

100 YEARS OF RACING



1925 - 2025



RORC Talk with Blake Simms - Strike Hard

Longstanding RORC member Blake Simms invites you to his fascinating lecture on the history of HMS Hurricane and its various wartime actions, including the notable rescues of 115 passengers and children from the evacuation liner, "SS CITY OF BENARES" (as torpedoed on 17th September 1940) and of its sistership the "SS CITY OF NAGPUR" (as sunk 29th April 1941) amongst other rescues.

Blake's father (later) Commander Hugh Crofton Simms, DSO., RN, was the first captain of the Destroyer HMS Hurricane and was involved in a dozen rescues in the North Atlantic, saving merely 1,000 souls over ten months. This led to HMS Hurricane being nicknamed "THE ATLANTIC LIFEBOAT."

Blake has been a member of RORC since 1968 and has now kindly donated the Bridge Bell off of HMS Hurricane to the RORC Cowes Clubhouse. He now invites all members to "STRIKE HARD". This was originally chosen as the motto by Blake's father before the ship was launched in June 1940 by his mother.

A very detailed exhibition of the original naval reports and documents, action photographs, press cuttings, Admiralty and other thank you letters and associated memorabilia will all be on display (at Blake Simms's behest) from 1700hrs on Friday 28th February and from 1200hrs on Saturday 1st March both until closing time.

RORC Cowes Clubhouse, The Parade, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 7QU
Tel: +44 (0) 1983 293581 E-mail: eventscowes@rorc.org

If you would like to attend this RORC Talk please register using the link below. To book a table for supper, please make a separate booking using the link below

[please book your ticket or dinner reservation by clicking on this link](#)

Dinner will be available on the evening before the RORC Talk from 1800hrs onwards. The Club will be offering the Bar and Specials Menu, including a swift two course supper for those attending the presentation. Please make your reservation using the online booking system.

Schedule of Proceedings:

1800hrs	Drinks and/or early supper (booking advised)
1915hrs	Presentation of the Bridge Bell from HMS Hurricane
1930hrs	To The RORC Talk on the history of HMS Hurricane and its various wartime actions
2100hrs	Talk ends after Questions and Answers. Bar will be open

RORC Talk Supper Menu £25 per person – Saturday 1st March 1800hrs

“Hurricane” Fish Pie with crusty bread and seasonal vegetables

“Crofton” Rich Chocolate Tart with orange cream