Draft Minutes
Branch Meeting of the Barrow in Furness Branch - SA.
November 3rd 2026, at 19:30 at the Royal British Legion

1. **Chairman's welcome:** Chairman Steve McKay welcomed the members to the November Branch meeting.

2. **New Members:** Toby Perree, Sharon Fox, Sonia Denby, Vivien Lace, John Shipley

3. **Visitors:**

4. **Apologies**:

   Members: Alex Webb, Les Hambling, Glynn Stephens

   Associate Members: Janet Webb, Sally Hambling, Peter Owen

5. **Attendees:**

   Members: as per list.

   Associate Members: as per list.

6. **Crossed the Bar reported since the issue of the October 2026 Newsletter.** (Secretary to read out)

Please show your respect during the Crossed the Bar report by not talking and staying seated, thank you.

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

Reported Via	Date CTB	Name	Rank/Rating	Official No.	Age	Submarine Service
We Remember Submariners	2nd February 2022	John Martin Cook	Petty Officer (SSM)	D161644	66	Submarine Service from 1977 to 1997 in RESOLUTION (S) 1979 to 1992) & VANGUARD (P) (1992 & on Commissioning 1st Commission Crew at Barrow in Furness on 14th August 1993 to 1997) Invalided 1997
We Remember Submariners	26th September 2026	Leslie (Biffo) Smalley	TBA	TBA	TBA	Served in OTUS, SCEPTRE (AUTEC 1996 & 1997) & SOVEREIGN
Espana Levante Branch Member No. 6366	1st October 2026	Barry J Alford	Chief MEM(L)	P/M 982814	83	Submarine Service from 1966 to 1990 in THERMOPYLAE (1967), OLYMPUS (1967 to 1969), ODIN (1972 to 1973), OBERON (1973 to 1975), OLYMPUS (1975 to 1978) & OPPORTUNE (1980 to 1982)
Gosport Branch Member No. 1303 (Lapsed 2001)	1st October 2026	Darryl (Paddy) Uprichard	Leading Weapons Electrical Mechanic (O)	D186407H	63	Submarine Service in WALRUS, CONQUEROR, VALIANT, ORPHEUS, ONYX & UPHOLDER
We Remember Submariners	3rd October 2026	Mark Maddison	Able Seaman (Sonar) (SM)	D200066L	TBA	Submarine Service in SWIFTSURE
We Remember Submariners & Friends of SM Museum	3rd October 2026	Garry Arnold Newton	Captain (X) (SM)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 1982 to 2013 in DOLPHIN, ORACLE, REPULSE (P) (IL). CSST, FOSM Staff, SM1, VANGUARD (IL), CSST, VIGILANT (Gold), MOD London, NATO Brussels & Fleet Commander (Ops) Also served as Naval Attache Moscow (twice)
We Remember Submariners	6th October 2026	David Ian (Tiny) Lister	Lt Commander (SL) (X) (SM)	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service from 1976 to 1983 in DOLPHIN (1976), VALIANT (1976 to 1977), OPPORTUNE (1978), SPARTAN (TASO 22nd September 1979 to 1981), OPOSSUM (IL 14th November 1981 to 1983) Also served in HMS SOBERTON
We Remember Submariners & Gosport Branch Member No. 4399	7th October 2026	Christopher R (Smudge) Smith	Petty Officer Marine Engineering Mechanic (M)	D126578Q	70	Submarine Service from 1975 to 1996 in RORQUAL, ORPHEUS, OBERON & ODIN

We Remember Submariners	7th October 2026	Graham Donald McEwan	Commander (E) (MESM)	CO19699D	75	Submarine Service including SUPERB (additional on Commissioning on 6th January 1975), SOVEREIGN (1982 NL), TIRELESS (19687 to 1989 NL) & MoD Bath (1991 NL) Also served in FEARLESS (1975 NL)
We Remember Submariners	12th October 2026	Ian Nicholas Britten	Lt Commander (E) (MESM)	TBA	76	Submarine Service including RENOWN (1976 NL), RNEC (1982 NL), MoD London (1989 NL) Formerly at Office of Nuclear Regulation Also served in SSKs
We Remember Submariners	17th October 2026	Gary Cahill	Chief Petty Officer	D211294H	TBA	Submarine Service from 2nd July 2002 to 17th October 2026 in VENGEANCE, VIGILANT, VICTORIOUS, FOST (N) & NEPTUNE (Nuclear Repair)
We Remember Submariners	26th October 2026	David Howe				Not Reported
Friend of SM Museum	29th October 2026	John Patrick Windsor Middleton CB	Rear Admiral (E) (MESM	TBA	88	Submarine Service from 1960 to 1991 in DOLPHIN (1964 to 1965), ADAMANT (1965), AMBUSH (1965 to 1967), RNC Greenwich (1967 to 1968), CHURCHILL (1967 to 1969), WARSPITE (1969 to 1972), SM10 (1972 to 1973), DPT (SM) (1974 to 1976), NDC Latimer (1976 to 1977), BLAKE (1977 to 1979), DN M & T (Eng) (1979 to 1981, CSO (E) to FOSM (1981 to 1983), CO NP2010 (Falklands) (1983 to 1984), CND (1984 to 1986), MoD DGSM (DISM) (1986 to 1989) & CSO (E) to CINCFLEET (1989 to 1992)
We Remember Submariners	October 2026	Ian Burbridge	Chief Petty Officer MEM	TBA	TBA	Submarine Service including COURAGEOUS

7. Minutes of the October 2026 meeting: Proposed: Malcolm Hogg

Seconded: Bob Hagen

8. Matters arising from the October Branch Meeting: None

9. Secretary Report: Julian Talks

Good evening,

In early October we received the timeline from the SAC outlining their proposal for The Submariners Association to potentially gain Charitable Status.
It is important to emphasise that no final decision has been made.

The timeline sets out the process by which the SAC will gather the information required to properly consider the Association moving towards charitable status. This information will then be presented to the membership so that members can make an informed decision and vote on whether the Association should move in this direction or not.

The decision will be made by the membership and not by the SAC.
The Proposed timeline……
The current aim is to put the proposal to a membership vote in September 2027, with the result announced in mid-October 2027.
In the meantime, the SAC will continue to gather information and provide regular updates so that every member has the opportunity to understand what charitable status could mean for the Association before the vote takes place.
Keeping members informed…….
Updates will be provided to Branch Secretaries and posted on the Association website every month.
The SAC also aim to build a comprehensive FAQ section within the Members' Area of the website. This will provide members with the information they need to make their own informed decision when the time comes.

It was suggested at the October Branch meeting that we hold a committee meeting to discuss this proposal but the general feedback from our committee members is that there is little to discuss at this stage. Perhaps when we have more details or updates from the SAC there will be something to discuss and we can hold a committee meeting. In the meantime we have sent out the SAC timeline to the Branch Members to keep you all updated on the information that is available.

In other news for October, on Friday the 23rd, Barrow Sea Cadets hosted their Trafalgar Ball, more on this from our Social Secretary in his report.

Coming up in November we have the following remembrance events;

This year's Crane Memorial will take place on Friday the 6th of November at St John's Church, Barrow Island starting at 10:40am, there will be a short service followed by tea and stickies. Free parking is available at the Community sports centre, LA14 2SB.

On Saturday 7th of November, the Railway Service of Remembrance will be held at the Railway Station at 10:45am.

Also, on Saturday evening the Salvation Army are hosting a Festival of Remembrance starting at 7pm, please see the poster for details.

On Sunday 8th of November, we have the Remembrance Day Parades;

At 09:15am – It is the AE1 & AE2 Memorial Service on Ramsden Square. We will have an honoured guest at this service, Mr David Matthew. He will be placing a cross and saying a few words for his Great Uncle, Petty Officer Stephen Gilbert who served on HMAS AE2 and sadly died as a prisoner of war, also attending will be David's cousin Mrs Mandy McCrone. David will be visiting Barrow for the weekend and would very much like to meet up prior to the parade if anyone is available.

At 10:45am – The Town Hall Remembrance Parade will march off to arrive at the Cenotaph for 10:56am. On completion we will march to the Legion where we will meet up in the concert room to pay our respects to the Submarines and Submariners on 'Eternal Patrol'

At 14:30pm – In Ulverston, there will be a Remembrance Service in the Church, followed by the Parade marching off to the Town War Memorial at 15:30pm for a Service and wreath laying, if any Branch Member would like to lay the Wreath, please see me after the meeting.

Thank you

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

Hi Mr Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

October done and dusted and we had a few laughs.

We had our 125th submarine anniversary coupled with the AE1 & 2 memorials having had a revamp; new flag poles, new grass and looks the biz – thanks to all the people involved with that. If you haven't seen it pop along and take a gander. After the parade we all came back to the legion to witness the unveiling of the portrait of the King before we had a good social. Thanks to everyone who came along, donated and took part in the festivities.

On the 15th a few went along to the Hope and Anchor for rum, chip butties and a general laugh. Will try and fit another one of these in before Christmas.

Then last weekend about 15 of us attended the sea cadets Trafalgar night do (one of many held over the period). A fantastic night, well organised and lots of fun.

So, what's coming up?

Some of us are disappearing down to London for the Submariners Remembrance Parade on the 1st of November.

We also have all our local remembrance parades on the 6th, 7th and 8th. Please come along to these and remember those who gave everything for this country; "Lest we forget".

Then we have the big one on Friday 18th of December, our annual Christmas party at the Legion. Bring a plate, a party attitude and tickets are on sale from Jules for the reduced cost of £5 per ticket.

Rounding the year off, we have our DTS break between Christmas and New Year, at Seaweed Corner; Sunday 27th from 1pm, food, free pint and a tot of rum to be had.

There won't be a members draw at the November meeting because I am down in London (apologies), but as always scratch cards will be available at £2 a go with the chance of winning £30, so dig deep this will fund Seaweed Corner – see Steve May.

Yours Aye

Alex

Stand Easy …….

11. Treasurer's Report: Richard Cambridge reported the accounts, cash £267, Business £5528, Savings £6346

12. Website Managers Report: Ian Clark reported that the website had been updated

13. Newsletter Editor's Report: Barrie Downer reported that this will be the last time he prints and posts the Newsletter to the postal members, it has been distributed to the members on email and is also on the website.

14. Welfare & Sick Call: Cliff Shipton

15. AOB:

- Jake updated the members on the AE1 & AE2 wall installation project, the funding application has been rejected. He will be applying for new funding and is planning for completion before ANZAC day in April 2027.
- There are 4 WRS pins left for purchase at £6 each from Steve May.

- Des reported that there are raffle prizes needed for Remembrance Sunday, also help will be required to sell and fold raffle tickets.
- The rum bosun requested the branch donate a bottle of rum for the raffle, this was agreed and the Treasurer will record in his accounts.
- With reference to the SAC charity status timeline, Steve May raised the point that the timing is wrong to agree the Rules & Constitution at the 2027 AGM

16. The date of the Next Branch Meeting is Tuesday 1st of December 2026

17. **Meeting Shut at** 20:08

18. **Up Spirits & Loyal Toast:** The President gave the Royal Toast.