



## Monthly News Letter June 2011

### Historic Boat Section



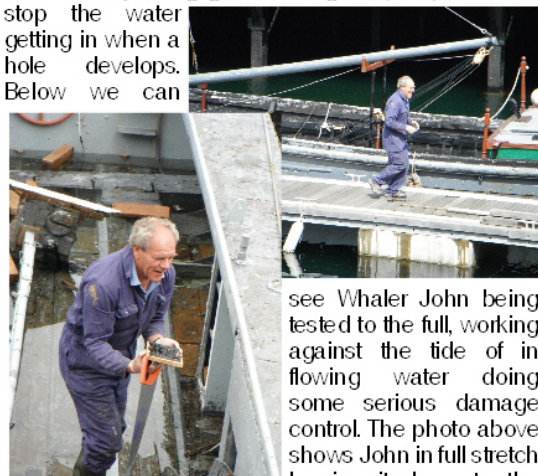
**An interesting and eventful month. We achieved our long term aim to complete Westerman and sail her to Cowes. In doing so we need give a special mention to the following groups:- The Sea Safety Equipment group, Baker Trayte company, The Harbour Police, the local Fishing boat 'Victory' and not forgetting PNBPT for giving us the opportunity.**

**Portsmouth Naval Base  
Property Trust**



## June 2011 Update -

**Landing Craft F8** - Having gone green last month we thought that she would be OK for a little while but unfortunately being green with good pumps doesn't stop the water getting in when a hole develops. Below we can



see Whaler John being tested to the full, working against the tide of in flowing water doing some serious damage control. The photo above shows John in full stretch legging it down to the sinking landing craft and over right he is about to slap on his second patch after complaining to Fred that he had caused him to cut the first one too big. At this stage we had black mastic over most of the hand holds on the boat just waiting for the unsuspecting observer/ helper to get covered I am sure you can guess who fell for it, that's right unsuspecting Fred.

**Meet some of our new guys.-** In the month we have had some new starters kick off with us. Below you can see Andy working on one of Mad lan's acquisitions, a cart frame that needs to have some sides and a base fitted. In this photo Andy is doing the 'artwork' detailing our revised title of Historic Small Craft Section. HSCS. Also starting in the month was Gary a young guy that has asked us if he can work with us to gain some experience and extend his current skills. From our initial experience it looks like he will prove to be a very useful guy who is quick to learn and eager to work and learn. In the photos on the top of the next page we can see him preparing some parts for



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Westerman's trailer to take her back into the boathouse after her recent experiences in the Solent / Harbour. Talking of which, Westerman finished her refit and finally went out of the boathouse and alongside the main pontoon to get her ready for her weekend away over at Cowes. This prep work



progressed very well with everyone digging in to get her to the point of sail training / testing and tuning the boat and her crew as well as bringing D49 up to scratch although this latter didn't take so much as she had already been fairly well tuned out previously. The sequence of photos below are from various sources taken by the crews of D49, 1502 and Westerman during the work-up culminating with her send off to Cowes for the weekend. It was not without it's moments. Over Left you



can see a very rare photo of Fred actually doing something and quite clearly not understanding the situation as he he still smiling. Over Right Westerman in full flight on her

maiden voyage in Portsmouth Harbour. On the following page she is being towed out to sea against adverse winds/ tides for her initial 'real' sea trials D49





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leads the way past Dolphin in the small boat channel. This was followed by several other sail training days with either D49 or 1502 in attendance as can be seen in the photos below. Next we have got some light winds and we are getting the feel of Westerman and then before you could blink an eye - flat calm. Just where did all the wind go to.? Below 1502 has us in tow again looking for that illu-



sive breeze. In the mean time our other intrepid support boat came steaming by at full throttle creaming the foam away from her bows like a real thorough-

bred, just look at her go. For the first trips out the weather was quite 'flat' with only very light breezes but the ways of the boat were being learned by the crew and any shortcomings



on were taken by Fred as he sat on the upturned hull waiting for our Guardian Angels who turned out to be



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identified with a series of minor updates to sheets, belays, stays, gaff positions and down hauls etc.. The next few photos show the crew getting it together with Westerman sailing very nicely. (Stop looking so serious Alan anyone would think that we are going to capsize!!) Below left Dave



is doing his contortionist impression with Fred fitting the new brass belaying



pins through the forward thwart. This one adjustment improved the overall situation 100%, no more bug-gers muddle!! Unfortunately not everything went as planned as you can see below. Westerman thought that we needed to freshen up so she gave us all a quick dunking in the 'oggin. The next few shots



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a small local fishing boat 'Victory', the Harbour Police launch and RIB and the Baker Trayte lighter and their dory. They were all very helpful and between them all returned all of us and our boat safely back to base. Obviously, looking at Alan's face the thought of capsize was worse than the actual. All's well that ends well. Having got her back and put to rights with increased bouyancy and with the Trust's blessing the boats were ready for the Cowes trip. Below we can see the intrepid crew of Westerman and her support boat D49 along with the parting shots as they leave from Heritage Pontoon for their epic five and a half hour sail over to Cowes. After a blustery overnight alongside the Folley, Ian reviewed the forecast and it



was decided that the weather conditions were not favourable for a safe race and withdrew Westerman from

the race at 0300 Saturday. Although disappointed the overall project has been invaluable to the Property Trust and we have gained many highly supportive friends.



**July Wish List** -See the quarterly work sheets, these are up and running for the following boats. - Whaler Excellent, Green Parrot, Motor Whaler Danae, Cyclops, D49, HSL102, ST1502 and MGB 81.

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