

Newsletter.

July 2007.

The Trust has been under a huge amount of pressure over the last 9 months, and with this in mind, may we offer apologies for not having kept you all up to date with events.

Most important to us is the retirement of our President, Gus Halliday. Gus as you will recall initiated the BMPT so many years ago, and found us a home at the Marchwood Husbands Shipyard site. The intention was that we were to be given a 125 lease at peppercorn rent, allowing us to raise funding for a purpose built Museum covering many aspects of our Maritime Heritage. Unfortunately this was not to be, and the landlord decided to sell the property, without the Trust being part of the sale. The new owner was not prepared to allow us the original 125 lease, but through the efforts of our then Chairman, Charles du Cane we achieved a 2 year lease, to give us time to find homes for all that had been collected. Gus supported every effort made to move on, under difficult circumstances, and without his direction and encouragement, we would have found the task set extremely difficult. We owe Gus a huge vote of thanks for all that he has achieved for the Trust, and wish both Gus and Lady Halliday improved health in the future.

At the first AGM of the BMPT Limited Company, you will recall that we entered into an agreement with EISCA, who offered a home for the Trust and our boats at the planned Poole Maritime Centre. This has however fallen foul of a variety of planning problems, and the positioning of our remaining 3 boats and offices, has become unsure. In order that we make plans for the next 3 years, both BMPT Ltd and EISCA have agreed that we should each go our own way. We have agreed that should the project in Poole progress, or should any similar project which could be of benefit to both of us materialise, we will get together to discuss these possibilities.

In order that both BMPT and EISCA were each in clearly defined circumstances regarding the boats, we agreed to sell 2 boats to EISCA.

SI30 as you will recall, we floated and repaired sufficiently to have her towed down to the EISCA facility at Cremyll. She has been on the Mashfords Cremyll slipway for quite some time, and in order that her future be pursued, she has been sold to EISCA for a nominal £1.00.

Our options were limited with regard to this boat, as the funding to have her made seaworthy, and then towed to a suitable berth, the Trust does not have..

We are advised however that negotiations are under way between EISCA and a potential restoration Trust, which may take her over, and get on with what will in all probability, be a £4 million pound restoration process.

MTB331 was removed from our Husbands yard, and taken to the EISCA facility at Upper Heyford, for storage. The options open to the trust here were also limited, and as we have no place to store the boat, nor do we have funding to move her, or pay for her storage, it was decided to sell her to EISCA for a nominal £1.00. We are assured that EISCA will be approaching the HLF for restoration funding for this vessel.

We have parted with 2 boats, but we are assured that their restoration process will proceed, and that we will all be able to see them on the water sometime in the future.

We are still situated on the Marchwood Military Port premises, and have been offered a further 3 year lease from March 2008. This will guarantee our continued operation, as well as the safe storage of our 3 remaining boats and our records, until 2011.

The boats which we retain are ST1502, FMB Ark Royal and FMD Dainty.

ST1502

This boat is safely moored on a pontoon mooring within the Marchwood Military Port, from where we operate and maintain her.

She has been removed from the water by the Marchwood team, courtesy of the Regiment, and given a good bottom clean and scrub. On return to the water, she has been capable of a good 20knots, which is a great relief to all who work with her. She is used as often as funds and demand permit, and recently attended a Regimental 25th Commemoration of the Falklands War, at Marchwood. We were able to share the day with Hyperion, and it is a great pleasure to have Hyperion's owner and his son as members of the Trust.

Both boats did many trips down the Solent with families of the Regiment on board. We will be taking the Colonel and a team from Marchwood on a team building exercise down to Cowes where they will lunch and return. The team will be divided into 2 groups, one group going to Cowes on 1502, and the other on the Army yacht. The groups will swap boats for the return trip back to Marchwood.

Ark Royal.

Ark Royal has now returned to Southampton. No expense has been spared in completing her restoration, she now looks fantastic, thanks to the excellent work put in by Rodger Woodhams and his team. She has still not achieved finality with regard to the HLF, and we are experiencing problems with her gearbox not holding oil. Finding the leak is proving a problem, which may involve the gearbox being removed and the source of the leak investigated. This however involves a considerable amount of money, which we do not have available at this time.

The boat was granted £19,000.00 by the HLF. All this plus about £20,000.00 of Trust money has been expended on her since the start of the project, and as you can imagine, further funds are just not available. If we are unable to complete the boat to HLF requirements, the HLF will have no option but to call for the refund of the grant given. We have to face the possibility that either we sell the boat, and repay the HLF grant, or we somehow raise sufficient funding to see her to a conclusion. If any Member has any idea how or where we could raise these funds, your help would be very much appreciated. In the meantime we do our best to get her ready for the next HLF inspection.

FMB Dainty.

Dainty remains safely inside her container at Marchwood. She has been untouched since we left the sheds, and we are actively seeking somewhere to have her continued to a useful boat for static, display as well as on the water. Consideration could be given to selling this boat, but the price we would in all probability achieve, will be a drop in the Ark Royal's ocean, and we could then end up with losing both boats.

The Trust Management structure.

With the split between the Trust and EISCA, a revamped management team has been established.

Our **President** has retired, and we are actively seeking a suitable person to replace Gus Halliday.

With the retirement of our **Chairman**, Charles du Cane , Peter Baillie, as Vice-Chair has been undertaking the duties of Chairman. At a recent Board meeting we asked Peter if he would accept the position of Chairman, to which Peter has gladly agreed.

The **Board of Directors** is as follows..

Major the Hon Peter Baillie.	01425 613722.
Mr Terry Ford.	023 8089 1628
Mr David Ross	01590 612552
Mr Jim Read	01590 641611
Mr Richard Hellyer	023 8089 0900
Mr Terry Newell.	(An EISCA appointee)

Secretary.

Mr Richard Hellyer.	023 8089 0900
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Treasurer.

Mr Terry Ford.	023 8089 1628
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Membership Secretary.

Mr Tony Alston.	023 8089 2638
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Secretary's report.

The 2007 AGM has been planned for Saturday the 15th September 2007, commencing at 1100..

We are arranging for the use of a restaurant called "The Salt" within the Hythe Marina, to cater for a lunch as well as the AGM.

We will hope to have ST1502 berthed within the same marina, and that trips on this boat will be available. Remember that you are entitled to one free trip per year, and this is your opportunity to "drive" the boat at 20 knots down the Solent. Ark Royal will be in the Marina for you to visit, and if she is operational, to undertake a trip.

The Agenda for the 2007 AGM will be sent to you shortly.

The 2006 AGM was completely unsatisfactory. You were advised that the AGM could not be held, as a result of quote "several errors in the calling paper" unquote. We have examined these very closely, and can find no fault whatsoever with the calling. The minutes of the meeting have therefore been agreed by the Board.

The accounts presented at the 2006 AGM have subsequently been approved by the Board and will be available at the AGM for inspection.

We once again apologise for the lack of newsletters this year, and hope that we will see you at the AGM in September.

Membership Secretary report.

At the latest count the Trust appears to be maintaining our membership numbers. Although we lose a few from time to time, we maintain our strength with new entries. We have at present 160 members. Considering our problems over the last few years, I feel the Membership have stood by the Trust extremely well, and I am sure that I can say a big thank you to you all, on behalf of the Directors.

As from August I shall be requesting all those members who pay their subs annually, to consider paying their subs by Standing Bankers Order, which please find enclosed for your consideration.

As you will notice from the newsletter, we are moving onward and as this requires the support of as large a number of members as possible, may I ask that you try and interest as many other persons, with similar interests to those of us all, to join the Trust.

Thank you for your continued support, this is very much appreciated.

Website.

For those of you who can get onto the internet, please consider visiting the trust web site

www.bmpt.org.uk

You will notice the "Yardarm" chapter which covers all our news items. The Coastal Forces Veterans Association (London Branch) have taken a chapter for their own use, on our site, and we welcome their presence on the site.

Many interesting items appear on the Forum, which we hope will be of interest to our membership as a whole.

MASB32.

Recently returned to our shores is the MASB32. She is a British Powerboat built Whaleback, starting off as an anti-submarine boat, reverting to MGB and ASR work. She will be going to Norfolk for restoration, and her story can be found on the Forum, under "MASB32"

Donations.

In order that we continue with the work of preserving the 3 boats in our care, we are always grateful to receive donations to this end. It matters not how much is donated, every penny helps keep the boats afloat and active. Should you consider a donation please send that to the Treasurer,

Mr T Ford.
1 Janes Close
Blackfield
Southampton
SO45 1WJ

We thank you in advance for considering this request, and look forward to seeing you at the Annual general Meeting on the 15th September 2007.