

KING'S LYNN WORFOLK BOAT TRUST



True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum
North Street
King's Lynn
PE30 1QW



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2023

Charity number 113975

Website: www.floatourboat.co.uk

E-mails: info@floatourboat.co.uk

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: floatourboat17

IN THE RIVER AGAIN

We are indebted to ABP King's Lynn Docks, Travis Perkins and many others for a safe winter on the docks estate, in and out of the water, giving our volunteers the time to carry out numerous maintenance jobs on the Baden Powell. She is now tied up at the South Quay pontoon again, within comfortable reach of Marriott's and Hanse House, both of which ancient hostelries are familiar with the Baden Powell from her early days from 1900 and in her splendid recreation, completed in 2017.

GETTING OUT IS NOT EASY

by Stuart Miller

Moving Baden Powell from the docks to the pontoon was expected to be a simple procedure, but Mother Nature and Murphy's Law conspired against us. At 13.00hrs on Friday, 31st March, six crew members assembled at Travis Perkins' premises, alongside the boat, which was moored in the Bentinck Dock. The heavens opened that morning and our plans to complete a few outstanding jobs on the boat were scuppered. We retired to the large room that Travis Perkins kindly provide to us and we waited, with coffees in hand, for the storm to ease. The port officials had told us that we had to exit the lock at high-water time which was expected at 15:10hrs. At 14.00hrs, the rain had lessened and we decided that we had to prepare the boat for leaving. The seasoned sailors among us had full waterproof clothing whilst others of us got very wet!

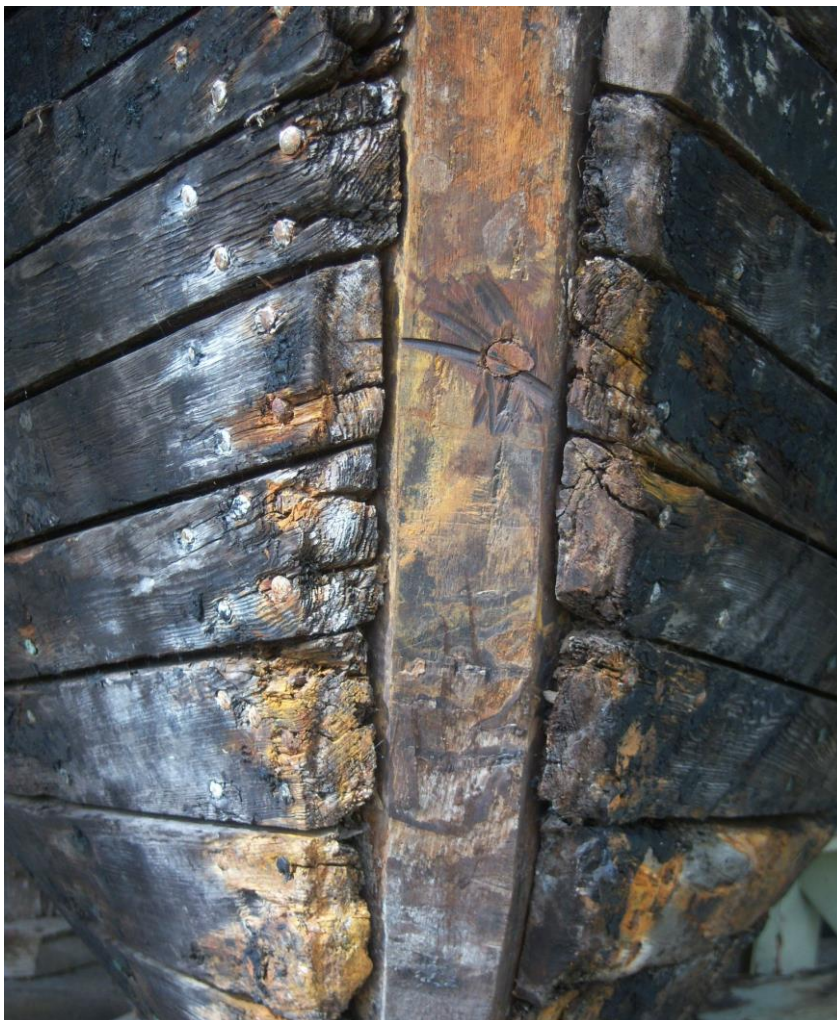
We climbed down the dock ladder and onto the deck of the boat. We removed the covers enough for us to reach a few tools and the ropes that are stored in the hold. We completed the various engine checks and were pleased to find that a repair to a small leak on the heat-exchanger appeared to have worked. The engine started easily and we quickly confirmed that cooling water was being pumped out, as expected, alongside the diesel exhaust. We ran the engine for several minutes and then noticed that cooling water was no longer being expelled and so we stopped the engine. The engine is cooled by pumping seawater around the casing of the engine before the water is pumped back out to the sea. The circulating pump had been serviced over the winter and the cooling system had worked perfectly on the previous day. However, the cooling water was clearly not now flowing and the flow of water is essential to prevent the engine from overheating.

After some head-scratching, we decided that the most likely cause of the fault would be a problem with the pump and so we carefully removed the pump's cover to look for any blockage or damage. Removing the cover is an awkward and fiddly left-handed job due to difficult access to the six small screws. Meanwhile, Tim was on the telephone to the lock-keeper and both were worried that we only had another 20 minutes until the

deadline. No problem was found with the pump and so the cover was replaced and our next idea was that there had to be an air-lock within the pipework. We removed a flexible hose from the engine and we blew hard down the hose. The hose was hastily reattached and we started the engine with five minutes to spare. A cheer was heard as plentiful cooling water splashed out of the boat.

A radio call to the lock-keeper confirmed that we had removed the mooring ropes and we were heading quickly to the swing bridge which carries the road between the Bentinck Dock and the Alexandra Dock. The bridge opened for us and we entered the outer Alexandra Dock. Carefully passed the first pair of gates, we went into the lock. The large hydraulic gates were closed behind us and the sluice gates of the closed front lock gates were opened, so that the water level inside the lock would match the water level in the river beyond. We held the boat within the lock for about 10 minutes until the front gates were opened, then exited the docks and motored to the floating pontoon. So our 2023 season starts.

REMEMBER WHERE WE CAME FROM?



This is how the bow of the Baden Powell looked head-on to a bunch of enthusiasts gathered on a Terrington St John farm a good few years ago, to see what needed doing in order to get the boat back sailing again.

At that stage we were thinking in terms of a restoration. But it was not long before we realised that this was not going to be easy. What seemed to be simple wear and tear soon proved to be rather well concealed rot deep in the heart of most planks.

So the project became a replication. Each timber was taken off and reproduced in new wood. A long old job, but one well worth the effort.

So get to www.floatourboat.co.uk to find out when you can take your seat aboard the Baden Powell for a new perspective on Lynn's historic waterfront. For your £20 donation you'll learn a great deal about how the river and sea connections have been at the heart of the town's prosperity. It's also a great way to witness the wildlife that abounds close to our town.

Ken Hill