

**The Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society**  
**1960 - 2015**



**A Short History**

**Compiled by**

**Wally Walker G4DIU**

**FOREWORD**

**By Doug G4BEQ Chairman**



*On taking the responsibility to arrange and organise the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebrations for the Society, one of the first things I decided was that a potted version of the Society's History should be made available to all members. The Society since its formation in 1960 has changed greatly and it would be true to say that a considerable number of members have never served in the Royal Navy, albeit some have served in Commonwealth and Foreign Navies.*

*I approached Wally Walker, G4DIU, the Society's Historian, as well as Area Reps Co-ordinator and Rally Organiser and asked him if he would take on this task. True blue that he is, he set to work with a will and waded through vast amounts of paperwork and photographs to produce this pamphlet.*

*I hate to think of the hours he has spent to devise this short version.*

*I have no doubt some older members might feel that their efforts over the years have not been recognised. If so, I would remind them that Wally has put out several appeals during 2009 asking for photographs and information. If you did not respond, then now is not the time to wish you had.*

*I sincerely hope that those who have never had the pleasure of being immersed fully in the R.N. will find something of interest in these pages on how the Society was formed and how it has developed.*

**THE ROYAL NAVAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

The first Amateur Radio Club in H.M.S. Mercury was set up in 1947 when the call-sign G3BZU was issued by the G.P.O. This club had to struggle along as it was totally reliant upon there being a spare classroom to operate from and also a licenced member of the ship's company who could hold the licence. In those first few years it was a bit of a struggle but the club survived and members of the various courses at the Signal School were encouraged to join in order to enhance their knowledge of radio and to gain competence with the Morse code.

In 1957, Mike Matthews G3JFF was serving in Singapore and was given permission to start a local Radio Club in H.M.S. Kranji. He was also at that time serving on the Committee of the Malayan Amateur Radio Society, where he also met members of the Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society (R.A.F.A.R.S.) who had club stations all over the World which were supported by their main Signal School back in the United Kingdom.

On his return to H.M.S. Mercury, Mike, together with George Tagg G8IX, an ex-telegraphist Air Gunner RN of World War One vintage and Lt. Johnny Riggs RN G3AWO drew up a set of proposals for the setting up of a service-wide Society within the Royal Navy. These were then presented to the Captain of the Signal School, Captain John Henley RN, who approved the proposals which then became the initial Conditions and Regulations of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society. And so it came to pass that on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1960 the Inaugural Meeting was held in the Camp Cinema in H.M.S. Mercury where 26 interested serving and ex-serving Radio Amateurs got together to discuss the formation of the Society. The Captain of the Signal School was represented by the Commander, The Honourable David F. Seeley. (The Lord Mottistone) who was later to become the Society's Patron.

**Amongst those attending this meeting were:-**



**John G3ENI, Peter G3IPV, Brian G3MRC, Rod G3KEL, Mike G3JFF,  
George G3HIS, Peter G3LET, John G3AWO, David G3HLW,  
Chas G3BQR, George G3CED, Anthony G3ACP, Tom G3EMN,  
Art G3JAF, Terry G3JZV, Joe G3CNO, Bill G2DZT, George G8IX,  
John G8WC, Jack G3ODJ & John G3DOT.**

**The conclusion of this meeting was the formation of the Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, the C & R had been accepted and a Committee was formed and voted in. The Committee consisted of :-**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>George Tagg G8IX</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mike Matthews G3JFF</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Lt. Johnny Riggs RN G3AWO</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Cdr. John Pegler RN G3ENI</b>
	<b>Lt. Cdr. David Pilley RN G3HLW</b>
	<b>Chief Telegraphist John Allen G3DOT</b>

**One of the objectives of the Society is to foster Amateur Radio activities within the Royal Naval service and to promote an interest and education in all facets of Radio Communications.**

**The Society took over the Assets of the original H.M.S. Mercury Amateur Radio Club and it was rehoused in a small brick built building on the Broadwalk which had previously been the NAAFI Managers Office.**

**This building was cold and damp with an electric heater which consumed lots of Watts but gave out little or no heat at all and a very temperamental Oil heater which was no better.**



**The operating station in the Old Shack**

**From this it will be noted that the members, at that time, and who were prepared to operate the station throughout the year, were a hardy breed, especially during the winters, which were often very bleak.**

A grant was sought, and obtained, from the Nuffield Trust to buy some new equipment with which to set up a Head Quarters Station within H.M.S. Mercury.

The Society started to grow slowly and published itself through various Magazines such as "The Communicator" (the R.N. Communications branch Magazine) and via the various nets and Commercial Radio Magazines which were read in the Amateur world.

In 1961 the first RNARS QSL Card was introduced and printed by Frank Humphries G5IZ, it depicted H.M.S. Tiger

In 1962 the Society started transmitting the QRQ runs (Morse proficiency tests) which were copied, World Wide, by the various Service Signal Schools and civilian establishments throughout the UK. These exercises were run using Creed and GNT Automatic Morse senders using punched paper tapes until they were replaced by more modern computer programmes. Speeds of 20 – 25 - 30 – 35 & 40 words per minute were sent on the 80 & 40 Metre bands on the first Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively, of each month with 15 wpm being included at the behest of Doug G4BEQ who asked for there to be another speed increment between the 12 wpm required for the Amateur Radio licence and the 20 wpm currently being transmitted.

Doug G4BEQ also instituted the Certificate of Merit during his period as the Chairman of the Society, as at that time we did not have an Affiliate membership and this was a way in which we could recognise those who had helped the Society in various ways.

The 40 Metre transmissions ceased after it was found that certain stations were checking their received copies, against that originally transmitted on Tuesday, before sending it off for marking, the Tuesday transmission being an identical copy. A Certificate was issued for each one hundred per cent accurate submission with stickers for each subsequent speed achievement.

The first run which was due to be transmitted in January, had to be cancelled due to both Dave Pilley G3HLW and Mike Matthews G3JFF being unable to access H.M.S. Mercury because of the high overnight snow

drifts, which were up to the height of the roadside hedge-tops, about ten feet high thus making the untreated road between Clanfield and H.M.S. Mercury impassable.

This did in fact create much publicity and generated an enormous amount of Mail asking what had happened and got the transmission, from then on, off to a good start in February 1963.

These transmissions finally ceased in 1995 due to a lack of response from the Amateur fraternity in general.

The Society's first major award, The Mercury Award, was introduced in 1963 by Don Walmsley G3HZL and the Society Lapel Badge was introduced shortly afterwards.

It soon became obvious that the growing membership were keen to have a Society publication as a means of letting everyone know what was happening and as a means of publishing the news and views throughout the membership. Lieutenant Dave Davis RN undertook to produce a bi-monthly News Sheet and in December 1964, issue No.1 of what was to become our current "News Letter" appeared.

This was a six page A4 edition and proved to be very popular. Dave continued to produce this News Sheet, using the Postal Service after he had been posted to Malta. The News Letter, had eventually, to be reduced to three editions per year due to the ever increasing costs of postage. These became the Spring, Summer and Winter editions which continue to this day.

At about this time, the Captain of the Signal School, Captain D. Bromley-Martin RN was invited to become the first President of the Society and he accepted with great pleasure. The Society Committee requested, henceforth, that the Captain of the Signal School should be invited to become the President of the Society on taking up his posting and this was to be the normal procedure until the eventual move of the Signal School to H.M.S. Collingwood.



Over the years the Headquarters station has run various nets such as the Wednesday evening net on 80 Metres and which is now run by various members from their home QTH's, the Sunday morning news net which is now run by Mick G3LIK from his home – with help from other members of the Society as and when required. Another net is run every Monday evening and there is also the very popular “Bubbly Rats” net which is run at tot time every week-day and is normally, conditions allowing, well attended and which awards an annual cup and certificate for the member who gains the highest number of attendances on the net.

The award is made at the annual “Bubbly Rats” get together which is held at a hostelry which is easily accessed by all members, usually at Gunthorpe or Lowdham on the banks of the river Trent in Nottinghamshire.



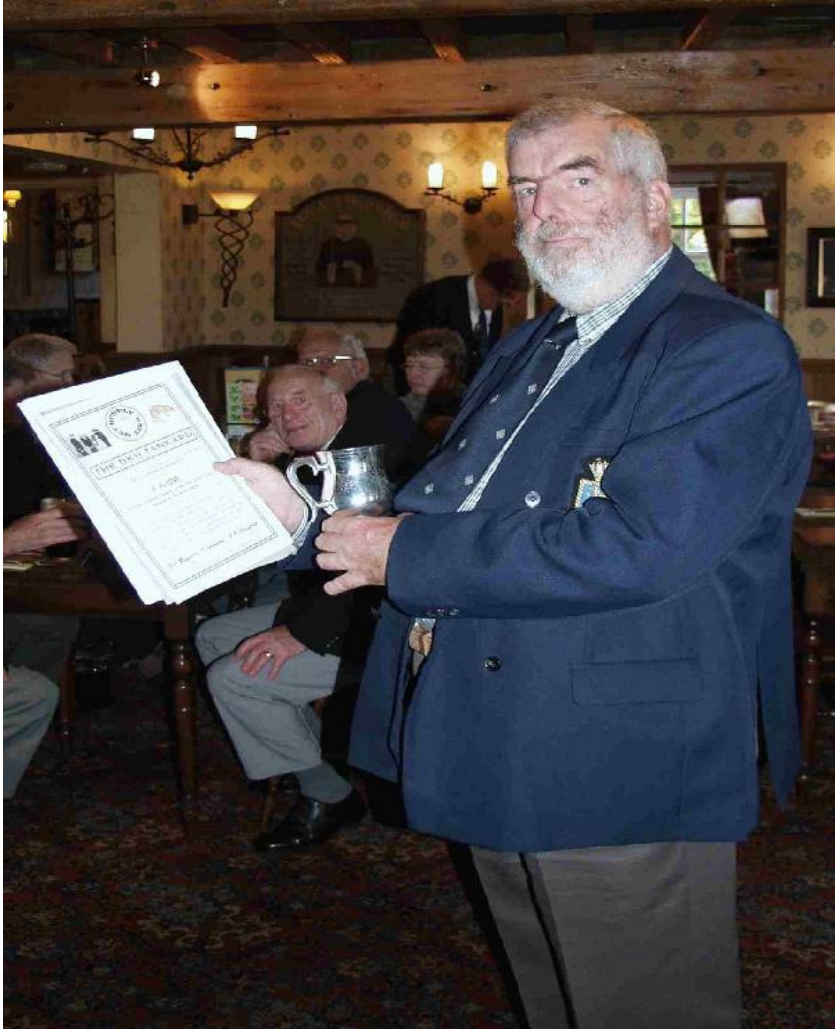
Dinnis & Anne

Peter & Jean

Ray

Alan

**Members of the Bubbly Rats Net at one of the Lowdham, Magna Carta, Meetings.**



**Wally F/G4DIU receiving the DKH Cup and Certificate at the  
Lowdham (Magna Carta) Bubbly Rats Meeting**

In 1965 the Society held its' first Mobile Rally in H.M.S. Mercury, a small but successful event held on the hard standing by the Shipwrights store and this was, again, the forerunner of many more and better rallies which became very popular within the Amateur Radio World and formed one of the major events in the Society yearly Calendar. These rallies were held in early June of each year.



**Swordfish (Stringbag) Fly-over**



**The Waterloooville Junior Marching Band**

In future years these rallies were held on the sports field at Hyden Wood where we were normally blessed with good weather on all but two occasions, and even then the weather relented and the afternoons were excellent and the on-site parades and events, such as the Marching Bands, fly pasts by the R.N. Historic Flight and Radio Controlled Model boats, Cars and Aeroplanes all went off successfully except that, on one occasion, the Model Aircraft Club, from Petersfield, flew their aircraft from the sports field and one of their models took it upon itself to go off on its' own as the Talk-In station, also on the sports field, interfered on their control channel. The aircraft was recovered, undamaged, later in the day, from eight miles away. We also had displays by the local Sea Cadets Corps Field Gun Crews and the local Police Dog display teams and the Fire Brigade with their Historic Fire Engine and equipment.



The H.M.S. Sultan Steam Lorry was always welcome as it gave passenger rides around the roads within H.M.S. Mercury.



**Radio Controlled Model Boats on the Fountain pond at H.M.S. Mercury Main House.**

These rallies were finally discontinued, after the move to H.M.S. Collingwood, due mainly to major traffic control problems in accessing and leaving the rally site from the main road between Fareham and Lee-on-the Solent.

1966 saw the publication of the Society's RNARS Call List, containing 123 members in both alphabetical and Society numeric order. With the introduction of the Society's first Computerised list and the composing of the initial Society membership data base, an up to date call list can now be obtained at any time by a request to the current Call List manager, Sid, GM3SID who has been providing this service since its inception.

Also in 1966, after discussions between the R.N.A.R.S., the R.S.G.B. and the Post Office we saw the introduction of a new "Maritime Mobile" licence for use within the Royal Navy. This allowed crystal controlled transmissions, CW only in the 28 Mhz band. The licence fee was £6.00 per



year. These Licences were opened up to cover the 7 – 14 – 21 & 28 Mhz bands but were finally rescinded in 1970 by the Department of Naval Security on security grounds and have never been re-instated up to the present day.

Membership of the Society was opened up to members of the Royal Naval Fleet Auxiliary Service and the Merchant Navy in 1967 together with members of Commonwealth Navies with N.A.T.O. and Foreign naval personnel being invited to join as Associate members in 1968.

Once the “Iron Curtain” came down and the “Cold War” ceased to be, The Society was approached by various amateurs from the Eastern Bloc Countries requesting membership to the R.N.A.R.S. and after discussions between the Captain of the Signal School and the Department of Naval Security, it was decided to allow such amateurs, who were serving or ex-serving members of their own navies etc., to join as Associate Members .



Tom G3WAO, with Scouts and Girl Guides  
at Jamboree on the Air

Also in this year, the Society held its' first "Jamboree-on-the-Air" station in H.M.S.Mercury. This also became an annual event as did the Girl Guides "Thinking-Day-on-the-Air" and these events proved to be very popular with both the local Scouts and Guides and they also continued after the move to H.M.S. Collingwood.

The Hampshire County Award was introduced in 1969 and was managed by Don G2GM on the Isle-of-Wight.

Mick G3LIK became the third Chairman of the Society in 1969, relieving John G3ENI who was retiring from the Royal Navy, having filled the seat for eight years.



In 1972 H.M.S. Belfast was moved from Portsmouth Reserve Fleet to the Pool of London where she was moored close to the Tower Bridge and the H.M.S. Belfast Trust was formed with the aim of refurbishing the ship to the standard she had when she was originally decommissioned. To this end Chief Radio Supervisor "Wally" Walker G4DIU was seconded, at the request of the Trust, and given his own S156 (Stores requisition Book) and a three ton-flat bed Lorry, complete with driver, to collect and arrange delivery of as much of the original Radio fitment of the ship as could be begged, borrowed or otherwise obtained from the various Naval Dockyards and return stores.

At this time Wally suggested to the H.M.S. Belfast Trust that an Amateur Radio Station might be installed on board with the aim of publicising the ship to the World and to provide a point of interest to visitors to the ship when she was open to the public.

This would also, of course, enhance the standing of the R.N.A.R.S. and increase the number of visitors at the same time.

In 1973, Wally retired from the Royal Navy but kept in touch with the H.M.S. Belfast Trust and in 1975, as a part of the Diamond Jubilee of the R.S.G.B., an Amateur Radio Station, GB2RN, was set up on the Admiral's Bridge as the Bridge Wireless Office door was welded shut. This was when the Greenhouse Effect was first noticed, as those who were there will remember, it was a very hot Easter and the Admirals Bridge was in direct sunlight all through each day.

This activity was very well supported and afterwards the R.N.A.R.S. LONDON Group (H.M.S. BELFAST) was formed from Society members who lived locally, Don G3HZL became the first Chairman of this group and shortly afterwards the Amateur Radio Station was moved into the Bridge Wireless Office, now the permanent residence of GB2RN, and is open to all visitors whenever the ship is open to the public.

1978 saw H.M.S. Belfast become officially a "Museum Ship" under the guidance of the Imperial War Museum.

In 1976, after a lot of discussion, between Commander John Pegler G3ENI, Captain Barry Kent and Captain D. V. Morgan, both ex Captains of the Signal School the new Headquarters Station for the R.N.A.R.S., was officially opened by Captain Derek O'Reilly RN in the new Physical Training and Recreational block, a really luxurious accommodation after the privations of the Cottage and the "Nissen" Hut classrooms over the previous sixteen years.



## A Brief History of the RNARS

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**Captain D. O'Reilly RN cutting the tape at the official opening of the new shack watched by Doug G4BEQ and the late Mike G3JFF looking on.**

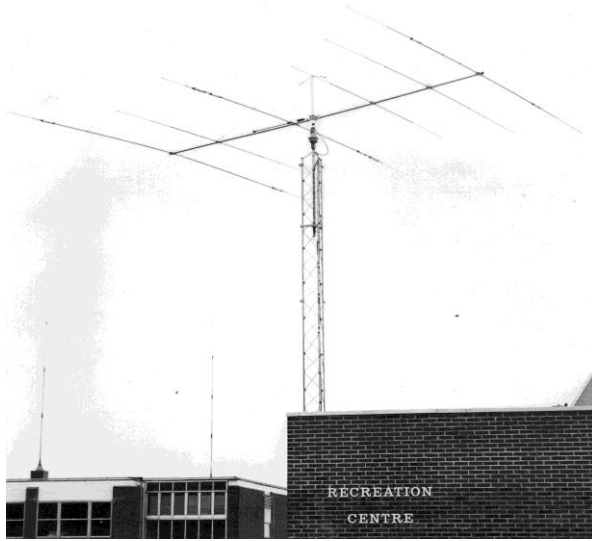


**RNARS Members at the Official opening of the New HQ Station**

**Doug G4BEQ - Ron G4CFU – George G8IX - John G3ENI  
Captain O'Reilly - Len G6NZ – Violet G4ESR – Don G3HZL  
Allison SWL - Len G3ZTK – Arthur G2CAJ – Mick G3LIK  
XYL of Peter VK6PK – Peter VK6PK - Mike G3JFF**



The Operating bays of the new R.N.A.R.S. Headquarters Station



The TH6DXX main beam Antenna on the 60ft Strumech mast.

The station was capable of three operating positions with bay one having a KW Viceroy with a KW 500 Linear Amplifier and Eddystone EA12 together with a Racal RA17 Receiver into a Trapped Dipole. Bay two was fitted out with a KW202 transmitter, a KW204 Receiver and a KW1000 Linear into a TH6DXX Beam on top of a 60ft Strumech mast. Bay three was used for Top Band operation into a long wire antenna. Also there was a Pye base Station for 4 Mtrs mostly on 70.26 Mhz into a beam or ground plane antenna and also an FT200 Transceiver for 2 Mtrs into Beam and/or a vertical antenna.

This year also saw the start of the H.M.S. Belfast Easter Activity week, which is now an annual event. In 1978 the Call-sign GB2RN was officially allocated to H.M.S. Belfast on a permanent basis. The H.M.S. Belfast Trust was disbanded and the ship was transferred to the ownership of the Imperial War Museum as an official Museum Ship which would be open to the public on a daily basis.

1979 saw the formation of the Australian Branch with Terry VK2ALG as Chairman and there would be separate sub-branches in each of the Australian states except for the Northern Territories and Tasmania. H.M.A.S. Vampire VK2CCV/VK2RAN, in Darling Harbour – Sydney – H.M.A.S. Castlemaine VK3RAN in Melbourne – H.M.A.S. Diamantina VK4RAN in Brisbane Maritime Museum were all ships and were added to the list of R.N.A.R.S. Museum ships together with H.M.C.S. Sackville VE1RCN in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada and U.S.S. Olympia in Philadelphia WA3BAT all on the list whilst Nigel ZL2TX holds the ZL2RN Call-sign for the Society.

In 1980 H.M.S. Collingwood Amateur Radio Club, G3CRS, was re-activated with Graham G8OWJ as its Chairman.

The R.N.A.R.S. celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup>, coming of age, Anniversary in 1981 with a formal Dinner in the Warrant Officers and Senior Ratings Mess at H.M.S. Mercury at which ten of the original Founder Members were able to attend.

Also in 1981, Chris Dodd VK6DV/VK6RAN founded the Western Australian branch of the RNARS with himself as Chairman.

In 1982, George Tagg G8IX RNARS 0001, our first Founder Member and Chairman became a Silent Key and his membership number was allocated to the Headquarters Station. Subscriptions were increased, for the first time, to £7.00p and H.M.S. Belfast was towed down to Portsmouth for a bottom scrape and complete repainting before being returned to the Pool of London and the R.N.A.R.S. News Letter changed its' format to the current A5, 64 page book form.

The Royal Naval World Wide award was introduced in 1983 and this was very widely sought after.

In 1985 the Society celebrated its' 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with another formal dinner, this time, held at the Royal Sailors Home Club in Portsmouth. 130 members attended and our Chairman, Ken Craddock-Hartopp G4PZR, introduced the Lord Mottistone and requested that he become our First Patron. Lord Mottistone was the Commander of H.M.S. Mercury, The right Honourable David Seeley RN at the Inauguration of the R.N.A.R.S. This was accepted and was welcomed by all present.

The next Major event on the R.N.A.R.S. calendar was the move to H.M.S. Collingwood in 1993, which was particularly sad. Moving from H.M.S. Mercury and leaving behind all of the very splendid facilities we had the use of to what was an uncertain future at that time. The Society has, however, built up a good working relationship with the new establishment and the Society goes from strength to strength.

The 30<sup>th</sup> July 1993 was a very special day which saw the climax of all the efforts of the local, Hampshire, members of the Society in preparing the new HQ building and it's opening by our new Patron, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore GCB DSC and the Presidency was handed over by Captain Paul Sutermeister to Captain V. F. Lucas, The Captain of H.M.S. Collingwood.

They met and talked with over 40 members, including the General Manager of the R.S.G.B., Peter Kirby, a former Radio Supervisor and

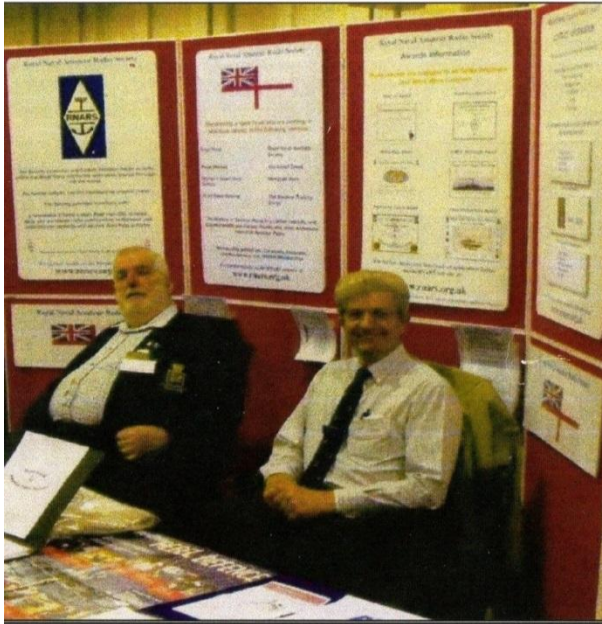
**Warrant Officer, then Lieutenant in the Royal Navy who had also served with Sir Edward in 1966.**

**This provided an opportunity to present the RSGB with the RNARS plaque, which used to hang in the Warrant Officers and Senior Rates mess in H.M.S. Mercury, where it will join those of the R.A.F.A.R.S. and R.S.A.R.S.**

**The Society, through the Area Representatives Scheme, attends many events and rallies throughout the Country each year providing a meeting point for those members who can't normally get to the Headquarters Station.**



**Keith G1GXB, Tony M1AFM, Mac G0RPK & Ernie G3UAZ**



Wally G4DIU and Dave G4JBE at last Leicester Rally..

The Society, also, on an annual basis, issues Merit Awards and Certificates to members who, in the eyes of the Committee, have provided outstanding Service in the various activities, to the Society. The major Merit Shield, depicting the crest of Hermes, the messenger of the gods, was donated to the Society by the late Reg Powis G3WNJ. Who served at one time under Admiral Jellico at the Battle of Jutland and was also an instructor to Admiral Mountbatten on his Long Communications Course.



**Doug G4BEQ & George G8IX**

**Our current and our first Chairmen**

**Chairmen of the RNARS**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>
1960 - 1961	George Tagg	G8IX
1962 - 1968	John Pegler	G3ENI
1969 - 1971	Mick Puttick	G3LIK
1972 - 1974	Ivan Davies	G3IZD
1974 - 1975	Dave Moxon	G4BLV
1975 - 1977	Doug Hotchkiss	G4BEQ
1977 - 1980	Tom Biddlecombe	G3WAO
1980 - 1982	Ian Anderson-Mochrie	G3VCM
1982 - 1985	Clive Kidd	G3YTQ
1985 - 1988	Ken Craddock-Hartopp	G4PZR
1988 - 1994	Tom Biddlecombe	G3WAO
1995 - 1997	Trevor Day	G3ZYY
1997 - 2000	Kerry Ambler	G8RWE
2000 - 2010	Mick Puttick	G3LIK
2010 - 2015	Doug Hotchkiss	G4BEQ





**The RNARS sponsor the following awards:-**



**1963 The Mercury Award**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 1963**

**The World-wide Award**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 1964**

**The Hampshire County Award**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 1969**

**The Kaleidoscope Award**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 1987**

**The International Naval Award**

**1<sup>st</sup> January 1990**

**The R.N.A.R.S. at H.M.S. Collingwood 1993.**

On moving from H.M.S. Mercury to H.M.S. Collingwood, the Society was housed in a Brick built, Single storey, accommodation alongside the Car Park/Parade Ground not far from the N.A.A.F.I. Shop and the main gate on Newgate Lane, the main road between Fareham, Gosport and Lee-on-the Solent, conveniently close to the Sports Field where we held our first Mobile Rally, which was organised by Clive G3ZYY, who was, at that time, serving in H.M.S. Collingwood. This turned out be a very well attended event but which in turn showed the problems with the traffic on the main road, a problem which didn't happen to such a great degree on the sports field at H.M.S. Mercury where the local village Policeman (Bob) was on hand every year to sort out the traffic.

At the request of the Hampshire Constabulary, this Rally was ceased due to the Traffic problems and the lack of Police facilities to man the main road gates and direct the traffic.





The new shack at H.M.S. Collingwood consisted of two main rooms of equal proportions together with a Kitchen, Workshop, Main entrance Hall and Toilets, so we were, theoretically, a self-contained unit. This was ideal as it meant that we also could have a Class-room/Conference room, but of course this situation did not last for long as this second room was repossessed by H.M.S. Collingwood for use by another department which also brought with it, the problem of interference between our radios and the BT Telephone system used by the other department and this took some time to correct. This problem was eventually sorted out and things started to look good again. We had hoped to use the other room for such events as J.O.T.A. and G.T.D.O.T.A. But instead these events were held in the Main HQ Shack.

In 2006 the Imperial War Museum designated H.M.S. Belfast as part of the National Historic Fleet, Core Collection, which from the R.N.A.R.S.'s point of view makes her the first UK Official Museum Ship in the Amateur Radio world.

In 2008 Doug G4BEQ joined the Committee again at the AGM and at the following Committee meeting he was elected to the Vice Chairmanship of the Society, whereupon he promptly undertook to organise the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which would take place in 2010.

2009 turned out to be a very busy year for Doug because not only was he responsible for arranging a special week-end event in Coventry where he introduced the 50<sup>th</sup> special award and Lapel Badge but he also was responsible for the new rules for Life Membership. This came about due to the fact that with the falling off of new members joining the Society, no new members would be able to claim Life Membership under the old rules, regardless of how many years they had been members. Doug was also responsible, together with the Editor, and with the blessing of the Committee, for the electronic version of the News Letter, and once this was up and running the lowering of the Annual Subscription could be put in place. Doug was also instrumental in the installation of Commodore Paul Sutermeister as our President.

Basically what had happened was that Mick G3LIK had nominated Paul for Honorary Life Membership, which the Committee of the day fully supported until it was pointed out to them that this was not permitted under the C & R's and that Paul should be invited to become President of the Society which he gladly accepted.

Seeing the firm hand which had now taken charge of the situation, most of the current Committee, decided to stand down, and only Joe G3ZDF, now our Secretary remained.

In 2010 Mick stood down from his position, due to ill health, and Doug took over as Chairman. At this time it was realised that the C & R's were now outdated and vague in certain sections, so Doug and Bill G3TZM undertook to amend and to rewrite them and submit them to the Committee, to be finalised at the next AGM.

Doug, our new Chairman, then took it upon himself to bring the Society into to 21<sup>st</sup> century. His first priority was to get the HQ Station on to Broadband and get video conferencing up and running and once this was



in place he could then recruit dedicated members from around the country to become Committee members who would then appear “live”, on Skype, in the shack at meetings. It was also necessary to convince the “powers that be” within H.M.S. Collingwood that we were an essential and useful part of the establishment.

This was achieved by showing how important our hobby is as a useful tool in the training of communications and by going “Digital” we could show that with the use of these methods we could communicate with the rest of the world just as easily as with our normal radio systems.

H.M.S. Collingwood Open Day was the establishments’ show piece and that we could make use of this important day to display our professionalism.

To achieve this we came up with ATV. We had heard that the local SCART group were about to lose their meeting place so we offered them the opportunity to use the HQ station providing they could provide all the equipment necessary to cover the open day events and stream them worldwide using the net. They took this challenge on and as a result the Commodore was greatly impressed, as were his senior Officers who visited the shack and our place in H.M.S. Collingwood was firmly established.

As a direct result of this all members of the SCART club are now members of the R.N.A.R.S. and the H.M.S. Collingwood Radio Club was reformed to act as an umbrella group for their activities.

Other important changes took place such as registering the shack as an R.S.G.B. Examination Centre, the introduction of a standard family membership fee, the introduction of a Sympathy Card which is administered by our Almaner ( A new Committee position) – the reorganisation of the shack operating bays and the establishment of a full record of all of the society equipments so that a six-monthly muster of all such equipments to prevent “Losses” occurring.

Doug also made it clear to the committee that there should be no increases in society subscriptions, ie., £5.00p for the electronic version and £15.00p for the printed version of the News Letter. The different amount is

due to the ever increasing costs of postage and printing of the printed edition.

The electronic version of the News Letter was now up and running and this, in turn, stopped the members considering leaving the Society due to the rising costs from leaving the RNARS.

In 2012 a second week-end at Coventry was arranged to honour the Queen's Jubilee as well as establishing links with the RAFARS and RSARS when all three Chairmen met at the RSARS HQ to discuss the various problems each of us were finding and laying the foundation for a joint service amateur radio club, should the day ever arrive when all of our memberships dropped to an unsustainable level.

Mick G3LIK was made an Honorary Vice President in recognition of all his service to the RNARS.

In 2014 a 50 years Continuous Service Certificate in the RNARS was produced and would be issued, together with a special anniversary blazer badge, to those members who applied to the Secretary for them. The main qualification was that an applicant must have completed an unbroken 50 years of service in the RNARS.

Another certificate was introduced, known as the "A" Certificate of Appreciation, the purpose of this award was to thank people who had provided some outstanding one-off service or assistance to the society which did not warrant the Certificate of Merit.

The certificate of morse proficiency was re-introduced for those who could read CW at speeds ranging from 5 to 30 words per minute of text for 3 minutes.

Also in this year the RNARS were approached by ICOM asking if we could assist in their quest to establish in the world-wide spread of "D Star".

They were particularly interested in the setting up of a 2mtr repeater covering a large area of the South Coast. They were prepared to donate

some of the equipment to set this up. This has now been completed and is up and running.

The Society is looking towards the future in which it is hoped will continue to progress and prosper.

This publication will be up-dated as and when further information becomes available.