

REPORT OF THE NRS COUNCIL - JULY 2023

The Position of Patron

Following the death of our Patron, HRH the late Duke of Edinburgh, members endorsed Council's wish to maintain the Society's continuous connection with the Royal Family. Our President has remained in contact with the Royal Household. Since the death of the Queen, we understand roles are being reallocated and we await further developments.

In Memoriam

Council members were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Mr Robin Brodhurst, previously a member of Council and Honorary Secretary for 12 years until 2018. Professor Roger Knight presented a eulogy on behalf of the Society at Robin's Memorial Service. The Society is happy to report that it has recovered Robin's research in preparation for the remaining two volumes of the Anglo-American co-operation series he had been working on with Michael Simpson.

Meeting Arrangements

The NRS Council is again delighted to be able to welcome members to a physical meeting. Following the success of our hybrid event in 2022 and due to the increasing, welcome geographical spread of our membership the 2023 AGM will repeat last year's format. We are very grateful to Dr Virginia Preston who will host us at King's College London. We are aware there were some technical issues last year, which we hope to have resolved and we welcome any feedback or suggestions for improvement members may have.

Society Overview

The Society has had another successful year in very difficult economic circumstances. The decision in 2022 to amend subscription rates with effect from renewals in 2023 appears timely although the full effect will not be felt until next year. Accordingly, achieving financial break-even in 2023 is unlikely to be possible due to widespread, significant and unavoidable cost increases. Membership numbers remain stable at about 800. The Website continues to expand, with both the Online Magazine and the Members' Blog proving very popular. Members are always encouraged to contribute.

Highlights in the Year

This year's Volume (No 170), Professor John Beeler's third instalment of the Milne Papers: *The Royal Navy and the American Civil War, 1862-1864*, should have been distributed by the time of the meeting.

Full members continue to have unlimited online access to PDF versions of all regular NRS Volumes published to date. We are still hoping to digitize the two Occasional Publications. A major project to improve the searchability of our volume indexes received external funding from the Philip Nicholas Charitable Trust, for which we are very grateful. This challenging task is being led by Nicholas Blake who is available to brief and advise suitably qualified volunteers. About 150 volume indexes remain to be reviewed.

The pipeline of future Volumes remains very healthy. The 2024 slot has been allocated to Dr Jeremy Stocker's *Planning the Post War Fleet, 1944-1950*, which will be the first NRS Volume to deal with a post-WWII topic. Several prospective authors are in discussion with the General Editor about a range of projects. They include: established authors looking to publish further volumes in series that have already started; new projects being suggested by authors already well-known to us; and authors we will be dealing with for the first time to whom appropriate guidance will continue to be offered.

Future Publishing Arrangements

The Society's agreement with Taylor & Francis (T&F), our publisher since 2016, formally expired in May. Council has appointed Boydell & Brewer (B&B) as our future publisher. T&F will publish the 2023 Volume and B&B will publish the 2024 and subsequent Volumes. Ongoing discussions with B&B concern issues such as distribution arrangements, book binding, metadata to facilitate volume identification, and the availability of Print on Demand and e-books. Members should note that in order to receive a hard copy volume, they MUST provide a valid e-mail address and destination phone number.

We feel the business model operated by B&B will be more appropriate to the needs of the Society and more flexible. We expect the cost of the annual volume with B&B to be consistent with that incurred through T&F. However, we are aware print and distribution costs are likely to continue to increase.

Changes to Council Membership

Appointments to Council are for four years so there is some rotation of membership at each AGM. The following proposals are commended to members for their approval.

This year, Nick Black stands down as Senior Vice-President and will rejoin Council. Nick has played a key role in developing the relationship with B&B and overseeing the changes to member subscriptions. He will be replaced by Dr Virginia Preston as Senior and Dr Philippa Hellowell as Vice-President. When she returns from maternity leave, Philippa will also assume the role of Chair of the Finance Committee from Virginia.

Professor Nicholas Rodger together with Dr Alan James and Captain Kevin Rowlands have reached the end of their current terms as Council members. However, Nicholas has volunteered to stay on as a member of Publications Committee, chaired by Richard Harding, and Kevin has agreed to start a new four-year term *ex officio* as Head of the RN Strategic Studies Centre.

Council colleagues wish to express their appreciation to all these individuals. The changes provide an opportunity to welcome Bruno Pappalardo from the National Archives at Kew, Benjamin Redding from the University of East Anglia and Matthew Heaslip from the University of Portsmouth.

Council members and NRS Officers are always happy to deal with any queries any member may have.

Navy Records Society
Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Accumulated fund</u>		
Balance at 31st December 2021	112,843	97,953
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(1,721)</u>	<u>14,890</u>
Balance at 31st December 2022	<u>£ 111,122</u>	<u>£ 112,843</u>

Represented by:

Assets

Bank balances

Barclays Bank	- Community account	11,430	14,997
	- High Interest account	28,171	22,179
Coutts	- Income account	<u>100</u>	<u>33</u>
		<u>39,701</u>	<u>37,209</u>

Fixed Asset Investments	- at value	71,421	75,634
		<u>£ 111,122</u>	<u>£ 112,843</u>

Notes to the accounts
for the year ended 31st December 2022

1. **Accounting policies**

The principal accounting policies which are adopted in the preparation of the Society's accounts are as follows:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Applicable Accounting Standards.

The investments have been included in the accounts at market value in accordance with The Charities Act 2011.

2. **Statement of Society's responsibilities**

The Society's rules require accounts to be prepared which give a true and fair view of its state of affairs at 31st December 2022 and of its receipts and payments for the year then ended. These statements are required to be examined by an independent examiner and copies made available to members.

The Society is responsible also for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Society and for safeguarding its assets.

Approved by the Council on:

President

Treasurer

Navy Records Society
Receipts and Payments Account including Unrealised Gains and Losses for the
Year ended 31st December 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Subscriptions	11,325	13,390
Paypal subscriptions - full	7,320	6,200
Paypal subscriptions - student	1,725	2,475
Paypal subscriptions - online	-	-
Stripe subscriptions	11,240	10,920
Gift aid	2,928	2,682
Sales	452	480
Donations	233	3,046
Postage received	-	-
Dividends and interest	3,867	3,307
Royalties	440	332
	<u>£ 39,530</u>	<u>£ 42,832</u>
<u>Payments</u>		
General editor's costs	5,400	5,400
Upkeep of membership records and administration fee	3,980	3,660
Printing, publishing, distribution and editorial expenses	13,179	10,164
Online editor	5,892	5,892
The Burlington Partnership	5,400	5,400
One off publication costs	-	3,244
Sundry expenses	3,187	3,107
	<u>£ 37,038</u>	<u>£ 36,867</u>
<u>Recognised Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</u>	<u>£ 2,492</u>	<u>£ 5,965</u>
<u>Unrecognised gains for the year</u>		
Gain/(loss) on change in market value on investments	(4,213)	8,925
<u>Total recognised and unrecognised surplus/(deficit) for the year</u>	<u>£ (1,721)</u>	<u>£ 14,890</u>

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the
Navy Records Society**

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on the pages attached.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the club's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's unqualified statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

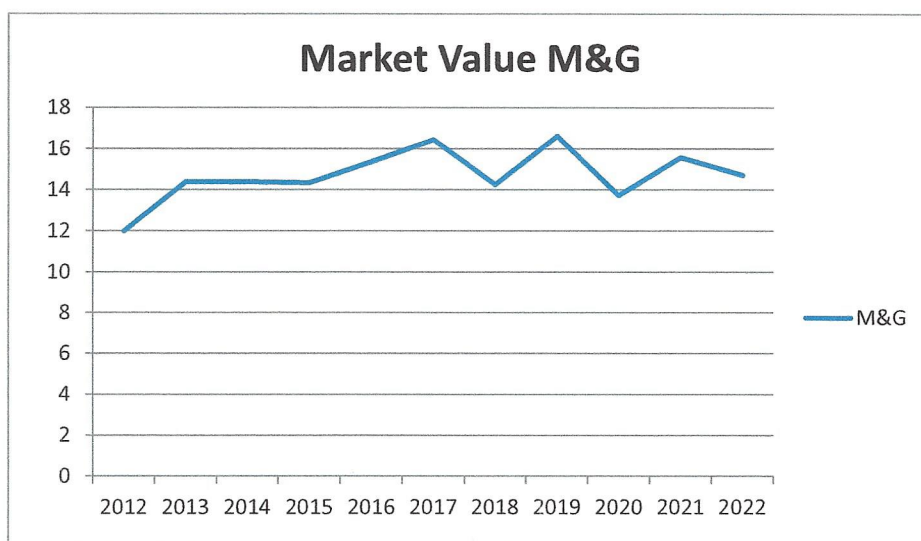
- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Name: M Robinson FCA
Relevant professional qualification or body: Chartered Accountant
Address: 223 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8LB
Date: 20/2/23

Navy Records Society
Statement of Investments at 31st December 2022

	Cost at 31.12.2022	Market value at 31.12.2022	Market value at 31.12.2021
4,860.176 M & G Charifund Income Units	6,491	71,421	75,634
	<u>£ 6,491</u>	<u>£ 71,421</u>	<u>£ 75,634</u>



Navy Records Society
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Approved by the Council on:

President

ADRIAN JOHNS

Adrian
20 Jul 23

Treasurer

PHILIP NORTHCOTT

Philip Northcott

20/07/2023