

OVERVIEW

By Chairman Peter Turner

You will find yourself no more astonished than I am, when I greet you here as the new Chairman of The 1805 Club.

Since the 2026 Annual General Meeting the Club has been attempting to operate with ten Trustees (we are allowed twelve under the Club constitution) and without a Chairman. This is a position that has to be occupied by a Trustee. It has not been working as we had hoped, so, at the most recent meeting of the Board of Trustees, I insisted that we must have a Chairman elected at that meeting, as we could not constantly be 'kicking this can down the street'. It became a lesson well known to all sensible people, but clearly not well enough known to me, that if you stick your head above the parapet, you are likely to find that it stings.

The Board of Trustees thought it best not to immediately replace a US citizen as Chairman with another US citizen – this is an English and Welsh charity, after all. The Board also wanted to avoid a Trustee who would have to stop being one at the next AGM, and would rather avoid a Trustee still in full-time employment, or too busy with other life demands to make the commitment. The choice was therefore limited to just one eligible candidate, who was consequently nominated and elected.

Me.

Many members already know me, and many more members do not, so a brief biography may prove of interest, if it does not cause dismay.

I am not what would usually be called 'Chairman Material', coming, as I do, from relatively humble beginnings, with a background in electrical engineering. I ended working life as a freelance consulting engineer specialising in the design of lighting installations, with a side line designing lifts and escalators. My working life certainly had many 'ups and downs'!

Upon retirement I fulfilled my childhood dream of becoming a cartoonist and my cartoon strip, *AB & OS*, was published in *WARSHIPS International Fleet Review* for a time. This resulted, indirectly, in it being suggested that I join The 1805 Club. Upon joining, Peter Hore, who had already become a fan, asked if *AB & OS* could appear in *The Kedge Anchor (KA)*, where Ken Flemming, the then Editor, encouraged me to evolve the cartoon strip from a simple black and white strip to larger and full colour, preferably relevant to an article in *KA*.

When Ken felt he could no longer be Editor of *KA*, I 'volunteered' to try to replace him (in actual fact, Peter Hore shoved me in the back, and everyone else smartly stepped backwards). It was a shock and a challenge to do something new to me, and my actual takeover had to be deferred until the imminent death of my wife. I was handed the keys in 2019, my first edition (which was not very good) appearing in the spring of 2020, just as the COVID pandemic struck. Editoring is an isolated operation, so the pandemic did not affect

production, and *KA* started to evolve into what it is today.

After a while, being editor of *KA* involved me increasingly in the work of the Club Council, as it was called then before the Club became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), and eventually I was asked to become a Trustee of the Club. A second shock, that I did not see coming. And now the biggest shock of all has thrust me into the Chairman's chair.

I must make it clear that I cannot fulfil this role in the same way as it has been done in recent years, and especially by my immediate predecessor, Captain John Rodgaard, who has promised to continue his current role as Senior Advisor to the Board of Trustees – and to me in particular – with the same enthusiasm and commitment, in his usual style. And he will be ably supported by my friend, his wife Dr Judy Pearson. At the same meeting it was agreed that we must also have a Vice-Chairman, and Jack Satterfield was duly elected. See page 3, (opposite) for more about Jack.

The Chairman's role must be held by a Trustee, as mentioned earlier, and Trustees may only serve as such for three years, so it is inevitable that the Chairman's style will frequently change. This Overview is the start of the change to my style. Those who know me, and especially regular readers of *KA*, are already aware that I treat our subject seriously, but never sombrely. I believe we can enjoy our interests without allowing them to smother us, and certainly without letting them become an obsession that affects our lives outside the Club. So, please, if any of you detect traces of pomposity in me, that I may have missed, do not hesitate to pop my bubble.

Now, to business: the fact that I have been elected Chairman demonstrates that The 1805 Club is in need of more high calibre Trustees who will be willing and active in running the Club. We have ten Trustees, but four of these will have to stand down at the 2027 AGM, resulting in the immediate aim for up to six, yes **SIX**, new Trustees to be elected at that AGM.

And finally, some good news. The Society of Nautical Research has recently elected a new Chairman, Professor Claire Jowitt. Claire and I are known to each other, and I plan to make contact soon, with her and SNR Secretary Mark Barton (also a member of this Club) to see how we may extend our already growing cooperation. Similarly, I hope to link up with The Nelson Society, to seek friendly cooperation, as many of our members are also theirs. I am conscious of the fact that the interests of our three organisations only partially overlap, and this is good, as we can each do things the others cannot do, or choose not to do, to our mutual benefits.

I hope to see you soon.

The 'R' in the signature
is for the silent Ronald.
Please respect the silent.

