

# British Military Powerboat Trust Ltd.

## September (Autumn Newsletter)

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE AS FROM THE DATE OF THIS LETTER :-

The Secretary

9 Lime Close

Dibden Purlieu

Southampton

SO45 4RD

Telephone : 023 8084 3333

Mobile : 07710 367817

e-mail : [boats@bmpt.org.uk](mailto:boats@bmpt.org.uk)

Web site : [www.bmpt.org.uk](http://www.bmpt.org.uk)

The Special General Meeting was held at the Trust on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and approve the transfer of assets from the BMPT to the BMPT Ltd Present were 27 Members, and we had apologies from eight. After a question and answer session, the resolution was put to the Members present.

“That the British Military Powerboat Trust (the Trust) be dissolved forthwith and that the Membership of the Trust and the assets of the Trust shall be transferred to the British Military Powerboat Trust Limited”

A show of hands was called for in support of the resolution and 26 proved. A show of hands against the resolution was called for and 1 proved Our Chairman Charles du Cane declared the resolution as carried. And so we moved onto the next phase in the life of the Trust.

One of our Members, Rodger Woodhams, was given the name of a contact in the Royal Logistics Corps, with regard to possible available sites at the Sea Mount Centre at Marchwood. This lead was strenuously followed up, and as a direct result, we had been offered a site on the MoD land about 5 minutes walk from the present Husbands Shipyard sheds.

The offer consists of sufficient land upon which we can put our portacabin, as well our stores containers, along with 2 Dunkirk Little Ship containers. This will cost the Trust £750 per year in rental. No electricity or water supplies are available, so we have purchased a small generator to allow the kettle to work, and a bit of lighting during winter.

Space for 2 boats, Ark Royal and Dainty is available. A berth within the Military Port has been made available for ST1502.

There will be some restrictions on access, but these will be overcome.

The site will be available for Members to visit at the time of the Barbecue.

We owe a great debt of thanks to Colonel N Start, the new Director of the SMC Marchwood. Colonel Start's Grandfather served as a Skipper on MTB's during the war years. Many doors have been opened to us as a result of the Colonel's direct interest in the Trust. This offer was accepted, and was seen as a stepping stone along the way to our objective, the Maritime Centre at Poole.

To refresh your memory with regard to the Maritime Centre at Poole, we have to go back about 2 years. The local Daily Echo had taken up our cry for help, and given us huge press coverage. This had come to the notice of a group known ISCA, the International Sailing Craft Association.

ISCA has a large collection of sailing craft, which we hear you cry with horror, has nothing at all to do with Military Powerboats This is quite correct, but the Management of ISCA were very interested in adding to their collection, powerboats of Military historic significance. The reason for this was that ISCA was in negotiation with the Poole authorities, to establish a Maritime Centre at Poole, and obviously, our type of boats would fit the bill very nicely.

You will remember the presentation given by Mr Stephen Walters, of ISCA, who had been invited to our AGM in 2004. This presentation was based on the plans for the Maritime Centre at Poole and how we would fit into this plan. The presentation was warmly applauded by those Members present.

Charles du Cane our Chairman had been working tirelessly negotiating with ISCA, to achieve a situation where both BMPT Ltd and ISCA could work together. The primary objective was to keep as many of the boats together as possible, within the financial limitations of the BMPT Ltd, to allow the Trust to work closely with ISCA, but so as not to allow the Trust to be swallowed up, and thus disappear altogether. Also the needs of ISCA, as well as the affect our joining them, would have financially on ISCA itself, needed to be considered.

After many months of discussion, Charles was able to present to the Executive Committee, a set of Heads of Agreement between the BMPT (now

BMPT Ltd) and ISCA (now EISCA, Eyemouth International Sailing Craft Association).

This was done in accordance with the Constitution. "Powers" (of the Executive Committee) vii. "power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects "

These HoA state broadly that:-

- We will have 3 EISCA Directors on the BMPT Ltd Board
- The facilities at Mashfords Shipyard in Plymouth will be available to BMPT Ltd.
- EISCA will find suitable storage for any boats needing this..
- EISCA will offer alternate office space at Mashfords, when this can no longer be continued from the Marchwood MoD site.
- BMPT Ltd boats presently owned by BMPT Ltd, will be available for the Poole Maritime Centre.
- Boats owned by BMPT Ltd will continue to be so owned.
- All functions presently carried out by the present BMPT Ltd Management team, will continue to be attended to by those elected to office, in Marchwood.

Mashfords Boatyard in Cremyll, near Plymouth is owned by one of the EISCA Principals.

At the first AGM of the BMPT Ltd, held at Marchwood on the 17<sup>th</sup> August 2005, the following Management team was elected.

|                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Director. Charles du Cane. | Elected Chairman.      |
| Director. Peter Baillie.   | Elected Vice Chairman. |
| Director. John Towndrow.   | Elected Legal Advisor. |
| Director. Terry Ford.      | Elected Signatory.     |
| Director Tony Alston.      | Elected Membership     |
| Secretary                  |                        |
| Director Rodger Woodhams.  |                        |
| Director Clive Frampton.   | Elected Archivist.     |
| Director Richard Hellyer.  | Elected Company        |
| Secretary..                |                        |

EISCA have put forward 3 nominations for Directorship, and these have been elected.

To summarise the foregoing, our situation is as follows:-

- ✓ The BMPT has become the BMPT Ltd.
- ✓ This involves no changes at all to the Trust as you knew it, but now provides indemnity for all Members set at £10.00 per member as a maximum, in the event the Limited Company has to be dissolved, with any outstanding debts needing to be paid.
- ✓ The old Constitution has been replaced by the Charity Commission approved Memorandum of Association, and Articles of Association. These are a far more wide ranging version of the Constitution.
- ✓ Membership annual subs have been left as they were in the BMPT, but will be examined to find ways of improving our Membership numbers.
- ✓ We leave the Husbands Shipyard site on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, and take up residence on the MoD Marchwood site, close by. We will be moving bit by bit over the last 2 weeks of September.
- ✓ This site should cover our needs for about 2.5 years.
- ✓ Mashfords is available to us should we need interim accommodation.
- ✓ We start the process of preparing for the new Maritime Centre at Poole, which should come on line in about 3 years time.
- ✓ BMPT Ltd remains an entity under the umbrella and working closely with EISCA. The Trust will be displayed as such at the Maritime Centre, with static exhibits as well as operational boats on the water. We will not lose our identity or relinquish our aims. We will eventually relocate to the Poole Maritime Centre.

The situation regarding our inventory of BMPT Ltd owned boats is now as follows.

1. **MTB331**. This boat will be moved to a large storage hangar near Oxford. The process of HLF funding will be started, and we hope to be able to bring you good news re her restoration, in preparation for being displayed at the Poole Maritime Centre.

2. **ST1502**. This boat remains at Marchwood, on the Husbands shipyard pontoon until the berth within the Military Port becomes available later this year. She will be operated under the Captains Boat Club banner, and thus earn her keep. Assistance with corporate usage and advertising would be very welcome.

The Captains Boat Club is explained later in this newsletter. She will eventually relocate to the Poole Maritime Centre.

3. **Fast Motor Boat Ark Royal**. This boat remains at Marchwood. She will be accommodated on the MoD site, where she will be undercover, and available to complete her restoration. She will be operated under the Captains Boat Club banner. She can be launched and recovered on her trailer, at the public hard at Marchwood, about 5 minutes from our site.

She will eventually relocate to the Poole Maritime Centre.

4. **Fast Motor Dinghy Dainty**. This boat remains at Marchwood. She will be stored in an insulated 20 foot container. Her restoration will continue, and she will be operated under the Captains Boat Club banner. She can be launched and recovered on her own trailer, from the public hard at Marchwood. She will eventually be relocated to the Poole Maritime Centre.

5. **E-Boat S130**. This boat is presently on the slipway in Mashfords boatyard, Cremyll. Her future is under discussion, and we hope that she can be relocated to a site where some form of restoration can be achieved.

6. **63' Torpedo Recovery Pinnacle**. This boat presently moored in Southampton. We are negotiating with the Owner to take over, and add her to the Trust inventory. More on this one in the next news letter.

As you know, **RASC Humber** is now in the ownership of one of our Members. She is under restoration, and it is hoped she will once again take to the water. She has been offered to the Trust for display, when a suitable place has been found for this purpose.

In order that we run the operational boats correctly, we have set up the Captains Boat Club.

- ◆ The CBC is run by its own committee, and falls under the control of the BMPT Ltd.

- ◆ The Articles of Association, and Memoranda of Association for the BMPT Ltd apply to the CBC.
- ◆ A separate set of accounts is kept for the CBC.
- ◆ Membership of the BMPT Ltd automatically allows membership of the CBC.
- ◆ Each paid up member of the CBC is entitled to one free trip per member per year on the Trusts boat of his/her choice, provided the boat requested is available.
- ◆ The free trip becomes available to members, after a 2 day period has elapsed, provided membership has been accepted.
- ◆ A high standard of safety will be maintained on the boats, and this will meet the MCA (Marine Safety Agency) requirements. We are privileged to have the expertise and advice of our Technical Advisor, Alan Cartwright in this respect.
- ◆ All boats will have been subjected to a full marine survey for insurance purposes, and will be fully insured.

So once again we can look to the future with lots of hope. We cannot stress enough the gratitude and importance we which we place on your continued support of our efforts to achieve the aims of the Trust. We have been through some hard times, and without a doubt, had we not had your generous support, the Trust would have disappeared into bankruptcy 2 years ago.

We would like to thank Denis McCann, our BMPT Treasurer, for his skilful “tinkling of the till”. Denis steps back into the membership ranks leaving the Trust “solvent”, as he would say. We hope Denis will continue to contribute to our well being from time to time.

Ray Hubble has also stepped down from the Board, and Ray your wise words and ability to turn our garbled thoughts into divine actions will be sorely missed.

We hope that both Denis and Ray will still give us wise consul from time to time, and we will keep both on our “consultancy” list, free of charge..! Thank you both from us all.

Mostly though we thank the Membership for your continued kind support. Your letters and thoughts, as well as the many kind and generous donations which you make, keep us all at the sharp end, going strong as they say.

We hope that we can now look to a positive way forward for the Trust, and pleasant times for us all, in the future.