

Friends of PRESIDENT

“Steaming Up” – Issue 8



“Back in steam”

February 2003



From the Editor

It seemed like it would never come, but as they say, good things come to those who wait! Well, we must have waited well, because Saturday saw the first public steaming of “President” since the autumn of 2000, almost 30 months. As befits such a momentous occasion I thought

I would rush out a copy of steaming up for those members who were unable to attend. For those with web access there is another treat – but more of that later.

I will review the seminar day in more detail in due course, but I don’t think the time should pass without a thank you to both David Powell for organising the day and of course to Dave Stott who has been down to Dadford’s at least three times a week for the last four or five weeks.

I must apologise to all those photographers out there about the date on all the photographs in this issue. All of them are from my latest toy – a digital camera. Unfortunately I set the date for 2002 not 2003!

There are some important changes to the way we operate detailed in this issue, please read this item carefully. This year will be a wonderful FOP year and I look forward to seeing you out on the cut.

Happy Steaming

Simon Nuttall

Website

For those of you with web access [and if you don’t I should head down to the library or internet café] I have been able to take the website to a new level and include a few short movies, or at least Malcolm Nixon has. They also include sound. The thought behind this was to allow members who could not make Saturday to see the sights and sounds of the new engine. At the moment I am just getting to grips with all the camera can do, so intend to have another go next time she is in steam. In the meantime, log on, click down and enjoy the sound of a single! [Smells not available, but I can assure you top quality]

Website www.nb-president.org.uk

First Steaming

Saturday 22nd February



The new engine in steam and in motion. This picture is taken from the cabin looking towards the boiler. From the bottom the old baring wheel can be seen, with a chain drive to the lubricator. Just above this is one of the eccentrics. The engines green colour scheme and lovely wood and brass cylinder can be seen.

Progress Report



The engine from the front, from the bottom the new flywheel can be seen. Some members wondered if it was big enough, however the engine ticked over very nicely at low revs, so all would seem to be well. Above the flywheel is the reverser, set in forward gear. At the top can just be seen the regulator which has two handles, the left hand one of which can be seen fully. This will allow the engine to be controlled from both sides of the cabin which will come in very useful. On the left can just be seen the condenser whilst on the right is the weir pump. Members will remember that we are now only using one of the two we have as an ejector is being used to remove the condensate from the condenser.

In due course the condenser will be under the plating, providing both a small seat and storage area for tools



The Weir pump sitting to the left of the engine when facing the rear of the boat. All the pipe work still requires lagging and painting

The now completed cabin. If you look carefully you can see the two part door into the engine room.



Boating Programme 2003

Included with this issue of steaming up is a crewing volunteer form. Could all members wishing to participate in trips this year please complete them as soon as possible and send them to Richard Thomas.

May Bank Holidays & Weekends	BCLM	
Bone Mill	Eturia	7 th – 8 th June
Middlewich Festival	Middlewich	13 th - 15 th June 2003
FMC Working Boat Gathering	Braunston	28 th - 29 th June 2003
Inland Waterways Exhibition	Birmingham	18 th – 21 st July 2003
National Waterways Festival	Reading	22 nd - 25 th August 2003
Bonded Warehouse	Stourbridge	Oct 2003

Easter training



The museum is making the return of President it's major attraction over the Easter period. We have been asked to steam the boat from Good Friday over the holiday weekend and the following week. We are going to use this as our major training effort. It is important that if you are intending to crew this year you make every effort to attend at least one day. We also need to make sure that the boat is available in steam for museum visitors. Please

complete the separate form for this week. If you are able to do days other than the bank holidays then please volunteer for those. This will give space for those who can only attend over the holiday.

Work parties

At present we do not need to hold formal working parties, but it would be appreciated if members could contact Ron Spencer if they are able to spare some time to help keep 'Kildare' ship shape. 0161-980-3539

Seminar report

With a total of sixty members indicating that they were planning to attend and 22 giving formal apologies the response to the seminar day was truly astounding. The day was made up as follows:-

- Introduction and welcome – David Powell
- Presentation on the history of President – Richard Thomas
- Draft crew manual – David Powell
- Black Country Living Museum introduction and goals – Ian Walden
- Lunch (kindly provided by BCLM)
- Group session on draft crew manual
- Feedback session
- Visit to Dadford's Wharf



The aim of the day was to discuss and consider the operation of the boats in the future and to prepare members for dealing with the public. In his introduction David noted that this country was becoming ever more litigious and unfortunately FOP must move to protect both itself and the boat's owners the Black Country Living Museum. This was not to say that our practices have been incorrect but that it is necessary to codify and document our procedures. It was stressed that the open and informal nature of FOP would be retained but this would be woven around a more formal

training environment.

The meeting was presented with a draft crew manual, this sets out the skills needed by the various levels of crew member. One aspect of this is that we need to set out in writing the informal structure that always existed when considering the experience of a particular crew member. The document included the following suggested levels:-

Trainee
Crew
Steerer

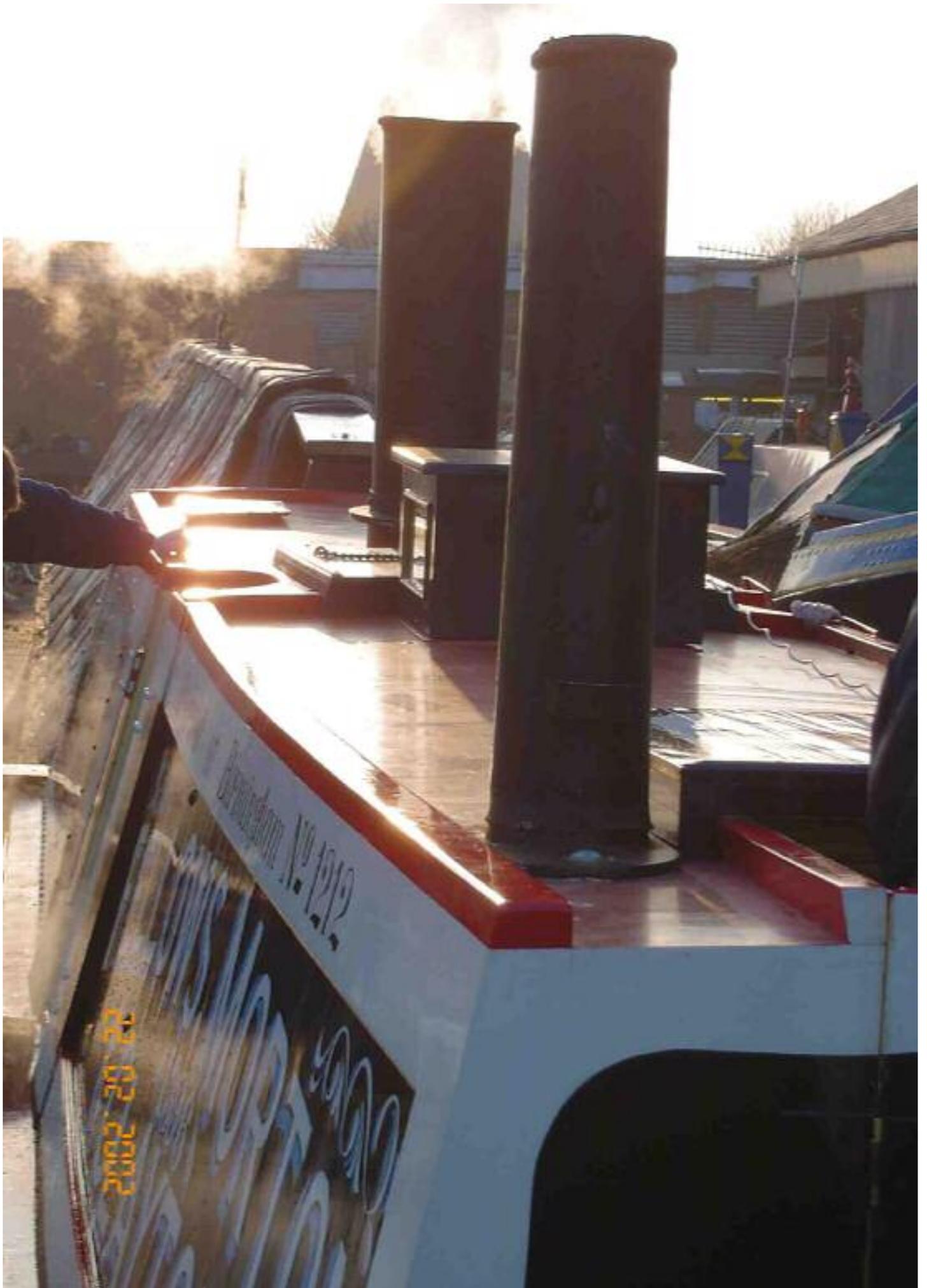
Trainee driver
Assistant driver

Captain

It should be noted that as a policy we are no longer using the term engineman but are making an effort to use the correct FMC term of driver.

The sections of the seminar provided by Richard Thomas and Ian Walden were intended to educate members to be able to provide the correct information on the boats and the museum. Ian also spent some time explaining the history of the museum, its overall remit and curatorial policies.

The feedback from the group discussion exercise will be incorporated into the manual which will be available to all members in due course. In addition a boat operation manual will be produced to assist all members both new and old in the operation of the boat.



BOATING PROGRAMME 2003

Once again, we are asking for volunteers to crew the boats. Please fill in your wishes below. If you can only do part of a journey, indicate this, though preference will be given to those who can do the whole run.

Please return the lower part of this form to me, Richard Thomas, at 42 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon, Herts EN11 8AG.

Any queries, telephone on 01992 466180 or email at thrifthouse@ntlworld.com

Name	Telephone	
Address	email	
Event	Dates	Yes, please
In steam at BCLM	3-5 May	
In steam at BCLM	10-11 May	
In steam at BCLM	17-18 May	
In steam at BCLM	24-26 May	
To the Bone Museum, Etruria	2-6 June	
In steam at the Bone Museum	7-8 June	
To Middlewich	9-10 June	
Static at Middlewich	11-12 June	
In steam at Middlewich Folk Festival	13-15 June	
To Braunston	16-23 June	
Static at Braunston	24-27 June	
At Braunston Working Boat Gathering	28-29 June	
Return to BCLM	30 June –3 July	
To NWF BCLM to Calcutt	10-15 August	
To NWF Calcutt to Beale Park	16-21 August	
At National Waterways Festival, Beale Park	22-25 August	
Return Beale Park to Calcutt	25-31 August	
Return Calcutt to BCLM	1-5 September	
Bonded Warehouse Rally	17-20 October	

FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT

EASTER WEEK CREWING

NAME			
ADDRESS			
TEL	HOME	OFFICE	MOBILE
EMAIL			

Date	Available
Friday 18th April	
Saturday 19th April	
Sunday 20th April	
Monday 21st April	
Tuesday 22 nd April	
Wednesday 23 rd April	
Thursday 24 th April	
Friday 25 th April	
Saturday 26 th April	
Sunday 27 th April	

Please return this as soon as possible to Richard Thomas, 42 Admirals Walk, Hoddesdon, Herts
EN11 8AG.

Telephone: 01992 466180 or 0780 11 44 007
thrifthouse@ntlworld.com

Email: