



# The Society Newsletter

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## The changing face of the RNEBS.

### In accordance with instructions of the Executive Council of the Society

The Executive Council had a long discussion relating to the survey of members held over the last year.

In conclusion it was decided to alter the structure of the publications sent to members and accessed by them on the internet, to alter the meetings for members and the section committees and finally to request more members become involved in the day to day operation of the Society.

The need is for change to meet the needs of our members now and in the future.

**The publications** are being revamped this year and therefore there have been fewer mailings to members. This was regretted but a necessary stage of the process. The members will now get one or two standard newsletters give a brief outline of the work being undertaken by the Society and it's general state (accounts, membership reminders etc.) and any direct communication needed. In addition there will be a different type of newsletter (name still to be decided) which will include members views, stories and interesting snippets from the engineering

world. Finally there will be one publication of the Naval Engineering Review per year. It is regretted that due to editorial problems the Society is having some difficulty in the production of this years issue but it is a commitment of the Executive Council to provide one per year in future.

**The Society web site** will be revamped over the coming year to improve its ability to inform the membership of the work of the Society and give better access to members to information about themselves while maintain a high level of security relating to members details.

**Member's meeting** are to be altered to enable better participation by members. There will be a section committee meeting once per month to which members will be welcome if they have a pressing issue or concern. There will be a smaller number of members meetings to which all Society members will be invited, they will be themed to a topic or event. The minimum number of these meeting will be the Section Annual General Meeting which is in May.

**Please find further details of these changes on other pages of this newsletter.**

# The Society's Publications

The decision of the Executive council was to promote the Society by improving the standard and range of publications available to the members, from a statement of the benefits that members receive to the issue of a minimum of one Naval Engineering Review (NER) per year.

Additionally there will be approximately two standard newsletters similar to this one to inform the membership of progress and changes in the handle of the Royal Naval Engineers and the structure of the Society. This will enable you the membership of the Society become more involved with the running of Society.

Finally there will be the opportunity for members to share views and personal short stories with each other and contact other members who have been lost in the mists of time. This enhanced Newsletter has at present no particular name and if any member has a suggestion as to the title please contact the editor of either the NER or the Newsletter.

It is will regret that there has been no newsletters or NER this year until now, however there has been some alteration to the management of these publications.

There are two places that you the members need to help with the pro-

duction of these publications: First - there is the opportunity to get published in a well regarded Magazine the Naval Engineering Review. Members should be aware that this publication deals with Naval Engineering and articles should be related to this field of Engineering. Second the Enhanced Newsletter - can only be produced if it has letters, stories and articles to include, these should be relevant to the membership or for their amusement.

If you enter articles for the NER you are automatically entered for the Robins prize of members articles which has a first prize of £150.

## The Society Web site

The Society has a web site at [www.rnebs.co.uk](http://www.rnebs.co.uk).

This site has been in existence since 1996. It is now getting a little long in the tooth for a web site and therefore, during the coming months it will be redeveloped.

It is hoped that a number of new areas will become available over the next months including an exclusive area for members to access additional ma-

terial.

The Society is aware for the need for security with regard to the members data and there fore it is not expected that this additional information will include any additional personal data other than a members name and membership number to gain initial access and a method to check on identity.

It is hoped that it will allow great ac-

cess to the Society's information, for example the Executive council minutes and a secure method to contact other members.

The main restriction and cause for delay is the need to create a robust and secure method of access.

## The Members Meetings

The Executive Council agreed to trial a new format for the section meetings to be held by the Society.

The new pattern is going to be that of a committee meeting every month at the times stated in the rule book. This is every 2nd Friday at 8 pm in Portsmouth and every 4th Tuesday at 7 pm in Devonport. These meetings are to ensure the business of the Society is being properly addressed. There will be time set aside for any members concerns.

These meeting can be moved with

limited notice and member should contact the section chairman, the General Secretary or the Managing Secretary for information on the location and time of the meetings

There will be members meetings that has been restructured to enable members and the committee select focus subjects of interest. These will be held at times notified in the Newsletter and on the Website. Each active section must have a minimum of one members meetings per year and that will be the Section Annual General Meeting (Section AGM).

The focused members meeting will be held in a range of locations and times to better meet the needs of the members.

At the Section AGM the committee members will be elected. If a member wishes to be elected to the Section committee they must be present at the Section AGM.

Both active sections need more members to attend the Section AGM so please come and help us run your Society.

# Managing Secretary Report

It is important that members keep the Society up to date with their details as it is only by doing so that the Society can make the correct paid-outs. Be aware that the present subscription rate is £10 per annum.

Benefit claims this period:	Amount	MemNo	Born	Joined	Deceased
WOMEA (rtd) Pete R Carter,	£1,200	10006	1952	1969	08 Sep 2005.
ERA1 (Rtd) Terry Rance,	£1,200	7202	----	1955	16 Dec 2005.
CERA (Rtd) Robert H Crick,	£1,200	C451	1912	1931	08 Jan 2006.
ERA (Rtd) Eddie R Janes,	£ 264	PO 016	1931	1951	11 Nov 2006.
LtCdr (Rtd) Jack R Froggatt,	£1,100	8962	1947	1965	26 May 2006.
ERA (Rtd) H A Edwards,	£ 264	PO64	1905	----	17 Nov 2006.
ERA (Rtd) J A Hewitt,	£1,100	7329	1940	----	31 May 2007.
Shpt (Rtd) Chris Cole,	£1,075	8316	----	1963	23 Jan 2008.

It is worthy of note that: Peter Carter was a recent 'benefactor to the Society' during his time at Fisgard Squadron, he died of Bronchial Carcinoma and was aged only 54.

Bob Crick, Life Vice President, past General Secretary and NER Editor, died peacefully aged 94.

## In response to a question asked by a member, these are the present Benefit Rates

The rate is per member - therefore the more members the greater the sum paid out.

Yrs In	Sub pa	Death Benefit			Invaliding Benefit			Retiring Bonus		
		£3	£5	£10	£3	£5	£10	£3	£5	£10
<5		4p	5p	20p	3p	4p	15p			
12		6p	7p	30p	4p	5p	20p			
15		8p	9p	40p	5p	6p	25p			
19		10p	12p	50p	6p	8p	35p	½p	1p	4p
25								1p	2p	5p
35								2p	3p	6p
40								3p	4p	8p
45								4p	5p	12p

## HMS Sultan - Summer show

The Society has been to the HMS Sultan show for the last two years to provide a point of contact for our members and to raise the profile of the Society with the general public.

We do not seek to approach media organisations to advertise our actions, however we do need members of the

engineering branches of the Royal Navy to know that we exist to represent them.

Our membership is open to all members of the Engineering Branch of the Royal Navy, with a free starting year for any members who join the Society at the HMS Sultan Show.

The first year it was the hottest weekend and the second year was one of the wettest.

The General Secretary is always present to answer questions.

The exhibition includes general information and past issues of the



Naval Engineering Review. Some of these are available for purchase.

This year there will be a number of games for both Adults and Children—these are run for the benefit of the HMS Sultan Engineering Museum.



# The General Secretary of the Society

**Having undertaken the post of General Secretary for the past 16 years Les Dancy wishes to stand down from the position.**

This post has been vacant in the past however it is not one that should be left that way if the Society is going to do its duty to its members.

Therefore the General Secretary has requested that all members consider themselves called to serve the other members in the position.

**Who should be the General Secretary?** Any full member who has paid their subscription can be an officer of the Society.

There is a basic problem with those who left the service more than 15 years previously as it is the case with Les.

There is a requirement to understand the present needs of the service and the Serving members of the Society.

There are some restrictions on serving members being in this post — however the post has been undertaken by serving members in the past.

The General Secretary would like to hear from all members on this subject to place their names in the hat.

The post is not onerous and is reasonably remunerated. It provides a range of interesting challenges and the section committees and other officers provide a sound basis of support.

Additional Information and guidance will be supplied on request from either the sections or officers of the Society.

## Society - Advice for Members

The Society was formed to promote the welfare of its members. This has taken many forms over the years and today the Society continue to perform this function.

One of the main areas that the Society can help its members is the assistance needed if the Royal Navy fails to undertake the necessary care.

The requirement to understand and meet the present concerns of the membership is one of the driving forces behind the present changes that the Society is undergoing.

To be able to fulfil the expectations of our members and anticipate their demands the Society is continually reviewing its approach and delivery.

**The Royal Naval Engineers' Benevolent Society** has been in existence since 1872, for the promotion of the social, intellectual and general welfare of its members.

The present method to obtain direct help is to contact the General Secretary or attend a section meeting.

Once the request for assistance has been received the Officers of the Society will consider the merits and possible methods that could be used to assist the member or members.

Once the assessment is completed the member will be informed of what methods the Society can put forward, this may be employing solicitors or

directing the member to another organisation that is better enabled to assist the member in their particular needs.

The Society has contacts with both legal and medical advice. The officers would continue to monitor progress until the members concerns have been addressed.

The contact addresses and numbers are given on the last page of this newsletter. The email address that should be used is:  
**membersadvice@rnebs.co.uk**

## Newsletter and Web Site Editors

The Society needs to improve its communication with both its members and the rest of the Navy, For this reason there is a need to have separate Newsletter Editor and Web site Editor. The Society would like to ask for

voluntaries from its members to undertake these important roles.

The Newsletter and the new publication need to include more articles from members and these will

need to be edited to ensure the content is relevant to the members.

The Web site needs to be kept up-to-date continuously with both the content of the Newsletter and the Naval Engineering Review.

## Request for Help from an ex-Naval Rating

The General Secretary has had an email requesting information from senior members of the Society. This information is about the HMS Wager (1944 to 1947). The information being

requested is general information about the ship and how it operated. Names of ratings and any other related details would be gratefully received.

The Website is <http://www.hms-wager.org.uk>.

The information requested includes the ERAs that worked the ship.

## Diary of Portsmouth Section

### Section Annual General Meeting -

7 pm - 9 May 2008

This will take place in the Grapevine Centre. There are two items on the agenda. 1 - There will be a general discussion of the role of the Society and the Royal Navy. 2 - A vote for the Section officers.

There will be a meeting of the Committee prior to the Section AGM meeting and any members with concerns should bring these to this meeting.

### Section Barbeque -

14 June 2008

This will take place in Fareham. Starting at 3pm until late.

Please contact the General Secretary for the directions and information on parking.

There will be a test of the activities that will take place that the HMS Sultan show.

### The Society at HMS Sultan Show -

21/22 June 2008

Meet the General Secretary and have some fun. Times in accordance with HMS Sultan Show open times.

The Idea of the Society at the Show is to promote the Society and its aims.

If you are going to the show please drop by and give us some personal feedback.

## Diary of Devonport Section

### Section Annual General Meeting -

20 May 2008

This will take place in the Shearsby Suite in 113 North Hill. There will be a number of items being discussed including the election of the Devonport section officers

After the formal part of the meeting an open meeting will move to the Jurys Inn Exeter Street at 7:30pm.

### Annual Executive Council Meeting and Trustees meeting -

7 June 2008

This will be held in the Society offices in North Hill and afterward there will be an opportunity for members to meet the Society Officers and discuss concerns and problems with them.

There will be members from the other sections of the Society.

### Members Meeting - A future for the Society

4:30 pm - 7 June 2008

There will be a meeting for members of the Devonport area to meet members of the Executive Council and have direct discussion of how the Society can fulfill its aims to promote the welfare of its members.

## Diary of the Society

### Annual Executive Council Meeting and Trustees meeting -

7 June 2008

Held at the Society Offices in Plymouth.

The first and longer of the two meeting to be held is that of the Executive Council (EC) meeting.

This meeting is held to decide the future direction of the Society. It is at this meeting that the various officers of the Society make their reports.

The Agenda of the meeting includes the general administration of the Society and awards the annual prizes.

The Sections and Society Officers can

propose items for the agenda. If a member wishes to add an item to the EC meeting they would have to approach either the Society Officers or the Sections to have the item brought forward.

Immediately after the EC meeting there is a Society trustees meeting which has to approve the financial aspects of the EC meeting.

After these meetings the trustees of the RNEBS Charities often meet to carry out their business.

This year it has been decided that the Devonport members of the Society should be invited to a members meet-

ing in the Shearby Suite at 113 North Hill to meet the members of the EC and discuss the progress of the Society and its future. There will be a light buffet and drinks available for those attending.

The Portsmouth Section will have an opportunity to meet and discuss the Society and its direction at a Members meeting and Barbeque on the 14 June 2008 at 30 Holbrook Road Fareham PO16 0TL.

It is sincerely hoped that members will come to one of these two meeting to get a better understand of were the Society is going and inform and Society Officers of their opinions.

Useful RNEBS Addresses and  
telephone numbers

The RNEBS Offices  
Devonport Section  
Top Floor  
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Managing Secretary  
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Editor  
Naval Engineers Review  
Mr Steve Woodford  
ed.ner@rnebs.co.uk

Editor  
Newsletter and Website  
Acting post  
07816787745  
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## General Secretary's Word

I have undertaken the post of General Secretary for a number of years now and I am always surprised at the expectation of the members of this Society for the Society to keep going without any support except the few who regularly attend members and committee meeting.

There are two important jobs that every member can do, one is simple, tell us your opinion. We need your ideas, opinions and support, by giving us your constructive comments (good or bad) you enable us to address the needs of the Society members in general rather than the few.

The Second job is if anything even more important - recruit new members - these can be any one who is in the **Engineering Branch** of the Royal Navy.

If you accept that you need or needed representation as a collective group you should be able to recruit for the Society.

I now wish to request you to undertake something for me:

- if you live near to the Portsmouth or Devonport areas can you try during the next year to attend one meeting. Write to me if you feel we should move the meeting to you.

- if you don't live near those two locations but would attend a meeting if one was close to you - inform me of your location and were might be used for a small number to meet.

The Society needs more members to take part. Please try to be our solution.

Les Dancy

Items for the Newsletter and returned Newsletters should be sent to:

newsletter@rnebs.co.uk