

## June Blog

June started off with a very exciting event, our first sea trial!

A sea trial is when the boat first goes out after a refit with the aim to test to see if everything is in working order ready for the season to begin. Of course we don't have much of a season this year due to the global pandemic.

but first had to prepare the boat for going out to sea, it began with clearing out our storage container and bringing all the sails, sheets and gear aboard the vessel. It took two of us four runs with trolleys that were almost comically overloaded with mattresses and sails stacked up and lashed down with gash string lying around. After getting all the gear on board we began to rig up all the halyards, sheets, and lash up the mainsail, we lucked out because the weather was ideal, lovely sunshine and a light breeze. After getting the rig sorted we stacked the other sails neatly into their home below the deck in the bow, and made sure all our tools and paints etc were properly stored/lashed down if needed so that the next day we were ready to depart as soon as we could.

To the right is a picture I took from the bowsprit while on our first sea trial. Just before the picture was taken we started to set up the jib topsail to be hoisted. We did this by attaching the hanks onto the outer forestay then leading the sheets outside everything then hoisting it up. The breeze was fairly light but overall it was a great day, really nice to be out on the water and actually doing some sailing. Other than sailing we also spun around a few times trying to correct our digital compasses which proved harder than we thought because of tide constraints and our propeller being offset we decided to go out and do the compasses another day.

Once the sea trial was complete it was back to refit style jobs, we packed away the sails and got our sanding pads out. I started with sanding the galley just keying (scratching the surface) and smoothing out any places that are unfair then varnishing it with a healthy coat of an indoor varnish made by epifanes, a company that supplies lots of paint and varnish products.



My next project was to paint the locker that the foul weather clothes are stored in. The first step was to take off all the air vents, hooks and anything else screwed into it. I then taped the Hoover onto our orbital sanding machine so that it sucked up all the dust and didn't make a mess, I used 240p sand paper so that it just fairs the surface and makes it flat. I did trim and fiddly bits by hand. Following the very exciting sanding part i cleaned up any dust and got out a roller and a paintbrush, i used a method of painting known as tipping off where i used the roller to paint a row or column then used the paint brush to evenly spread the paint so that it doesn't dry up lumpy or cause any runs. Oh and of course before I started to paint I taped up anything I didn't want to get paint on like the trim of the locker since it's varnished.



Picture to the left is a badly taken before painted photo for context.

This month I also made some decent headway with a canvas bag I'm making out of spare canvas I've managed to acquire from various places. I very often use duffel bags for travel. I have both a 60L and a 90L that have served me very well, my 90L i've had for over 5 years and is now starting to rip around the shoulder straps. My big problem with duffel bags is that they are not made to be carried around like a backpack, why not just get a backpack you say, well i'm not a fan of rigid bags i like that i can pack many small bags inside my duffel then squeeze it into a small corner (usually of my bunk on a boat). So I decided that I would make my ideal bag for traveling. I'm only a little bit known for overthinking so i have taken a lot of time to think about it first.



I already made a bag at ibtc bit like a mariners sea bag, basically a cylinder with a drawstring, well i unpicked the stitching from that bag then measured the canvas and cut a section from some of my spare canvas and sewed it on to make a bigger cylinder. to the left you can see my first few rows of stitching.

Once I had my cylinder I now started to think about straps, I know that i want backpack type straps but how was i to attach them? What material was I going to use? How do I spread the load? I know that I definitely don't want the bag to pinch at the top because of the load.

I came up with what you see in the picture below as a way for the straps to be attached and load to be spread, although still just a concept for now. As for the straps themselves we de-sleeved some of the braided rope on jolie brise and I used some of the



outer sleeve as the straps. Since it's hollow it's quite soft and should be quite comfortable when the bag is under some load. Then for extra padding I slid some webbing on top of the

braided sleeve. I've got lots more planned for the bag, and soon i will finalise the design of the straps, i am attaching them temporarily in many different ways to see what's most effective and soon i will hopefully find a method i am happy

with. Then I will attach some ends to the bag to make it a closed cylinder then cut a big line along it for a hefty zip I've acquired.

Not the most exciting month of June, however i have many exciting things lined up in the next few months, Stay tuned!

