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Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood CB appointed new Chairman of The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust

Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood CB has been appointed Chairman of The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust, succeeding Rear Admiral Neil Rankin CB CBE.

From September 2026, Rear Admiral Lockwood will assume the role of Chair of the Trust which was responsible for bringing The Royal Yacht Britannia to Edinburgh and overseeing its subsequent 28 years as a leading ambassador for Scottish tourism.

Rear Admiral Rankin is stepping down after 28 years of dedicated service to the Trust, having played a pivotal role in Britannia's transformation from former Royal Yacht to one of the UK's most successful visitor attractions, and more recently Tripadvisor's No.1 Attraction in the World.

Reflecting on his time with the Trust, Rear Admiral Rankin said:

"It has been a tremendous privilege to serve The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust over the past 30 years. From the moment Britannia arrived in Edinburgh, we have remained committed to preserving this historic vessel and sharing her story with visitors from around the World.

The Trust's success is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and passion of our Staff and Trustees, whose efforts have ensured Britannia continues to inspire and educate future generations. I am immensely proud of all that has been achieved and leave knowing the Trust is in very capable hands and exceptionally well placed for the future.

I wish Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood every success as Chairman and have complete confidence that, under his leadership, Britannia will continue to flourish."

Looking ahead to his new role, Rear Admiral Lockwood said:

"I am honoured to be appointed Chair of The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust and to succeed Rear Admiral Neil Rankin, whose leadership and dedication have helped establish Britannia as one of Scotland's most successful heritage attractions.

Britannia occupies a unique place in our national story and stands today as a benchmark for excellence in Scottish tourism. I look forward to working with the Board and Staff to build on this legacy and guide the Trust into its next chapter."

The Royal Yacht Britannia is owned and cared for by The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust (Scottish Charity No. SC028070), which preserves the Royal Yacht for future generations and reinvests all surplus income into her ongoing conservation and maintenance.

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Notes for editors:

- The Royal Yacht Britannia Trust has recently appointed two new Trustees: **Dr Emma Roberts PhD, BA (Hons)**, Reader and Head of the Department of History of Art at Liverpool John Moores University, and **Jacqui Gale MBE**, Chair of MySense and Wendy Morrison Design.

Together, they bring expertise spanning heritage, maritime culture, governance and international business, helping to support the Trust's work in preserving Britannia and bringing fresh perspectives and a shared passion for preserving and celebrating Britannia's history for future generations.

- **Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood CB** **Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood CB** graduated from the University of Warwick with a degree in Pure Mathematics before joining the Royal Navy, where he served for 34 years. His distinguished naval career included appointments as Aide-de-Camp to the Chief of Defence Staff during the Falklands War, Private Secretary to the First and Second Sea Lords and Commanding Officer of HMS *Raleigh*. His final appointment was as the Senior Naval Member at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London as a Rear Admiral.

Following his retirement from the Royal Navy in 2005, he served as Chief Executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board until 2014. He subsequently held a number of senior voluntary roles with the RNLI, including Trustee, Chair of the Operations Committee and Chair of the Scottish Council. He lives in Dunblane with his wife, Susie.

- **Rear Admiral Neil Rankin CB CBE** joined the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth in 1958, having previously been a Merchant Navy Cadet at HMS CONWAY. Initially specialising as a pilot in both Fixed and Rotary Wing Naval Air Squadrons, Neil's distinguished career later included commands of the Leander Class Frigates HMS Achilles, HMS Bachante and HMS Andromeda – the latter also as Captain of the 5th Frigate Squadron and during which he was appointed Senior Naval Officer Middle East with a Task Group responsibility for escorting shipping in the Persian Gulf during the Iranian oil crisis. His final sea going command was HMS Ark Royal.

Neil's Naval career also included several appointments in the Ministry of Defence – one of which was during the Gulf War – and a secondment to the USN's Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force, responsible for the introduction of the AV-8A (Harrier) into US Marine Corps service. Rear Admiral Rankin's first Flag Rank appointment was Commander British Forces Falkland Islands before finishing his Naval career as Flag Officer Portsmouth.

After retiring from the Service in 1996, Neil chaired the West Coast Ferry Service, Caledonian MacBrayne for four years, before being elected as an East Lothian Councillor.

Neil is a former Trustee of Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust and a former Chairman of both the Scottish Seabird Centre and Scottish Environment LINK.

A past Commissioner of Queen Victoria School, Dunblane and Board Member of various other schools, Neil's associations include Younger Brother, Corporation of Trinity House; Liveryman, Worshipful Company of Shipwrights; President, Dunbar Sea Cadet Unit; Member, Incorporation of Hammermen of Glasgow; Constable of the High Constabulary of the Port of Leith; Younger Brother of Trinity House; and Freeman of the Cities of London and Glasgow.

A keen sportsman, Neil represented the Royal Navy at rugby, sailing and golf and, laterally, was President of both Combined Services and Royal Navy Rugby.