**SCC Presentation Speech: Friday 1st June 2018**

**IOBA Chairman (Andrew Butler 77/78): Presentation Speech:**

“Lord Lieutenant, distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen and young cadets.

Before we move onto the most important part of the evening, the actual presentation, I would like to take a few minutes to outline to you the history of the Indefatigable, affectionately known by its members as the ‘Inde’, and the Indefatigable Old Boys Association.

There was a time, not too long ago, when the British merchant fleet was larger than the rest of the world’s merchant navies combined. This was perhaps the pinnacle of hundreds of years of British maritime tradition, when Britain really did ‘Rule the Waves’. This created a huge and constant need for young men, trained for the challenge of a rigorous life at sea. A life that was hard and required the highest standards of training, performance, leadership and personal example. This demand accelerated during the two World Wars, and the Inde like many other Training Ships existed to answer this demand, and was something special in Britain’s maritime tradition.

The Founding Fathers of the Inde were the Bibby family, owners of the Merchant Shipping Company Bibby Line. They asked the question “What is to be done about the many orphans whose only crime was that they were sons of seamen?” So in 1864 the Indefatigable was set up for “the training of orphans and boys in poor circumstances”. With much change from ship to shore, the School continued until 1995 with its self-appointed task of ‘turning boys into men’.

Founded in 1864 HMS Indefatigable was fitted out by the Bibby family. In 1914 she was replaced by HMS Phaeton, which became the second Indefatigable. She was moored close to HMS Conway off Rock Ferry Pier on the River Mersey.

The end for the ships came in 1941 when due to war time bombing, both the ‘Conway’ and the ‘Indefatigable’ were ordered to evacuate. The ship itself was renamed Carrick II and moved to here in Glasgow. The Inde boys were moved away from the Mersey and to a shore based accommodation in Plas Menai below the Britannia Bridge on the Menai Straits, Anglesey. She survived in this building, the former Marquis of Anglesey’s stately home, until 1995 when financial pressures forced her closure.

The word Indefatigable, meaning ‘never tiring’, ‘unremitting’, ‘that which cannot be wearied’, sums up very strongly the ‘Indefatigable’ efforts of our committee and membership, some that are here this evening. Currently the Old Boys membership stands at around 250, and is growing daily.

The Indefatigable Old Boys Association was founded in 1983 and we are about to have our 35th AGM & Reunion on Saturday June 9th. It should be noted, that the MD of the Bibby Line Group – Sir Michael Bibby Bt, is indeed our President of the Association.

It was at a reunion in 2005, that Major General Bill O’Leary – HERE TONIGHT (and previous IOBA Chairman) put a proposal to the assembled members. Because of his position in the Army Reserve (formerly known as the Territorial Army) he was very aware that the Sea Cadet Corps did not receive the same financial support from the Ministry of Defence that the Army and Air Force Cadets received. This of course, was due to the decision by the Navy, to allow the Sea Cadet Corps to become a registered charity some years back. Major General Bill felt very strongly that the Cadets of the Sea Cadet Corps were in need of some financial support, and that it was incumbent upon us in the Association to give back something to the youth of today. Now, I won’t bore you with all the finer details, but suffice to say that a proposal was passed with a 100% majority, to present on an annual basis a sum of money to assist the Sea Cadet Corp, and in particular an individual unit.

After some discussion with the late Commodore Laurie Brokenshire (SCC Captain at the time) at the Marine Society and Sea Cadet Corps Headquarters in London, we agreed that the monetary award would be made to the Sea Cadet Unit deemed by the Headquarters to have made the most significant improvement over the preceding 12 months.

Additionally, we agreed to present to the unit, this fine Cup, The TS Indefatigable Cup, Formally known to the Old Boys Association, as the ‘Navy League Challenge Swimming Trophy’.  However - **The trophy is so valuable** it has to remain at the SCC HQ other than for the presentation; the winning unit receive a shield to keep.

**So now to the highlight of the evening;**

The Sea Cadet Unit, deemed by the Marine Society and Sea Cadet Corps Headquarters, to have made the most significant improvement over the preceding 12 months, is ‘**T.S. INTREPID, 524 - CHESHUNT SEA CADET CORPS’**, and it gives me great pleasure to present the TS Indefatigable Cup and a monetary award of **£1000** to **‘T.S. INTREPID**’, for this outstanding achievement.

This is the **twelfth** time that the Cup has been awarded to the Sea Cadet Corps. The Cup now has been engraved with the Units name **‘T.S. INTREPID**’, alongside the other winning Units.  As well as the Cup presentation and monetary award, we would like you to receive an inscribed IOBA Shield to keep and a few IOBA memorabilia items to remember us by, for the Unit and Cadets.

Thank you and well done again.

Andrew Butler

Indefatigable OBA Chairman 2016 – 2019