

# CO's Newsletter

Firstly, a Happy New Year to all the parents we haven't seen this year on behalf of the all the Unit Staff.

The Staff situation has steadily improved over the last 18 months. We now have 4 PO's, Stuart, Fiona, Louise and Doug. 1 PPO, Paul, 1 CI, Lindsay and 2 more to come on staff whose paperwork is at Area HQ, John and Scott. We also have Rev'd Douglas Wallace as the Unit Chaplain. **10** in Total. Staff Qualifications have also improved greatly and several have gained Instructors tickets in various disciplines. Well done. BZ.

The Unit Royal Navy Inspection takes place next **Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> February**. Cadets need to be at the Unit for **6:30 pm**. All Parents and family are invited to attend. Please be seated for 7:15 pm. The Inspecting Officer will be Cdr. Colin Redstone. OBE. RN. On behalf of the management committee could I appeal for donations of sandwiches and cakes.

Time is fast approaching for Cadets to apply for courses for the Easter and Summer holiday periods. The list of courses should be out on the 25th. Could you please sit down with your children and assist them with this. Please take note of the ages and the pre-qualifications needed. Further information can be obtained from the Training Officer PO Van Henten at [webmaster@ekseacadets.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@ekseacadets.co.uk) or speak to him at the Unit.

The management committee are actively trying to get sponsorship for the Unit from local companies. If your place of employment offers grants to charities could you let the Unit Chairman, Iain Wiseman or the Unit PRO, Douglas McArthur, know.

Could you please ensure that I have your **current** contact details, particularly email addresses, as places on courses for the Cadets can and do come up at very short notice. I, and they, would hate for them to miss out because of out of date information.

Over the last few months the Unit website has been completely revamped by PO Van Henten, who has done a marvellous job. If you haven't done so please log on to [www.ekseacadets.co.uk](http://www.ekseacadets.co.uk) There is an ongoing program to keep it up to date and relevant. All important dates are there for the Cadets and Parents. As letters have the bad habit of disappearing between the Unit and home we are anxious to use modern technology to assist you and relieve the Admin burden on the Unit. If you do not have a computer at home please let me know and I can arrange for hard copies of relevant dates etc..

The recent dance arranged by the Parents and Supporters Association was very poorly attended by Parents. I urge you to take an active part in these social events as this is our main source of income. I would hate to see a capitation fee being introduced. The next event is a Family Quiz at the Douglas Hall on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Inspection.

If you need to talk to me please phone 01355 233395. 07765 961 728. email, [co@ekseacadets.co.uk](mailto:co@ekseacadets.co.uk)

Jim Harper  
Sub Lieutenant(SCC) RNR  
Commanding Officer.

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