

July Blog

July started off with a cool project which was to replace a rubbing strake on a wayfarer that the school uses. I started off measuring the existing rubber strake so that we could order the right size wood, since it's easier for the retailer to cut a plank into strips with their heavy duty machinery. Once measured and wood ordered I removed the old strake and binned it, filled in the old screw holes with silicone and began designing the new one. Before I started with shaping the new rubbing stake I first cleaned and polished underneath the waterline of the boat. I did this using fresh water, a polishing compound and a polishing power tool. Once that was done I began to shape the wood. I used a router to make curved edges, marked out the scarf joints and two joints for the stern corners then marked where the screws were going to be. Once all marked and measured I started to cut out the joints. To the right you can see one of the scarf joints being cut.



After cutting and dry fitting the scarf joints and the mortise tenon joints at the back of the boat I then played around with the bow piece figuring out how I would join that up.



I thought of steaming, laminating, something between the two but settled with a simple cross piece.

To the left is a picture of one of the scarfs being dry fit.

Once all the joints had been dry fit and I was happy with how they all matched up, I drilled all the pilot, clearance and dowel holes then proceeded to methodically attach the different parts of the rubbing strake (not doing all the screws though, just enough to hold it together then). I mixed up some epoxy with a filleting blend smothered the joints then screwed it all together.

Below - a series of pictures of all the joints being epoxied together



Right - the joints I did were not perfect so to make them the best fit I could I used bits of spring to pull the strake to squeeze the joints together and help the bond between wood and epoxy.

While I still had the epoxy out I doweled up all the screw holes (remembering to put all the missing screws into place)
Once the joints and dowels had cured I trimmed the excess off and began to shape everything and smarten up the corners.

When I was happy with the shape I oiled the rubbing strake with some danish oil after sanding it at first with 180 then 240 for a nice finish. Below is the finished rubbing strake.



While I was sanding I decided to give the thwarts a new coat of varnish, with some 360 grit sandpaper I faired the surface and edges of each section then applied the varnish.



That's the conclusion of the rubbing strake project. After that we rigged the dingy up then began to prepare for a covid safe test day sail with some of the Dauntsey's school staff. It ended up being quite good. We have less passengers than we usually would and they are guests on board so staff do all the deck work, pulling up sails etc. which is good fun. To the right is a picture of one of the more recent day sails we did. Weather has been great so far and it's so nice being out on the water once more.

