



## ***SECOND HAIL***

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Barcelona and Roses (Rosas), Spain**

**22 – 25 October 2021 (date to be confirmed)**

#### **REVISED PROGRAMME**

**following on-site visit 13 -16 July 2021**



*The gates of the fort of Roses through which the coach passed with Hornblower, Bush and Brown as passengers on their way to France, with the ramparts of Vincennes planned as final destination .....*



**Note:**

Having now visited Barcelona and the Hornblower-locations Roses, Port de la Selva, Llançà and the peninsula Cap de Creus, the programme has been revised in order to minimize travel time. Within Barcelona, all sites are now in walking distance.

The final date of the AGM will be agreed/confirmed later depending on the further development of the Corona-situation and the possibility and willingness of members then to attend.

By the way, you may visualize the Cap de Creux as the eastern end of the Pyrenees mountain range disappearing into the sea.



## PROGRAMME

### FRIDAY 22 October 2021

**Hotel Roma Reial** ( [www.hotel-romareial.com](http://www.hotel-romareial.com) ) or similar, on the Plaça Reial in downtown Barcelona. A group rate will be negotiated in time, but everyone will book on her/his own, which will make it easier for those who wish to come earlier or stay longer after the AGM.

In front of the hotel is a pleasant plaza with cafes well suited to recover from the “fatigues of the journey” (You know where I have this one from?).

#### 17:00 **Museu Marítim de Barcelona** ( [www.mmb.cat/en](http://www.mmb.cat/en) )

We meet at the gates of the museum. Thereafter we will visit the galley *Real*, a complete reconstruction of a 16th-century warship, the only one currently available. As a “starter” we will re-enact – with roles assigned to willing members – the attack of Hornblower on the galley in the straits of Gibraltar in “*Midshipman Hornblower*”, the first time our hero acts on his own.



*The “Real”, flagship of the Holy League fleet during the battle with the Ottoman fleet at Lepanto.*

**Thereafter** ... we will walk for **dinner** over the moveable pedestrian bridge into the **Rambla de Mar**, a civic quarter on the harbour front. The exact restaurant to be decided.



## SATURDAY 23 October

**10:05** We take the AVE speed train departing at the **Barcelona-Sants train station** and travel in 55 minutes to **Figueres Vilafant**, 18 km from Roses. A bus will take us to the...

**Hotel Terraza** ( [www.hotelterraza.com](http://www.hotelterraza.com) ) or similar in Roses. Booking procedure as in Barcelona.



*Roses on the Costa Brava, view from the rooftop of the Hotel Terraza.*

**12:30** **Light lunch and coffee** at the hotel

**Thereafter** **Formal AGM affairs**

- Welcome and Chairman's report
- Webmaster's report: Nicolas Grigorellis
- Editor's report: John Maunder
- Treasurer's report: Sue Napier
- Election of officers: orchestrated by John Roberts

**Thereafter** **"A tribute to John Forester"**. John, the eldest son of C S Forester, deceased April 2020 at the age of 92 in his hometown San Diego in California. He had been for years a supporter of the Society attending some of our AGMs: Lawrie Brewer.



Thereafter... two presentations:

- **“A Ship of the Line” (our book of the year)** and the first chapter of **“Flying Colours”** with emphasis on the Costa Brava settings we are going to visit and the personal experiences of C S Forester during the Spanish Civil War 1936-39: Lawrie Brewer.
- **“Plymouth in the days of Hornblower”**, the port town, where the first chapters of our **“A Ship of the Line”** are placed: John Maunder

Thereafter... we will have a short walk to the citadel of Roses and will climb up to the ramparts, from where Hornblower observed the nightly destruction of the French fleet through his “nemesis” Admiral Leighton. Reading from the book of the respective chapter.



Roses: Citadel (Centre left) and Castle de la Trinidad (bottom right)

**Warning!** There is not much left of the Citadel today besides what can be seen on the front page but there is only the British navy to blame as Captain Thomas Cochrane, who is seen by many as the model for Hornblower, blew up the place in 1808 ( [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Roses\\_\(1808\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Roses_(1808)) ). Quite probably, Forester got his inspiration for the book from reading the respective reports in the *Naval Chronicle*.

In the courtyard of the fortification: **Re-enactment of the departure of Hornblower, Bush and Brown under the command of Colonel Caillard from Flying Colours with roles assigned to willing members.** As Colonel Caillard, we have already Nicolas Grigorellis.

Walk back to the hotel.



**18:30**      **Drinks** on the terrace of the Terraza

**20:30**      **Dinner** in the hotel (Best food I found in Roses, actually it was quite good)

## **SUNDAY 24 October**

**09:30**      **By bus** we travel 18 km over mountainous roads from **Roses** to **Port de la Selva** (formerly Silva de Mar), the same route Hornblower's men dragged ten of the *Sutherlands* 24 pounders in the opposite direction for the siege of Roses. There will be a halt for a **surprise location**...



*The original mule path from Silva de Mar to Rosas. A couple of more steps and we will experience a dramatic view of ????. A tense exchange of words will follow .... Have your hiking boots ready and a water bottle; approx. 500 metres will have to be strolled uphill.*

**Thereafter**      Lunch at the **Restaurant dels Pins**, quite literally “under the pine trees”, still in the mountains and a short distance away from Port de la Selva. It will be pleasant for our eyes under the shade after all that looking out into the sea.

**Thereafter**      Visit of **Port de la Selva** and – a little up-coast – **Llançà**, where Lieutenant Bush stormed and blew up the battery and the *Nonsuch* captured some prizes. Today both places are typical tourist towns of medium charm only, but they are more or less on the way. Return to Roses.

**Dinner**              Participants will make their own arrangements.



## Monday 25 October

**09:30** By bus along the coast to **Punta Falconera** (approx. 5 km).



*Punta Falconera with Cap de Creus in the far distance in the left picture and the Castle de la Trinidad-mountain with Roses behind in the right picture*

**On Site** **Two presentations** by Lt-Cdr Ken Napier and Capt. John Roberts **in full view of the original theatre:**

- *“The seamanship and decisions taken when HMS Sutherland rescued the dismantled HMS Pluto”*
- *“Outline of the strategic situation facing the squadron of Admiral Leighton in sight of four enemy battle ships plus ensuing battle leading to the destruction of HMS Sutherland”.*

**Thereafter...** the bus will take us back to the hotel.

**Thereafter** **“Last lunch” and farewell address** by the Chairman, end of our AGM.

Members, who have arrived by car, depart on their own, members who arrived by train, board the bus for the ...

**14:55** **Ave Express train from Figueres Vilafant to Barcelona-Sants** (55 minutes)



## **COSTS**

Will follow. Members, who announce their participation, will be required to remit a down payment.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

All dates, hotels etc. to be confirmed.

Those who do not eat meat or fish or have other special food requirements, please inform, so that we can plan accordingly.