



Monthly News Letter May 2010

Historic Boat Section



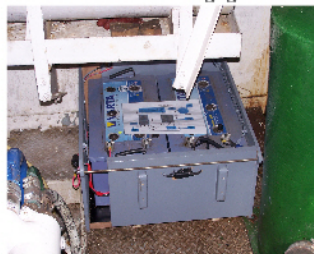
Just where is the year going to, it's just under a month to the Summer Solstice, the Steam Festival has gone and Navy Days are coming up. So we had better get a wiggle on, cancel the summer hols and get these boats finished.

**Portsmouth Naval Base
Property Trust**



May 2010 Update -

Harbour Launch Refit - We had some good news and some bad news and some really bad news in the month. The good news is that David 1 got the winch batteries into the engine room. The bad news is that in doing it he put one of the windows out, still it was a little bit cracked before that. The really bad news is that having got the batteries down there he



couldn't fit them into the battery box because they had somehow got much bigger between the time Fred measured them and finished making the box. That's the trouble with these 'lecky types they measure every-

thing in volts and amps and not feet and inches. The box was 4 volts too small. At one time Fred had Robert of Nottingham looking for an 8 volt battery as the space available was just big enough to take 1 and 3/4 12 volt batteries. As you can see in the photo above left there is a 4 volt bit cobbled onto the side. Anyway now he has finished the other good news is that



the winch now runs in both directions with bits of electric string connected up for the first time in nine years. Above and right you can see David 2 putting the new window back in place and "Robert, I have started so I shall finish" of Nottingham" stining up his own version of Operation Desert Storm as he sands down the decks. By the time he had got half way through he looked like a dark brown Yeti. Bet you wished you had worn your overalls now don't you Robert.



May 2010 Update -

Whilst David 1 was having a go at the window David 3 made a start on cutting off the bolt heads holding the steel deck plate in place just aft of the wheelhouse. This has proved necessary due to severe thinning of the plate due to rust and corrosion. Having finished the wiring Fred fitted the new bull ring on top



of the stem so now we can feed the anchor cable through the ring onto the winch. No more tired arms pulling up the anchor now, it can be done with just a quick flick of the switch from the wheelhouse.

Whaler Excellent Refit -Despite Sadie being away again the refit has progressed. As you can see from the photos below, John's fitting out is looking pretty



good, (it's amazing what a thick coat of paint will do.) Brian and Alan1 have resurrected Fred's 'tiddy' carved back rest for the stern sheets. It is only 5 years since

Fred made it, it's just a pity that the boat would have had to be rebuilt to get it to fit. Below Brian and Alan1 can be seen working their wonders on the backrest to get it down to size. Has he got it right yet Alan? These beginners need to have so much supervision just to get the simplest of jobs



done correctly. Just keep up the good work, don't accept second best and you will soon have him up to speed. Below left is a closer look at what is going on there. Can you guess who works with a pair of hands like these? I'll give you a clue, it isn't Alan1 and he is the only one amongst us that can sharpen a chisel properly.



May 2010 Update -

Pram Dinghy Tui - Goodbye Tui it was nice whilst it lasted. Sorry Geoff but she has gone to the great boat yard in the sky, or at least to join the Royal Yacht Britannia in Scotland

Motor Whaler - Ian is really making a meal of this one. He is about to fit the raised gunwales at the bow. Tony, our resident 'Clanky' has managed to get a replacement prop shaft bearing so at least he can now think about putting the engine back but don't hold your breath!! It will take a lot of thinking about. Below and right are a couple of photos of



Ian's new timbers going in replacing all of the rotten wood. Ian if you have a word with John I am sure he will let you have some of his really thick paint for these joints to make them look nice. (Only joking honest).

HSL102 - Mack has now completed the seventh coat of varnish or at least as

the photo over right shows he is in the last stages of completing it. Danny and Brian H then got stuck in and re-rigged the beast ready for fitting back to the boat. She is also



due to be taken along to Port Solent boat yard to be taken ashore for her annual survey of her underwater fittings and hull.

MGB 81 - This month saw her due to be taken over to Southampton to be lifted out for the same checks as HSL 102. She also had a problem reported with power loss in her mid engine. Watch this space and I'll let you know what went wrong.

Green Parrot Refit - At last work has started to get the engines out so they can be serviced and repaired. David 2 made an initial start to remove some of the deck fittings followed up by Tony our resident 'clanky' who kicked off in the engine room. It turned out to be more of a battle of the Lord of Darkness over the Lord of Light. Our 'clanky' threw his hands up in the air and



May 2010 Update -

declared he couldn't work in the dark and could Fred please wave his magic wand and produce a beam of light by which he could aim his spanners and all things 'clanky' in the right direction. Fred promptly laid on power and provided a floodlight for our mechanical wizard. The problem was that Fred failed to check it had a bulb fitted and hence a powerful beam of blackness issued forth. Score for this match, - Lord of Darkness (Fred) - won, Lord of Light (Tony) - lost. Then, just to prove that all 'leekies' aren't useless Allan2 came to the rescue and gave Clanky



Tony a light with a bulb fitted and as we can see in the photo above and left, he finally got his tool box out and bits started coming off the Parrot. Don't you think this is one fine figure of a man at one with his empire.

Three in one Whaler - We had to move her during the month to make room for the Steam Festival so to make things easier for now and the future we built her a bespoke wheeled cradle. Below you can see her cradled up and fully mobile. Work has stopped on her for the immediate future until we can complete the whaler Excellent and the Green Parrot



HSL 102 - MGB 81 - ST 1502 - Battery charging controls. Fred and Allan2 got started on the switch sets before the full installation is put in place. This will be next month once we have proved the system on ST 1502.



June 2010 - Wish / To do list

HSL 102 - Ongoing monitoring of boat and equipment. 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.

Green Parrot - The refit has started.

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 - Determine which FD4 spares can be released in exchange for the gearbox. The current owner is prepared to deliver and collect if it is all agreed.

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 the following person. 1 - Who measures battery sizes using a voltmeter instead of a tape measure.? 2 - Who makes tiddly backrests that require the boat to be rebuilt to get them to fit. Do you want a clue. - If this man gives you a flood light to work in a darkened engine room, check that there is a bulb fitted before doing a 'clanky' and climbing 20 feet down to the boat and clambering into the engine room before trying to switch it on.

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