

17 SQN Dining In 2022 - Mess Procedure

General Rules

Follow all instructions from the PMC and Vice PMC (A/PLTOFF Davies & A/PLTOFF Townsend).

- o PMC stands for President of the Mess Committee.

Be respectful and sensible.

Be vigilant – don't make a fool of yourself by spilling food or tripping.

Use Sir, Ma'am or rank as appropriate to people.

Use your table manners.

Do not eat until your whole table has food.

Basic Format Breakdown

Arrivals, Group Photos taken.

Go inside – mingle, review the seating plan.

Be invited to find seats.

After introductions and Grace, you can be seated.

Collect dinner in order you are instructed. Do not eat until everyone else at the table has food.

Dessert served after.

"Passing of the Port" – "Port" served, and you pour yourself Port, in respectful silence. Specific rules are detailed below.

Everyone stands, toasts are made.

Everyone is seated, you can now freely pour/drink the Port.

Speeches.

Head table retires

Fines and Charges session.

Departures.

Specific Format Breakdown

Arriving and eating:

- On arrival we will do the group photos first.
- Afterwards, you will be guided to the meeting waiting area where you can mingle. Ensure you have a look at where you are seated.
- When invited, enter the Dining area in the order instructed.
- After Introductions you can be seated.
- Dinner served, get your food in the order instructed.
 - Do not eat until your whole table has food
- Plates collected; dessert served in a similar matter.

Passing of the Port

- “Port” (juice) will be served to each table after desert in a decanter (jug). Do not touch until instructed. We sip this Port when making Toasts.
- “Passing of the Port” is a time for quiet reflection and the entire process should be conducted with respect, and in silence.
- When instructed, the person closest to the Port lifts the decanter and pours themselves a glass.
- 3 Rules to Remember:
 - Port is passed to the left and the next person pours for themselves.
 - Decanter should never touch the table.
 - Drinking glasses shouldn’t be lifted from the table.
- Once everyone has poured a glass, the Port can be placed back on the table.

Toasts

- The Vice PMC will say a toast to the Queen: “Ladies and Gentlemen, the Queen.”
- Lift your glass high into the air, say “The Queen” then take a sip of “Port” (you need some left over for other Toasts).
- Other Toasts will be made, lift your glass and state what you are toasting to as per the above, then sip.
- There will now be speeches where you can share the “Port” freely.