



The Nautical Training Corps

Annual Report

Registered Charity Number: 1201880

Financial Year Ended: 30 April 2024



Annual Report: 2023/2024



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Introduction:

Reference and Administrative Status:

The Nautical Training Corps is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('Association' Model).
Registered Charity Number 1201880

Correspondence Address:

National Headquarters, 72 Wick Farm Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 7HG

The National Secretary, 15 Emberwood, Maiden Lane, Langley Green, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 7QT

Website:

<https://www.ntc.org.uk>

Email:

hello@ntc.org.uk

NTC Main Line (Tel)

+44300 124 6645

NTC Safeguarding (Tel):

+44300 124 6647





Corps Trustees and Key Personnel

Patron:

Rear Admiral R John Lippiett CB CBE

Commodore:

Mr Brian Orchard

Chair:

Mr Paul Cronin (Interim)

Corps Chaplain General:

Reverend Phil Hiscock

National Council Members (Trustees):

Mr Paul Cronin

Rev'd Phil Hiscock

Vice Commodore Chris Clayton

Vice Commodore Christine Waller

Mrs Sarah Ashley

Chairperson (Interim)

Corps Chaplain General

National Secretary

Lay Member

Independent Examiner:

Till & Cloake

Retained Solicitor:

None Appointed

Appointed Bankers:

CAF Bank



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Independent Review:

NAUTICAL TRAINING CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS 2023/24:

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires the National Council, as Trustees of the Charity, to prepare accounts for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the Charity's financial position at the end of the financial year and of its financial activities during the year. In doing so the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the Charity at any time and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 1993;
- safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



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Independent Review:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NAUTICAL TRAINING CORPS YEAR ENDED 30 April 2024

I report on the attached unaudited accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 April 2024.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES AND THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 does not apply as gross income does not exceed £250,000 and the accounts are prepared on the receipts and payments basis. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters.





Independent Review:

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to

- a) keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Act; and
- b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act, have not been met.

I confirm that I am a person Independent of the Charity and its Trustees.

I do not have any close relationships with any of the Charity's Trustees and I do not have any influence or dealings with the day to day finances, but do have a reasonable understanding of the Corps.

Date: 29/11/24

R.L. Cloake, Chartered Certified Accountant
Till + Cloake
70 South Street
Lancing
West Sussex, BN15 8AJ



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Historic Overview:

The Nautical Training Corps (NTC) is a National Maritime Training and Uniformed Youth (Cadet) Organisation based in the United Kingdom. Registered Charity Number: 1201880

The NTC was formed in 1943 and was officially registered and recognised in 1944 by the founding Commodore, Cdre Frank Froëst-Carr MBE NTC.

At the time, the NTC was established to provide opportunities for young people to become useful and worthy citizens within their communities across England, through learning and vocational training developed with the Merchant and Royal Navies.

By participating in the corps programme, young people would be able to use their service time in the NTC to assist them in joining the armed forces through the Y Entry Scheme. Units were inspected by the Royal Navy and training records were provided to the admiralty.

After successive strategic defence reviews formal support from the Ministry of Defence, and the Royal Navy reduced, with the Ministry of Education picking up some of those support arrangements over time.

Despite reduction in support the Nautical Training Corps continued to expand and develop its provision and opportunities for young people.



Cdre Frank Froëst-Carr MBE NTC.

In modern times, The NTC receives no formal ongoing support from the UK Government. But does still enjoy regular opportunities to engage and develop opportunities with its armed forces, albeit informally and flexibly.

Cadets and officers wear uniforms similar to that of the Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary, with a rank structure based on the two services. Officers swear allegiance to His Majesty the King. Units are named after HM serving or retired ships and are issued with a crest bearing some resemblance to that of its serving or retired counterpart.

In 2014 The Ministry of Defence awarded the Nautical Training Corps a defaced red ensign, as recognition of the opportunities it has given young people since its establishment. The first such award for over 40 years.



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Objects, Policies and Activities 2023 / 2024

This Report:

The National Council present the Charity Annual Report and Accounts for 2023/2024. The Reference and Administrative Information, Corps and Treasurer's Reports and the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities form part of the Annual Report, which complies with the Charity's Constitution, the Charities Acts 1993 and 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005).

Objectives:

The Charity's objects are, as formally set out in the Constitution at Chapter 1 of the Corps' Rules and Regulations, to promote the development of young persons in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, particularly by education in the history and practice of seamanship and seafaring.

Our young people enrol as uniformed cadets and have the opportunity to become junior instructors from age 16 and progress to officer status post 18. They are encouraged to develop self-confidence and a sense of self worth through a nautically based structured training programme and a wide range of experiences and activities. Activities include sailing, canoeing, sports, climbing, marching band and shooting, and are available at the Corps' local Units, its two national activity centres and other organisations' facilities. Many Units offer their cadets the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Safety and safeguarding are paramount.

The Corps has no paid staff, all instruction being provided by unpaid but trained and vetted volunteers, front line local Units rely heavily on volunteers for help with fund-raising, charity management, premises maintenance and assistance at deck nights and outside events and activities.





Structure, Governance and Management

The Nautical Training Corps is a uniformed youth organisation with Units, or Training Ships, spread across the south coast of England.

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('Association' Model). The Charity and its property are administered and managed by its National Council, whose members are a mix of trustees and ex officio advisors.

National Council officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and lay members are elected and retire at the Annual General Meeting, in cycle as per the constitutionally laid down periods. Vacancies arising during the year are filled by co-option as suitable candidates become available. Ex-officio members, and advisors are drawn from the uniformed Corps and based on the position held.

At the end of the financial year, the National Council comprised of 5 people, all have specific areas of responsibility in addition to those of National Council membership and trusteeship generally. There are currently vacancies for a permanent chair, treasurer and lay members. The Charity's main officers are the Chairperson, Commodore, Vice Commodore, Corps Chaplain General, National Secretary and Treasurer. The National Council formally meets bi-monthly, its members keeping in contact with each other and the Corps at large as necessary in between meetings. Decisions are made by consensus or on a majority vote.

The National Council and its senior officer team are currently working through an organisational change programme that will hopefully ensure that the organisation is resilient and robust





Structure, Governance and Management

Operational and training matters are under the supervision of the Chief of Staff, who is responsible to the National Council for the day to day running of the Corps. Three Regional Commanders and NHQ staff with specific responsibilities support the Chief of Staff. Each Regional Commander oversees the activities of three to six Units of the Corps.

Each Unit is run day to day by a uniformed training staff headed by a Commanding Officer, with local fundraising and support functions dealt with by a committee comprising uniformed and lay members.

Units are not independent charities but branches of the national Charity, their committees being technically sub-committees of the National Council, which delegates defined authority and responsibilities while remaining ultimately responsible as trustees for all Corps assets.

In effect, National Council maintains the organisation's charitable, financial and legal framework, relieving ships of most such matters and leaving them free so far as possible to concentrate on cadet activities and fundraising. This is a step change, compared to historic committees, who each had an independent trust deed, and an association with the National Charity and structures.

The Charity has revised its arrangements for local financial management to ensure a clear scheme of financial delegation and accountability, including local responsibilities for the custody and control of Corps assets and delegation of expenditure to levels appropriate to the amounts involved and circumstances. The Trustees at the close of the year, 30th April 2024, are shown at page 3.





Priorities, Partners and Supporters

Current Priorities:

Core Priorities for the Nautical Training Corps are identified as the following:

1. Review and modernise the corps policy and regulatory frameworks.
2. Focus on the development of recruitment and retention of both adults and young people, through support programmes and an improved offer.
3. Improve the organisations long term resilience, including understanding better, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Risks.

Partner Organisations:

Maritime Volunteer Service

Royal Yachting Association

Portsmouth Scouts

Volunteer Action Groups across the South of England

Numerous like-minded and enabling organisations with which we co-operate at local level e.g. local authorities, schools and other youth organisations.

Supporters:

The corps received funding from a number of organisations as outlined in the accounts section.





Investments and Reserves



The Charity's principal assets are its leasehold properties, its boating, band and other equipment, vehicles and its bank balances. These are held to provide premises and equipment for Corps activities and to fund those activities.

It is the National Council's policy to regard funds raised by an individual Unit as being at the disposal of the Unit, subject to National Council's trustee responsibilities to ensure the proper usage of resources. These designated funds are shown on the annexed part of the Corps' accounts.

Items that are specifically held for a certain use, such as grants and funds raised for a project are shown in the accounts as Restricted. The National Council aims to establish and maintain Corps' reserves at a level sufficient for the Charity's operations.

Normal fundraising, donation and subscription income finances its day-to-day activities. Capital acquisitions and other major expenditure being funded by legacies and appeals. The National Council is empowered to invest the Charity's funds as it sees fit.





Trustees Responsibilities for the Accounts

Charity law requires the National Council, as Trustees of the charity, to prepare accounts for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the charity's financial position at the end of the financial year and of its financial activities during the year. In doing so the Trustees are required to:

Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently

Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

Prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for:

Keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the charity at anytime, and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Charities Act 1993

Safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.





Organisational Risk Factors

The Corps continues to maintain standards in areas such as financial reporting, safeguarding and safety. We continue to examine the risk factors affecting the Corps on at least an annual basis at our Trustees Strategy Day, and as needed through general meetings and any special meetings required. The corps will look to enhance its risk analysis and management structures.

Some of these risks are:

1. Relevant training for both adults and cadets
2. Quality of our volunteers
3. Ensuring we provide safe environment
4. Financial controls

(Trustee Signature, On behalf of the National Council)

(Date)

(Trustee Signature, On behalf of the National Council)

(Date)





Review of Year National Council Chair

*

I am writing this report under the premise of Interim Chair for the new charity status of the NTC, the commentary is based on all the work carried out within the new charity.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all those involved in ensuring that we have had another successful year. Please pass on my personal thanks to each of your Officers, Helpers, Committee members and your Cadets, without every one of you we would not be sat here today. I would also like to say a special mention to those involved at a National Level, who have worked so very hard to get us to the stage of being (almost) fully operation under the new charity status, without your hard work and many, many hours spent behind the scenes we would not be in the position we are in – Thank you.

My thoughts on the past year....

I started the year in my role as a Lay Member of the National Council and the Treasurer of TS Intrepid, where I have been on the committee for over 15 years, serving in all roles within the committee. Earlier this year, as some of you may know, Claire Wilkins stepped down as Corps Chair with immediate effect. This meant that the Corps did not have a Chair, so I agreed to step into the role as your Interim Chair. Before I move on however, I would like to formally thank Claire Wilkins for her hard work, service and dedication she gave to the role, especially at a time that she was going through some personal challenges. Thank you, Claire.

Since taking the role of Interim Chair, it has certainly been a learning curve for me, a very steep one at times, and I still have a long way to go. Being part of the National Team, is a vastly different role to any of the others I have held on an individual ship. There has been so much compliance to learn, not just Rules and Regulations but also the legal compliance, Safeguarding, and the things that the National Team must do daily, to ensure the safety and integrity of every member of the Corps is upheld in the best way it can, protecting every member of the Corps. A special mention needs to go to Ben for being my NTC Encyclopedia over the last few months.





Review of Year National Council Chair Continued

Unfortunately, I have had to spend much of my time so far trying to support and work through some key areas across our Corps, focusing on a couple of ships that have required some additional support. Whilst this is important and was needed, I would have preferred to of come out to your individual ships and introduced myself to the wider NTC family. So, apologies that I have to managed to do this yet.

I am super proud of the committee's that have managed to start to use the new bank and implement the change, I only know to well what a challenge it can be to stop parents paying into an old account. Talking about accounts, I would like to say a big thank you to Sarah Ashley, quite simply what Sarah has done for us this year has been amazing, Sarah has worked so hard to get us to the stage of being able to move on with the new charity.

I am delighted to see that we have delivered more training across the Corps and covering many of the subjects that you have asked for. Thank you to Christine and Ben for your hard work in getting these written and delivered.

There is no need for me to talk to you about the great things that the cadets have done this year, as you have all been involved and this will be covered off in the other reports.

We are aware of some of the challenges we have all faced, especially with adult recruitment, cadet recruitment, CRB's, premises, finance, transport, National events, however, although at times you may feel that things are progressing slowly, I can assure you that all is being worked on tirelessly by your National and Regional teams.

Paul Cronin
Interim Chair
National Council



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Review of Year National Council Lay Member

2023-24 saw the start of the asset transfer from the old to the new charity. By the 30th April 2024, all inventory, and most cash and bank assets had been transferred.

I appreciate that there have been a lot of teething issues with CAF and would like to thank the units for their perseverance in getting the old bank accounts closed.

The new charity has enabled us to be registered with HMRC for Gift Aid. This in turn has allowed the Corps to register with various donation platforms such as Just Giving, GoFundMe and CAF Donate.

At present there has been low take up for claiming gift aid on donations and it is hoped that 24/25 will see all units making use of this facility.

The biggest change financially during the year was for the Corps to take on the running of Portslade Village Centre. This has been successfully done entirely by volunteers. A very special thank you to Michaela Clayton for the many hours she spends managing the centre.

Portslade contributed £14k to the Corps in the six months it was in operation.

In the absence of a Corps Treasurer, we retained the accountancy services of Till & Cloake to compile these accounts. This has worked well, and I thank them for their assistance and hope to continue working with them in the future.

Sarah Ashley
Lay Member



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Consolidated Accounts Section A

	CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Nautical Training Corps	1201880	
Receipts and payments accounts				CC16a
For the period from	01/05/2023	To	30/04/2024	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Grants, Donations and Subs	25,672	-	-	25,672	-
Fundraising	5,909	-	-	5,909	-
Cadet Activities	27,758	-	-	27,758	-
Investment	1,039	-	-	1,039	-
Gift Aid	3	-	-	3	-
Other	161,319	-	-	161,319	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	221,700	-	-	221,700	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sale of Assets	1,303	-	-	1,303	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	1,303	-	-	1,303	-
Total receipts	223,003	-	-	223,003	-
A3 Payments					
Fundraising	1,115	-	-	1,115	-
Running Costs (includes Cadet Activities)	57,273	-	-	57,273	-
Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	58,388	-	-	58,388	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Purchase of Assets	7,731	-	-	7,731	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	7,731	-	-	7,731	-
Total payments	66,119	-	-	66,119	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	156,884	-	-	156,884	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	156,884	-	-	156,884	-



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Consolidated Accounts Section B

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank	153,689	-	-
	Cash in Hand	3,195	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	156,884	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	



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Consolidated Income by Unit

Income by Unit								
	Grants Donations & Subs	Investments	Gift Aid	Cadet Activities	Fundraising	Sale of Assets	Other	Total Income
NHQ	13,347	631	4	16,843	228	1,303	84,330	116,686
Lion	215	0	0	3,153	0	0	3,829	7,198
Eastern	0	0	0	493	580	0	15	1,088
Northern	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Southern	15	0	0	641	0	0	1,309	1,966
Defiance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fortitude	970	98	0	105	709	0	9,165	11,042
Implacable	2,158	6	0	2,202	940	0	7,062	12,368
Indomitable	271	296	0	20	60	0	35,780	36,427
Intrepid	500	0	0	0	0	0	20	520
Montrose	2,816	1	0	0	0	0	2,181	4,998
Nautilus	288	0	0	0	0	0	171	459
Ranger	1,406	1	0	235	180	0	1,018	2,839
Resolution	456	2	0	0	0	0	3,486	3,944
Sturdy	722	1	0	205	1,869	0	3,703	6,499
Swiftsure	0	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,025	2,025
Tenacity	2,028	4	0	2,818	493	0	8,000	13,343
Valiant	250	0	0	3	0	0	15	268
Zealous	195	4	0	40	850	0	15	1,104
Total	25,672	1,039	4	27,758	5,909	1,303	161,126	222,810



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Consolidated Expenditure by Unit

Expenditure by Unit

	Fundraising	Running Costs	Accountancy	Purchase of Assets	Total Expenditure
NHQ	118	27,962	0	1,412	29,492
Lion	0	5,874	0	30	5,904
Eastern	110	35	0	0	145
Northern	0	35	0	0	35
Southern	0	613	0	0	613
Defiance	0	0	0	0	0
Fortitude	106	2,853	0	0	2,959
Implacable	268	3,923	0	1,155	5,346
Indomitable	50	1,970	0	115	2,136
Intrepid	0	40	0	0	40
Montrose	40	2,899	0	0	2,939
Nautilus	0	35	0	0	35
Ranger	24	2,260	0	109	2,393
Resolution	0	2,272	0	0	2,272
Sturdy	299	2,704	0	2,512	5,515
Swiftsure	0	35	0	0	35
Tenacity	100	3,454	0	2,399	5,953
Valiant	0	231	0	0	231
Zealous	0	78	0	0	78
Total	1,115	57,273	0	7,731	66,119





Review of Year The Chief of Staff

The Nautical Training Corps, Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1201880 is the next evolution of resilience and sustainability for the organisation established to provide opportunities for young people through nautically themed or based training.

The key focusses for our operational teams, has been to manage the transfer, review and in parts redraft of policy. Continuing to deliver activities through our cadet units and National Centres whilst also trying to create noticeable positive changes in support for our adult volunteers both in uniform and non-uniformed roles.

This has included the development of a dedicated recruitment team to formalise, standardise and make more efficient the overall recruitment process. This has been mostly positive, however the delays in enhanced DBS checks for roles is creating a significant backlog in those processing through.

We remain committed to safer recruitment practices as set out in both safeguarding policy, and national guidance.

We have also focused on enhancing further the digital tools used by our adult volunteers including making use of nonprofit programmes run by both Microsoft and Google and in doing so, are exploring how we can make our cadet training more interactive and online.

We have a number of new units chalked up and ready for launch in locations across the south coast of England, focused predominantly in locations where current established youth provision is oversubscribed or non-existent. This is a focused move to ensure that our actions are not impactive on established well run youth organisations, all of whom continue to try and operate in an increasingly harsh environment.





The Chief of Staff Report (Continued)

Our cadets continue to do incredible things within their communities, both within an NTC context and beyond. With a number of those getting ready to travel to the United States of America on a joint exchange trip. Where they will proudly represent the United Kingdom on a number of local engagements across New Jersey and New York.

Our operating model now allows for less single points of failure and the delivery of change and opportunities in real time. Which makes us ready and more resilient in the 21st century.

Thank you to our cadets, our adult volunteers and supporters.

Captain Suzi Colbourne NTC
Chief of Staff
The Nautical Training Corps





Safeguarding

In the course of this 2023/24 year our Safeguarding Policies, Procedures and Safeguarding Team have been reviewed and revised.

A dedicated Safeguarding Manager has been appointed. The Safeguarding Team meets regularly to review cases and issues.

A number of safeguarding cases have arisen during the 2023/24 year resulting in immediate suspensions pending investigation and in two cases subsequent dismissals from the Corps.

Our contacts with the LADOs, Police and Children's Services in the various local authorities across our area are constantly under review and development.

The online Basic Safeguarding Course, which is mandatory for all our adult volunteers was updated during the year. Plans are underway for adding face to face courses again into the Training Programme in this coming year.

Corps Chaplain General
(Safeguarding Lead)
Reverend Phil Hiscock



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Unit Contact Details:

Northern Region

Regional Commander:	Cdr Dennis Deering NTC	northern@ntc.org.uk
	TS Swiftsure, Copthorne	swiftsure@ntc.org.uk
	TS Resolution, East Grinstead	resolution@ntc.org.uk

Southern Region

Regional Commander:	Vacant	southern@ntc.org.uk
	TS Sturdy, Chichester	sturdy@ntc.org.uk
	TS Intrepid, Lancing	intrepid@ntc.org.uk
	TS Implacable, Littlehampton	implacable@ntc.org.uk
	TS Montrose, Bognor Regis	montrose@ntc.org.uk
	TS Tenacity, Portchester	tenacity@ntc.org.uk

Eastern Region

Regional Commander:	Cdr Dennis Deering NTC	eastern@ntc.org.uk
	TS Zealous, Hollingbury	zealous@ntc.org.uk
	TS Nautilus, Kemp Town	nautilus@ntc.org.uk
	TS Valiant, Woodingdean	valiant@ntc.org.uk
	TS Fortitude, St Leonards on Sea	fortitude@ntc.org.uk
	TS Indomitable, Burgess Hill	indomitable@ntc.org.uk
	TS Ranger, Portslade	ranger@ntc.org.uk

