



Some leatherwork I have done, protecting the seizing and the fores'l bowline. First, I wrapped the shroud and cleat in copper to provide a non-sharp mould for the leather. I then cut the leather into shape and submerged it in warm water. For me the best method proved to be where I cut and punch holes as I stitched. This method meant that I could allow for adjustment as I needed to.



This month we took part in the Colne race. This was a great way sail on the barge. We made full use of our arsenal of sails. In particular we had an opportunity to set the running sail. This was used on the first downwind leg of the race and charged us down wind in an excellent manor. The skill behind the sail is mostly about getting the booming out pole swiftly. The day prior to the race we practised setting the pole and gybeing. My job was to manage the Guy rope, which acts as a sheet for the Booming out pole.



We came 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the race, finishing an hour and a half quicker than the next barge. We suspect that this was partly because we got lucky with the wind. The 2<sup>nd</sup> to finish barge holds the all-time match record which we were hoping to best. For the first mark of the race we were, however the wind was light on the upwind sections.



The wind was so light on the sail back to Maldon that we decided to try out using the sweeps. By taping tee shirts onto the rail as temporary row locks, we played with the positioning of the sweeps and how to best place them. The wind soon picked up after this and we made it back to the mooring late in the night as planned.

I decided to stay the night on the barge so that I could get a few more chores done. Leathering the oars.



I was also invited to come and sail with some friends at the Norfolk Broads for a weekend. This was a lovely chance to see Norfolk and sail on the broads. I didn't think I'd ever get a chance to sail the broads. It was also lovely to say hello to Belinda and Alana who are also on the course. I managed to step onboard the excelsior again and meet some of the guys I had met at IBTC Lowestoft.