



Monthly News Letter April 2010

Historic Boat Section



Well April came and has gone by in a flash. No April showers this year and very few March winds either. Work progressed apace but still no boats finished. It can't be long now, honest Brian. Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



April 2010 Update -

Harbour Launch Refit - Below we can see Robert of Nottingham and Peter busy on the super-structure giving it a good coat of paint.



However this was not before Robert had found another batch of rust, this time on the cross deck just aft of the wheelhouse. There

is no stopping this guy. Over right is a shot of the finished product showing off the new paintwork, it fair gleams in the sunshine. It only leaves Fred and David to pull their fingers out and get the deck and bulwarks finished ready for her first sea trip in two years. Fred progressed with the wiring of the winch and we managed to install the new batteries in his Big man's Battery box. Fred had a go at fitting the Stbd bow cheek piece. This involved a fair bit of planing to remove some bulky timber. He was doing a really good job but found that the power lead for the mini planer was a bit too long and kept getting in the way and it needed to be shortened. It was just a pity that he tried to do it by planing a scarp joint in the lead whilst it was still under power. Oops!!!!



Spaghetti Bolognese anyone - Once upon a time there was this reel of nice white nylon cord



all neatly coiled down ready for use. Then next it was just slightly jumbled up and needed a quick sort out, unfortunately we didn't take into account the differing views of



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the team on which bit to pull through first. In the photos over you can see our Chief Chef his Soux Chef Peter and the Kitchen Porter Brian H getting the menu for today ready for the troops.

HSL 102 - Below left you can see Tony 2 getting up his neck in varnish flakes from her mast as he strips



it off ready for re-varnishing to bring it back to a former glory. Having seen the stripped timber it is apparent that the mast is very badly marked with water discoloration due to the previous varnish coat peeling back and water getting underneath. We will let it dry out for a few weeks but it may be that we will need to make a new mast. As an interim Mack started to re-varnish

the mast to see how it looked. Fred and Allan2 managed to fit the new battery charger into the engine room but still need to set up the charging switches and wiring to the three sets of batteries.

Exit stage left a 32 ft Cutter - - The 32 Foot Cutter raised from the depths last month went on a short



sea trip at the beginning of the month. Below you can see Desperate Dan slowly making his way round to her in



Nimbus. What you can't see, because I couldn't get there in time with my camera was Danny stranded on the mud unable to move either forward or backward. You will have to blame Steve from the maintenance group for not telling me soon enough. In the photo over right we have got Dave 3 who had just joined us getting conned into a boat trip with Danny getting the lines ready for towing the cutter into the tunnel once the tide had risen enough to float her. She reached her temporary resting place later that day and seems relatively OK, settling well above her gunwales.



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Whaler Excellent - Since last month our resident lady shipwright has been swanning off, (she said it was her day job that had to take priority but I think she just needed to get away.) Anyway John who had previously been one of the HLD team is now firmly enconced in the ways of the whaler and whaling. Sadie also managed to con Fred into spending some of his time on it before she left, as well as Alan 1. Over right is a photo just to prove John really has absconded from the HLD working party you can see him right fitting some fillet pieces around the buoyancy tank in the stern. When he finishes this he will take over from Fred fitting the bottom



boards in the sharp end. You know, you have to give John top credit because even though he has deserted the Harbour Launch team he still finds time to come back to put his two penn'orth in regarding the outstanding HLD work package. Above left we can see some of the first class work that John has been doing, I reckon that you got a bargain Sadie when you talked him into working on the whaler. Alan 1 has also been hard at work with the whaler team, here on the right he is busy with the vacuum cleaner picking up all of John and Sadie's wood chips that they carefully left in the deepest reaches of the bilges. That's the trouble with these so called craftsmen Alan, they only like doing the clever bits then leave the clearing up to the real hero's. In getting ready for this year's Steam Festival it has been necessary to move all of the boats out of their current standing to the far end of the Boathouse.



April 2010 Update -

Motor Whaler - The refit is progressing, finally Ian has fitted the dreaded



breast hook in place as you can see below right. Also below I managed to catch Sadie carrying out some inspection of Ian's work. No doubt if it comes up to standard she will be trying to get him onto the Excellent refit as well. So Sadie what do you think? Does it pass muster? Just wait until Ian reads this he will be after you. (At least I did tell you that I was going to set you up when I took the photo)

Sewing shed - This was re-established last month and Fred had a go at sewing ST 1502's tom cover. He managed the easy bit of sewing back the two side panels but the centerline stitching is still to be done. It was a bit like trying to put a 36 lb. Melted Marshmallow onto a teaspoon and run 100 yards in treacle

ST 1502 - Our new guy David 3 managed to get out of the tunnel after working with Danny and started to put the steps together for the engine bay access. These were started some many months ago and have been a standby job just waiting for the right guy to come along and take a chance. The trouble is he got involved with Fred who gave him a bum steer and got him to use screws where no screws should be. It would have been OK but the boss spotted it, still lessons learned all round At the end of the day though, the steps will look very good once they are finished with seven coats of varnish At least once they are in the boat it will ease Danny's knees for getting in and out, poor old b+^A".

MGB 81 - It was reported that one of her engines was smoking from the crank case cover. Tony went over to Gunwharf and had a shuffie and sure enough it was not only smoking but also spraying out oil into the engine room. Luckily it was in an area that was accessible and he managed to fit a new gasket, or at least that was the plan at the last check. Score at the end of the month - Resident Clanky 1 -MGB engine nil.



May 2010 - Wish / To do list

Search & Rescue Launch 102 - Ongoing monitoring of boat and equipment. Finish varnishing the mast. Finish fitting the battery charging circuits in place.

MGB 81 - Pump out bilges and dispose of waste and keep watching brief on batteries. Fit the battery charging circuits in place.

Crew Training - Both of the above need to have special crew training. Who, when and where, how.?

Ariadne - On hold until further notice.

Osborne - Weekly checks on state of boat and surrounding stand.

Pram Dinghy Tui - Weekly checks on state of boat and surrounding stand.

Green Parrot - Remove the covers for repair, wash down all of her decks and tops, run up the Starboard Engine to boost batteries. Hold start of refit until completion of HLD/ Excellent

25 Foot Motor Launch Ark Royal - Finish the small covers and agree the display format and location.

Admiralty Pattern 14 Ft. - Start rubbing her down ready to varnish and get her on display.

32 Foot Rowing Cutter - Keep a watching brief on her now she is in the tunnel.

Landing Craft - Remove all loose debris from the tank deck and fit an updated pumping system. Fit temporary decks aft to provide improved access.

20 Foot Cutter - The engine needs to be serviced and restored before it can be fitted back into the hull.

Spare FD6 Foden Engine - Chase up the spare gearbox located in Hexham and check viability of getting it.

15 Foot Fast Motor Boat - Assess overall state and plan the future activity relating to this boat.

1502 - Fit new ignition switches and resolve remote engine stop problem. Fit the battery charging circuits in place.

Main Pontoon - Construct a power stanchion to incorporate the twin solar panels.

This Month's Competition - Can you name any of the following. Who poured white Hammerite all over the teak decking of the HLD. Who used the mini planer to thin down the power lead and finally who would fit the description 'Derelict and Raunchy. A clue. They are not the same person. The first one is the same as last month, the second can be found at the bottom of this letter and the third both have the name of Brian. (I'll let you decide who is derelict and who is raunchy.)

Any Suggestions for next year - If you have got any stories, facts, fiction, lies, scandal or suggestions for this ditty next month let me know my 'e' mail address is :- boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com. Fred is the name