



THE RAG
ARMY & NAVY CLUB

CANDIDATES' ELECTION STATEMENTS

Army and Navy Club (The Rag)
Board Election 2025

Please read carefully before casting your vote.

Captain David Fergus Gibbs



Proposer: Colonel Neil Johnson OBE TD* DL

I have known David for over 20 years and initially proposed him for membership of the RAG. He is a delightful, and extremely club-able, ex Irish Guards Officer, who I would highly recommend. His post-military business career experience would also be helpful in Board deliberations.

Seconded: Mr John Giffard CBE QPM

I am delighted to be writing to you in seconding David Gibbs in his application to join the Club's Board. I feel sure his wide experience in the City following his military service with the Irish Guards will make him a useful and thoughtful Board member.

Summary of relevant experience

I was at school at Wellington College in the 1970's, went to Sandhurst in 1979 and was commissioned into the Irish Guards later that year. I spent 5 happy years with the 'Micks' before leaving in late 1984 to go into industry and join ICI Plc.

This was a tremendous 'grounding' into the world of work outside the Armed Forces, not least because ICI was then a very large and diverse FTSE 100 constituent. When it became clear that I would not be the next Sir John Harvey-Jones (an iconic CEO of his time and former submariner), I left to join the fast-growing management consulting profession. This included several years at KPMG working with and advising industrial companies in the UK before moving into Executive Search, initially with KPMG and then, in 1996, with Korn Ferry International.

I have been on a journey with them ever since. The company was floated (in the US) in 1999 and today is a £3bn revenues global consulting business. My work has centered upon UK Boards (largely in the industrial sector) and working with them to find Chairs, NED's and CEO's and providing ancillary Board services around Board Succession and Performance.

Today I am a Senior Advisor to the Board Practice and the UK business of KF (which employs c 700 people in the UK based out of offices, close to the Club, in St James'). Previously I was a Senior Partner in the Board Practice and managed the EMEA Industry Group. I was also involved in the sale/acquisition of Whitehead Mann LLP in 2008. The work across the Boardrooms of much of 'UK plc' has been fascinating and, dare I say, privileged. It has given me a good deal of insight into how Boards can/should work effectively....and indeed how they should not!

I am therefore hoping that a career 'grounded' in the values that time in HM Forces gives all of us who served, alongside 40+ years in the business world, will enable me to bring some relevant and useful experience to the Board of our unique and special Club.

How I would add value

I live outside London and, since joining the Club in 2010, have used The Rag as a 'home from home', often staying 2 nights p/week. This quite intensive use of the Club has afforded me with a good level of insight into the values and ethos of the Club. A military club with a modern style is a hard balance to achieve. But The Rag has skillfully positioned itself as one such club and one which appears, today, in good financial health and being managed prudently. I would hope to be able to make a contribution as a Board member to keep it 'on track' in this regard.

I believe that the role of a Board member is, as part of the Board, to take decisions in the best interests of the Club and the majority of Members. My business experience as a Director/Partner of a market leading company which works closely with Chairs and Main Boards (plc/private/not for profit) has given me a good insight into how Boards can operate most effectively. I believe that this experience, allied to the confidence I have in the strategic 'direction of travel' of the Club and governance of the Board led by the present Chair, would enable me to add value in the coming years.

Mr Alan J Haig



Proposer: Mr John Theophilus

I have had the pleasure of working with Alan on the Finance and Audit Committee for over 3 years and would be happy to endorse his application to become a Director of The Rag and my successor as Chairman of the Committee. He has a good all round knowledge of Finance and is an investment specialist which is especially useful in the upcoming refurbishment programme within the Club premises.

Seconded: Mr David Pinchard

I can very heartily recommend Alan Haig - one of my own special hand-picked members of www.transformation-leaders.com who is a top independent FD. He came to the Club via me, liked the Rag and indeed volunteered to help it further.

Summary of relevant experience

SUMMARY

- Senior finance and operational executive with broad general management experience gained in financial services businesses, mainly investment management-related businesses;
- Positive, thoughtful, influential, independent with strong control & governance orientation;

CAREER HISTORY

2016 - Date GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED, London

Consultant to small/medium sized financial services businesses

- Non-executive director/treasurer Aston Martin Owners Club

2007-2016 FIRST AVENUE PARTNERS LLP, London

Multi-asset class alternative investment capital placement (Assets raised \$1.5Bn Staff: 58)/

Seeding fund of hedge funds

Chief Operating Officer

2003-2007 CAMBRIDGE PLACE INVESTMENT MANAGMENT LLP, London

Hedge fund manager (credit and real estate strategies) (AuM: \$8.5Bn Gross; 130 staff)

Chief Financial Officer

2000-2003 GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED, London

As above

1995-2000 CITIGROUP ASSET MANAGEMENT, London

Long-only Investment Managers (AuM: \$30Bn; Staff: 350)

Business Manager for European Centres and MD and CAO of Smith Barney Global Capital Management (fixed income manager)

1993-1995 GLOBAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES LIMITED, London

As above

1985-1993 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS (TRADING) LIMITED, London

Innovative Own-account trading firm & hedge fund (AuM: \$315M; Staff: 35)

Finance Director

1979-1985 CHASE MANHATTAN BANK, Capital Markets Group, London & NY

Investment Bank

Vice President & Group Manager, Finance, New York

Manager, Planning and Administration, London.

Non-Executive Directorships held:

2022- date Aston Martin Owners Club, Treasurer & Director

2022 -date Army & Navy Club, Member Finance Committee

2003-2004 Reyker Securities plc, an execution-only stockbroker & ISA administrator

1997-2000 Two Smith Barney offshore funds

1994-1996 Capital Plans Limited, pensions advisor

1991-1993 East Anglian Finance Limited, a vehicle finance venture capital investment through a joint venture between AIG and IFM

How I would add value

A business the size of the Club with a £7m revenue from members' subscriptions and other sources, should have senior financial representation on the board which I think has been admirably supplied by Mr John Theophilus for a number of years, which I can provide. I have the following qualifications for the role:

- Substantial CFO and COO experience – most with strong control environment requirements;
- Previous non-executive director experience. Currently director/treasurer of the Aston Martin Owners Club (7,000 members globally)), which has a similar demographic make-up and similar challenges to the RAG;
- 2 ½ years serving on the Clubs Finance Committee. I would hope to take over as chairman of that Committee which would provide continuity and familiarity with its workings and the people involved;
- Qualifications:
 - o MSc London Business School
 - o Chartered Accountant (FCA)
 - o Member, Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment

Captain Michael Hawthorne (Rtd) OBE



Proposer: Mr Simon Wilson

I am delighted to once again propose Captain Mike Hawthorne RN for another year as a Director on the Rag Board. I have known Mike for nearly two decades and we served together on the Board of the Naval Club. He brings a wealth of experience, not only in the Naval field, as a former submarine Captain, but with his up-to-date knowledge of cyber security too.

Seconded: Colonel Neil Johnson OBE TD* DL

Please accept this note as seconding the nomination of Captain Mike Hawthorne to stand for election on the Board of the RAG.

Summary of relevant experience

Professional Profile

Mike Hawthorne is an exceptionally experienced senior leader in Information and Security Governance and Management. This experience includes Government Organisations, FTSE 250 companies and International bodies such as MoD, GCHQ, US NSA, and the French DGS, ONS, Bupa, Maersk, P&O Ferries, Deloitte, IBM, Atkins, Northrop Grumman, the International Maritime Contractors Association, Royal Holloway College and numerous others. He was Commander of the UK's Commander Joint Forces Cyber Group, which he set up from scratch. He is a fully qualified Cyber Security and Operations Director, with a strong track in leadership and hands-on delivery. He founded the Aristos Partnership and was a co-founder of Cobweb Cyber, delivering cyber resilience in the maritime and CNI sectors. He is highly skilled in communicating and influencing at Board level, translating the technical complexities of Cyber Security activities to the mainstream of an organisation and enabling strategic business change. He was awarded the OBE for services to Cyber Security in 2016.

Military Service

Mike served in the Royal Navy for 36 years. He joined the submarine service in 1982 and commanded HMS Tireless, a nuclear submarine. He also held various staff appointments in the MOD, Fleet, PJHQ, and GCHQ.

How I would add value

Should I be re-elected as a Rag Board member, I intend to represent the members of the former Naval Club and support the ongoing smooth transition of their membership to the Rag. In addition, with my extensive Cyber Security experience I can further develop the cyber security and digital strategies for the next few years.

Mr Andrew William Johnson-Askew



Proposer: Mr Martin Bevan

Although I have not known Andrew for very long, I believe that, beyond his many tangible achievements, he demonstrates the qualities and attributes required to be a young, useful and valuable member of the Board.

As a long standing member of the Club, I am confident that Andrew will be an asset to the Board. I am assured that he will make every effort to serve the Board, the Club, and its membership, with great commitment. His membership as one of our younger members would bring a fresh perspective to the Board. Therefore I have pleasure in proposing him for a position on the Board.

Second: Lieutenant Commander Bryce O'Hara RAN

I am very happy to second Andrew's nomination to stand for Board election. We became friends through the Club - a testament to its function of bringing together like-minded veterans from different backgrounds and nationalities. In that time he has proven to be an energetic and engaged member, eager to see the Club succeed and bring new members into the fold. Andrew is a member I trust to serve in the Club's best interest into the future.

I believe he has skills and experience that are critical for the Club's development at this juncture. His deep expertise in security operations will help the Club address issues illuminated by the recent security breaches. Additionally, his network and expertise can help shape Club developments to allow for members with security requirements to more easily access the Club. I believe this could lead to new opportunities in Club membership and business development.

Summary of relevant experience

Experience (General)

Security Director, Stoke Park
(August 2024 - Present)

I am currently employed as the Security Director for an UHNW family running day-to-day security operations and dealing with RST administration, CP taskings and overall command and control for the 35-man team, on a 300-acre estate, whilst the family are both in and out of residence.

Personal Protection Officer and Team Leader
(March 2024 – August 2024)

Whilst employed in this capacity, I was responsible for the day-to-day care and coordination of my principal's security, movements and activities, both on and off-site. My principal is the head of a UHNW family, who are currently in the top ten richest.

Security Manager, Stoke Park
(May 2022 – March 2024)

During this period, I was employed in an operations capacity. I became the RST 2IC, dealing with team administration and day-to-day operations on the estate.

Senior Caseworker for Sir David Amess MP, House of Commons & Caseworker for Alicia Kearns MP, Remote
(April 2021 – February 2022)

Whilst working for Sir David in his Westminster office, I was the only caseworker for the constituency of Southend West. My main role for Alicia was liaison with local military units and providing her with detailed insight of the military bases within her constituency.

Parliamentary Assistant for Andrew Stephenson MP, House of Commons
(April 2019 – April 2021)

Working in the Westminster office of Andrew Stephenson MP, Minister for Africa and then HS2 Minister, I dealt with a number of tasks relating to the constituency on behalf of the MP.

Squadron Pilot/Aircraft Commander/Regimental Flight Operations and Regimental Electronic Warfare Officer, 1 and 9 Regt's Army Air Corps
(February 2007 – April 2014)

1 and 9 Regiments deal with various military Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) aviation requirements for Germany the UK and worldwide operations. This involves movement of men and material, casualty evacuation and

communications up-links.

Anti-Terrorism Advisor, Anti-Terrorist Training and Advisory Team (ATTAT)
(December 2005 – February 2007)

ATTAT are responsible for collating information on and analysing worldwide terrorism acts that effect the UK to ensure a proactive approach to security measures. I headed up collation, research and analytics of the 6-man team.

Intelligence Operator, Secondment
(March 2005 – December 2005)

Various specialist intelligence training and duties performed.

De-briefer/Security Advisor and Surveillance Operator, British Military Intelligence
(November 2001 – March 2005)

The role of Human Intelligence (HUMINT) operations in the UK and overseas in hostile, overt environments, is to gather high priority information of use at national and international level. During this period, I worked for the Joint Service Intelligence Organisation (JSIO) and the Defence HUMINT Unit (DHU). The teams worked in a multi-national and culturally diverse environment.

Royal Anglian Regiment (Territorial Army)
(October 1999 – March 2001)

During this period, I was with an Infantry company of the Royal Anglian Regiment (Territorial Army), based in Norfolk and Suffolk, as part of the then, East of England Regiment.

Crewman – Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) (April 1999 – November 2000)

Crew member on the 'Spirit of Lowestoft' Tyne Class Lifeboat, performing training and various rescues at sea.

Education

- Master of Arts • Postgraduate Diploma • Bachelor of Science (Hons) - Psychology
- Foundation Degree in Management and Leadership

Interests

An extremely keen sailor and waterman, I spend whatever time is available to me on the water or maintaining my boat. I enjoy spending time at one of the two sailing clubs where I am a member and regularly run the safety boats for these clubs in both summer and winter. Otherwise, I can be found in the gym, swimming, or at the Club.

How I would add value

I have been an enthusiastic member of the Club for over four years, considering it to be my "home from home." This has led me to become extremely passionate about the Club, its incredible members, and its future.

As a veteran of fifteen years, having served in both the Intelligence Corps and Army Air Corps, during a period of intense operational commitments, I believe strongly in the Clubs' military connections, past and present, and ensuring they remain into the future. But I also admire how the Club has adapted to welcome non-military members. This has helped to bring such wonderful diversity to an already wonderful establishment and must always be embraced.

With the Club having had some recent security issues, I would be able to provide a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area, should it be required, to ensure the ongoing safety of our members is given priority, at a time of global and often domestic insecurity.

Furthermore, having previously sat on various committees, from sailing clubs to military messes, I believe I possess the skills and experience required to help guide projects and club activities, as I have for those establishments. I am therefore confident that I could, alongside other board members, offer a great deal to this prestigious club, by becoming part of the next chapter, and diligently working alongside like-minded individuals, in providing for the club I so admire, during a tenure on the board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lieutenant Commander Bryce O’Hara, RAN



Proposer: Mrs Lisa Macdonald

I propose Lieutenant Commander Bryce O’Hara, RAN, be elected as a Director of the Army and Navy Club. Bryce has key experience in delivering projects which require strong operational and financial planning skills. The Board and Club would greatly benefit from these skills as it embarks on the important projects to upgrade and develop Club facilities. I am pleased to recommend Bryce for the upcoming Board elections.

Seconded: Mr Andrew Johnson-Askew

I am writing this email in support of Bryce O’Hara for a place on the Club Board.

In a world where selfless service often goes unnoticed, Bryce stands as an example of dedication, passion and selfless commitment. Moreover, with every interaction I have had with Bryce, he appears to demonstrate exceptional professionalism, unwavering commitment to his country, wife, family and service, as well as an exemplary level of reliability.

This alone leads me to wholeheartedly endorse him for any role and responsibility that he lends his name to.

Summary of relevant experience

Education and Qualifications

2012 – 2015	University of New South Wales Sydney, Australia	Bachelor of Arts – History and International Politics.
2023	University of New South Wales Sydney, Australia	Master of Project Management (<i>Completed while deployed at sea and to the Middle East</i>)
2025 – Ongoing	University of Oxford	Master of Business Administration (Commences Sep 25)

Work Experience

Jul-23 – Present	Headquarters Joint Operations Command Canberra, Australia <i>Joint Operations Planner - Indo-Pacific</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Responsible to the Chief of Joint Operations (Australian 3 Star Admiral) for the planning of Australian military activities in the Indo-Pacific region.Selected as lead planner for Indo-Pacific Endeavour 24, an Australian whole of government activity improved crisis preparedness and intern-ability of Australia and key partners, specifically Indonesia, India, and the Philippines.Responsible for managing Indo-Pacific Endeavour’s \$5m discretionary budget.Co-ordinated the deployment of 2000 personnel, with associated ships, aircraft, vehicles, and medical capabilities across 18 distinct lines of operation.
Dec-22 – Jul-23	Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Manama, Bahrain <i>Battle Watch Captain</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Co-ordinated maritime security operations across four multinational task forces in the Middle East on behalf of a US 3-Star Admiral.Worked with 34 partner nations to seize over \$100 million in illegal narcotics and weapons whilst providing security to maritime trade in the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, and Suez Canal.Developed an operational tracking tool to provide real time insights to support command decision making. Before this, the data was compiled every six months.
Apr-22 – Dec 22	Headquarters Special Operations Command Canberra, Australia <i>Operations Manager</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Managed Australia’s global special operations footprint. Provided subject matter advice to identify opportunities for maritime operations.Significantly improved headquarters’ communications and information infrastructure enabling more efficient workflow.

Apr-21– Apr-22**Australian Federal Parliament** Canberra, Australia*Aide-de-Camp to the Minister for Defence (The Hon. Peter Dutton MP)*

- Travelled internationally and domestically with the Minister to support his official engagements, managing briefs, events, and communications.
- Planned logistics, travel, and protocol support for the signing of the AUKUS Security Treaty, and Australian military aid contributions to Ukraine.

Dec- 19 – Apr 21**His Majesty's Australian Ship Albany** Darwin, Australia*Executive Officer*

- Second in command. Ran the day-to-day operation of the ship on behalf of the captain. Assumed command of the ship and crew on several occasions.
- Commanded Australian sailors and officers on maritime operations. COVID restrictions prolonged deployments, posing greater leadership challenges.

Additional Information

Interests:

Classical Vocalist and Producer – Perform and produce professional classical music concerts. Lead and mentor junior musicians within the ensemble. Organised concerts for a number of charity causes and diplomatic events.

Achievements:

Operational Service Medal – Border Protection

Operational Service Medal – Special Operations and Counter Terrorism

Operational Service Medal – Greater Middle East Region

How I would add value

I am an enthusiastic young member of the Club with the skills and experience required to help guide key club projects. I have a strong practical and academic background in project management, innovation, and military leadership. With the guidance of more experienced Board members, I strongly believe my skills can be used to deliver important projects, such as the installation of the gym and the room refurbishment programme.

I have extensive diplomatic experience through my time as ADC to the Australian Minister for Defence, and my current work for the Australian High Commission. I will use these skills to attract new members and develop business opportunities to heighten the prestige of our institution. Organising an ANZAC Day function saw over 80 Australian and New Zealand officers and officials pass through the doors of the Club. Both High Commissions have indicated that they wish to hold this event again next year, and several people present have approached me regarding membership.

The Club has become my home in London, and I am proud of my membership. The club ethos is relevant to the next generation of military and civilian leaders and with the right direction, and effective delivery of important projects, the Rag can continue to foster these leaders and guarantee its relevance into the future.

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