



**Minutes from the April 2026 Branch AGM  
Meeting of the Barrow in Furness Branch - Submariners Association.  
Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 19:00 at the Royal British Legion**

**1. Chairman's welcome.**

The Chairman welcomed the members to the Branch AGM and Branch meeting.

**New Members:** Chris Randall

**2. Apologies:**

Members: Ian Clark, Steve May, Jim Wright, Les Hambling, Karl Allerton, Gordon Walker

Associate Members: Ralph Wilson, Sally Hambling, Margaret Downer, Phyllis Palmer

**3. Attendees:** As per list

Associate Members: As per list

**4. Crossed the Bar reported since the issue of the March 2026 Newsletter.**



**SUBMARINERS 'CROSSED THE BAR' REPORTED IN MARCH 2026 (Information from all available sources)**

<b>Reported Via</b>	<b>Date CTB</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank/Rating</b>	<b>Official No.</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Submarine Service</b>
We Remember Submariners	29th January 2026	Andrew (Andy) Gannon	Able Seaman (UC)	Not Reported	57	Submarine Service in REPULSE Joined RN in 1988
Derbyshire Branch Member No. 1208	11th February 2026	Jim Hunt	Able Seaman (TM)	P/J960840	90	Submarine Service in 1957 & 1958 in SCORCHER, TRESPASSER & MAIDSTONE (Spare Crew)
We Remember Submariners	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Paul Lillywhite	Leading Cook	D161326R	TBA	Submarine Service from 1976 to 1986 in WALRUS (August 1978 to September 1969), ORPHEUS (November 1979 to May 1980) & OBERON (February 1982 to June 1984)
Submarines Association of Canada	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Luc Daniel Rollin	Electrician	RCN	73	Submarine Service in OJIBWA, OKANAGAN, ONONDAGA & CFFS Halifax (as SM Instructor)
We Remember Submariners	12th March 2026	James Foley	Charge Chief Marine Engineering Artificer (ML)	D058044K	TBA	Submarine Service from 1960 to 1984 in TIPTOE, GRAMPUS, OLYMPUS, CHURCHILL & WARSPITE
North Staffs Branch Member No. 6032 & We Remember Submariners	14th March 2026	Graham S Dibley	Marine Engineering Mechanician 1	P064844A	81	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1977 in RORQUAL (1966 to 1969) & RESOLUTION (P) (1975 & on recommissioning at Rosyth on 27th November 1976 to 1977)
Friend of SM Museum	28th March 2026	Alistair Thomas White	Commander (E) (MESM)	Not Given	TBA	Submarine Service from 1972 to 1993 in DOLPHIN, NEPTUNE, SWIFTSURE, DRAKE, DOLPHIN, RESOLUTION (S), FOSM/Subelant, MoD London, MoD Bath & DEFIANCE FMU

**From We Remember Submariners**

Chief Petty Officer WEA Jess House. Submarine Service in RENOWN (P) on recommissioning at Rosyth in 198\*. Died April 2026.

Chief Petty Officer (MEM) (M) John Staines. Submarine Service in RESOLUTION (P) on recommissioning at Rosyth on 27th November 1976. Died April 2026 aged 75

**The toast is absent friends.**

5. **Minutes for 2025 AGM** The Minutes of the 62nd AGM were accepted as correct by a show of hands at the May 2025 meeting.

6. **Matters Arising from 2025 AGM:**

a. none

7. **Chairman's Annual Report: Steve McKay**

The average attendance at the monthly meetings has remained constant and with the Dreadnought crew we have welcomed many new faces to swell our membership. I would like to thank the Dreadnought team who have shown us support and given their time to help over the past few months.

Once again, we have lost too many members and other submariners who have Crossed the Bar this past year including members wives and partners who have also passed, our thoughts are as always with those left behind.

I would like to thank Julian "Jules" Talks for taking on the roll as Branch secretary; it is important for all of us to remember that without Jules stepping up to the plate we would not be an association anymore. Jules plays a very important role within our association and I'm sure we would all like to pass on our admiration and thanks for all the time-consuming work that he performs.

As you are all aware BAE Systems now boasts to the world that Barrow has become a Royal Port. The Port of Barrow-in-Furness was granted Royal status in 2025, with King Charles III officially bestowing the title of "Royal Port of Barrow" on September 22, 2025. The designation recognises the town's critical role in national defence and its historic, long-standing contribution to building Royal Navy submarines.

2026 marks 125 years of submarines in the Royal Navy From the first boat HMS Holland 1 to the latest boat due to commission HMS Agamemnon the submarine service has certainly showed its worth over the last century and quarter.

A full itinerary of all the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary events can be found in Barrie's "Periscope View" March 2026 edition. We are also currently working on celebrating this event in Barrow.

**SAC Charitable Status** (*Jules, can you add some meat to bones on this bit, just a very brief note?*)

Looking forward to the next year we have a very healthy membership and budget so it is anticipated that we will arrange more locally subsidised social events with Alex to encourage a higher attendance. Thank you, for your support over the last year and hopefully it will continue over the next.

## **8. Secretary's Annual Report Julian Talks**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Branch has continued to support the annual military and civil events throughout the year, there is a lot of time and effort goes into organising these events so it is very much appreciated by all concerned when they are well supported, thank you.

The National Committee which will be named the Submariners Association Committee (SAC) from now on have made some changes this year.

The SAC are currently in the process of creating a new Association Website, when it is ready, original Members will be able to register and check their details are correct, including their Membership numbers. New members will be able to register and check their details are correct and to receive their membership numbers.

The SAC have proposed the new Guidelines to replace the Terms and Conditions, more on this in the National AGM Delegates Report.

To raise funds for the SAC, they have partnered with a Distillery to produce SM125 Rum and Gin, they will soon be ready to order for postal delivery.

The SAC are still very serious about attaining charity status to financially support the running of the committee, but they have said that the Branches will not become a charity. Craig Fulton, an ex-Skipper from HMS Sceptre made presentation at the National Conference about becoming a Charity, he has a degree in the subject. He has also assisted and advised other groups to become charities, we have sent out his presentation along with the minutes of the National AGM, this will be covered in more detail in the delegates report.

It has been a sad year for Veteran Submariners, far too many have Crossed the Bar since April 2025, those Members from our Branch are remembered on our Branch Website. They are Robert (Gabby) Hayes (May 2025), Ken Brumby (Nov 2025), Christopher Brown (Dec 2025), Lawrence Carr (Jan 2026). Many of you will have attended the funerals of our comrades and given support at these solemn occasions to the families, this has been both impressive and very much appreciated by the families.

Thank you.

## **9. Social Secretary's Annual Report to 2026 AGM: Alex Webb**

Social Secretary AGM report 2026

I have now been your social secretary for 15 years and your Standard bearer for 5 years.

Over the years, since I took over the role of social secretary, the support and numbers have dwindled. I have had to evolve and the type of socials organised have now become more bespoke, with fewer numbers catered for.

In the last 12 months (Apr 25 – Mar 26) 15 events throughout the year have been organised. In the next 12 months there are no fewer than 16 events planned. I cannot take credit completely for organising the events because I have a strong team who support me; these include Janet and Nikki.

The members draw was reintroduced in 24 and is going well, with the added tweak of never going below £20. Although the monthly scratch cards pays partially for the nibbles and members draw it is still not enough to bring back the birthday beers, but I am looking at this closely and it is my intention to do so as soon as possible. In addition, to all the socials that are locally organised we strive to support all major parades with the Standard and our continued support for the K2B stewarding is welcomed.

In a nut shell, we are a good healthy branch; could we do better? – always, but thankfully we have the “die hards” who continue to support the events and long may that continue.

As you know your committee work hard and without reward on your behalf to keep things moving, so the pie and pint scheme will continue so the branch can buy those on the committee a pie and pint once a year by way of a thank you.

As the social secretary I need no more than you to come to events, drink, eat and have a good time. And take part in the scratch cards. As always, I will endeavour to keep the costs to the bare minimum.

As the Standard bearer it continues to be my honour to parade the standards at all formal functions and it is a privilege to parade the standard on behalf of our friends & colleagues who have crossed the bar. Now that Peter Hearn has done the training, hopefully, we will see Peter carrying our standard. Incidentally, with permission, I have bought a more ‘Fit for Purpose’ replacement standard bag.

In addition to the above we have also raised money (via scratch cards at the: Hope and Anchor, birthday parties, funerals and run ashore – not the meetings) this has been raised for supporting worthy causes that members have made their purpose to support and also to treat those going on the foreign run ashore.

To all who gave/give so generously I thank you.

Programme for the next 2 months:

Long weekend 16th – 21st April – Benidorm for the SA meeting.

24th – 26th April – HMS Dreadnought Reunion in Barrow

Sat 1st – 3rd May – Vandal & Untamed memorial in Dunoon

Sat 16th – 18th May – Arboretum Ceremony.

Sat 23rd May – Jenks’ pub crawl around the lakes

Sat 24th May – Run ashore to the Arboretum

29th – 31st – BIB weekend Bridlington

This meeting we have the members draw which was won by Big Mac in February so stands at £25

Scratch cards

And given it is approaching Easter we have burgers & hot cross buns.

**10. Treasurer's Annual Report to 2026 AGM: Richard Cambridge**

The accounts balance is Business £4681, Savings £4609, Cash £15, and could I ask members to pay their subs by banking where possible, Secretary agreed to send out the banking details to all members by email.

**11. Website Managers Annual Report: Ian Clark**

Ian Hillbeck has changed the look of the website and the jury is out as to whether its a good look or not.

Together with Ian we have also added a branch notice board and any member can contribute providing the subject matter is submarine or branch related.

I continue to update the branch website as and when required and with the exception of updating the branch roll call which is work in progress the website is up to date.

Can you ask that the branch make a donation to Ian Hillbeck for the continued use of the website.

**12. Newsletter Editor's Annual Report: Barrie Downer  
Newsletter Editors report for AGM 2026**

**Periscope View**

The Branch Newsletter 'Periscope View' is produced Monthly - average 16 pages per copy - and is circulated to all Branch Members - ideally on the 1st of each Month.

It is sent as a PDF file by Email to all Members, Associate Members & Branch Widows (plus a few other interested parties) who are On-Line - up to 120 addresses.

Members who are not On-Line receive a printed copy – four delivered by hand at the Monthly Branch Meeting & currently up to 16 copies per month are posted out 2nd Class Post. Receipts are passed to the Branch Treasurer for payment – currently £13.92 per month (usually at the following Branch Meeting). Postage rates are likely to increase shortly but by how much is not confirmed

I do not bill the Branch for Envelopes and Paper, but I occasionally submit a receipt for Printer ink.

The Newsletter is posted on the Branch Website monthly and all back copies are available to download.

**In Depth**

The Association Newsletter 'In Depth' is produced Quarterly on 1st January, 1st April, 1st July & 1st October each year and averages 32 pages per issue. It is sent as a PDF file to the SA National Secretary for distribution to the SA Membership via the Branch Secretaries. Currently some 1,550 Members are thought to be able to receive copies although this number may reduce shortly owing to an ongoing review/reconstruction of the SA Membership Database.

In Depth is sent to the National Website Manager for the SA Website and to use as he sees necessary. Unfortunately, the SA Website has been down for some months now but is currently being reconstructed. Back copies are (currently) not available from the National Website but, as Editor, I retain copies of all 90 previous Editions in case of queries. I have recently provided back copies of all 90 back issues of to the SA Chairman for re-posting on the reconstructed SA Website  
It is up to the individual Branches to decide how to circulate In Depth to their Members. The Branch currently distributes via email. At present no postal copies of In Depth are sent out by the Barrow Branch.

### **Online Book of Remembrance OBOR**

At present I am a Member of a Team from the 'Friends of the Submarine Museum' collating the OBOR - currently hosted on the Submarine Family Website. Following recent changes to the Submarine Family arrangements the OBOR is to be rehosted on the 'Friends' Website in the near future.

The OBOR will provide a story for all Royal Navy Submarines lost in Peace and War and for all those lost in those Submarines and other Submariners who have died in service -approximately 6,000 stories. The OBOR stories will be available to read/download from the Website and via QR Codes - between 15% & 20% of the personal stories have been completed. Friends & Family of lost Submariners are able to update/post stories or post corrections or additional information as available, but all submissions will be moderated before final posting

### **13. Election of Committee Members**

- a. The position of Vice Chairman – Steve May has shown interest; Barrie Downer would like to propose Steve May; do we have a seconder?  
Seconded by Malcolm Hogg.
- b. The position of Welfare Officer: No volunteers

The secretary will put out an email so see if any member who are not at the meeting would be interested in putting themselves forward for either position.

**14:** AGM Declared closed at .....19:32

**STAND EASY, 15 mins, the April Branch Meeting.**

## April 2026 Branch Meeting (to be held after AGM)

**15. Minutes of March 2026 meeting:** Propose: Bob Hagen  
Second: Peter Wells

**16. Matters arising from March Branch Meeting:**

None

**17. Secretary's Report:**

Hello all,

We have now formed a sub-committee to plan the SM125 event to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> year of the Submarine Branch and to commemorate the launch of our first Submarine HOLLAND 1, built by Vickers here in Barrow and launched on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 1901. The sub-committee members are a cross section of people involved in the building of and serving on our Submarines and the running of the Royal Port of Barrow, these include Commander Ed Higgins and Warrant Officer Jim Wright whom we are proud to have as Members of our Branch, along with our Branch Committee, Maggie from BAE, Lesley and Claire from the Town Hall. Also, Niyall from the Sea Cadets some of you may know him but you may not know that he is moving to Australia for 2 years to progress his career with BAE, we wish him every success down under and thank Niyall for all his input to the Branch events over the years, these duties will now transfer to Phill Burns. There will be more information on this event in the Newsletters from Barrie and on our Branch Website.

We have had an email from David Mathews, it reads,

Good evening. I have recently established that a great uncle of mine -PO Stephen Gilbert - was on AE2 and died as a POW in Turkey. Furthermore I only just found out about the fantastic memorial that you have in Barrow. I live down south in Aylesbury but I am keen to come up and visit the memorial and the Barrow museum. Do you have any events planned for this year? If so I'd be proud to represent PO Gilbert. Thank you. Regards David Mathews, he has since confirmed that he will be planning to attend our Remembrance Service on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

Anzac Day is on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, the Branch will meet at the AE1 and AE2 memorial on Ramsden Square for a short service and the laying of a wreath to remember the crew members from Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain who lost their lives in WW1. We will probably hold this service on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at 10:45 before the St. George's Day Parade, this will be confirmed at the April Branch Meeting.

The Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Association have invited our Branch Members to attend the St. George's Day parade on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2026.

The format of the parade is as follows:

11.30am form up at the Town Hall

11.45am Presentation of red roses to the Standard Bearers by the Mayor of Barrow

12.00 Noon, Standard Bearers take post, the parade marches to St. George's church to attend a short service.

13.15pm (approx.): The parade marches from St. George's church to Atkinsons car park for dismissal.

All are welcome to meet at the Royal British Legion on Holker Street for refreshments.

Replies to your attendance can be made to Derek Phillips email

Another event for your diaries is the Armed Forces weekend, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June we will have the Flag ceremony, this year the Flag will be presented to the Mayor by the RAFA, your very own Peter Lamb. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June will be the Armed Forces Parade, Claire is working on this with Westmoreland and Furness council, DAE and BID, more details are to follow in due course.

Thank you

**18. Social Secretary's Report:**

Dependent upon AGM report

**19. Treasurer's Report:**

Dependent upon AGM report

**20. Website Managers Annual Report:**

Dependent upon AGM report

**21. Newsletter Editor's Report:**

Dependent upon AGM report

**22. National AGM Delegates Report:** Prepared by Steve May and presented by the Branch secretary

**Submariners Association AGM & Family Weekend**  
**Steve May - Barrow-in-Furness SA Delegates Report**

Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentleman,

Firstly, my apologies for not being present this evening to present my report in person but unfortunately work has taken me away this week.

Onto my report of the SA AGM and Family Weekend and we arrived in Liverpool on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2026 too early to check into the Hotel so chose to have a look around the Albert Dock area where there are quite a lot of nice Hotels, (this point is important for later in my report).

The opportunity was taken for a trip on the Liverpool Eye to get a bird's eye view across the City of Liverpool.

About 1400hrs we headed to the Adelphi Hotel to check in and found the Hotel to be a very Grand looking building from the outside and on entry the reception and Main Hall area on first glance gave the same impression. Check in proceeded smoothly and we went off to our room having collected our bags from the car which had to be parked in the Hotel Car Park which was up the hill behind the Hotel and was a rough bit of land where a Tractor may have been more useful to negotiate the ground.

We were advised that the rooms on some of the floors had been recently renovated including the room we were allocated so were hopeful it was good.....until we got to the room!!! Looking at the standard of the alleged "renovation" I think the Hotel had employed a local "Jack of all Trades" to do the job for a few quid "cash in hand" as the room did not appear to have been freshly renovated and definitely not even to a reasonable standard.

However, although very warm in the room, and having to get Reception to send the Maintenance guy up to open the window as it wouldn't budge, it was clean and to be fair the bed was very comfortable.

First scheduled event was buffet dinner at 1900hrs so in true Naval fashion that allowed plenty of time having unpacked for the odd "wet" before getting changed for dinner so off to the Bar we went and met with quite a few "like-minded" people and lamps started to swing!!!

Having got changed into my Blazer etc ready for dinner off we went and the Hotel had laid on a very nice Hot Buffet and in the meeting room we were allocated for the meal we had our own bar which was kept busy.

The SA had arranged entertainment for the evening in the form of Magician John Parry.....  
Note for Alex – Do NOT bother booking this guy for any of our functions!!!

We woke on the Saturday to discover there was no Hot Water throughout the Hotel, (apparently this was the second time in a week), and it did not return until about 1400hrs that afternoon.

However, the Saturday saw the main proceedings and following a hearty breakfast we mustered for "Church" and Standards were laid up at 1000hrs prior to the AGM starting at 1030hrs.

The AGM was opened by the SAC Secretary welcoming everyone and conducting the required "Safety Brief".

Apologies were then asked for, and I formally apologised for Barrie Downer being unable to attend as Barrie had requested I do on his behalf. The Chairman stated that on behalf of the Submariners Association and members he would like to offer sincere and best wishes to both Barrie & Margaret.

The Chairmans opening address then followed where he also welcomed everyone in this 125<sup>th</sup> Year of the Submarine Service and that we would be enjoying a "Gala Dinner" later to celebrate the 125yrs. He also mentioned the TSF and the fact it doesn't exist any longer and his opinion is that it was a success having donated to the SA about £100,000 over recent years.

The Chairman went on to add that with the demise of the TSF it may be necessary to reintroduce "Subscriptions" again if funds cannot be secured for operational costs in the future but Charitable Status was being discussed and would be covered during the meeting.

The Chairman also mentioned that the previous day, (Friday) for those present a day early they mustered at the Thetis Memorial in Birkenhead where a short service and wreath laying was conducted and attended by the Mayor & Mayoress of Birkenhead.

The details in the AGM Minutes regarding the Chairmans address are a fair representation of what he said.

Next on the agenda was the Presidents Address. Jim Perks kept this brief but wished everyone a fun filled weekend. I did speak with Jim a few times and he promised to give me his membership money for our Branch before the end of the weekend to bring back with me.....I never received it from him, although on the list of attendees for the weekend he was named alongside me as “representing Barrow”.

Next was the SAC Secretary who reiterated some of the points the Chairman mentioned alongside the fact we are all there to look at new ways to take the SA forward, (I got the impression this was in preparation for the upcoming presentation about becoming a Charity).

He stated that 24 Branches were represented at the AGM with 57 people in attendance. Last years minutes were then proposed and seconded as a true record. He further mentioned that the SAC had conducted Face 2 Face meetings at Morecambe & West Ridings with various other branches attending these meetings and as you know some of us from Barrow went to Morecambe when that was held. Next one is probably Lincoln to tie in with Military Vs Cancer Summer Ball the same weekend.

The Vice Chairman followed next and provided an update on the new website briefly stating there had been issues obtaining access to the previous database when the previous webmaster walked, however, some of that has now been retrieved from him and is being decoded as it is apparently all encrypted. The SA now has a company who are building the new website (and trying to decode all the old files), and I can't remember the company name but it is the same one that Military Vs Cancer use and they are apparently a small but reputable company with experience in websites, databases etc and they will also be maintaining the website at a minimal monthly cost of £70 once built so nowhere near the cost of the last company the SA used a few years back which costs thousands and never really got up and running properly.

We were told that the website should be up and running in a few weeks, (I don't know if it is already up and running but should be by now), so that answered the first 2 questions from our branch without me asking them which were an update on the website and when would it be up and running.

The third question from our Branch; Has the membership database been recovered/rebuilt and will it be available online? I also didn't need to ask this question as the Vice Chairman stated there had been some misunderstandings from various branches and it was believed by many that registering your details with the Submariners Association meant that your details would automatically become public on the SA Website and he wanted to assure everyone this is not the case and stated that the Website and Database were 2 different entities and only those who gave permission for their details to be published on the website would be on there to comply with GDPR.

All members will need to register on the website though so that they can partake in any vote that may be required under the OMOV system.

At this point the published Agenda was rearranged and Craig Fulton was pushed up the agenda to conduct a presentation regarding “Charitable Status” so a brief stand easy was conducted to give him chance to set up his laptop and presentation.

Craig Fulton introduced himself and he is also a Submariner Commander and on leaving the Mob took a degree in “Charity Management” and now works as a Charity Consultant.

I think like most I found the presentation very interesting and I believe Julian has sent the presentation he used out to everyone to look at so I hope you have had the opportunity to take a look.

He first detailed what the SAC’s thoughts are with regards to becoming a Charity and some of them are very valid such as “Increase access to funding and grants” which could result in successful applications from other large charitable organisation who only donate to other Charities or any “donations” (future subscriptions if introduced may be called donations), to the SA could provide an additional donation of 25% in the form of Gift Aid.

“Boost our credibility with potential donors and public bodies” this could open up larger donations from Industry such as BAe, Thales etc as many large companies only donate to Charities because doing so provides Tax Relief to the Company.

Craig went on to explain what a Charity was which is, “Any organisation set up under the law of England and Wales for solely charitable purposes.” (Charities Act 2011). He further explained that Northern Ireland and Scotland have their own Charities Commission which could be problematic as we have branches in both of these areas, but the problems are not insurmountable if we wish to become a Charity.

The next point he raised I must admit I did “chuckle” and a few eyes came in my direction from the top table as he stated, “The Association currently has “Guidelines” and not Rules and Constitution which would not be acceptable if seeking Charitable Status as Guidelines are not legally enforceable and the Committee could just ignore them”..... 😊😊😊😊 Haven’t we in Barrow been saying this for ages???

He then detailed what are acceptable Charitable Purposes and under the Charities Act Section 3(1) there is a large list which can be seen on Craig’s Presentation Slides and provided various explanations where we could probably fit into some of the purposes mentioned.

Craig continued to explain some of the requirements to obtaining Charitable Status,

1. Trustee’s – All of the SAC would become legal Trustees and any changes in the Committee must be declared to the Charities Commission.
2. Make sure the organisation has Charitable Purposes for Public Benefit – This is apparently quite important, however, it seems the Charities Act doesn’t specifically mention what proportion of the Public must Benefit.
3. Choose a name for the Charity – We have one already if the Charities Commission deem it acceptable.
4. Choose a Governance Structure – Who will be in the formal positions etc

5. Create a Governing Document – This would mean basically reinstating Rules & Constitutions again which would be legally enforceable.

6. Register as a Charity – If all above is accepted by Charities Commission then a Registered Charity Number would be issued.

Craig then detailed some of the Pros and Cons of becoming a Charity as follows:

### **Pros**

- Access significant tax benefits
- Increased opportunity for grant funding
- Increased chance of commercial support
- Increased public trust/reputation.
- Protection of trustees
- Increased support and advice
- Ensures that purposes are clear
- Protection for membership

### **Cons**

- Increased regulation  
(Who needs more red-tape!?) Craigs Quote not mine.
- Ongoing reporting requirements
- Reduced flexibility of activities & projects

Whilst the list of “Cons” seems to be short they are very major issues as the Charities Act implements a huge amount of regulation on any Charity which includes continuous reporting to the Charities Commission and could curtail some of the activities or projects that the SA may wish to undertake.

There was a lot of questions throughout and on completion of Craigs Presentation and I apologise but can't remember them all, however, regarding Branch Funds it was asked if the funds held by individual branches would have to “go into the central charity pot” if we became a Charity and he stated these could still be held by the Branches for “local use” if the Charities Commission approved.

However, the Secretary of Morecambe Branch later asked what requirements would be placed on individual Branches by the Charities Commission even if they can hold their own funds, e.g. Regular Account reporting to the Charities Commission? Craig stated that even if Branches were operating as individual units with their own funds they would still be part of the Charity and accountable to the Charities Commission and this would mean that accurate records would have to be kept of all monies with comprehensive accounts detailing what money comes in and from where and what has been spent and any monies spent must be in accordance with the aims of the Charity as stated in the Governing Document and all branches would have to submit accounts to Charities Commission.

When I heard there was to be a Charity Presentation by a Submariner at the AGM I was very sceptical and thought this would be one of the SAC “buddies” there to persuade us to become a Charity on behalf of the SAC especially when I heard he was a Submariner.

I was pleasantly surprised throughout the whole presentation as Craig clearly understands Charity's in great detail and didn't pull any punches especially regarding the additional legal responsibilities

placed on the SAC and individual branches, although, there were some very valid reasons as well why becoming a Charity may be good.

However, despite the very good presentation and in particular the response to the question posed by Morecambe Secretary I have heard nothing that changes my opinion regarding the SA becoming a Charity, in fact it has probably strengthened my opinion which most of you know anyway.

Going down the Charity Route will definitely not be a quick process as the SAC would have to achieve a huge amount of work before they could sensibly put it out to the Members to vote on and in the meantime Craig is running some "Workshops" with the next being the 25<sup>th</sup> June or 15<sup>th</sup> October which I believe are in Portsmouth. Maybe we should look at sending someone to attend from the Branch, (Jules as Secretary?)

This presentation took longer than the SAC had anticipated and by the time Craig had finished we still had quite a few agenda items to get through, but as everyone had been seated for some time we had another brief Standeasy.

When we were due to restart a few people returned to the meeting with alcoholic drinks which I personally thought was wrong and in the past alcohol had never been permitted during any of the AGM's/Conferences and this should continue to be the case in my opinion.

We continued the AGM with the Treasurers Report and a reasonable representation of this is in the minutes but main points from the Treasurer is firstly he has manage to retain and ring fence 2yrs operating costs in the accounts and as mentioned in the minutes he also briefly stated what the "operating Cost Items" were in support of our proposal regarding the financial restrictions. We could maybe do with a definitive list from the Treasurer in hindsight so we can monitor expenditure carefully.

**Branch secretary:** *At this point in my presentation, having covered the Charity Status section and the questions raised by our President, I decided not to continue and informed the members that I would send out the full report in an email.*

### **Our Chairman thanked Steve May for producing the National AGM Delegates report**

The report continues below but was not presented to the members.....

Membership secretary was not present so his report was given by the Secretary and is reported in the minutes but main points being they now have 1337 members who have provided detail although 9 or 10 branches have failed to respond at all and he reiterated it was an individual choice if personal details would be available for viewing on the Website.

Paul Swaby then provided an update on the Gin & Rum Bottles for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year and these were for sale after the AGM. They should now be on sale with postage direct from the distillery via the SA Shop on the SA Website. Paul also mentioned there is the possibility of a second batch of the Gin.

Post Meeting Note from Barrow Delegate: Production of Gin is NOT part of the SA operational costs, so we need to watch that this has the correct approval via a vote of members before being done or whether the SAC choose to ignore their guidelines and do it anyway.

The Secretary then moved onto the next point that 2 positions are available to serve on the Committee as per the minutes. Slops Bosun & Assistant Membership Secretary.

The next point was "Proposals" and Barrow was thanked for their proposal regarding financial restrictions which did not go to a Members Vote as the SAC had included them into the "Guidelines" anyway, although as I previously mentioned we may require a definitive list of what constitutes "Operational Costs" so there is no ambiguity.

We then moved onto AOB and I firstly pointed out that Barrow was looking to have a Freedom of the City March the first weekend of October to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Submarine Service and the first Submarine being built in Barrow as well and it would be great to have as many SA Branches as possible represented for the Parade with Standards along with the National Standard and that we are hoping to make it a large event with hopefully Serving Personnel Platoon, maybe RM Band etc. The SAC stated they would like to support this event and asked if our Secretary would keep all Branch Secretaries up to date with this event.

Next point was next Blue Plaque unveiling to be in Dover on 6<sup>th</sup> June as per minutes.

Followed by a short dit from Ian Vickers regarding the International Submariner Association. Again details are in the minutes.

Next point was Clive Lee asking about the Commander in Chief being invited to the November Ceremonies and this had already been actioned.

Post meeting note from Barrow Delegate: Maybe we should consider inviting the Commander in Chief for the October Parade in addition to COSM etc and request COSM send a Platoon of Submariners?? This would need to be done promptly if we wish to do so.

Mark Pugh (SAC Social Sec) briefly mentioned the remaining weekends events and further stated that next year the AGM would be held in May and the possibilities are Derby to coincide with their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Freedom of the City but if they are unable to secure a suitable venue the second possibility was Leeds. Watch this space!!

Chairman then closed the meeting, (which had overrun considerably, mainly because of the worthwhile Charity briefing), and advised the Gin & Rum would be on sale at 1330hrs and "Up Spirits".

Tot's were drunk and Rum Bottles purchased then the afternoon was our own before the evening Gala Dinner.

We mustered in the evening in the Bar before being called through for dinner after the traditional photograph had been taken.

The Dinner was very good and entertainment was provided by 2 guys who called themselves "Beatle Juice".....I wonder what tribute act they were from Liverpool 😊😊😊😊, they were fairly good and along with a disco kept us entertained, (and far better than the Magician the previous night), some of us through to gone 0100hrs in the morning.

Andy Knox asked me on the day if I would do the Absent Friends Dit prior to Dinner, (nothing like being stitched up at the last minute), but of course I was honoured to do so.

The Sunday saw the brief Church Service and Standards returned before those departing on the Sunday leaving which we did although quite a few remained until Monday.

### Summary

Apologies for the lengthy report but I feel it is important to report back in full on the AGM and Family weekend especially regarding the large amount of information regarding becoming a Charity and I hope I have offered a fair and honest report for you all.

On a personal note, apart from the poor choice of venue by the SAC, (I guess it was very cheap), I was disappointed about a couple of things, the first being the fact that people brought Alcohol into the meeting as I mentioned earlier, which was never permitted in the past and I believe that should continue to be the case. We have plenty of opportunity to drink after the AGM.

Secondly these weekends seem to be coming too informal in my opinion, and it used to be the case that, Friday Evenings, the AGM (formerly the Conference) etc the dress code was always Blazers and Ties. This year seemed to be “wear what you like” with many people only wearing Polo Shirts the whole weekend apart from at the Gala Dinner. Some people may think it is good to be less formal at these events, but I have a different opinion of this and think we should retain our standards at these events. There are plenty of other Submariner events that are organised to be totally informal such as BIB’s, SM2 Reunion, DBR etc because the SA has always had the more formal Conference/AGM Weekend.

Thank you all for your attention during my report of the SA AGM and Family Weekend.

### **23. Welfare & Sick Call:**

### **24. AOB:**

- a. BAE have sponsored the new flagpoles for the AE1 & AE2 memorial.
- b. Will who is the weapons section head on HMS Dreadnought informed members that if they would like to sponsor the K2B team, this could either be done on the webpage or sponsor form. He will pass the weblinks on to the secretary for distributing.
- c. Tonight’s Rum has been donated by Les Carr’s family.
- d. St. George’s parade route has been changed, more info to follow.
- e. Armed Forces day on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, the plan is to come back to the Legion after the tea and stickies at the Town Hall.
- f. Barrie brought up two points from the delegates report,
  - i. The SA’s new website is not up and running yet
  - ii. Barrow Branch have been telling the SAC for quite some time that it is definitely an error to stop using the R&C’s

**25. Date of Next Branch Meeting:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

**26. Meeting Shut at.....**20:21

**27. Up Spirits & Loyal Toast**