

# Monthly New's Letter

## Boathouse 4 Volunteers

June 2022



Summer is progressing well and the weather has been supportive of our various open days and celebrations.

### Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust



**HLD D49 maintenance** Our duo have now completed their task,, D49 now has weather resitant decks. All we need now s someone with deep pockets, long arms and an urge to use their cheque book, then we can get the rest of her done .

**VIC 56** – I have little to report on VIC 56 as one of our main players is swanning around in Portugal in the sun.

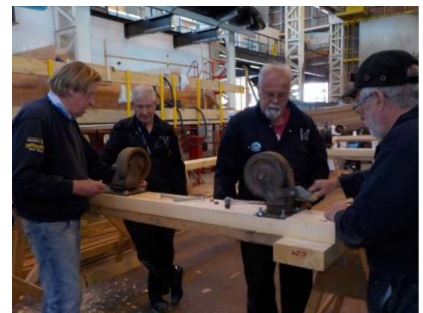
**WW2 Dory Restoration.** Steve is now back after his Op doing a softly softly approach. He and his team have been logging in all of the bits and bobs as they come off the boat. Steve has co-opted several ex IBTC graduates currently working as volunteers in B/H4. They will be joining his team once their commitment to ASC 26 is complete.



Over left is a 'visitor's eye view of the dory in the

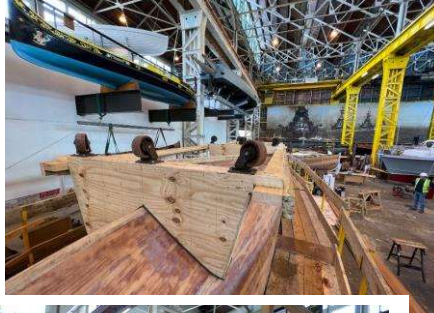
'goldfish bowl'

**CMB4 Replica build** – June has been a month of cradle making so that we have somewhere to put her once she is lifted and turned over. The photos below show some of the team members making the cradle. Below left it has been finished with all of the interfaces covered in 15mm foam. Once the cradle had been made and trimmed to fit it was loaded onto the upside down hull to make sure it





was all tickety boo. Middle and right below show the cradle on the hull. Next stage was to make a top frame onto which



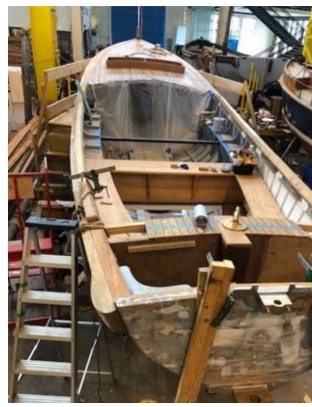
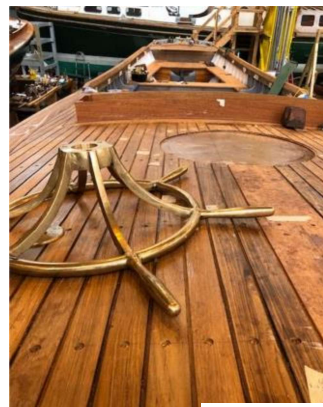
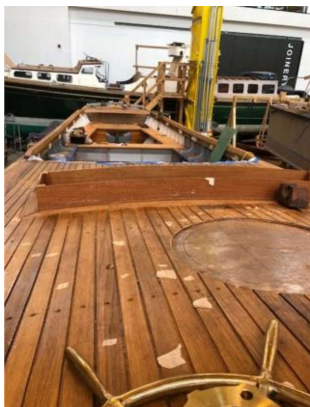
we can roll the hull over so watch this space.



Just over left the cradle and the top frame have been built around the hull. Lots of glue and 'Bigman's bolts' went into its construction. So now hopefully the boat will be firmly suspended inside the cradle and the frame when she is lifted and rolled over. The lift is

being planned through the early part of July.

**Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26** – Below the three photos show the foredeck planking and the fitting out of the stern sheet. The photo on the right nicely shows the port quarter badge and quarter knee. The middle photo nicely shows the sculptural



format of the steering wheel which resides in the coaming section athwartships. Could be an interesting operation keeping clear of the 'sticky out' bits as we do a quick 'Hard-a-port' in an emergency. The engine and boiler are due fairly soon. In the meantime our resident 'gunsmiths' have continued their work on the Maxim gun.

In the photos below their progress can be seen. They have now worked out how they will fix the barrel and cooling cylinder to the gun box. It is starting look like it could go "BANG".



**Seaplane Tender ST 1502** – She is fully operational and ready for the season and upcoming events for our Open Pontoon sessions



**LCA F8** – Fully operational she is taking visitors around the harbour and earning her keep with her more permanent crewing contingent on a very regular timescale. Below left she is dwarfed by one of her big sisters as she transits the harbour with a contingent of visitors



Foxtrot 8 has been having a thoroughly busy time of it. Fully fit and operational she has been involved in a number of significant events, not least the Dockyard Day event where she once again provided a harbour tour for Veterans. She kicked off the season with a full day of harbour tours with members of the HMS Hermes association. She also voyaged up to Marchwood to an Army based

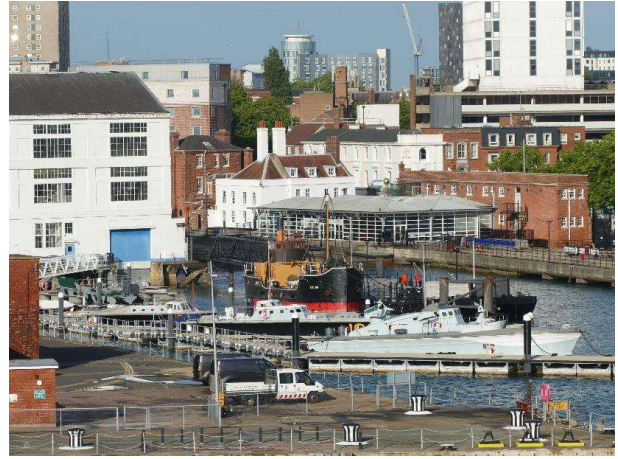
Falklands commemorative event and has been the subject of a photoshoot complete with a compliment of “Marines” with which we invaded Alverstoke, which was frankly asking for it. At the time of writing, Foxtrot 8’s passenger numbers for the 2022 season had just tipped 1000.

“Foxtrot 8 continues to be our finest ambassador for the values espoused in the 2016 LIBOR bid to fund her and in 2022 has been recognised by National Historic Ships as an Operational Flagship, complete with a ceremonial broad pennant and a cheque for £250”. The above words are courtesy Diggory Rose and his dulcet tones.

In the photo above you can see Foxtrot 8 PNBPT National Historic Ships Operational Flagship and an aircraft carrier



**Range Safety Launch RSL 1668** – The IBTC Students have progressed well with her, She has been stripped, however during the exercise we managed to find some fairly dodgy bits of planking which will need a serious bit of repair but not which is beyond our range of skills and capabilities but it will set her back a bit whilst a full survey is carried out



Above left we have got HMS Prince of Wales steaming past our pontoons making a rather nice overall shot of our boats afloat, whilst above right, courtesy of Richard Hellier from the cross channel ferry returning from Normandy.

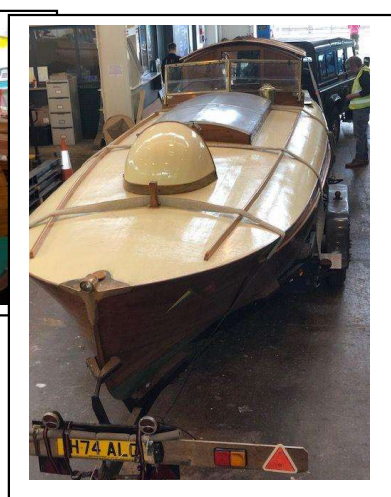
**Steam Cutter SC438 Mischief** - is afloat and operational. The pontoons have been open, the boats free for visitors to visit, VIC and SC438 have been in steam and the sun shining for the open pontoon sessions and the combined Armed Services Day.



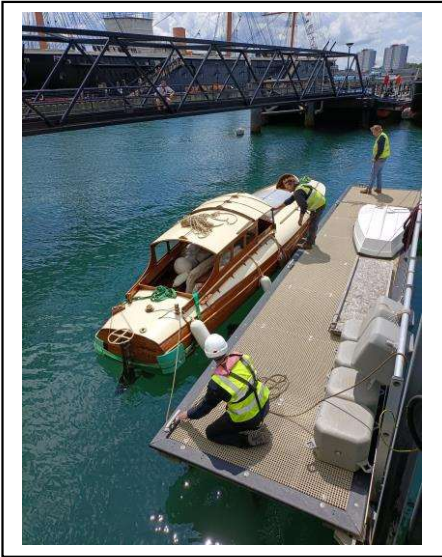
**Sereia "Gentleman's High Speed Racing Boat"** - A temporary new exhibit has joined us in the month courtesy of her owner, Those of you who've been in the boathouse recently will not have failed to notice the fantastic lines of Sereia. She's a 1928 Thornycroft "Gentleman's High Speed Racing Boat," born as a direct descendant of the CMB, and is fully restored, including her original 7-litre 6-cylinder engine. Most important of all, is that she's still operational! It's hard to believe, but when new she cost only £1,781.00....

We're very lucky to have her here. She's the only one of the original six which is operational; the King of Thailand owns the only other remaining boat but it's a static exhibit. Sereia's owner is very keen to get the boat out on the water and put her through her paces. She was launched early in June and following a tune, she was out on the water going through her paces with a few of our staff and volunteers. All being well, we will invite members of the public down to visit her on the pontoons over the coming summer months, weather and conditions permitting (as always), we will run her out on the Solent for hour long trips.

Depending on demand we may also run HSL 102 out to pace Sereia. This will provide a unique photo opportunity. She was put into the dock on the and after a



couple of days setting up and getting the engine to run she had her first run at speed. She is very clearly a derivative of the CMB. A spectacular boat for her age and vintage. Watch this space for future updates.



### Retirement of Admiral Neil Rankin



On the last day of the month our Admiral Neil Rankin reached his self declared 'Useby date' and retired as the Chairman of our Boat Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big 'Thank You' to Neil for all of his help, support and excellent sense of humour over the years working with our long family of volunteers. He will be missed in Portsmouth as he fills in his time north of the border playing out his role on HMY Britannia and the odd round of golf. Many thanks Neil it has been our pleasure. Good luck for a long and happy retirement. Over left in earlier times, Neil and the 70<sup>th</sup> Power Boat Squadron crews at Pegasus Bridge 2014

**Suggestions for next month** - If you have got any ditties, lies, scandal or photos that you would like to see in print just let me know, my 'e' mail address is: - [boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com](mailto:boatbitsisus@ntlworld.com). Fred is the name