

China Fleet Trust

2023 - The Year in Review

The following document is a review of 2023 and the more significant events which highlights all that the Trust achieved in what turned out to be a very busy year.

It has been a changeable year, which commenced under the cloud of escalating utility costs and has finished with a more favourable outlook, projecting enduring growth. At the heart remains Beneficiary awareness and increasing usage, which has certainly prevailed throughout 2023.

January 2023

The list of engagements in January included: SDA, 47 Cdo, attendance at the First Sea Lord's conference for the Warrant Officers, Babcock engagement, RN Police, RNRMC CEO visit and the wake for the former Chair of Trustees; Vice Admiral "Bob" Gerken was held at the Club.

Glazing rectification work completed and work was ongoing for future renewables investment.



Glazing Refurbishment
Completion



1SL's WO Conference
RNAS Yeovilton



February 2023

The month saw a steady drumbeat of Beneficiary engagement with visitation of the following units and establishments: HMS MONTROSE, SUBFLOT, CO Designs Course, RNAS Culdrose support for their Make a Wish campaign, RNA and included a trip via FOST to HMS SOMERSET. Governance wise; the 5-year OA review completed and ratified at the meeting of Trustees, along with approval to press ahead with Phase 1 of the renewable energy procurement and provision of the new Waste Treatment Plant.



FOST hosted visit to
HMS SOMERSET



Naval Base Commanders (Devonport, Portsmouth, Clyde) visit



March 2023

March saw engagement with and visitation from: DMWS, AFC veteran roadshow, FCWO, Association of Wrens, Fleet Commander, NBC X 3, SURFLOT Capt AFH, FOST Exec, OARDACIOUS, SMr Assoc, BULW



AFC Veterans Outreach Event



Fleet Commander visit to the Club

April 2023

April: RFA Board meeting held & RFA focus group, RNRMC away day board meeting & farewell dinner to Adrian Bell, JHG(SW), SSAFA Plymouth visit ahead of proposed Christmas Fair, Affiliation meeting with Cornwall Council & Truro city, RBLI Lifeworks inaugural course at Club, Solar installation commenced.



Solar mid-installation

May 2023

May was a busy month with a variety of beneficiary engagements occurring, including: Warrant Officer of the Royal Navy visit, RM memorial event with 47 Cdo, HMS Courageous visit & fact finding, RM RSMs top table event, attendance at the RNA's national conference in Liverpool and support to the Submarine Service "Oscars" event in Glasgow. Governance wise the Trust board meeting ratified the Company's budget and plan for the FY ahead. A highlight was the Club winning the "Planet Saver" Green Business of the Year award from Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce.



RM memorial event with 47 Cdo & RM Corps Chaplain



Planet Saver Award Presentation Night

With the National Armed Forces Day being held in Falmouth this year it presented opportunities to spread the message about the Club both in Falmouth and its traditional stance on Plymouth Hoe. Various events were supported on the run up to the day; AFD Flag Raising, AFD Expo at Plymouth Argyle, AFD Conference at Uni of Falmouth, AFD triathlon in Plymouth and attendance at both AFD over the weekend. Other events included BRNC Officer Candidates visiting, EWO Designs course visit, Babcock and the Association of Wrens.



July 2023

Another busy month of engagement included: HMS Raleigh and re-signing of partnering agreement, RNRMC CEO visitation, 29 Cdo visit, SM Cox'n course, attendance at HMS Collingwood's field gun day, visit by HMS Victorious's command team, NBC(D) visit and hosting HMS Oardacious' boat naming and unveiling event.



HMS Raleigh's CO signs partnering agreement

29 Cdo visit



SM Cox'n Course



CFCC Logo adorned on "Captain Jim"



HMS Oardacious' boat "Captain Jim" prior to ceremony

August 2023

The leave period for most of our beneficiary cadre but we do get lots achieved during this period and the Annual Audit always takes place for 2 weeks during the month. Visitation in month was seen from the Fleet Commander, HMS Audacious and we supported Devon URNU on their annual charity event in support of RNRMC and DMWS.

HMS Audacious command team visit



Devon URNU on Plymouth Sound



September 2023

During the month the Trust and Company personnel had the opportunity to visit the Trust's affiliated Royal Marines Cdo unit, 47 Cdo, and hear an operational update brief before heading out on the water to put the ORCs through their paces, somewhat fiercely as 1 broke down! Other key events saw RBLI hold a second Lifeworks course at the Club, visits from the Naval Children's Charity, QARNNS, RNAS Culdrose and RNRMC took place during the month. The much-vaunted STP replacement project commenced.



47 Cdo visit—safety brief



47 Cdo visit
heading
back to RM
Tamar



47 Cdo HQ PPE provision (should have taken the offer of waterproof trousers!)

October 2023

HMS Victorious' crew rotation event, HMS Northumberland HODs command away day, Forestry Commission visit and possible collaborations, CTCRM CO of Commando Training Wing visit, RMA CEO (Ben Curry) visit, RNBT conference, CODC, Sustainability celebration and networking evening, AFC ERS awards, DIR P&T's charity day at HMS Excellent. First of our affiliated units changed Commanding Officer, with Col Will Norcott RM taking over from Col Rich Maltby RM at 47 Cdo.

HMS Victorious' crew rotation event



RNBT Conference



AFC ERS Silver Award



November 2023

November was busy with engagement and Governance continuing apace. The Trust meeting saw the departure of Sarah and Sweeney, with Nikki, Jane and Andy joining the Trust's ranks. Some projects came to maturity, with the STP and Golf Shop refurbishment both completing. Beneficiaries wise we saw visitation from Aggies, RNBT held their annual conference, FEC, JHG(SW), HMS Prince of Wales, SSAFA held their Christmas Fair, Plymouth Armed Forces Covenant, EWO Designs course and attendance at HMS Oardacious' gala evening in London where many beneficiaries and charities were represented. Of note in November we saw the 3 Phase 1 establishments all sending phase 1 personnel to the Club for their free acquaints, something that has been a long-held aspiration. Lastly our affiliated ship, HMS TAMAR, had a change of Command with Cdr Teilo Elliot-Smith handing over command to Cdr Tom Gell (who had visited the Club on CO Designs Course in October).

RNBT's Conference at the Club



SSAFA Christmas Fair



HMS Tamar handover of Commanding Officer



Trust farewell to Sarah
and Sweeney



EWO Desig Course
and BRNC Exec

HMS Oardacious Crew at the
magnificent Painted Hall in
Greenwich





Brig Fraser RM (NRC
WWE) visit



HMS Tamar produce
handover



A Christmas feel to the
Club

December 2023

The final month of the calendar year has seen the festive season bring many Christmas parties and opportunities for our beneficiaries to use the facilities with their families (Santa's grotto and Breakfast with Santa, etc.). At this time of year, it is worth reminding ourselves of those deployed and away from loved ones at Christmas. With this in mind, and with HMS Tamar deployed away from home for the 3rd year in succession, an initiative emerged from the affiliates of HMS Tamar (City of Truro, Cornwall Council and the Trust) to send a variety of Cornish produce out to the ship to affirm links and enable the ship to showcase the County through Defence Engagement around the Asia-Pacific region. A logistical relay has occurred, and, on writing, the produce is now with the ship's chandlery agent for delivery. Hilary kindly enabled Bishop Cornish Primary School in Saltash to write Christmas cards to the Ship's Company, these have been despatched with CPO Steve Pearse, who took delivery whilst on watch rotation leave earlier in December. Other engagement events included the Trust Chair attending the First Sea Lord's Admiralty Service in London, CTCRM PT Branch visit, the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly visiting the Club, Naval Regional Commander visit, the Club's Christmas Fair, HMS Drake engagement, HMS Courageous volunteers engagement and HMS Bulwark visit.

Summary

A rather rollercoaster year for the Trust, starting with uncertainty of increasing utility costs, driving through renewables investment, and finishing with a growth forecast and record beneficiary usage.

It is worth looking at beneficiary usage over the last 5 years as an indicator of progress. The tables below demonstrate growth in both primary and ex-serving beneficiary usage, this has been achieved amidst a backdrop of a Cost-of-Living crisis hitting the beneficiary community hard and has surprised us all at how it continues to grow. Total beneficiary visits to the Club in the last 12 months are now over 43,500. Up from a little under 40,000 last year. This figure does not include children of beneficiaries and doesn't account for usage in F&B, where another £263k of spend is not recorded as usage but as a cost generated by beneficiaries.

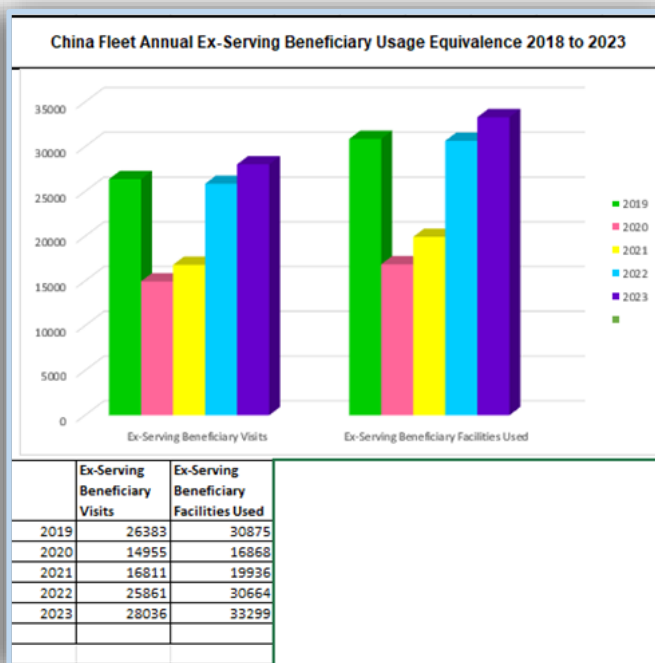
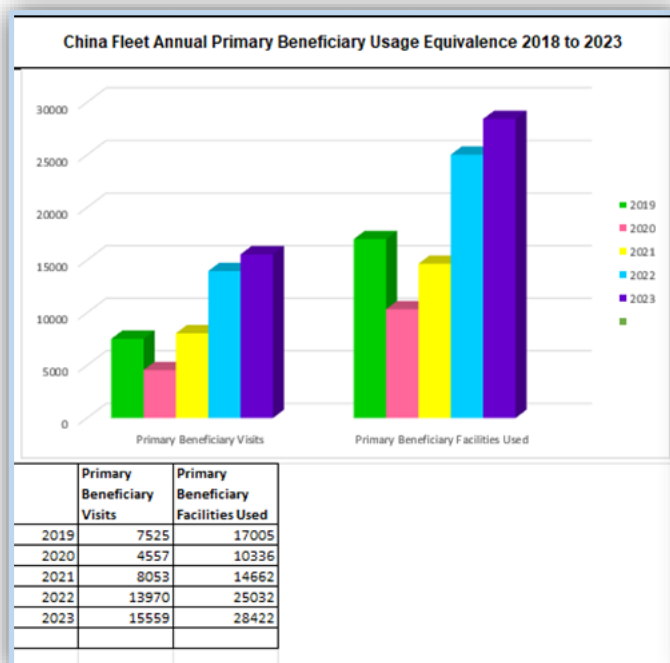


Table 1 / 2 – Annual Primary / ex-Serving Beneficiary Usage Equivalence