



**Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Club**  
**Liverpool**

**THE SEA URCHINS**

***100TH ANNUAL DINNER***

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2021

HMS EAGLET

# Welcome

From our Patron, Captain Patrick Walker CBE Royal Navy

It is unfortunate that the Centenary Year of the Sea Urchins should have coincided with a global pandemic. However, thanks to the determination and sterling efforts of the current President and his fellow committee members, an impressive and fitting range of commemorative events have been staged, culminating in tonight's Dinner.

I am very disappointed that I am unable to be part of this occasion, almost certainly the highlight of the year's celebrations, but I wish you all a most enjoyable and convivial evening. From the other side of the Pennines, I shall be raising a glass of the Club's Centenary Gin to all Sea Urchins, past and present.

**Patrick Walker**

## *Acknowledgements*

The Club is grateful to the Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO) who have generously sponsored the Port.

Students from Hugh Baird College under the guidance of Victoria Lyon, Study Programme Coordinator and Stephen Otty, Curriculum Manager provided the floral display and excellent Centenary cake.

[www.rnofficersclubliverpool.org](http://www.rnofficersclubliverpool.org)

# Guests

**Commodore Phil Waterhouse ADC Royal Navy**  
*Naval Regional Commander*  
*Northern England and the Isle of Man*

**Captain Ian McNaught CVO MNM**  
*Deputy Master, Trinity House*

**Lieutenant Colonel Angus Precious Royal Marines**  
*Commanding Officer,*  
*Royal Marines Reserve, Merseyside*

**Lieutenant Commander Graham Oliver Royal Navy**  
*Executive Officer, HMS EAGLET*

## **Wine**

**Oyster Bay Pinot Gris 2020**

Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

**Palacio de Primavera Tinto 2019 Rioja**

Alfaro, Northern Spain

**Taylor's Late Bottled Vintage Port 2016**

## **Menu**

Goat's Cheese, Parma Ham and Fig  
with Honey

Grilled Salmon  
with a Champagne Sauce

Roast Sirloin of Beef  
En Schallot Sauce with Red Wine

Selection of Roast Vegetables  
with Gratinee and Baby Roast Potatoes

Rum and Raisin Cheesecake  
with Fruit Compote

Centenary Cake

Coffee or Tea  
with Sea Urchin Chocolate Neapolitans

## Toasts

Grace  
*and after the meal*

### Return Thanks

Both by The Reverend John Williams MBE QHC RNR

### Loyal Toast “The Queen”

Response : “The Queen, Duke of Lancaster”

Proposed by the Vice President

Lieutenant Commander Frank Hogan RD RNR

*The Loyal Toast will be followed by the ceremonial cutting of the Centenary cake and a short break*

### The President

Lieutenant Commander John Glover RD RNR

### TOAST

“The Royal Navy and the Royal Naval Reserve”

Captain Ian McNaught CVO MNM

### TOAST

“The Merchant Navy”

Commodore Phil Waterhouse ADC RN

### TOAST

“The Sea Urchins and another 100 Years”

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CLUB

The Club was formed in 1921 as the “Sea Urchins Lunch Club” and the logo from the 1923 Rule Book had a Trident above the Urchin rather than the Naval Crown we have today.



It was not until 1923 that the name was changed to the “Royal Naval Reserve Officers’ Lunch Club” and then shortly after the word “Lunch” was deleted.

So, why a Sea Urchin and “Hold Fast”? The same question was asked by the Liverpool Journal of Commerce and Shipping and the now definitive answer is:

*...the fact that the sea urchin, are a specie of shellfish, which fastens itself to the rock when it is impossible to release it. The organisers of the club, therefore, chose this title having in mind the grit and determination shown by all RNR Officers in times of emergency and peril.*

By early 1926, the Club membership stood at over 300, such was the popularity of the regular weekly lunch meetings and annual dinners.

The Club has prospered over the years, but whilst not having the membership numbers today, the purpose of the Club as stated in 1921 has not changed and is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago:

*to maintain and foster social intercourse amongst Royal Naval Reserve Officers, sea-going or otherwise, and to give the opportunity to discuss matters of service and general interest and to meet periodically at lunch or otherwise, at a place selected by the Committee.*

The Members continue to put the world to rights, to “swing the lamp” and contribute to the Wardroom Mess bar profits!

***Here’s to the next One Hundred Years!***

