

**LIEUTENANT
COMMANDER
B Costley-White
Royal Navy
HMS TYNE**



Ben grew up in South West London and was fortunate enough to gain a choral scholarship to the City of London School before then reading Neuroscience at the University of Bristol. On graduation in 2005 he went on to complete his PGCE, including teaching at the International School in Oslo, before beginning his working life proper as a Biology and ICT teacher, again in Central London. While teaching he was asked to assist with his school's Cadet Corps – one thing led to the next and following a brief period with the RNR he joined the Regular RN in Jan 2010.

Fleet time in HUNT-class MCMVs led Ben to pursue a PNO appointment as his first complement job, navigating MCM2 Crew 8 from 2012-2013 both in the UK and Middle East. He left Crew 8 to attend Fleet Navigating Officers' course before joining HMS KENT as Navigator, again enjoying a varied programme of UK and NATO training exercises, BOST, a period as DTAPS and a deployment back to the KIPION JOA. During this time it was ASW that sparked a particular interest in the warfare domain and fuelled Ben's desire to get to PWO course immediately on completion of his FNO appointment.

Completing PWO Course from 2015 - 2016, and promoted to Lt Cdr on course, Ben joined HMS WESTMINSTER as Operations Officer in Nov 16, bringing the Ship from a 2-year Upkeep including replacement of Sea Wolf with Sea Ceptor, through sea trials and culminating in MASC. He then assumed the role of PWO(U) and Command PWO for both BOST and COST, and on operations led the ASW team during a highly successful period as DTAPS.

From WESTMINSTER, Ben joined the staff of FOST(S) in Apr 18, taking on various roles including SWO(UW)1 and SWOCST. He regularly led the Very High Readiness Towed Array Response Team, notably during a period in which the team received the Fleet Commander's Commendation for their response to the surge in North Atlantic ASW operations. His interest in ASW remained the driving force during this appointment, seeing him contribute to various strands of RN activity to regain ASW advantage in the Surface Flotilla, as well as seizing the opportunity to return to his original career training as an educator. Selected at SASB1 in Oct 19 Ben will assume Command of TYNE in April 21.

Ben lives in Lymington in the New Forest with his wife Julia, a veterinary cardiologist. They have neither children nor pets but a 40+ year-old wooden sailing dinghy keeps them busy most of the year with either cruising or maintenance. A keen gardener and classical singer, any remaining free time is spent learning languages.