



THE EMPIRE'S LAUNCH

The Consuta Trust

The advancement of education in the history of steam launches, by preservation, maintenance and exhibition of the steam launch **Consuta**

Patron: The Rt. Hon. Lord Strathcona & Mount Royal

Consuta Trust Newsletter - Winter 2017

The Consuta HLF funded project

This project planned to run until the end of 2018 is a comprehensive exercise managed by Trustees and quite challenging. I suppose this is to be expected when designing and building a specialist job like a steam boiler. Providing the project activities during the summer of 2017 has also been a most interesting learning curve which should serve us well for next year.

Our initial problem with the exhibition display was attracting young families to come along and see what it was all about. We installed a big TV 70" (2nd hand) and this helped with a few more visitors, the video material available for display is amazing and I thank Paul for researching all the historic material. However most families still passed by without calling in. Then we decided to try using a bubble machine – have you seen these? they are great and children are captivated. We did wonder about using hissing steam sounds such as steam whistles by a sound system but decided these were not appropriate.



Unit is now closed up for the winter – impressive photo on the big panel?

The extensive refurbishment work on Consuta

The new boiler construction has started well, and we have been sourcing all the new boiler fittings that are required.

There had been some concern about how the vertical mahogany sides of the boiler casing could be removed. I remember our friend Ian who bought a steam canoe called Sandpiper then discovered that its bottom was in a very poor state so started carefully picking out the rotten bits. Geoff Newton who was helping told him to stand aside and then removed the whole of the canoe bottom with a chain saw – well after all Geoff was a surgeon, so what would you expect. Ian was initially horrified, however the canoe was soon fitted out with a completely new bottom. I was wondering would we need to do the same drastic treatment with Consuta's boiler casing to get it off, it's a lovely piece of mahogany. Fortunately I don't think we need worry because the sides seem to be held on with a great number of hidden wood screws so it should lift off without too much trouble.

We haven't been able to do this so far because Consuta is still outside under its summer covers, all very frustrating. The agreement with Beale Park was to move Consuta into the old cowshed during

September 2017 for the project work to start. However since Richard Howard passed away earlier this year Beale Park trustees have changed the arrangements which has delayed the refurbishment progress. Unfortunately due to these changes we will not be able to have Consuta ready for the Park Boat Show, nor probably any other boating events during 2018. This is very disappointing, because our trust have been supporting this Boat Show every year since 2001.

If you want to be kept updated on refurbishment progress please visit the Trust website and go to the Consuta project link or click the facebook link.

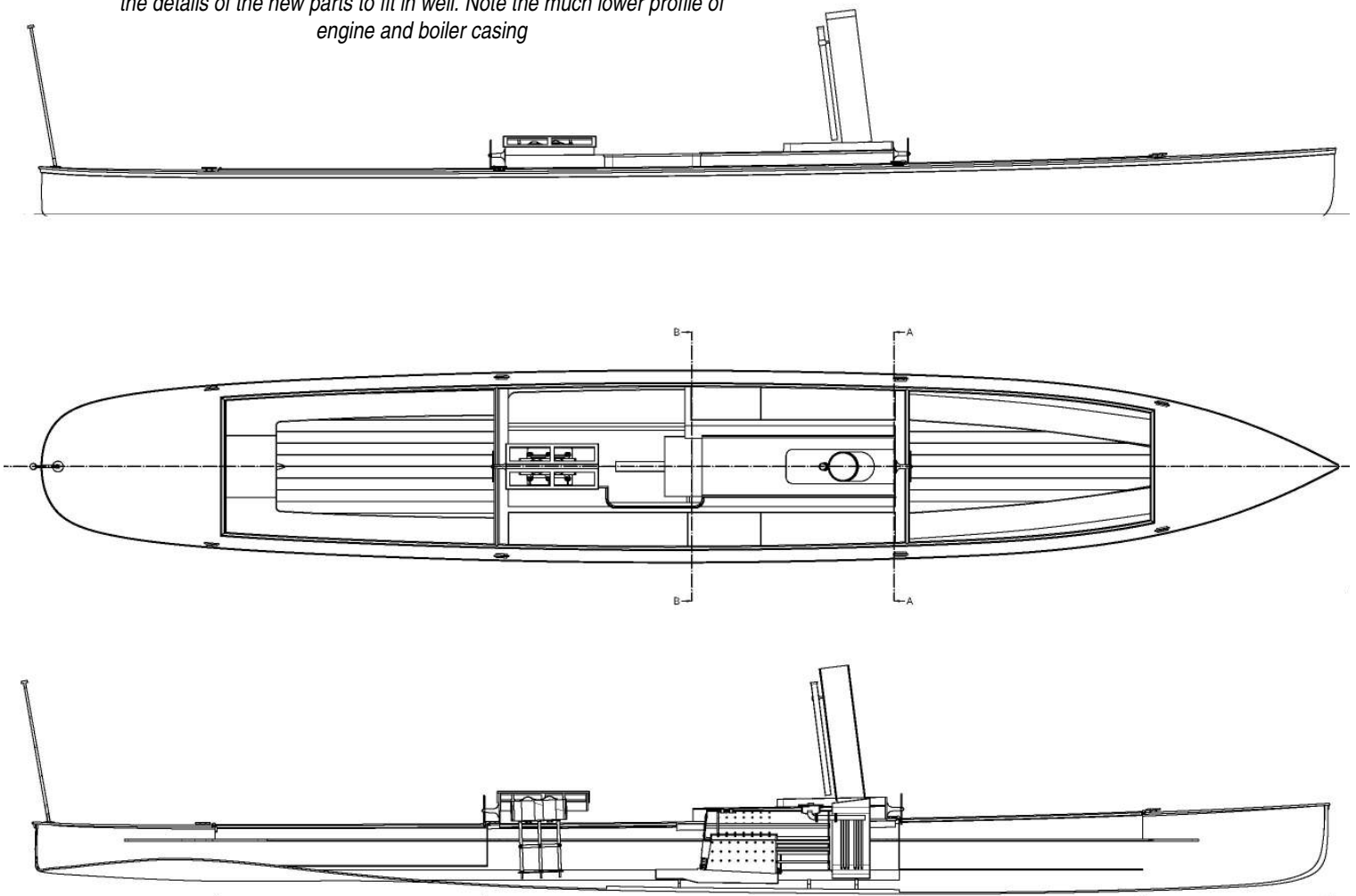
Consuta Social

Following the low interest and lack of bookings for our River Spice Social February this year, our impromptu event at The Swan in Pangbourne was a great success, and much simpler because we didn't have to ask people to make prior meal choices, but just order on the day.

So we've decided to make similar arrangements at the Beetle and Wedge in Moulsoford. The date chosen for our Social is 17th February 2018. I would be grateful if you could please confirm that you wish to attend before the end of January so that I can then book the number of places required. The Restaurant has several tables which seat 10 people and of course there is that lovely view over the river. See the last page for additional details and sample menu choice.

A Merry Christmas and our very best wishes for the New Year. *Brian Smith*

This line drawing is from David's Cad work, which will be useful for getting the details of the new parts to fit in well. Note the much lower profile of engine and boiler casing





Some technical information about steam fittings

The photos above show a few of the boiler fittings and they are roughly in scale for a direct comparison of sizes.

- 1 The two main 1½" engine steam valves – left one is the throttle, the other is the boiler angle stop valve – on the backhead.
- 2 This is a ¾" globe angle stop valve used in several places.
- 3 Hattersley ¾" gate check valve used for the boiler injector feed line
- 4 Two Penberthy type injectors – left is ¾" and right is a ½" size. Feed rate is given as 360 and 180 gallons per hour respectively. These are from the old boiler for reuse.
- 5 A 1" blanking plug (left) for the washout holes and a ½" and ¾" pipe fitting which provides easily removable connections to any ¾" steam fitting.

British Standard Pipe (BSP) is a world standard for pipe fittings and the sizes vary in fractions of inch (the USA has a different thread form called National Pipe Thread NPT). A ½" BSP pipe thread is not a measurement of the thread diameter but is the internal diameter of a threaded pipe. So a ½" BSP steam valve is intended for use with a pipe of ½" internal diameter. A pipe that has thick walls can be threaded for the size of a steam fitting.

However it gets a little more confusing because the BSP threads comes as parallel or tapered threads – named BSPP or BSPT. The purpose of tapered threads is to provide a pressure tight joint by thread only. Most female valves (as above) have a tapered thread. The old standards used to be tapered male into a tapered female, however this has now apparently changed to tapered male into parallel female. Now most of the pipe fittings on Consuta will use BSP pipe joints except the main steam line which will use flanged joints. If you are looking at the main steam valves you will see that they are screwed, so a 4½" diameter flange will be screwed into these big valves to make the pipe connection.



Kevin reports boiler construction progress is going well and the photos above show early stages of the welding, the one on the right shows the dome which is so important for dry steam, the other shows the foundation ring ready with weld preps to the wrapper and firebox. Lots of welding still to go.

Below a typical scene from the Reading Regatta, with Consuta following three eights – race speeds here can be quite high, the course is quite short and makes for an interesting run with Consuta. Just for the record Consuta can easily keep up with the fastest race speeds and with a bit in hand.



The Consuta Social Luncheon

At the Beetle and Wedge Restaurant Moultsford

On Saturday 17th February 2018

12:00am for 1:00pm



I've attached a sample menu overleaf to show costs and possible options – however please note that there may be variations on the day. On the day you order from the menu and pay as well. The bar is on the ground floor and the restaurant is on the 1st floor.

We need to let the restaurant know the number of people attending two weeks before the date, so please let me know by email, by post or by phone before the end of JANUARY whether you would like to come along so that I can book the tables. I will be asking for tables to be arranged with 10 places.

**Please let me know numbers in your party and any special needs
before the 1st of February.**

For the Consuta Social please contact:-

Post:- Brian Smith, 19 Mill Bank, Kintbury, Hungerford, RG17 9UW

Email:- brian.smith@consuta.org.uk

Phone:- 01488 658795



The Beetle & Wedge Boathouse

Basic Beetle

Two Course £20 Three Courses £24

Inclusive of Mediterranean olives & freshly baked bread

To Start...

Roasted Butternut Squash Veloute, Herb Sippets

Or

Homemade Game Terrine, Red Onion Chutney, Toasted Bloomer

Or

Scottish Smoked Salmon, Horseradish Cream

To Follow...

Pan Roasted Fillet of Salmon, Spinach & Hollandaise

Or

Wild Mushroom & Leek Gnocchi, Grated Parmesan & Truffle Oil

Or

*Local Pheasant & Sweet Potato Curry, Spiced Courgettes, Pilau Rice,
Mango Chutney & Chapatti Bread*

Served with Seasonal Vegetables & Roasted New Potatoes

To Finish...

Glazed Lemon Tart, Passion Fruit Sorbet

Or

Mixed Berry Cheesecake, Winter Berry Coulis

Or

Rich Chocolate Delice with Chantilly Cream

Cafetières of Coffee or Loose Leaf Tea

An optional service charge of 10% will be added to tables of 10 or more guests. All gratuities are distributed between all members of staff.

Food Allergies & Intolerances

All dishes can be tweaked to accommodate your needs. Please speak to a member of our management team to discuss ingredients in your meal.

The Consuta Trustees

*Wish you a Merry Christmas
a Happy New Year*



Beale Park Boat Show 2017

