



## HMS Penelope Association

38th A.G.M.

Saturday 15th February 2025

Held at the Best Western Carlton Hotel, Blackpool.

09:33 hrs. The meeting was opened by our President Commodore Peter Sutermeister DL RN who welcomed the attendees.

Apologies read out.

Roll of Honor was read out for those who had crossed the bar in the last 12 months, and we held a minute's silence.

Mike Bee gave a special mention to Leo Whisstock for his brilliant effort in gathering an amazing amount of mourners for Bob Smith's funeral.

Minutes of the 37th AGM were approved.

**Secretary's report** - This is my first year as Secretary, having been elected at the last reunion in 2024. I have been slowly finding my way in the role and looking forward to a successful weekend reunion. The numbers this year matched last year. There were a few minor issues with the new hotel last year but having liaised with the management throughout the year, what I can tell you is that they are keen to please and I have been assured that the general manager will be available throughout the weekend, should the need arise. I'd like to thank Shipmate Harry Harrison for organising a successful presence at the Remembrance Service in Whitehall in November where 10 members of the Association marched. There was even a cheeky photograph taken with Sophie Raworth with some of the lads. On a personal level, I would like to extend my thanks to my fellow Committee and Association members for their advice and support throughout the year.

**Treasurer's report** - Financial expenditure in terms of income has slightly improved over the past year due to the increase in membership fees & a good year on the slops.

Financial expenditure in terms of outgoings has decreased due to us tightening our belts on reunion costs & adjusted charity donations as agreed at the last AGM.

Note: Current slops holding to the value of £207.50.

The year end balance on the account was £3722.20; £425.86 lower than the end of the previous year.

With the increase in subs from £5 to £10 being fully realised this year & the continuation of new members I'm hoping that the gradual decline in society funds will lessen over the years.

Lloyds bank, as of the 14/01/2025, has moved our account to a new 'Community Account', with this comes a monthly fee of £4.25/month (£51/year) + additional charges for depositing/using cheques, please can I request that all subs/payments are now made electronically where practical to limit these additional costs. FYI - we receive 100 free electronic transactions/month.

**Membership secretary's report** - Good morning everyone, for those of you who don't know me my name is Ann-Louise and my husband, Robie, served on HMS Penelope during the Falklands war.

Since the last AGM I have kept the membership list updated, welcomed around 10 new members and 78 returning members.

As of 6th February, there are 131 members on the list, 88 paid, 10 Lifetime members and 31 who haven't renewed their membership, yet, but will be removed from the active list at the end of February.

We received 8 donations via sub this year, thank you to all those members. If you are paying more to be used as a donation, please let me or the treasurer know so the books can be balanced.

I have asked people to set up their subs as a standing order in January or February, so I don't have to chase late payers. I send out an email in around November/December to remind everyone that subs are due in January. I then send out a reminder in January/February to those still not paid.

When new members have joined in the second half of the year, I have given them an extended membership but asked them to set up payment from January or February 18 months later.

Please remember to let me know of any changes to address, email or phone number.

The Shadow is sent out 3 times a year only to those members who have paid, if you haven't been receiving it please let me or Lewie know.

If you want to join or pay your membership in cash, you can do after the meeting.

Lastly, I have the Penelope brooches available to anyone who wishes to borrow one for this evening. Please see me afterwards to sign for it.

**Election of officers for 2025-26** - Committee all re-elected.

|                      |                              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| President            | Cdre Paul Sutermeister DL RN |
| Treasurer            | Mark Pellow                  |
| Secretary            | John Swaysland               |
| Membership Secretary | Ann-Louise Robson            |

**Donations** - Sea Cadets - £160. Fee of £40 for the organist.  
The Seafarers Charity (formerly KGFS) - £50. Sea Cadets (Harry Pugh award) - £390. Blind Veterans (formerly St Dunstan's) - £50. RNBT - £50. Highfurlong School - £100. Blackpool RNLI – To Continue paying for deceased members to have their name put on a lifeboat in lieu of a separate donation.

**Date for next AGM** - Saturday 14th February 2026.

**Dates and Location for the next reunion** - Friday 13th -Sunday 15th February 2026 at the Best Western, Carlton Hotel, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 2EZ.

**Any other business -**

Mary Maple thanked everybody for their support and name being put on a lifeboat for Chris Maple.

Paul Harrison asked if flowers for the Mayoress, President's wife and top table centerpiece were needed as they are not cheap.

Paul Sutermeister said the flowers were expensive.

Ann-Louise Robson said they were good value.

Rev'd Simon Cox, is it protocol and good value.

Trevor Gaught, If the Gala Dinner is a black tie event, needs to be marked.

Motion put to a vote and carried unanimously to continue with the flowers.

**Proposal** - Whether to discontinue buying flowers for the Mayoress/Presidents wife/Centerpiece. Voted unanimously to continue.

Ann-Lousie and Andrew Robson will arrange a date with the Sea Cadets to present the Harry Pugh Award to the Cadet of the year as she was unable to attend when we visited the Cadets on Friday 14th February.

Meeting closed at 10.26 hrs.