

THE VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Captain John Rodgaard, USN (Ret)
Chairman, The 1805 Club

Greetings from Bermuda!

It has been a memorable weekend here in St George's, Bermuda. On Saturday 28 February, I represented The 1805 Club at the annual Midshipman Richard Sutherland Dale, USN Commemoration, which was held at his graveside in St Peter's Church graveyard. The ceremony was led by the Governor of Bermuda, Andrew Murdoch (who represented King Charles III) and Ms. Antoinette Hurtado, the Consulate General of the United States, who represented the citizens of the United States.

During the ceremony commemorating Midshipman Dale, Reverend Thomas Nisbett, rector of St Peter's Church remarked, that in a small way, the loving care Bermudians extended to an 'enemy' helped to pave the way toward reconciling the enmity that had existed between Great Britain and the United States.

Earlier that day, I met with the President of the St George's Historical Society, Ms Lyn Llewellyn, to receive the society's approval of the design of an information board, commemorating the battle between the frigates USS *President* and HMS *Endymion* and the death of Midshipman Dale. We agreed to work toward holding the unveiling ceremony of the information board during Bermuda's Remembrance Weekend this coming November.

Speaking of events, do review the enclosed events diary for this year. It will give you an idea as to what is planned so far. I direct you to our AGM, which will be held at the Army and Navy Club (The Rag) in London, on Saturday 9 May. I hope to see many of you there, especially our newest members. See the new members section in this edition, and I



think you will agree, they are extremely accomplished individuals and that they share a fondness, in all its facets, for the Georgian era sailing world.

By the time you receive this edition of *The Kedge Anchor*, a good bit of 2026 will be behind us. These first few months have been busy ones for The 1805 Club, which has been marked by change and transition. This edition of *The Kedge Anchor* is one. The Club's leadership decided this year's editions

will have more pages and will come out in April and September, while the other jewel in the Club's crown, *The Trafalgar Chronicle*, will be out for delivery beginning on Trafalgar Day. This staggered distribution of our publications will definitely add to shipping costs, but to offset these increases, the leadership has decided to reserve the back cover of *The Kedge Anchor* for advertising.

With regard to *The Trafalgar Chronicle*, you will be pleased to know that the number of articles in this year's edition is the most ever. I think this must be the response to this year's theme — the role of navies in the age of revolution.

The Club's social media manager, Shirin Camenisch, has reported the Club's FaceBook is getting good engagement on both the public pages and the Members' only Forum. The forum now has over 100 participants and that is a quarter of all members. I would encourage you to look into both pages, as they will provide additional items and news relevant to the Club's area of interest. Digitally speaking our FaceBook pages will complement the bi-monthly *1805 Dispatches*.

These last few months of 2026 has also witnessed change and transition to the Club's website. www.1805club.org. The Club's webmaster, Josephine Birtwhistle, reported that

Capture of USS *President* and the Death of Midshipman Dale, USN

The US Frigate *President* sailed out of New York Harbour on 13, January 1815 but was intercepted by a Royal Navy squadron, comprising the frigates HMS *Majestic*, *Pomone*, *Tenedos* and *Endymion* on the following day. Being the fastest ship of the squadron, *Endymion* brought *President* to action. Damaged by the action, *President* surrendered to the British squadron.

During the action, Midshipman Richard Dale, USN was badly wounded, losing his right leg. With *President* taken to St. George's as a prize, Dale was taken to Stennett's Hotel, now the Butterfield Bank in King's Square. He died there on 22, February 1815.

Dale was buried in St. Peter's Church Yard. On the last Saturday in February, a wreath laying ceremony is held at his grave, to commemorate him and the continued warm relationship between Bermuda, the United Kingdom and the United States.



The 1805 Club – Virtual Museum

A museum without walls · A collection without borders · A memory shared worldwide



The 1805 Club Collections

Books, publications and archival material owned by The 1805 Club (or items donated by The Club to museums or other heritage institutions)



Virtual Exhibitions

Curated online exhibitions (Thematic exhibitions on specific subjects relating to Georgian-era navies, using curated links to online museum collections to avoid any copyright issues.)



World Map of Memory

An interactive map of memorial plaques installed worldwide, commemorating battles and individuals associated with the navies of the Georgian era.

our members now have an option to auto-renew the annual memberships through direct debit.

From a content perspective the website will be changing. Fellow Trustee, Natacha Abriat, has begun work to create a 'virtual' museum that will be found on the website.

Finally, there will be a change in your Club's leadership. Per the Club's Constitution, Trustees have a three year tenure and my three years are up at the conclusion of this year's AGM. We, the trustees, are still in the process of transitioning my responsibilities. Although I will no longer be one of

the trustees, I still anticipate remaining engaged in the Club's operations. More on the transition will be announced during the AGM.

With that, I'll see you around the waterfront.



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the redesigned *Kedge Anchor*. Only slight changes have been made, based on the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!". But some modification was necessary to reduce the cramming.

This time we have twenty more pages, to celebrate my having been Editor for a dozen editions [at no extra cost to the Club, as the extra pages have been sponsored by an anonymous donor. Kind words and compliments to the Editor will not reveal the name, but please do not let that stop you.]. Even with things less crowded, we hoped you will find more to



enjoy. In future we intend to continue to have eight extra pages to give us more flexibility to experiment with items and styles that may have been impossible previously.

The first 'experiment' is a previously unpublished spoof article written a decade ago, for *The Trafalgar Chronicle*, but deemed too spoof, so rejected – 'Farmer Nelson' (p35), which we now have room for. Readers with a sore funny bone can skip those pages.



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Please submit your ideas to the Editor as soon as you can, and actual contributions **before** the copy deadline whenever possible.

Front cover picture:

Marek Ruzyk Art @thegallerist.art
Marek Ruzyk (1965) is a Polish artist who creates marine paintings, using oil on canvas technique, often against the backdrop of a dramatic sky - he continues the tradition of marine art from the Romantic Era.