

THE SNAPSHOT

The Monthly Newsletter of Project Torpedalo

“Only by setting distant and difficult goals do we truly succeed.”

PROJECT TORPEDALO

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www.torpedalo.com



LEARNING HOW TO SURVIVE ON THE OPEN OCEAN

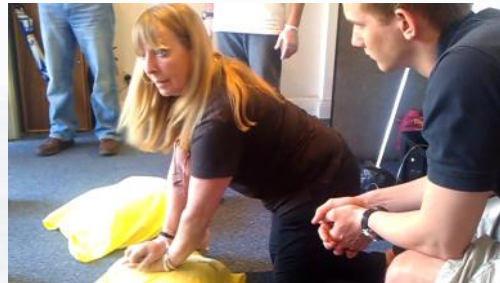
At the start of April, Mark and Mike attended three of our four mandatory training courses. The first day was dedicated to a VHF radio course, where we learnt the relevant rules and practised with live handsets. The day culminated in an exam, which thankfully we both passed - so we're now legally certified VHF radio operators!



Day Two focussed on sea survival – learning how to handle any situation that would see us abandoning ship. We were taught about various life-saving pieces of equipment and how to use them, and shown some very compelling footage of big seas and improbable rescues. We then decamped from the classroom for a practical session in a local swimming pool, where we went through a number of lifeboat exercises culminating in mock disaster drill. We thought we'd come away from the second day feeling intimidated and scared, but in reality we're reassured that we now have the knowledge and practice to handle a survival situation.



The final day covered how to handle problems on the boat itself - such as fire or injury. The afternoon was devoted to an excellent First Aid course, where Mark and Mike learnt CPR, injury assessment and a range of dressings.



A summary video of the training courses, and more photos, are online on the project website, YouTube, Flickr and Facebook - just click the links in the top-right-hand corner of this page. We're grateful to Keith and Yvonne at KTY Yachts for the excellent training, and to the Bentley Motors Academy for sponsoring our attendance. Next is a five-day ocean navigation course in October!

FIRST BOAT MOULD FINISHED!

In the last week of April the project hit another milestone with the delivery of the first mould tool for boat manufacture. Our friends at Concept Group International kindly machined the mould for the trays that will hold our three Sharp solar panels, and have produced a tool with perfect surface finish that's ready for use. We'll be taking the tool down to our boat builder, Norco GRP, later this week. Meanwhile, our key machining partner Curvature Group are starting the machining of the boat mould at their sister company MonsterCAM, on the biggest five-axis independently-owned milling machine in the UK. The manufacturing process for the Torpedalo is officially underway!



DRIVETRAIN DESIGN NEARS COMPLETION



Drivetrain designer Paul Fish has been stellar since joining the project a few weeks ago to complete the engineering of our drive system. The whole design is almost finished, with fantastic input from sponsors Gates (belts and pulleys) and Bruntons (propeller). When the design is complete, we'll prove its endurance on a test rig at Torpedalo HQ. Details of a new drivetrain sponsor are on page three, and we'll unveil the finished design next month!

Sponsor Update

Three more sponsors make commitments

The enthusiasm of new sponsors joining the project still hasn't waned, with three more very important sponsors making formal connections with Torpedalo in the last month. While Rohloff are providing a stunning new component for our drivetrain, Look What We Found! come in as our final food sponsor and Concept Advanced Technology have provided some essential electronics.



As the design of our drivetrain nears completion, we've taken the decision to introduce a variable speed mechanism - a selectable gear set between the pedals and the propeller. For performance, reliability and sealing against the harsh environment we'll be in, we decided to investigate internal gear hubs as the method of introducing gears. Rohloff make what are undoubtedly the finest internal hubs for cycling in the world, and their Speedhub 500/14 is a fourteen-speed internal hub that features some exquisite engineering and is widely recognised as being an extremely high-end piece of cycling equipment. We're delighted that Rohloff have agreed to supply a complete Speedhub assembly for our drivetrain, allowing us to have a dependable, efficient and compact gearing system that is massively adjustable. Their experts are also advising us on the installation and usage of the system, to ensure that we maximise the efficiency of our drivetrain and transmit as much of our power to the water as possible!



At the London Boat Show in January, we met some lovely people from a ready-to-eat meals company called Look What We Found! They produce an extensive range of meals made from sustainable, 100% natural ingredients which taste like home-cooked food. The rules of the race we're entering state that 20% of our main meals have to be "wet meals" - i.e. not dehydrated - in case our water-maker breaks. LWWF! have agreed to supply the 120 meals that we need, which we're extremely excited about. Some ready-to-eat

meals on the market are bland and very stodgy, but the LWWF! pouches are absolutely delicious and will certainly be a treat which we'll each enjoy once a day out on the ocean. Food will play such an important part on our journey, and it's vital that we have the best. Our agreements with Elior, Expedition Foods, SiS, LWWF!, Wild West Foods and Cadbury ensure that we'll have a balanced, energy-packed and enjoyable diet onboard.



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY LTD

One of the few problems caused by having the pedalling position forward-facing and enclosed is that we don't have any rearward visibility. It's important that we can see all around the boat, to look for ships that could be on a course to collide with us and to spot the unpredictable rogue waves that can cause a capsize. Our solution for this is a small, lightweight, low power and waterproof video camera mounted to the roof of the boat. The camera we've chosen rotates 360°, tilts from horizontal to vertical and features optical zoom. The picture from the camera will be displayed on a small waterproof screen in the cockpit. Concept Advanced Technology Ltd have supplied the complete system for us, chosen with their expert knowledge from the massive range of CCTV equipment they offer.

Support Us

Please make a donation!

First and foremost, Project Torpedalo is fundraising project for two amazing charities - the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK. Please help us raise as much money as possible by clicking on the button to the right and donating. The donation system is provided by Barclaycard and is 100% secure, so you can give with confidence. Thanks to our amazing corporate sponsors, every single penny donated by the public will go to our charities. Please help!



Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you

If you'd like to know more about the project, think you might be able to help or know someone that can, please do get in touch!

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PROJECT TORPEDALO

THE PEDAL-POWERED TRANS-ATLANTIC CHARITY CHALLENGE

Fundraising in aid of:



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Our thanks go to everyone who has supported the project so far. We couldn't be doing it without you!

