

## The Federation of Leander Class Frigates

The Leander class frigate saw service from 1963 into the 1990's and thousands of men saw service on the 26 ships of the class commissioned by the Royal Navy. In addition it saw service in Australia where it was known as the river class. New Zealand. The Netherlands, India, Pakistan, Ecuador, Chile, & Indonesia also used them. All in all it was an extremely successful type of ship.

As a result there are now a number of ships companies associations carrying forward the names of some of these grand ships. However some of the ships are not represented and people who served on these ships have no association as either the groups are aimed at individual specialisations such as comms, engineers or greenies, or a specific commission, leaving some people with nowhere to go.

For some time now it has troubled Colin Bates the secretary of the HMS Dido association that there were Leander crewmen out there with nowhere to go and no group to join in with, so after some talking with people and thinking about it, there was a small meeting held at the Nautical club in Bishops Gate Street, Birmingham.

People came to the meeting not to represent the individual ships but with a mind to put together a federation of Leander class Frigates with a view to supporting the different Leander class associations or the smaller groups and the individuals who have no group or association with regard to directing them toward an association to which they can affiliate.

It was put forward that the federation should promote the activities of the different individual groups and associations. By coordinating & disseminating this information it allows more people to become involved and that of course is the life blood of all associations, and a stronger unified voice as we know can bring many advantages

In essence part of the aim of the federation was fulfilled on the day as one of the people attending the meeting had served aboard Leander's but had no association It was also noted that there were people who could not attend the meeting but were fully supportive of this federation being created.

It was also brought up that some of the purpose of the federation should be keeping the role of the Leander ships and crews during the cold war and other modern day conflicts foremost in the public mind.