

British Military Powerboat Trust Limited.
Board Report.

21st August 2007.

From the recent Newsletter you will have been expecting the arrival of the calling letter for the 2007 AGM, planned for the 15th September 2007. After serious consideration, the Board members have made a decision to move the planned date from the 15th September 2007 to the Sunday 18th November 2007. There are a number of reasons for this change, and we hope that you be able to both understand and agree with the decision.

We have been advised that the AGM of the Southern region MCS/ASR Group will take place on the 16th September. Most of the BMPT Southampton area members belong to this group, and would in all fairness probably choose to attend that AGM. Two AGM's on consecutive days is a lot to expect our members to cope with.

As you know from the Newsletter, we have recently ended the agreement which BMPT Ltd has had with EISCA. This process in itself has created a situation where members of the board have been under great stress, resulting in medical problems arising for some, which we hope are now well in hand.

Ark Royal however is, we consider, of more importance. She has been stored away from Southampton for many months now, and as a result of no work being carried out on her, her situation is such that we need to seriously concentrate on her immediate future, and ensure that she may remain with the Trust.

You will recall that BMPT started Ark Royal's restoration about 4 years ago, in the sheds at Marchwood. The Heritage Lottery Fund made the Trust a grant of £18,000.00, and we were given a year to complete the restoration. We have reached the stage now, nearly 4 years later, where the boat has still to be completed, and the HLF may consider asking for the grant to be returned, should we not reach the required standards very soon. We feel that the Ark Royal team, comprising most of the Board members and local volunteers, should at this time, as a matter of urgency, concentrate all their efforts on achieving a satisfactory result for the boat, ensuring her future for the Trust.

The HLF date involved is the 14th September this year, and as such makes the organising of the AGM on the 15th September, as well as attending to the main business of the trust, extremely difficult for us to achieve efficiently. We hope that you can agree with and understand our position, and the decision we have made in respect of putting back the AGM.

We have recently brought Ark Royal back to Southampton, and have found her a berth in the Hythe Marina. We have undertaken a series of engine trials on the Solent. These trials have proved that the gearbox needs to be removed and rebuilt, and that the engine itself could need to be removed for workshop attention. She is otherwise in fine fettle, thanks to all the excellent work carried out by the team over the years. She meets the HLF requirements in all other respects, and once we have the engine and gearbox sorted out, she should pass with flying colours.

She has been registered to carry passengers, and David Ross has acquired a Boatman's Licence to be able to drive her.

The need to repair mechanical aspects of the boat will require financial outlay. One of the Board's other serious tasks is to raise sufficient funding to cover the anticipated costs of repair, which we have estimated to be £4,000.00.

Fund raising does not stop there however, as we are always in need of funding, to keep ST1502 afloat and operational, as well as to pay our way at Marchwood where our office and stores containers are situated. This fund raising responsibility falls on the shoulders of the Board members, and of course we benefit from the membership of the Trust, as well as any other donations which we raise from the web site, and any other source which we can find. The generosity of members is evident in that we have promises of £1,500.00 in interest free loans so far, and hope to reach the full amount soon.

We thank you all for the way you have stood by the Trust over the years, and your continued membership support is highly appreciated, as a vital part of our survival capability. We are always on the lookout for new ways to raise funds, and if you can help us to this end, we would be very appreciative.

As you can see, the immediate requirement of your Board and the local volunteer team, is such that we have had to decide which way forward will best benefit the aims of the trust, ie to preserve the boats.

In this respect, we are none of us getting any younger, and the need for younger members to be recruited to take on some of the physical work, is paramount.

Your Board are working on this aspect at this time, and we consider that we will be able to report to you in a far more positive way in November, when the immediate priorities needing our undivided attention, have been attended to.

The ST1502 is always available to members, and should any members wish to make use of her, we will be very happy to have her ready to go. Please let Terry Ford (023 8089 1628) know if you would like to take a trip down the Solent.

We will issue another newsletter during October, to advise you of the latest situation re Ark Royal, and the Trust generally.

Thank you for your understanding of our situation.

The Board of Directors.
BMPT Ltd.

A fund raising opportunity.

Pathfinder are organising a Xmas Market Cruise on the Fred Olsen vessel Black Watch, in December 2007. A donation of £25.00 for every confirmed booking, will be made to the Trust. A coach has been laid on to take passengers from Southampton to the ships side in Dover, and from Dover to Southampton on the ships return. A leaflet is enclosed for your perusal.