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TONBRIDGE
SCHOOL

OLD TONBRIDIANS FORCES ASSOCIATION (OTFA)

Aims and Aspirations

Aims

The aims of the OTFA are:

- To provide a network of serving personnel, linked by their common bond to the school
- To provide an unofficial framework through which Tonbridge boys with an interest in a service career can seek advice and guidance
- To foster links and affiliations between the CCF and the Services

Membership

OTFA will be open to:

- Current and ex-servicemen who are either OTs or have been staff members at Tonbridge School; to include members of Reserve Forces
- Current and retired Tonbridge School CCF Officers
- Junior membership offered to university students who are members of URNU, OTC or UAS sections.

Organisation

The OTFA will require a committee to provide organisational structure. As a minimum this should be:

- Chairman (CCF Contingent Commander)
- Secretary
- Functions co-ordinator
- RN Liaison
- Army Liaison
- RAF Liaison

Membership information to be co-ordinated by the OT Secretary

Functions

OTFA membership will be geographically widespread so it would not be sensible to anticipate a variety of social events. However, an Annual Dinner held at a service establishment or club would be a modest aspiration, perhaps with a guest speaker, or speakers from each of the forces and from the school. Furthermore, consideration must be given to suitable events and functions for members who have retired.

Communication

The potential for face-to-face networking between members of OTFA will be limited. However, it is likely that most, if not all, members will have internet access, and therefore a website, chatroom or equivalent would appear to be the most useful way to provide a communications focus. Members could post up-to-date information about themselves, and also opportunities for cadets and potential recruits. The site could also host a picture library which would feature material from the school and from members. It is likely that this site would be part of the current OT site.

A newsletter, initially annual, would provide a more formal way of disseminating news.

Benefits

OTFA will provide a worldwide network of people with a common interest and a common bond; the benefits of such a network to its members are clear. More tangible benefits may become available if the OTFA can arrange discounts on products, perhaps in affiliation with other similar organisations. It must also be accepted that the school, and CCF cadets in particular, should benefit from the links which OTFA will provide with personnel at all levels within the forces. The aim of including a liaison officer from each service on the committee is to facilitate these links, as well as provide a focus for members from the same service.

Inauguration

The OTFA will be officially inaugurated during the CCF Annual Dinner on March 12th 2008, and those OTs present will be invited to join. Others will be contacted immediately after. Once a membership list has been established a committee will be appointed whose first task will be to gather feedback from the members concerning this document. Their deliberations will then lead to a constitution, or similar instrument, which will encompass the aims and aspirations, the methods of conducting business and forms of communication.

Ian Lucas
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