

# HMS WESTMINSTER

## Newsletter

Issue 02 | Feb-Mar 2017



## HMS WESTMINSTER returns from Sea Trials

On 24 Mar 17, WESTMINSTER returned from a month away conducting extensive sea trials in both the Irish Sea and the South Coast Exercise area, off the coast of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Rough weathers were encountered, however Ship's Company sought shelter in the ports of Belfast and Dublin. It was not all play when in port- a Reception and Capability Demonstration was hosted on board in Dublin, to tie in with the St. Patrick's Day celebrations. The hard work for this event paid off, with commendations received not only from the British Ambassador to Ireland, but also from the Fleet Commander.



Following this period at sea, the Ship has now officially rejoined the operational Fleet, this was marked by a Rededication ceremony on 30 Mar in Portsmouth Dockyard, with over 250 friends and family present.

The first Helicopter to land on the flight deck landed in Plymouth sound in February as part of the Ship's post upkeep trials. Watch this space for further flying operations on the WESTMINSTER flight deck!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CAPTAIN

Throughout much of late February and early March, WESTMINSTER has been away at sea. This has been the first time for some of our Sailors that they have been away from their friends and family at sea for a period of time. I would like to extend a personal thank you for your support to our Ship's Company whilst we have been away.

I would also like to thank those who made it down to Portsmouth dockyard for our Rededication ceremony- it was a fantastic day and I hope you all enjoyed it, in particular being shown around our Ship by your hosts. For those that did not make it on the day, I hope you enjoy a restful Easter and I look forward to hopefully meeting you at some point in the near future.

### Royal Navy and Royal Marines Welfare (RNRMW)

Provide a confidential service for families regarding any welfare issue. RNRMW Portal can be accessed via the RN Website (<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/welfare/welfare-teams>)

During the working day contact  
+44 (0)2392 72 87 77  
[navypers-welfare@mod.uk](mailto:navypers-welfare@mod.uk)

Out of Hours Cover provided by Officer of the Watch at HMS Nelson  
023 9272 3875

These teams are there to support you, so please make sure that you call them if you need them.

*Cdr Simon P Kelly RN*

# HMS WESTMINSTER'S RUGBY TEAM TAKE CENTRE STAGE AGAINST PLYMSTOCK OAKS RFU

A Match Report from CPO Waudby, HMS WESTMINSTER Referee

One final word from head coach EWO, and the team were set in place. The first half saw the WESTMINSTER hold their own against a well drilled side, with strong runs from LET 'Big Bomber' Mills and AB 'Arry 'the horrible' Hickman. The backs were being led around the paddock by a vocal Senior Chief 'Hammagoose' Parker USCG before a recurring injury took the Goose out of the game. However, the team were growing stronger and faster, as ETME Stretch 'McLovin' Armstrong accelerated down the sideline nearing the whitewash until he was crunched out of touch.

Tactical changes at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half welcomed LET 'Bagsy' Baker onto the pitch. With a huge restart deep into their 22, Bagsy put his first of many stamps onto the game. Energetic and enthused are only a few verbs to describe the tackling machine that is LS 'Jonno' Johnstone, delivering a strong 80 minute performance.

A run away try by Oaks seemed to fuel the fire and determination of this young side of Mariners. Uncontested scrums for the safety of the players was introduced from the start, but that didn't stop the might, momentum and Naval power as they took charge and left the Oaks in their wake. The first try from 1 – 15 a great team try. The conversion was missed by ET Clissold, but WESTMINSTER was on the score board and heads were high and hearts were racing.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter saw an interesting turn of events as the assistant referee SLt Priestley threw away his flag and took to the paddock as scrumhalf and lineout thrower. The momentum was with the team, and try as the Oaks might, the electric dancing feet and side stepping magic of SC 'Jonno' Waugh cut through the opposition. Late night and early morning training sessions were starting to take its toll on the team, and despite best efforts, a well drilled, through the hands converted try was conceded.

The WESTMINSTER mantra of 'can do' 'will do' came to fruition as Bagsy plucked a high ball from the air and began to gain yards then metres down the paddock. AB 'Arry 'the horrible' Hickman was replaced by AB Remmy Emerson, another very interesting turn of events as Remmy was a supporter 2 minutes before. He changed out of his jeans, t-shirt and dancing bats, and took to the field like a man possessed; in every tackle and in every ruck he applied himself, delivering a strong performance. The minutes were ticking by and one last attempt saw Lt Nick 'Gunz' Andrews legs drive towards the line with many an Oaks player hanging off him, eventually crashing over the line. A fine conversion was taken by CBM 'Nobby' Halls, 12 points on the score board! The ref looked at his watch for the last time and blew to conclude this exciting well fought match.

**Final score: Plymstock Oaks 34 - HMS WESTMINSTER 12**

## MEET THE SAILOR:

Name: Racquel Marter  
Age: 30  
Rank: Leading Hand  
Date Joined: 21 Jun 08  
Branch: Supply Chain

"Since joining HMS WESTMINSTER I have been given the encouragement and support to finally follow my aspiration of becoming a Logistics Officer. I am currently undertaking the route of transferring to the Officer Corps through the Senior Upper Yardman scheme. My aim is to continue progressing and pushing myself towards my full potential and I believe that becoming an Officer will allow me to do so. If extracted, I will have the reach to become a Logistics Officer onboard one of Her Majesty's warships which is a dream of mine. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 8 years of Naval service as a Supply Chain Rating and I am looking forward to undertaking the new challenges ahead."



## BRANCH SPECIALISATIONS: ELECTRONIC WARFARE

Electronic warfare (EW) is the action to exploit the electromagnetic spectrum which encompasses the interception and identification of electromagnetic emissions. As a department, this involves searching, intercepting and identifying the electromagnetic emissions for the purpose of immediate threat recognition. EW's are effectively the eyes and ears for the ship; this information is then fed up the chain of command. They also prevent and reduce an enemy's effective use of electromagnetic spectrum through the use of electromagnetic energy.



## OFFICER CADETS PIZZA DELIVERY SERVICE

Another batch of Officer Cadets from Britannia Royal Naval College joined the Ship as part of their Phase 1, training which includes a three week sea acquaint.

On their final night, an organised pizza delivery service took place throughout the ship. At £3 a pizza and 120 orders later, they raised a healthy profit of £156 for the WESTMINSTER Welfare Fund. The Welfare Fund goes towards anything from Messdeck improvements to social events on board. All in all, the pizza delivery was a success and everyone was left with satisfied stomachs!



