



THE EMPIRE'S LAUNCH.

The Consuta Trust

19 Mill Bank
Kintbury
HUNGERFORD
Berks.
RG17 9UW

Dear Supporter

01488 658795

NEWSLETTER No. 2

The Consuta Trust is now registered as a UK charity so if you want to make a donation or covenant regular monthly funds, we can now get some extra cash from the taxman as well. Geoff Newton is in charge of our money raising activities, so contact Geoff for the appropriate Inland Revue forms for this.

Current work on the hull

The boatyard (Henwood and Dean) have completed some excellent work on the hull. The exterior has now been faired up, all cracks and irregularities in the hull skin have been filled and some of the worst bumps faired up. The hull has been sheathed with a resined cloth finish and is now probably stronger than when new. As I write the propshaft log, the 'P' bracket and the 'A' brackets have been fitted and the hull has been turned back the right way up ready for painting and fitting out, and is now looking very good.

Funding

So far we have clocked up a bill of over £45,000 which has been covered by some very generous donations. We think we can at least get covering boards and decks fitted by the boatyard with monies we have in hand and promised, but it will be a tight squeeze on our resources.

Tony Cundick is making an application on behalf of the Trust for funds from the PRISM funding group. We will just have to keep our fingers crossed, that they will be prepared to help our project.

John Schoefield has suggested paint supplier sponsorship; what a good idea, John is looking into this possibility. Any other suggestion or ideas like this would be most welcome.

Some more volunteer work is planned.

The next task after turning the hull the right way up is to paint out the interior. Colin Henwood is very kindly willing to let trust volunteers do this work at the boatyard, so painting sessions are being arranged. Suggested dates are:- **Sat/Sun 11th/12th September and 25th 26th September.** We are conscious that SBA rallies get in the way.

The work schedule is:-

- a Prepare interior resined surface for painting. This means a hand rubbing down of the whole of the interior with plastic pads (provided). This is a bit tedious but will be faster and a bit more sociable than the paint scraping session which was enjoyed by so many.
- b Apply two/three coats of metallic primer to all bare wood surfaces to seal the wood. Engine bearers, floors etc. Painting jobs are always most rewarding!
- c Apply bilge paint (say Danboline red) up to floor board level (two coats suggested), a topcoat paint on hull insides (did he say white?).

Paints, consumables (ie brush cleaner) will be provided by the Trust. However bring your

own overalls and paintbrushes please – suggested brush sizes from 2” to 3”.

So if you can handle a paintbrush and can help, please give Geoff Newton a call on 01283 703721 as soon as possible. This work will take about three/four days, and will be a valuable contribution to the restoration effort and we will end up with the hull looking absolutely stunning. I will ask Lyn to see what sort of arrangements can be made for lunch on the first day.

Colin Henwood has volunteered to be our honorary consultant for any boat restoration work even though we might not be able to afford to have his men to do the work, we are very grateful for this generous support.

All types of help needed – not just money

We shall be looking for all sorts of things which you might be able to source cheaper than we can (even free perhaps?).

Some examples:- We are looking for a replacement prop shaft 1.5/8 inch diameter and about 15 ft long in stainless steel, the old bronze shaft is very worn in several places and needs to be replaced. The current market price is around £400, do you know somewhere that can give a better price? We will be needing some stainless steel fabrication work for ashtrays and the engine slops tray – any offers? We have a 25 inch diameter by 32 inch pitch propeller, this is probably a bit on the small side and ideally we would like one around 27 inch diameter by about 38 inch pitch – it needs to be right handed rotation to suite the engine – any thoughts.

The above is only a small number of items that will be needed. There are a whole range of bits and pieces that will need to be sourced, if you think you can help in any way please, let me have your suggestions.

Where to keep Consuta

Currently we are having detailed discussions with the Child Beale Wildlife Trust about keeping Consuta at the riverside park near Pangbourne (remember the base for Boats 99). The intention would be for covered wet dock accommodation with hard stand space and office/storage facilities. We think that this would be an ideal project for lottery funding, this will all depend on acceptance by the Park Trustees.

I will be on the river to Lechlade from August 31st to September 10th so Geoff is the person to contact about the first weekend work parties. See you at the Thames Rally!

Brian Smith, 21st August 1999

Volunteers please contact Geoff Newton: 01283 703721