**ROYAL NAVY & ROYAL MARINES CHARITY- SUBMARINE FUND (RNRMC SMF)**

The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity (RNRMC) joined forces with the Royal Navy Submarine Service and existing Submarine Service Family Member organisations to establish the RNRMC Submarine Fund (SMF) in April 20, drawing on expertise from across the Submarine Community.

With wide SMF Board representation from across the submarine family - Submariners Association, We Remember Submariners (WRS), the Perisher Club, Friends of the Submariner Museum and Team Oardacious - the fund will deliver help and support to serving and veteran members of the Submarine Community and includes dependent family members.

The Board has held 3 virtual Board meeting by Zoom since lockdown in March, has a number of workstreams and requests for support underway and, with the RNRMC and WRS, supported a request for funds from the Submarine Memorial Appeal. The RNRMC SMF has funds, some specifically for the mental health and welllbeing of the Submarine Community; we are keen to support any and all requests. When a request is received it is discussed and shared between Board members to ensure all Submarine Family members (e.g. SA, WRS, Friends etc) understand the request and decided how both the SMF and individual Family members can support to optimise contributions, efficiency and effect.

It is of particular note that the CEO of the RMRMC, Adrian Bell has said that "Submariners are demonstrating how communities can and are helping themselves; the SMF model may influence how other specialisations and the RNRMC will evolve in developing closer ways of working."

With the ongoing support of the RNRMC, a workshop was recently held with the members from the Submarine Community to simplify the grants application process. While requests and donations can currently be made direct via the RNRMC website, citing Submarine Request/Donation, the RNRMC is working to provide an option to specifically enable selection of SMF Requests or Donations, the intent is for this revised site to go live by the end of October.

The broad Submarine Community is, perhaps for the first time, more aware and coordinated than ever before, the challenge now is to ensure our communications are effective, that good news is shared, requests for grants are supported and that donations are made to the SMF. Current pressures of families and crews are recognised, with commitments at sea unprecedented, it is why the SMF has opened links with Clyde Naval Family Services such that we can help our own people. Please think about donating to the SMF, it is there to help our community.

In separate news and working with the RNRMC, a small volunteer project team has been established to work with Plymouth City Council, the National Maritime Museum, MoD and the HMS COURAGEOUS Management Group to develop a concept study for the introduction of a Cold War Maritime Museum in Plymouth, focused around the preservation of HMS COURAGEOUS and development of an iconic Cold War Maritime Heritage site. A newsletter and Crowd Funding page will be released in early September to inform and ask for help to complete the initial study.

Many thanks your interest, support and help to the Submarine Community; please share this information and donate to help our own.

J S Weale