



**General Meeting  
17 February 2005**

**A. Introduction and welcoming**

**B. President's Report – Helyett R. Harris**

1. Special Elections – Secretary Position
2. Commemorating the Bicentenary of Trafalgar 1805-2005
  - 21st October 2005 is the Bicentenary – the 200th anniversary – of the Battle of Trafalgar.
  - (Please see attached)
3. BASA Website: [www.fiu.edu/~basa](http://www.fiu.edu/~basa)
  - Events calendar...it's all there.
  - Photo gallery of past events.
4. Bagpiper at Hubbard's Cupboard on Saturday, 18 February.
  - Will be there from 10 to 2 PM playing the pipes.
5. Scottish Highland Games and Festival
  - Saturday, March 5, 2005, time TBA.
  - Location: The Sportsplex of Coral Springs  
2575 Sportsplex Drive, Coral Springs, FL
  - Free to BASA members with a mandatory 2-3 hours of community service. It's fun and helps us out with SOC points.
  - Advance tickets can be bought from us: \$10, otherwise \$15 on the day.
  - Visit ([www.sassf.org](http://www.sassf.org)) for more information.

**C. Vice President's Report – Brent Capley**

1. Upcoming Events:
2. Curry Night at the Punjab Palace
  - Friday, February 25, 2005, at 7:00 P.M.
  - Please let us know soon if you plan to attend so we can call ahead to have a table set up for our party. It's not a very large place.
  - Directions: Kendall Drive and 117<sup>th</sup> at the shopping center with the Dunkin Donuts. (305) 274-1300
3. FIU Basketball VS. Western Kentucky @ 7:30 PM
  - Saturday, February 25, designated SOC Clubs Night.
  - This event is worth two badly-needed SOC Athletic points, sign-up sheet at the arena entrance on the day.
  - 5 BASA signatures needed.

**D. Open Floor**

1. Questions and comments are welcomed.

**E. General News**

1. T-shirt and accessories distribution (members only)

**F. Adjournment (and after the meeting)**

1. Stay for some light snacks and Pt. 1 of "Royal Warships" of the Napoleonic Era. Members have priority & shall serve themselves first. Thanks = )



## Battle of Trafalgar



### **21 October, 1805...Perhaps the most decisive naval battle in history**

This great deciding naval battle of the Napoleonic Wars took place between 27 British ships under Admiral Nelson and 33 French and Spanish vessels under Admiral Villeneuve.

Needing to clear the British from the English Channel to allow an invasion of his implacable national enemy, Napoleon Bonaparte wanted his navy to escape the British blockade, draw it away from Europe to the West Indies and then, after joining up with the Spanish, returning to hold the narrow stretch of water long enough to allow the crossing of his army.

Surprisingly, Villeneuve did manage to slip through the blockade and a rare error by Nelson gave the French more than a week's head start. By the time he reached the West Indies the combined enemy fleet had begun returning towards Europe and safe harbour in Cadiz.

Determined to bottle up and destroy his foe, Nelson and his fleet prowled waiting for an opportunity and that came faster than expected.

Bonaparte, believing there was only a small blockading force outside Cadiz, ordered Villeneuve from port and into the Mediterranean.

To his horror, the French admiral found himself caught between Nelson's fleet and cut off from safety by the blockading squadron.



On 21 October, Nelson sighted his prey and gave the order "England expects that every man will do his duty."

After outlining a radical plan of attack to his captains, Nelson ordered the British fleet to head in two lines towards the in-line French and Spanish.

This would open up his vessels to enemy broadsides, but would split their formidable line, reduce the odds and then allow the better-trained British sailors to use their superior gunnery and sailing skills to destroy at close range.

The plan worked brilliantly and with the French vanguard cut out of the battle by the British slicing through the fleet, Nelson's men proceeded to take the enemy fleet apart.

Britain did not lose a ship, while 18 enemy vessels were destroyed. Some 14,000 French and Spanish sailors were lost, ten times the British casualties.

However, the most notable death at Trafalgar was Nelson who was shot by a sharpshooter as the Victory passed by the Redoubtable.

Mortally wounded, he died several hours later, but was safe in the knowledge he had won a massive victory.

Some thought must be given to his captured opponent Villeneuve who had been driven into Nelson's sights by Bonaparte's orders.

On his return to France, the humiliated Villeneuve killed himself with a dagger, unable to put up with the shame of defeat.

Trafalgar ended any chance France had of invading Britain and, from 1805 onwards, Bonaparte largely kept his military operations to terra firma.