

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

By John Rodgaard, US Navy (Retd)
Chairman, The 1805 Club

I hope all of you and your families have found yourselves returning to some semblance of routine; taking time for a holiday, enjoying the company of family and friends.

Now autumn is upon us in the northern hemisphere, and for our members south of the equator, spring has arrived. It is a time of change; more so than just the change in the seasons.

I am sure you will agree that change in our lives came rather suddenly when we heard the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. To me, and I am sure to all of you, she was always there; a steady presence for us. I know you feel as I do, that the Queen was a monarch to whom all of us felt a sense of connection. For some of us, the connection was more personal. But, I think we can agree that she defined an era of constant and tumultuous change with dignity and grace through the power of her example. We thank you Ma'am.



As a Club, we experienced another sad and unexpected change with the loss one of our stalwart members, Randy Mafit. You will see in the tribute to him what a change he made in The Club. On a personal note, it was Randy who encouraged me to become more active in The Club, by succeeding him as the North American Secretary. Thank you Randy. We have the watch.



As for a happy change, your Club held its first in-person AGM since Covid at the Army and Navy Club (The Rag) in London. I am pleased to report it was a success, and this had a great deal to do with the assembled membership's approval of the changes in how The Club will operate in the coming years. I am most appreciative for leadership shown by our Council members who laid out to the membership how The Club will proceed; hearty BZ to you Geraint Day, Stephen Howarth, Nicholas Ridge, Josephine Birtwhistle and Kathy Brown. I say this, because your chairman and his wife, fellow member Judy Pearson, both had tested positive with Covid the day before. While the AGM went along smoothly, we were sequestered two floors above, in our room.

The AGM event has kicked off a very active series of Club events for 2022/2023 — a positive change indeed. Do check out the Events Diary in this issue.

Another happy change can be seen in our Membership Secretary, Dr Sue Carr's, report. It is indeed gratifying to see so many new members. Her report is complemented by our editor's section showcasing our new members. I think you will agree with me that our new members comprise a distinguished and diverse group. The Club can say it is truly international in its appeal.

Yes, change is inevitable; the only thing that we can say is a constant in our lives. However, I think one can say, after reading through this issue of the *Kedge Anchor*, the quality of this periodical has remained consistently world class. BZ Peter Turner!

With us heading towards the end of 2022, I wish all good health, happiness and success in your endeavours.

Yours aye,

 