



**Minutes of the September Branch Meeting  
of the Barrow in Furness Branch - SA.  
September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, at 1930 at the Royal British Legion**

1. **Chairman's welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the September Branch Meeting.
2. **New Members:** Simon Land, Jon (Sweep) Broome, Matt Hill, Simon Whittall, Sam Beacock, Graham Croud, Tommy Whiting, Maxwell Park-Davies
3. **Visitors:**
4. **Apologies:**  
Members:  
  
Associate Members:
5. **Attendees:**  
  
Members: as per list.  
  
Associate Members: as per list.
6. **Crossed the Bar reported since the issue of the August 2025 Newsletter.** (Secretary to read out).

**SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN AUGUST 2025**  
**Information on 'Crossing the Bar' taken from all available sources**

Daily Telegraph Reports	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Reginald (Reg) Sweet BEM	Telegraphist	TBA	89	Submarine Service in 1950s. Later served as Naval Padre from 1965 to 1969 & from 1975 to 1999
Plymouth Branch (Lapsed) Member	20 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Richard M (Rick) Spiring	Mechanician	D080245	78	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1975 in ARTFUL (1966 to 1967), REPULSE (1967 to 1971 1st Commission Crew on 28th September 1968) & WARSPITE (1974 to 1975)
We Remember Submariners	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	John David (Pusser) Hill	Warrant Officer Coxswain	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service to August 1989 including DOLPHIN, WALRUS, OTUS, VALIANT (recommissioning at Chatham on 12th May 1972), FINWHALE (Final Commission Crew) on 15th November 1974, DOLPHIN (SM School), SUPERB & DOLPHIN SMMU
Gosport Branch	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025	Roland George Charles Steele	Chief Mechanician	P/KX 769566 & RAN Z88202	96	Submarine Service from 1958 to 1968 in TOKEN, FINWHALE on 'Commissioning' at Chatham on 27th January 1964 & RAN in OXLEY (on Commissioning at Greenock on 27th March 1967)
We Remember Submariners	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Alan Sutherland Clarke	Commander RAN	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in RESOLUTION (P) 1979, RENOWN (1980s), T Boats, Northwood & RAN
Submarines Association of Australia	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Peter J Knights	Control Electrical Artificer 1st Class & CPO ETSSM (RAN)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in REVENGE (1972) & RESOLUTION (S) (1973 & recommissioning at Rosyth on 27th November 1976 to 1977) & RAN in OVENS (1978 to 1981) & Navy Office, Canberra
Blackpool & Fylde Branch (Lapsed)	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Paul M Nelis	Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	D171865C	63	Submarine Service from 1980 to 1994 in ODIN, ONYX, ORPHEUS & OPOSSUM
Buddies in Boats & We Remember Submariners	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Anthony (Tony) Keech	Charge Chief Weapons Engineering Artificer (ex-Chief Ordnance Electrical Artificer (O))	P/MX 887822	90	Submarine Service from 1959 to 1977 in SM4 & TERROR (1959 to 1963), VERNON, EXCELLENT, MAIDSTONE, DOLPHIN, NEPTUNE & REPULSE (S) (1970 & on commissioning at Rosyth in 1972 until 1975) Previously served in HMS SAINTES & LOCH KILLISPORT
Blackpool and Fylde Branch	12 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Alvar L (Speedy) Unsworth	Petty Officer (UW1)	D056450	80	Submarine Service from July 1968 in OLYMPUS, RESOLUTION, SUPERB, REVENGE,

						SWIFTSURE (1st Commission 17th October 1972), SUPERB (1st Commission 13th November 1976) & SPARTAN (1st Commission 22nd September 1979)
We Remember Submariners	17 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Graeme Henderson	Leading Medical Assistant	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service in SUPERB
We Remember Submariners & Portsmouth Branch	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Michael Henry Rogers	Lt Commander (SD) (X) (C)	CO 22023G & P/J 949168	85	Submarine Service from 1961 to 1990 in RORQUAL (on recommissioning 22nd Nov 1961), TALENT, ARTFUL OBERON, DEFIANCE (1976), WARSPITE, VALIANT, FOSM (1982), FO Portsmouth (1989), ACE SRGN Italy (1991)
Friend of SM Museum	26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	James Barry Mackay	Lt (SD) WESM	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 3rd November 1980 in ONYX (1981) & OSIRIS (1983)
Indalo Spain Branch	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2025	Paul Thomas Gunther	Lt Commander (SD) WESM	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 1982 to 2008 in TRAFALGAR (1984 to 1987), TIRELESS (1988 to 1989), RNEC Manadon (1989), TURBULENT (1990 to 1992), DEFIANCE (1992 to 1994), DOLPHIN (1995 to 1997), CWTA, Portsmouth (1998 to 2000), NMA Gosport (2001 to 2003), DG (HR) Navy (Gosport) (2004), Nav Sec Office (2005 to 2006) & Portsmouth (Jago Road) (2007)
Dolphin Branch (Lapsed) Member No. 2027	August 2025	Bryan Jackson	Chief Marine Engineering Mechanic	P067625D	81	Submarine Service from June 1963 to May 1983 in TOTEM, THERMOPYLAE (on recommissioning at Portsmouth 21st July 1965), OBERON, ODIN & OPOSSUM (on Commissioning' at DOLPHIN 14th November 1981)

Additional CTB from Opportune Facebook, Shane Deek who was an LMEM (L) who served on HMS OPPORTUNE in the 1990s and ODIN

Also passing this month was Barrow Branch Associate member Andy Frame

**Toast to absent friends.**

7. **Minutes of August 2025 meeting:** Proposed: Bob Hagen  
Seconded: Les Hambling
8. **Matters arising from the August Branch Meeting:** None
9. **Secretary Report:** Julian Talks

Good evening everyone,

The VJ Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service was held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at St. James church, the occasion was commemorated with a remembrance service which included readings, prayers, hymns, a two-minute silence and the laying of wreaths. The Standard Bearers performed their duties perfectly and were photographed by our local paper, these photos are in the Newsletter and on the website. The after-event supper at the British Legion was well enjoyed by all who attended, thank you to Des Murphy for organizing the very tasty Pie and Peas.

Merchant Seamans Day will be held at the Dock Museum tomorrow morning, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September at 10:30am, there will be a service, refreshments, North Atlantic Convoy films and the reading of Poems.

The AE1 and AE2 Re-dedication of the Memorial and unveiling of the Online Book of Remembrance plaque will be held on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> of September at 11am, with a meet and greet from 10.30am. Planning is well under way, we can confirm that Commander Matt Radford of the Royal Australian Navy will be attending, Lieutenant Commander James Farrari will be laying a wreath on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy. Lieutenant William Stuart of the Royal Navy with a Contingent of RN Personnel in No.1Bs have confirmed their attendance. BAE are planning to attend and have also offered to send their Photographer to cover the event.

The Order of Service is to be fine-tuned over the next week, Steve May has said he would be honoured to read out the crew members names. Other readings include the poem For The Fallen and the Kohima Epitaph. If you would like to do a reading, please let one of the committee members know.

On completion there will be refreshments at the British Legion, we need to know numbers by the 5<sup>th</sup> of September to avoid disappointment, please spread the word and attend this important Branch event.

The 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Britain will be commemorated on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. We will meet up at the Town Hall for 11.15am to march to the Cenotaph for the service and laying of wreaths. On completion there will be a Band, Raffle and refreshments at the Legion, please come along and support our friends in RAFA and the Legion, they all need your support,

Thank you.

## **10. Social Secretary's Report.** Alex Webb

Hi everybody,

August, saw 28 of us go to Cartmel races, great weather, lots of food and alcohol and the odd winner. Not a bad day out.

Socials

In September 11 of use are heading, with The Standard, to Dundee to pay our respects and have a beer or two – probably tartan special.

Then we have the AE1 & AE2 Memorial Ceremony, if you are free, please try and attend this important event. Then we have the Battle of Britain parade on the Sunday 21st, again if you are not doing anything please attend and support our RAF colleagues.

The Members' Draw was not won in August so stands at £40 for the September Meeting, so make sure you come along for the chance to win some FREE dosh at the meeting. Also, I run a scratch card for the princely sum of £2 and you could win £30. I will be cooking up some chili for half-time big eats.

I have had the date of the Trafalgar Ball given as Friday 24th October; I have Order Forms if anyone would like to go along. I have organised a £5 discount for the first 20 that I can get to sign up which brings the price down

to £40 which is for a 3-course meal and entertainment. Once I have my 20 I will not be taking any more names and it will be down to the individuals to contact the sea cadets personally.

On Saturday 4th October we have our annual DTS at the West Shore Club (12-6), cost is £5 per person which will get you entry, pie and peas and a tot, great value. I will need to know numbers for catering so please tell me if you intend to come.

I have and will continue to attach the calendar below so you can keep an eye on any changes and make your plans as necessary.

Yours Aye

Alex

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## SOCIAL PROGRAMME

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### September

Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sep	Merchant Navy Day	Dock Museum
6th - 7 <sup>th</sup> W/E	Dundee Memorial	Dundee
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup>	AE1/AE2 Memorial	Ramsden Square
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Military Vs Cancer Ball	Stoke
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	Battle of Britain Parade	Barrow

### October

Sat 4th	DTS West Shore Club	Walney
24th Oct	Trafalgar Night with Sea Cadets	Fairfield Lodge

### November

7th - 9 <sup>th</sup> W/E	Remembrance Parades	Barrow
13th - 17 <sup>th</sup> W/E	Malta Memorial & Nobby's Bday	Malta

### December

Thur 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas DTS	Ulverston
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Party	RBL
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	DTS Seaweed Corner	Walney

Stand Easy.....10 Minutes

11. **Treasurer's Report:** Richard Cambridge, Business £3675.97, Savings £4581.15, Cash £324.50

12. **Website Managers Report:** Ian Clark reported that there is now a message board on the website along with the Newsletter
13. **Newsletter Editor's Report:** Barrie Downer informed us that the Newsletter had been sent out in electronic form and posted to the Postal Members, there were also some hardcopies available at the meeting. Barrie also requested that if anyone had any information for the Newsletter it should be sent to him ASAP.
14. **Welfare & Sick Call:**
15. **AOB:** A question was asked about the progress of getting a portrait of the King, the Chairman replied that although it was taking time, progress was being made, it has been reported that the National Chairman was to raise a request for 49 copies for the branches, we have asked the National Secretary for an update and he has responded that he needs to do more digging.  
  
Steve May thanked everyone who purchased a 'We Remember Submariners Pin' for £6
16. The date of the Next Branch Meeting is Tuesday 7th of October 2025 at 7:30pm
17. **Meeting Shut at 20:12**
18. **Up Spirits & Loyal Toast:** The President gave the Loyal Toast.