

THE SNAPSHOT

The Monthly Newsletter of Project Torpedalo

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

PROJECT TORPEDALO

Number 18 - September 2011

www.torpedalo.com



TORPEDALO TEAM MAKE IMPORTANT DECISION

In the last couple of weeks, we've taken an important decision about Torpedalo's priorities and where the project stands at this stage.

While the build of the boat is going extremely well, we've realised that we're not going to have enough time to thoroughly test the boat before it would have to be shipped to the Canary Isles for the start of the Woodvale Challenge Atlantic Rowing Race. Being a brand new design, it's extremely important that we run a proper test programme to ensure the boat is safe, performs as expected and doesn't have any irresolvable design issues - our number one priority is safety. This testing will take months, not weeks, and we've run out of time. So, we've taken the decision not to compete in the Atlantic Rowing Race this year - instead, we'll spend the rest of this year fitting the boat out with all of its systems and hardware, and then begin a detailed and exhaustive programme of sea trials in the new year. We are, of course, still absolutely committed to our cause and goals, and we're now researching the options for a crossing at the end of 2012 or start of 2013. This decision opens up a new range of possibilities for the route (including the exciting prospect of New York to Penzance, which we think would be brilliant). Crucially, it will also give us lots more time to promote the involvement and sup-

port of our sponsors, and raise money for our two amazing charities. By getting all of the construction finished this year, we can use 2012 to focus on training, testing, promotion and fundraising - all vital aspects of the project that have taken too much of a back seat in the last few months as the build got under way. Our decision to delay means that we can hopefully generate more publicity for the project, and an Atlantic crossing that finishes in the UK will undoubtedly boost our press coverage on arrival. With the benefit of hindsight, it's apparent that it was ambitious of us to think we could design, build and trial a unique and ground-breaking boat from scratch in two years, especially when having to fit all of the work around our day jobs.

Rest assured that our commitments are no different, and our goals haven't changed either. We can't wait to get the boat in the water and start testing it properly, which will be the start of the next exciting phase of the project. We look forward to the next stage of this journey, and sharing it all with you through the website, Facebook, Twitter and these newsletters. We'll be covering the programme of sea trials in detail from the start of 2012 - don't miss it! Keep your eyes peeled for us around the country too - the boat will be on the road a lot next year!

MARK AND MIKE SEE THE BOAT FOR THE FIRST TIME

On the last day of August, we made the trip down to Poole to see the team at Norco GRP and check out latest progress on the build of our boat. It was the first time we'd seen the finished hull, so we arrived with a mixture of nerves and excitement! Of course, we need not have been nervous - the boat looks stunning, and is a testament to the skills and attitude of the boys at Norco. There's more detail about the build on the next page, but to see our reactions from the visit last week check out the summary video that's up on Youtube by clicking [here](#).



PAGEANT OF POWER RAISES £1000 FOR CHARITIES

Our exhibition together with C6(n) at the Cholmondeley Pageant of Power raised £1000 for our charities, through donations and the sale of champagne. Our sincerest thanks to Charlie, Michael, Tori, the build team and bar staff from C6(n) for all their hard work and this great result!

MANUFACTURING UPDATE - MAJOR LAY-UP COMPLETED!

In the last four weeks, the team at Norco GRP have made astonishing progress with the construction of the boat. In the last newsletter, we reported that that both female moulds were ready and that the outer skin of the hull had been laid-up. Since then, the core foam for the hull has been cut, shaped, attached and cured, followed by the laying up of the inner carbon skin, completing the hull. Bulkheads have been finished, trimmed and installed in to the hull and carbon laid-up over the joins. Ribs and stringers have been fitted to the sleeping cabin, and the floor and storage compartments for this section have also been completed. The drive leg tube has been moulded, and moulds for the windscreen hatch have been machined by Concept Group International. Meanwhile, the top deck has had the outer skin finished, core foam fitted and cured and the inner skin laid-up and cured. The top deck is almost ready to come out of the mould, and once the remaining internal structure has been fitted to the hull the two halves can be joined. Very, very exciting times ahead! You can find loads of photos of the build process on our Flickr and Facebook pages and on the website - just click the buttons in the top corner of Page One of this newsletter.



NorcoGRP



Sponsor Update

Mail-A-Sail, Alsager Precision and PYI Inc.

The last piece of the equipment puzzle arrived at the start of August - our Iridium satellite phone, which was provided to us by Mail-A-Sail. With all equipment now sourced, we've had to focus on securing the parts and services needed for the construction of the drivetrain. We've taken two big steps this month, with Alsager Precision and PYI Inc joining the project. All that's left to find are some bearings and, presenting a greater challenge, a rather large piece of NES833 aluminium bronze from which we'll make our propeller shaft housing!



Whether you need an internet connection via mobile (cell) phone for cruising around Europe or an Iridium/Inmarsat satellite phone connection for crossing oceans, MailASail can advise, supply, fit and commission all your onboard communication systems. MailASail supply all Inmarsat FleetBroadband and Iridium Satellite Phones, along with Contract and PrePaid Airtime, and their award winning Email Compression System, ExpressMail. They've kindly helped us with the supply of our Iridium 9555 satellite phone, associated equipment and airtime, in conjunction with Bentley Motors. This means we can send and receive e-mails on the boat, upload photos live from our adventures, and stay in touch with our friends and families.



Alsager
Precision
Limited

When creating something as custom and unique as a trans-Atlantic pedalo, there aren't many off-the-shelf components that can be used - especially for the drivetrain. While we're using standard cycling pedals and cranks, and a geared hub from Rohloff, the use of toothed belts rather than chains meant that we had to design and create our own drive sprockets. Sprockets, mounts and the housing for the propeller system have all been designed by Torpedalo drivetrain engineer Paul Fish, and we're extremely fortunate that local company Alsager Precision has agreed to machine the parts in aluminium alloy for us. Alsager Precision are ISO 9001:2000 accredited precision engineers, and they provide high precision components and assemblies to support engineering applications, from concept through to production.



PYI Inc. is a premier manufacturer and distributor of high quality marine, boat, yacht, and ship equipment and supplies. Their goal is to provide quality, innovative marine equipment with an unsurpassed level of customer service and satisfaction. Like all marine drivetrains, our propeller shaft extends from an area of the boat that must remain dry, through the bronze housing to the seawater. This clearly needs sealing, or the boat would flood! Given that the only method of propulsion on the Torpedalo is our legs, it's important that this seal is of extremely low friction while providing a perfect seal - a very difficult combination! Fortunately, PYI Inc have provided three of their Packless Sealing System shaft seals, which feature a carbon seal, tight clamps and a rubber bellows. These will ensure our drivetrain remains efficient and easy to pedal, and that the ocean stays where it should be - outside the boat!

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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:



w w w . t o r p e d a l o . c o m

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

NorcoGRP

