

# **RIG FOR CLUB EVENTS AND FORMAL DINNER ETIQUETTE**

## **I. RIG FOR CLUB EVENTS**

As a Service yacht club we should ensure that we generally follow Naval standards of dress for Club events, with men dressed in a smart and reasonably “uniform” manner, enabling the ladies to dress in the confident knowledge of what to expect from their male companions. This is to ensure a feeling of integration and “Clubbiness” among members, enabling existing members to continue to enjoy the distinctiveness of the Club that attracted them to join in the first place and the Club to ensure that it remains attractive to new recruits from the Naval Service.

The rig for men for most events (other than the Annual Dinner, Northern Dinner and evening events at the Royal Yacht Squadron) is **Club Rig**.

### **Club Rig**

Club Rig is:

- blazer and smart trousers, or a suit
- smart long-sleeved, collared and conventionally-buttoned shirt
- tie (Club tie if a member)
- smart shoes (including smart deck shoes for those arriving by boat).

### **Smart Casual Rig**

On appropriate occasions, the Club event organiser may announce that Smart Casual Rig for an event will be acceptable, although members and guests may still continue to wear Club Rig for the event if they prefer.

Smart Casual Rig is:

- smart trousers or slacks (including chinos)
- smart long-sleeved or (in summer) short-sleeved, collared and conventionally-buttoned shirt
- smart shoes (including smart deck shoes).

Smart Casual Rig does not include any of the following: blazer, tie, jeans, zip-on trousers, shorts, polo shirts, T shirts, sandals or trainers.

## **II. FORMAL DINNER ETIQUETTE**

As a Service yacht club, we take pride in our formal dinners<sup>1</sup> (when it is customary for a Senior Naval Officer to be invited as the Guest of Honour and when at times we have the privilege of dining in the presence of our Admiral, HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO (an

---

<sup>1</sup> There are normally two formal dinners in the Club’s Programme of Events for each year: the Northern Dinner and the Annual Dinner.

Honorary Rear-Admiral of the RNR) and we cherish their format, which follows the routine and long-established traditions of a dinner in a Naval mess.

One of the customs that is scrupulously observed at formal Naval dinners is that those present do not leave the table until the President (usually the Commodore) gives permission for them to do so. In normal circumstances, such permission is unlikely to be granted until after the Loyal Toast.

This consideration is important to be borne in mind by those members and their guests whose “staying power” may no longer be what it was in their youth. Therefore, they should give themselves the benefit of any doubt, by shortly before sitting down to dinner taking the opportunity to ease springs. A preliminary announcement that dinner will shortly be served will be made 5 minutes before the formal call to dinner, to give members and guests time to do so.

Notwithstanding the strong advice to ease springs before sitting down, should a member be sufficiently uncomfortable before the Loyal Toast to warrant leaving the table, he or she should depart and return as discreetly as possible. It would also be wise for members who can predict such a requirement to moderate their consumption of liquid refreshment before dinner, and to seek a seat during dinner close to an exit in order to minimise the disruption to fellow diners.

It would be greatly appreciated if members would brief their guests on the etiquette to be observed.