

The Marine Society & Sea Cadets

Message from the Chief Executive

The MSSC Chairman Admiral Sir Tom Blackburn, Captain Mark Windsor CSC and I were asked to present to the Navy Board on the future of the Charity and the Sea Cadet Corps, our aspirations and some of the challenges that lie ahead. This is the second time we have been invited to do so, the first occasion being a year ago, and it is anticipated that this will now be an annual event. The Navy Board for those of you who are possibly not aware is chaired by First Sea Lord and attended by his most senior operational staff, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Second Sea Lord and Commandant General Royal Marines. Our reception as you would expect was cordial and the discussion straightforward. Inevitably the forthcoming general election and the strategic defence review formed a backdrop to the discussions. The additional funding secured this year from the RN to assist us in addressing some of the most serious material shortcomings in Units will we think be continued for the next 3 years. We outlined to the Board some of the achievements over the past few years, the bringing into service of the TS Jack Petchey, the Trinity 500 pulling boat and the new Training Centre at Weymouth to name but a few. Our contribution to the RN's profile around the country, the quality of our training, the smartness and turn out of our cadets and the success of the new programs does not go unnoticed. We remain on the Royal Navy's radar at the highest level and continue to enjoy considerable support despite the significant challenges and issues faced by First Sea Lord and his management team. However, we do not take this for granted nor are we complacent. First Sea Lord asked me to convey to you all his and the Navy Board's appreciation for what is and will remain a strong team effort.

