



Captain N J Tobin DSC MA Royal Navy (Rtd)

Nick Tobin joined the Royal Navy in 1962 first serving in the minesweeper *HMS Glasserton* after graduating from Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. He then trained as a Fighter Controller and served in this capacity in the aircraft carrier *HMS Victorious* and the destroyer *HMS Aisne* from 1964 to 1968. Next, having specialised in air warfare, he served in the guided missile destroyer *HMS London* in 1970 and then ashore in *HMS Dryad* and the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment where he developed military data links in both national and NATO fora until 1974. Consecutive commands of the patrol crafts (converted 'Coastal' minesweepers) *HM Ships Beachampton and Wolverton* in Hong Kong and its surrounding waters kept him busy until 1976 when he returned to the United Kingdom to undergo staff training before another sea appointment in the aircraft carrier *HMS Ark Royal*. Promoted to Commander in 1978 he taught at the Royal Naval Staff College at Greenwich as a member of the Directing Staff.

Nick assumed command of the frigate *HMS Antelope* in early 1981 and, during the campaign to recover the Falklands after the Argentine invaded the islands in 1982, his ship was bombed and later sank in San Carlos Water on 24 May. On his return from the South Atlantic, he served first in the Naval Staff and then as the Military Assistant to the Vice Chief of Defence Staff in the Ministry of Defence. Following his promotion to Captain in 1986, he was accredited to Japan as the Defence and Naval Attaché, based in the British Embassy in Tokyo. Returning to London in 1990, he headed the Warfare Branch Development Team where he masterminded a major shift in the way the Royal Navy trained and employed its service personnel. In 1994, following 18 months as the Director of Naval Manning and Training (Seaman), he was selected to set up and head the key Directorate of Naval Manning in London and Portsmouth.

Nick retired from 34 stimulating years in the Royal Navy in early 1996 aged 51, first serving as a Bursar at Magdalene College, Cambridge until 2002, and then working as an Operational Director in the voluntary and community sector for a company that brokered the recruitment of the over 50s as volunteers in the West Midland and the South West Regions. He was the Director of International Projects with The Experience Corps Ltd from 2005-07. Nick was 'back of house' when his wife, Jose, set up and ran a retail business selling imported fabrics from a shop in Bath called "Atmosphere" from 2006-13, and in 2021 he retired after 16 years as a Senior Consultant with Steele Rose Ltd, an Essex-based will writing and estate planning company. Currently, he chairs his local residents' association, represents Bath residents on the City's World Heritage Site Advisory Board and various other voluntary organisations.

Nick was brought up and educated in Kenya. His wife Jose died in March 2019. He lives in Bath and has a daughter, Naomi, who designs the interiors of super yachts.