

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

Newsletter No.13

(November 2002)

Supported by:-



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

The Transport Trust
The Steam Boat Association
International Paints
The Amber Trust

A brief review of our activities 2002

The end of the summer boating season marks a very successful year for Consuta. The publicity we have had from the use and display of Consuta has been brilliant, it certainly exceeded my own expectations. One of the nice things about any cruising on Consuta is the warm appreciation we get from so many members of the public, it is quite a privilege to be on board.



This winter Consuta is to be based in the Cowshed at Beale Park. It was a difficult decision not to continue our stay at Bushnell's, but there will be financial savings plus there is the attractive prospect of good all weather cover provided by the shed during the winter months. The Model Boat Club who are based at Beale Park are generously allowing us to keep Consuta at their base here. Model boat of course does not necessarily mean small, some of the models are over 30ft long.

Financially we have managed to keep the books balanced throughout the year, but the costs of operating Consuta do need at least £4,000 pa. No major donors or sponsors have come forward as yet, so we have relied on the generous support from your contributions, plus donations put in the collection box on board, plus of course those financial contributions made for the use of Consuta.

Consuta has been active throughout the summer, travelling down river as far as Shepperton and upriver to Goring. We have participated or been on display at; the Henley Women's Regatta, the Henley Royal Regatta, The Traditional Boat Rally, a Steam Boat Association rally, the

Consuta website is:- www.consuta.org.uk

Trustees: Derek Brown Tony Cundick Graham Lindsay Geoff Newton Brian Smith

Registered charity No. 1076505



opening of the new navigation cut at Beale Park, two Birthday Parties, a boatyard staff outing and a Wedding Anniversary (this one in company with Nuneham and SL Arlette). There have been several crew training sessions, on reflection perhaps we should have done more of these, will try harder next year.

Many supporters have taken the opportunity of having a trip on Consuta. Volunteers have enjoyed the experience of trying their hand at skippering and engineering Consuta. If you've not tried it yet, don't hold back just because you think Consuta might be a bit large and difficult to handle. I have had much hands on experience of small boats (ie less than 60ft) and can assure you that Consuta responds beautifully and is no more difficult to handle than many of the smaller boats. The latest alterations to the boiler have resulted in the boiler steaming almost too freely (maybe the coal is better). Previously, especially when we had poor coal, firemen were always struggling to keep pressure, however with all the changes we've made, our trainee firemen have no trouble keeping the safeties sizzling now.

We have had our share of normal boating problems such as picking up a tree root on the propeller (it stopped the engine dead), picking up a piece of rope round the propshaft (fortunately it unwound with a bit of fiddling about), several slight groundings— it's always the prop that touches, so must look at the prop and see if it has been marked. Of course there have been engineering problems, some have been cured, such as water carry over in the boiler. However we still have a noisy engine (bearings were being continually hammered by the water carry over), ash spillage into the boat occurs from time to time (needs a rethink about ashing out arrangements), there are many other minor annoyances which was to be expected with a major restoration project like Consuta. Having said this we are wdl very pleased with the improvements made during the season, Consuta is now a reliable performer and is easy to handle.

Next Year – 2003

So what are we going to do next year? – good question. The simple answer is the Trustees have not come to any conclusions yet, except that we do need to try and get the operation of Consuta onto a sound financial basis that is sustainable in the long term. The requirements can be defined as a permanent base with suitable all weather housing, plus a good crew and support team.

One idea that has been suggested is to have a floating base or dock which would give all weather cover and could be positioned anywhere on the river to suit operational needs, another is to have a road support vehicle fitted out with some engineering facilities, possibly also with limited accommodation for support crews. We need to remember that The Trust objects are to display Consuta as much as possible, this should include non operational public display. Ideally a Boat Heritage base like the Windermere Steamboat Museum would be excellent, but this is a long way off yet.

Winter Social Luncheon

We are arranging a winter social luncheon in the Wargrave Village Hall on Saturday 7th December at 12:00 am. It would have been nice to have returned to the Bull, but accommodation is very limited. There will be a buffet meal with a selection of dishes provided from the adjacent Indian restaurant, followed by tea/coffee. Please bring your own wine and/or drink, glasses will be provided. If you prefer you can bring your own food.

The village hall does not have a car park so please use the village car park or street parking.

I am anticipating that we will have plenty of photographs, plus some of the Consuta publicity material to show off. I have some splendid short video clips of Consuta in action at the various events. If you have photos or video please bring these along as well

***** Please return the booking form before the 1st December. *****

The Consuta Trust Social Luncheon

on Saturday 7th December 12:00 for 1:00pm
in the Wargrave Village Hall.

Social including meal, the cost is £12 per person Number required £

Social only, the cost is £2 per person Number required £

Total Cheque made payable to the Consuta Trust £

Send this booking form and your payment to Brian Smith, 19 Mill Bank, Kintbury, Hungerford, RG17 9UW please for no later than 1st December 2002.

Please bring any photos, memorabilia, or video of Consuta which could be of interest to others.

Some administration comments

The Trust database now shows that we have over 130 on our supporters list. The supporters group is still loosely organised by the Trustees and has no constitution— nothing wrong with this. However it would be nice to have some sort of name even if nothing better than Friends of Consuta – you can let me know your views on this.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support, if you haven't already joined those who contribute on a regular basis, maybe you would like to do so now? Contact Derek Brown and he will send you the monthly SO form to fill in.

If you would like and are able to receive the newsletter by email, please let me know on brian.smith@consuta.org.uk. I promise to keep the email newsletter posting size to not more than 300 Kbytes for those who don't want or cannot accept large files. You will also receive the other email correspondence we send to our volunteers, all Consuta steamings are posted here and the emails should give a good insight as to what is going on a fairly regular basis.

If you wish to drop out from our supporters club, please let me know so that I can remove you from our mailing lists. Telephone 01488 658795

The Trustees wish everyone Seasonal greetings and a Happy New Year.



Left to right Nuneham, Consuta and Arlette