



Dear friends and former shipmates,

When Iain Hurley contacted me early this year with news of the fledgling HMS Naiad Association I was delighted to know that important memories were being kept alive – and I was then greatly honoured to be invited to be President of the Association. Many distinguished officers were privileged to command the fourth HMS Naiad – most have passed over the bar so I counted myself fortunate to be able to accept this kind offer and greatly looked forward to meeting up with old comrades this weekend. Sadly a late breaking family wedding has clashed with the date so I have had to withdraw. Please accept my very sincere apologies and my fervent hope to be with you on a future occasion.

I commanded the ship from 1982-1983. I joined via a pier head jump on a proverbial wet Sunday in Rosyth from Alacrity, which I was about to command having just paid off Cleopatra. My mind was set on gas turbines, exocet and a 4.5 gun so the sudden switch to steam and ikara was a surprise to say the least. BOST was the first task but before we even got to Portland the first moves in the Falklands campaign were already underway and after a successful BOST we were held at Portland as consort to every ship working up to go South. Sadly the powers that be didn't think the ikara capabilities were needed in the South Atlantic but someone had to keep the Argies out of the Channel and that was us – with 100% success record! When the war was over we had a varied programme in home waters and the Med and I will save my dits of that period for another occasion. Enough to say that when I handed over to Commander Bill Hutchinson at Faslane in June 1983 I was very sad to go.

This weekend you will have a chance to do a lot of reminiscing. I wish everybody a wonderful time and am sorry not to be with you. Enjoy yourselves and raise a glass to a magnificent ship that served her country well and to the fine men that manned her.

Best wishes to you all

Paul Haddacks

Vice Admiral