

# BUGLE

The Newsletter for HMS Chiddingfold

Issue 02 | February - March 2017



## CHID GETS SOME TLC

In February, Chiddingfold went into a re-fitting period, where she had her propulsion system overhauled, which meant our marine engineering department, along with shoreside support, had to complete strip down and clean out every part of our two main engines. This is no easy feat, with over 200 hours of manpower and many challenges along the way.

The Engine Room Petty Officer onboard, Petty Officer Ian "Fatty" Arbuckle, said: "its been a big challenge, but its been great to get into the engine and do some proper manual engineering, and get amongst the kit". The re-fit will mean that Chiddingfolds engines are ready for another 10,000 hours of duty!

The Warfare department has been heavily involved in the refit. Extensive work has taken place on the upper deck, to repair and replace paintwork and woodwork throughout the ship. This has meant long hours sanding back and painting, as well as deep fan cleaning for the various vents and outlets on the upper deck.

All this has ensure that our home is ready in all respects for summer conditions and operations.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Hello again. This time I write following an extended planned period alongside. Our supporting organisations in Bahrain have helped us overhaul the Main Engines after 10000 hours of operation. This vital work will ensure that they remain in the best condition for next couple of years.

The time alongside has not been wasted. Aside from engine work Chiddingfold has received plenty of TLC and a fresh coat of paint that should prepare her for the hot summer months. There's also been plenty of opportunity for sport, particularly rugby, but also football and volleyball. There's also time to explore Bahrain before the weather turns too hot.

Thank you all for your support so far. Though it has been busy I know that I can speak for all of the Crew when I say that it is nice to hear from home.

### Spot the difference!

LET(ME) Joe Neal, notably absent from the rugby photo overleaf, is desperate to prove he actually played, so hes modelling his kit. Can you spot the difference in his strips?





## Divers swim across the pond

During the maintenance period, the dive team managed to get in touch with their US counterparts based out here in Bahrain. After a meet and greet, (and a Ultimate Frisbee match) the Dive team went for a try-dive out at a famous wreck at the entrance to Bahrain Harbour, known as the Seistan.

The US Divers took the dive team for a tour of their facilities in Bahrain, which are significantly different from the UK setup. AB (D) Jamie Reed said: "the way they run clearance diving is massively different from what we are used to. It was interesting to see the difference equipment and drills."

The dive team will continue to cultivate multi-national relationships throughout deployment.



## CHID takes on the Bahrain Veterans

Crew 1 had the privilege to play a rugby match against the Bahrain RFC 'Golden Oldies'. Though the final score didn't go our way, training sessions in the week had meant that a few of the lads onboard had been able to discover the sport whilst deployed.

ET Josh Britcliffe said: "It was my first rugby match, and I thought it was a great laugh, and the vets were really good blokes." Crew 1 also took part in a 10s tournament on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March they came second overall.



## Welcomes and goodbyes

Crew 1 welcome onboard our new coxswain, PO Ben Duncan, and bid farewell to PO Paul "Hank" Hawkshaw, who moves on. We also welcome into the world little Vinnie Vaughan, son of LH Mark Vaughan and Laura Vaughan, born 8lbs 15oz on the 19<sup>th</sup> march.

**Evqpoery month, we will let our friends and families know what we have been up to in statistics. Here is Februrary - March by numbers:**

**Hours of work on the engines:**

**216**

**Litres of paint:**

**7000**

**Weight of equipment moved:**

**3 Tonnes**

### Have a wet with LET(ME) John "Scotty" Scott

**Q: Scotty, what do you do onboard?**

**I am responsible for maintaining the three diesel generators that deliver the ships electrical supplies. Im also working on becoming a fully qualified marine engineer Officer of the Watch.**

**Q: What part of the trip are you looking forward to the most?**

**Im really looking forward to the trip home, as we have the opportunity to visit some ports I haven't been to yet.**

**Q: what part of your role do you enjoy the most?**

**I like developing my skills as a leader, and working in situations I wouldn't find myself in normally in civvie street.**

**Q: Any Messages for home?**

**I would like to wish everyone in Aberdeenshire and Southsea well whilst im away.**

