

# Monthly Newsletter

## Boathouse 4 Volunteers

### October 2023



The weather this month has not been clever with high winds and horizontal rain but it didn't stop the fun and games. We got in an Open Pontoon weekend, an infestation of massive spiders and a full skeleton crew manning a lot of the boats for Halloween. Soon be getting ready for Bonfire night and Christmas.



**VIC 56/Dory Combined team activity.** –Steve D is back with us after his stay in hospital and a period of recuperation. It is good to see him back with his team and I think they are glad to see him back so that he can bat off any unsolicited advise by the “Sharp intake of breath, I wouldn't do it like that” wallers. Trish and Adrian have been helping out with some steps and gangways for VIC 56. The sooner they get them done the sooner Fred can sleep easy at knowing that all of his Cyclops's timber stock is safe from night raiders.

**CMB4 Replica.** Currently she is back on display in B/H 4 whilst any necessary upgrades for her to squeeze out the extra few knots are planned and agreed. She continues to draw a lot of interest from the numerous visitors.

**Cyclops – 42Ft Rowing Launch –** Her restoration project continues with quite reasonably sized teams working on her. The following photos show some of the activities underway. Below left John P and Keith have just about finished making the forward gratings and here they have tried a dry fit

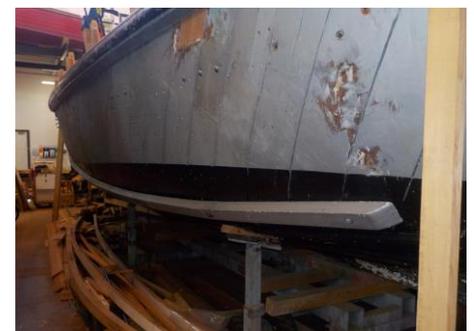


to check dimensions. The grating looks pretty good so far. Below right Ian F and Peter F have made a start

at removing to two forward planks. It soon became apparent that we would need to replace all



the stem, so we are in it for the long haul. Below left Mike F is making a plywood pattern so that we will know the shape that



the new stem needs to be, once we start the rebuild. Middle photo above shows Peter F doing a stint at removing the old stem. What looks strangely like a balding porcupine is actually the bolts through to one of the '27 ton Tested' Lifting points. Above right Ian F John B and Peter F have dry fitted the long outstanding upper starboard bilge rail



Above left you can see Jeremy C and Steve B using our new super duper gas torch annealing the brass inserts for the rowlock crutches, above middle Roz is fitting some of them and above right a finished item. Not bad for something that volunteers started making in 2017 before the start of the pandemic.



Above left Igor O, Hamo T, Mike F and Jeremy C are trying to remove the stubborn stem bolts. In the middle photo above John B is checking the position of the starboard rowlock crutches and over right Steve B and Ian P have made a start on fitting the outstanding sections of the port rubbing strake. This is the first section of lamination going in place.

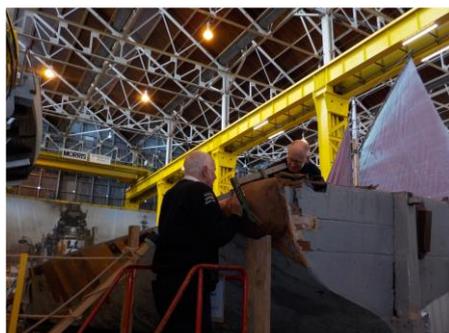
Below left John P and Keith D have made up the outer frame for the stern sheets back rest in the middle photo John W is cutting some tiddly scallops out of the edge of the two mast partners and over right Tim D is working on the replacement knees for the gun platform.



Bottom of previous page on the left we have got Roz R well versed and happy in the art of applying brass inserts to rowlock crutches. Now I know that most of you may have heard the saying "You can't put a square peg into a round hole". Well I know a man who can prove you wrong, in the middle photo above Peter F is clearly managing to drive this peg through his dowel forming plate, he is making some trenails to drive into the apron once the bolts have been taken out. In the meantime Steve B, Ian P , Mike S and Hamo T are fitting one of the port rubber laminations.



Above left Micky M is marking off some timber whilst making a set of pads to fit under our 'hollow' thwarts. Ian P and Steve B have reached a sticky stage in laminating as they walk a glued up plank round to the boat for Hamo T and Mike S to get to work. Above right the hand of Fred is using his scratch block to cut a tiddly piped edge to the inside of the starboard gunwale capping.



Above left Fred and John B are putting up the long awaited quarter badge made by John P several years before anyone had even heard of Covid 19. Middle photo above the wonky beast is almost in place, just need to get a spirit level waived at it a little bit. Finally, over right our new super duper volunteer's co-ordinator is getting her hand in polishing our new forward grating section. Let us all take a little trip back down time when Cyclops was earning her money. Below left she can be seen with a full compliment of sheep on one of her trips to or from the islands. I think that the gentleman in the flat cap and ciggy may be telling the little boy in the yellow oilskin that he has been a baa baa boy and mutton do it again



**Armed Steam Cutter ASC 26 and the 26er's** – In the main Tony H has got his 26er's back with him now, they have been busy making new parts for the engine and boiler supports. I think that this has been a voyage of discover as the impact of Eco Legislation bites and compliance for clean and dirty water segregation is pursued. Watch this space next month for a more detailed update.

**Boats Afloat** – We had the last open pontoon weekend of the season. F8 was in business running out into the harbour on her 20 minute trips. The pontoons were full of boats and lots of interested people. [\(20+\) Facebook](#) Click on this link and take a trip out on F8.

[\(20+\) Facebook](#) This link will let you see MGB 81 leaving the pontoon

The Boat House was taken over by some very large and scary spiders and quite a few extremely old volunteers as they searched their minds for memories past and long gone.



All in all, everyone had a good time



**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.