



## **2025 - The Year in Review**

This year has been defined by connection. Across the Royal Navy community, we have welcomed beneficiaries, families, units and partner charities to the China Fleet Country Club—strengthening relationships, listening to needs, and ensuring our support remains relevant for those who serve and have served. Our charitable purpose is clear: to provide leisure and recreational facilities for officers, ratings, reserves, Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel and their families, meeting the public benefit requirement through promotion of the efficiency of the Armed Forces of the Crown.

As you browse the photographs that follow, you will see the breadth of those engagements: routine visits from command teams and beneficiary facing organisations; moments of respite for families; and collaborative sessions with our charity partners—each one a reminder that the Trust is at its best when the community is here, in person, shaping what we do.

We have continued to honour our formal affiliations with HMS TAMAR and 47 Commando (Raiding Group) Royal Marines—relationships that keep us closely aligned to frontline needs and enable tailored support for personnel and families. In the same spirit of service and determination, we were proud to champion the submariners of HMS Oardacious, whose 'Valkyries' team made Royal Navy history and inspired our community throughout the year.

## January 2025

Once more it has been a privilege to follow the progress of HMS Oardacious over the Christmas period as the 'Valkyries' became the first all-female RN crew to row the Atlantic, completing the endurance race in an impressive 46 days.

HMS Oardacious Complete the World's Toughest Row



January opened with a strong beneficiary focus. The Royal Navy Charity Forum convened to coordinate support for the forthcoming Highmast Carrier Strike Group deployment scheduled for April. At the same time, our commitment to HMS TAMAR remained front and centre, with the Affiliation Support Group meeting to ensure continuity of engagement.

Community connections continued at pace, with both Devon and Cornwall Armed Forces Covenant Boards meeting during the month, reinforcing our collaborative approach across the region.

Operationally, January was a busy period of preparation for the installation of our 600kWp ground-mounted solar system, a significant step towards sustainability. Alongside this, administrative work progressed in support of HMRC's VAT inspection, ensuring compliance and transparency.

Finally, governance remained a priority with the 108th meeting of the Beneficiary Committee (BenCom) taking place, reaffirming our commitment to robust oversight and beneficiary-led decision-making.



600kWp System Installation Preparation  
Fortunately this was our neighbour's land and not the golf course!



Solar Frames Installation

## February 2025

February began with an extraordinary meeting of Trustees, setting the tone for a month of strategic focus and engagement. Highmast support meetings continued as preparations for the Carrier Strike Group deployment advanced.

The month featured a series of high-profile visits, including CTCRM, RNAS Culdrose, and Commodore Tris Kirkwood, Naval Regional Commander Wales and West England. We also welcomed Hugo Mitchel-Heggs of HMS Oardacious, whose presence underscored our commitment to supporting Royal Navy initiatives, and hosted the Sailors' Children's Society, reinforcing our charitable partnerships.

Community outreach remained strong with a visit from the Four Greens Community Trust, focused on veteran support, and the CTCRM PT course, highlighting our role in promoting wellbeing and resilience.

Looking ahead, planning work began for the Royal Navy Gaming event scheduled for May 2026, an innovative engagement opportunity for serving personnel and families. Meanwhile, progress continued on the Strategic Plan review, ensuring our long-term objectives remain aligned with beneficiary needs and organisational priorities.



Visit of Cdre Tris Kirkwood – NRC WWE



Visit of CODC

## March 2025

March was a month of strategic progress and high-profile engagement. We welcomed the first Commanding Officers' Designate Course (CODC) visit of the year, reinforcing our commitment to leadership development and beneficiary awareness.

On the organisational front, Strategic Finance work continued, including an investigation into the feasibility and need for a Chief Financial Officer (CFO) role. Our fundraising initiative gained momentum, with a dedicated brainstorming session shaping future campaigns. Recruitment efforts also advanced for the Non-Executive Chair of our trading subsidiary, a key appointment to strengthen governance and commercial oversight.

Operational support remained a priority, with activity across multiple fronts: HMS RICHMOND's Highmast pre-deployment briefing day, RFA support, HMS Prince of Wales Highmast support, and Fleet Air Arm (FAA) support all took place during the month. We also hosted visits from the Royal Marines PT Branch Executive and the Band of HM Royal Marines Plymouth, adding vibrancy and connection to our community engagement.

March also marked two major milestones in our investment programme:

- The official opening of Box 12, our new functional fitness facility, providing beneficiaries with an innovative, coach-led training experience.
- The successful completion and grid connection of our 600kWp ground-mounted solar installation, a significant step towards sustainability and reducing our carbon footprint.

Finally, the Trust proudly attended the Confederation of Naval Associations' 75th Anniversary, reaffirming our role within the wider naval family and our commitment to collaboration across the service community.



March 2025

## Confederation of Naval Associations 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

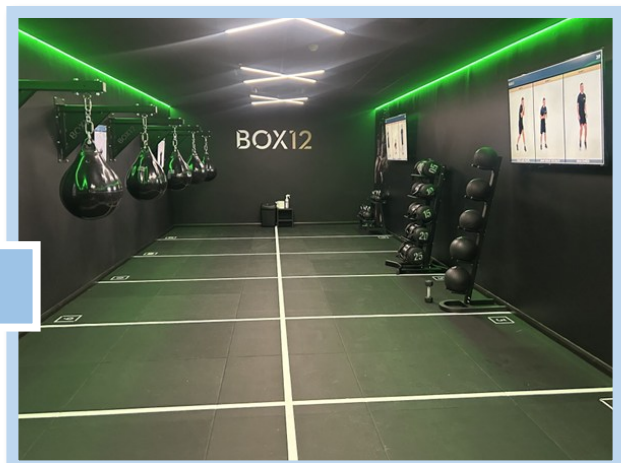


## Completed 600kWp Ground Mounted Solar Array



## RM PT Branch Executive Team Visit

## Box 12 Complete



## April 2025

April was marked by significant engagement and strategic progress. We welcomed senior visitors including the Executive Officer of HMS Astute, the Commanding Officer of HMS Queen Elizabeth, and the Commanding Officer of BRNC, alongside the re-signing of our partnering arrangement, reinforcing our commitment to collaboration across the Naval Service.

Professional development and knowledge sharing featured prominently with the QARNNS three-day symposium, while our Strategic Plan work continued, ensuring alignment with long-term objectives.

Community and wellbeing remained central to our mission. Highlights included a Veterans' golfing group event, designed to foster camaraderie and counter loneliness, and a visit from Military vs Cancer, strengthening our ties with charitable partners.

Operational engagement was strong, with HMS Astute CHODs, NBC Devonport BWO visit, and a SURFLOT focus group taking place during the month. We also hosted Anna Gelderd MP, Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall, underlining our commitment to local and national advocacy.

April also saw us bid a fond farewell to Rob Baldry, who stepped down after an outstanding 10 years of service as a Trustee, leaving a legacy of dedication and impact. Additionally, we participated in the Cornwall AFC meeting, continuing our work to support Armed Forces Covenant commitments across the region.

Capt Andy Bray RN (BRNC)  
Signing Partnering Agreement





April 2025



Anna Gelderd MP Visit

Rob Baldry's Farewell



## May 2025

May was a month of collaboration, governance, and forward planning. The Royal Navy Recovery Conference took centre stage over two days, bringing together stakeholders to share best practice and strengthen support for personnel recovery pathways. We also hosted visits from the Personnel Support Group (PSG), the Royal Marines Association – TRMC, and the Royal Navy Cultures and Leadership team, reinforcing our commitment to holistic wellbeing and leadership development.

The Club served as the venue for the Royal Navy Service Leavers event, providing a welcoming space for those transitioning to civilian life and ensuring they remain connected to the naval community. In addition, we held a Veterans' camaraderie event at the driving range, promoting social connection and countering loneliness through shared activity.

From a governance perspective, the Trust held its 84th meeting of Trustees, approving the Company's budget for the forthcoming financial year—a key milestone in our strategic planning cycle. In parallel, a fundraising committee working group was established to ensure all future initiatives meet the highest standards of regulatory and legal compliance, safeguarding the integrity of our charitable mission.

Importantly, May also marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and the Club paid a special tribute to honour the occasion, reflecting on the enduring legacy of those who served and reaffirming our commitment to supporting today's Armed Forces community.



QARNNS Symposium



## June 2025

June was a highly active month with significant engagement across multiple areas. We hosted a visit from a Saltash member of Cornwall Council and supported an Armed Forces Covenant networking event at New County Hall, Truro. Collaboration with St Luke's Hospice enabled a more detailed understanding of fundraising requirements, while additional engagement included visits from RN Chaplaincy and Pusser's Rum representatives.

Committee and strategic work featured attendance at the Fundraising Sub-Committee meeting and participation in RNBT's Strategic Vision launch. Military and veteran support remained a priority, with HMS Somerset enjoying a Rest & Recuperation day at the Club. We also supported Armed Forces Day through a Flag Raising Event, participation in the rehabilitation triathlon, and assistance at the main event on Plymouth Hoe. Further engagement included visits from 47 Commando and the RM PT1 course, as well as hosting the Commanding Officer's Designate Course during their training.

Operationally, internal investigation work commenced into accounting and VAT discrepancies, ensuring compliance and financial accuracy moving forward.



Saltash Cornwall Councillors Visit



AFD Flag Raising Event



CODC Visit



Visit to 42 Cdo (Merlin landing)



RNRC Hasler Charity Golf Day at the Club



NCC 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



VJ 80 at St Andrews Church

## July 2025

July marked another busy period of engagement across multiple areas. Highlights included hosting HMS Sutherland CHODs and participating in key regional business forums such as the Plymouth Chamber charity group and the Plymouth Area Business Council. Military engagement continued with a visit to 42 Commando and active involvement in the Cornwall Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board.

The Club played a central role in supporting charitable initiatives, including the Royal Navy Recovery Centre (RNRC) Hasler charity golf day and the Naval Children's Charity 200th anniversary celebration. Strategic and governance activities featured audit planning, the 110th Beneficiary Committee Meeting chaired by Steve Harvey, and a fundraising committee meeting.

Further collaboration with St Luke's Hospice progressed during the month, alongside high-level engagements such as the RNRMC Chair and Trustees dinner in London, a visit from the RN FPS caseworkers, and outreach with the SBS Association.



## August 2025

August, traditionally the main leave period for much of our beneficiary community, still saw a steady pace of engagement. The Club welcomed Pusser's Rum and commemorated the 80th Anniversary of VJ Day, reflecting on its historical role during the siege of Hong Kong. Collaboration continued with Aggies and the SBS Association, alongside engagement with the Joint Hospital Group (South West).

Further partnership work included Barclays Bank on military covenant initiatives, while audit activities commenced with Thompson Jenner. Operational and stakeholder engagement also extended to SUBFLOT, ensuring continuity of relationships during the summer period.

### VJ 80 at St Andrews Church





## September 2025

September featured a diverse range of engagements and activities. The Club welcomed Hon Capt Keith Knowles RN (Beds & Bars) for a visit, reinforcing strategic partnerships. We supported the HMS Oardacious Gala event in London and hosted the Royal Navy Media team, alongside filming for the Trust's fundraising video and ongoing committee work.

The month also included a successful Corporate Golf Day at the Club, a visit from the FOST Foreign Liaison Officer (Netherlands), and collaborative discussions with the Royal Navy Museum. Additionally, we contributed to Op Highmast charity support planning, focusing on mid-deployment assistance and homecoming themes.

### Corporate Golf Day



### HMS Oardacious Gala – Painted Hall London



## October 2025

October was another busy month with a wide range of engagements and activities. We hosted the Royal Navy Climbing Team and supported the RN Service Leavers Event, alongside a visit from the Head of Service for RN FPS. Preparations for the fundraising gala intensified with the final committee meeting ahead of the launch, while HMS Raleigh's Executive Team visited the Club. In addition, RNBT utilised the Trust offices to conduct interviews for a new South West caseworker.

The Club was proud to host the RNRMC South West Recognition Event, and we attended Cobseo's Serving Cluster meeting to strengthen collaborative efforts. Filming for the beneficiary fundraising video continued at the Club. October also included high-profile representation at the Fleet Air Arm Awards in London, the 111th Beneficiary Committee meeting, and visits from Cornwall Council's Schools Team and Devon URNU.

### HMS Raleigh Command Team Visit



### RNRMC's SW Recognition Event



### RN Climbing Team Visit





47 Cdo CO – Col Karl Gray Visit



HMS TAMAR Command Handover



Cornwall Tourism Awards –  
Truro Cathedral

## November 2025

November marked the culmination of significant effort with the successful delivery of the fundraising gala, heralding the commencement of fundraising activity for the Trust and launch of the Trust's dedicated website. The month also saw HMS TAMAR's change of command and the visit of 47 Commando's Commanding Officer, during which we re-signed our affiliation and partnering agreement.

Governance and operational priorities included the extraordinary 85th meeting of Trustees, the audit closing meeting, and a visit from the Commanding Officers' Designate Course. We were proud to attend the Cornwall Tourism Awards, where the Club was recognised with awards in two categories. Additional highlights included support for the Hands Across the Sea Powerlifting Event and hosting the RNRMC's CEO and Partnership Director.



Fundraising Gala Set Up



## December 2025

The final month of the calendar year featured key governance and ceremonial activities. We held the 86th meeting of Trustees and completed the consolidated accounts sign-off with Thompson Jenner. Planning for Armed Forces Day Cornwall 2026 progressed with a dedicated support meeting, and we finalised the annual report to His Majesty The King outlining the charity's year.

Engagement highlights included a visit from the RM PT2 Course, support for 820 NAS homecoming at RNAS Cudrose, and hosting the High Sheriff of Cornwall at the Club. We also enjoyed the annual festive lunch with the former Chair and former CEO of the Trust, and attended Trevol House at the kind invitation of the Commanding Officer of HMS Raleigh ahead of the Passing Out Parade. Wider homecoming support continued for the Op Highmast deployment.

Finally, we bid farewell to Andy Collacott after a highly successful tenure as a Trustee and Chair of the Beneficiary Committee, recognising his outstanding contribution to the Trust.



High Sheriff of Cornwall Visit



820 NAS Homecoming Set Up



High Sheriff of Cornwall Visit



Andy Collacott Leaving Presentation

## Closing Summary & Looking Ahead to 2026

As 2025 comes to an end, we celebrate a year of progress and purpose. From record beneficiary visitation—with more than 55,000 visits recorded at the China Fleet Country Club—to a sustained cadence of senior leaders' visits across our Royal Navy community and partner charities, China Fleet Trust has continued to deliver on its mission of support and wellbeing. These achievements reflect the dedication of our team, Trustees, and partners who work tirelessly to make every visit count.

**Looking ahead to 2026, we are building on this momentum with bold steps forward:**

- Sustainability investment realised: Our 600kWp ground mounted solar PV installation—planned in 2024 and successfully commissioned in March 2025—has already begun to reduce our carbon footprint and operating costs, positioning the Trust for long term resilience.  
*Early performance has exceeded expectations, with the system delivering ~550,000kWh of renewable energy within its first eight months.*
- Enhanced leisure facilities: The launch of Box12, our new functional fitness space, adds an engaging, virtual coach led activity for beneficiaries and families—already earning positive feedback from visiting units.
- Expanding support: We will continue to develop programmes that promote wellbeing and family resilience, responding to the evolving needs
  - of those who serve and have served.
- Fundraising growth: Building on the momentum of our inaugural gala, we aim to secure enduring funding streams to safeguard our charitable mission.
- Digital engagement: Further investment in our website and branding will make it easier for beneficiaries and supporters to connect with us.
- Community connections: Strengthening ties with affiliated units, veteran organisations, and civic partners to ensure our services remain relevant and impactful.

2026 promises to be a year of opportunity—one where we honour our heritage while embracing change to meet the future with confidence. Together, we will ensure China Fleet Trust continues to be a beacon of support for the Royal Navy family, today and for generations to come.