



Newsletter

JUNE 2008

MSSC Tyne Tees Branch Launch

The Branch held a reception at Trinity House to introduce MSSC and its aims to charitable trusts and representatives of the maritime industry within the region.

Local Sea Cadets helped receive the guests with the Club Swingers and Band putting on a splendid show that was enjoyed by all. In his address, the Branch Chairman outlined the long history of the Marine Society in providing educational services to seafarers, and the Sea Cadets in providing training to young people in local communities. The two charities were merged in 2004.

MSSC Branches, of which Tyne Tees is one of the newest, are being set up across the UK to help develop resources for the Sea Cadet arm of the charity at regional level.

The Chairman also highlighted that the Sea

Cadets are not fully funded by the Ministry of Defence (see article overleaf).

Local Sea Cadet Units must find and fund their own HQ and running costs.

The needs of the Sea Cadets are:

People to train the youngsters

- People with management skills to help local unit Management Committees
- Major donations to help build facilities for the region
- Smaller donations to support ongoing work.

Tyne Tees Branch has taken on the task of coordinating funding for a new Residential Centre at the Regional Boat Station at Derwenthaugh.



Boat Station Development – Progress report

The first phase of the Project is the installation of pontoons. Thanks to a successful application to the Peoples Millions Lottery fund, a grant of £58,000 has been awarded. The pontoons have been ordered and hopefully will be installed by the end of August. The Branch has the daunting task of raising £750,000 for the Residential Centre. So far the project has received positive reactions from potential funders and the Branch believes that £250,000 is available so far. The long task of finding the other £500,000 is now under way. The Boat Station is also looking for help with the purchase of boats:

- a. To replace existing boats as they become beyond economic repair
- b. To improve capability by acquiring high performance boats for advanced training and craft suited to use by disabled youngsters.



An example of the type of pontoon to be installed

Branch Summer Event

We are now planning the summer event which is to be the commissioning of the new pontoons at the boat station. It is intended to make this a fun-day as well as an official opening. At present we are having a problem getting the piling done so cannot provide a date just yet. A notice will go out as soon as completion can be confirmed.

SeaCadetFest 29-30 March MetroCentre

The SeaCadetFest was held at the Metro Centre at the end of March. The band, drill team, club swingers and hornpipe enticed the crowds, who then went on to enjoy the other attractions, such as the cook stewards, diving, first aid, and rowing stands. The climbing wall proved to be a huge favourite, especially



with the younger members of the crowd. The juniors, dressed as pirates, added the 'ahhhh factor' to the event. The three Sea Cadet Districts and MSSC Branch each had their own stands, which helped raise awareness to interested onlookers.

Sea Cadets and Central Funding

There is a common misconception that the Sea Cadet Corps is fully funded by the MoD as are the other cadet forces.

The MoD does provide grant aid of £8 million per annum to help with the cost of training, including the provision of the uniforms which the cadets wear.

This however covers only half the cost of the Corps. The MSSC nationally raises £1.5 million per annum to meet the cost of central services and the maintenance cost of the offshore fleet. A further £6.5 million per annum is raised by the 400 local Units to cover their running costs. The cost of capital projects, such as offshore vessels, Unit HQ buildings, and Training Centres, is funded by special appeals.