

# HMS DEFENDER D36 NEWSLETTER SPRING 2012



## A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER NICHOLAS BOYD SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER



Welcome to the Spring 2012 edition of our newsletter. As this is being written we are at sea on our second set of sea trials proving our radar's, sonar's, navigation equipment etc as well as the combat management system that draws all this information together. Over 50 of the ship's company are onboard at any one time making the most of the opportunity to get to know their ship.

We are on track to deliver the ship to Portsmouth in July where the remainder of the ship's company will join. A very busy programme of training and inspections then ensues before we take the ship to sea for our second phase of sea trials. So busy is this period that we have had to move our planned Commissioning Ceremony from this August to next March. This will allow us to put on a ceremony worthy of the occasion.

We have been delighted to see so many of our affiliates and supporters whilst we have been in build in Glasgow and look forward to welcoming you onboard a completed HMS DEFENDER in the future.

Finally this marks my last newsletter as Senior Naval Officer. Cdr Phil Nash RN joins on 1<sup>st</sup> May and I will hand over Command to him remaining as the Marine Engineer Officer until the late summer. Thank you for your interest in and support to HMS DEFENDER over the last 2½ years.

## BUILD PROGRESS

HMS Defender has continued to flourish over another extremely busy period as we edge towards the end of the build process. On the surface as you walk around the ship it glows like a new car on the forecourt; underneath the technical foundations continue to be laid with final system adjustments and testing taking place to ensure she is fully tuned for the challenges that lie ahead. She is now receiving the finishing touches that will see us enter service as the 5<sup>th</sup> T45 Destroyer. From Weapon equipment to accommodation areas, nothing is overlooked as both the company and RN personnel scrutinize the MoD equivalent of the Haynes manual to ensure she does exactly what it says on the tin. Defender sailed to navigate the winding arches of the Clyde for the second time on 10<sup>th</sup> March and now as we prepare to return it is time to reflect on the joint achievements we have made alongside our industrial partners.



**Defendendo Vinco**

## HMS DEFENDER SECOND SEA TRIALS PERIOD

By Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Pearce Royal Navy, Weapon Engineer Officer

### Time for DEFENDER to 'step up to the plate' in advanced Sea Trials!

It was a cold and fresh spring March morning as HMS Defender slipped from the Scotstoun jetty and snaked its way down The Clyde once again. After a few sea safety trials, we were quickly into manoeuvring capability and power and propulsion trials; this was to be the start of another successful sea trials period as Defender moves rapidly into service with the RN currently planned for early 2013.



Members of the Ship's Company again provided the Emergency Party to tackle any fire or flood incident. Thankfully, training evolutions again won the day giving us ample opportunity to test both our procedural drill and our state of the art equipment and communications. As well as Emergency party training the RN training spanned every department and consisted of anything from noise danger to military discipline procedures. Although the company was operating and maintaining the equipment there was plenty of opportunity to get alongside the contractors for some excellent transfer of knowledge. Following three and a half weeks at sea, the team are becoming very familiar with their equipment and surroundings which bodes well for taking the ship over in July.



The first week of sea trials focussed on the power and propulsion plant together with the navigation system, for navigation safety. The propulsion and power plant was gradually brought to life in every respect until once more full power was achieved and the opportunity to mirror a scene from Sea Trials 1.1 but this time turning to Starboard. Yet again the speed and manoeuvring capability did not put the team off and in good Naval tradition they maintained uniformity throughout, which is more than can be said for some of our guests.

Towards the end of the propulsion phase we hosted a VIP sea day; where we welcomed the Ships sponsor Lady Julie Massey together with a raft of affiliates and the great and the good of UK military shipbuilding and MoD maritime procurement. During the day we gave them a taste of the manoeuvrability of the ship, unfortunately the uniformity went slightly off-piste and Lady Massey led the way in playing what appeared to be 'Twister' on the flight deck. It was our first opportunity to show off the ship in all its glory and all the visitors were thoroughly overwhelmed by what she has to offer; they toured from top to bottom and left with a level of enthusiasm that is engrained in us all as her first Ships company.



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In addition to P&P trials including proving of Ships PAC 24 sea boats, the majority of this trials period was to test the ships Combat system, the fighting heart of the ship. Performance of individual sensors and weapon systems was top line and overall integration continued at pace throughout. Ships crew took full advantage of the equipment manufacturer's presence and hardly left their shoulder; the Transfer of Knowledge was invaluable and will allow them to approach July with increasing levels of equipment operational confidence. What's next is the finishing touches, whether structural, equipment or plain old cushion fitting Defender will be kitted out with the remaining product that will see her emerge out of the ship builder's showroom in July as one of the most capable Destroyers in the World.

Again as is customary to life onboard a RN warship, it was not limited to work alone. Several fundraising events took place to raise money for the BAe and HMS Defender charities. All events were impressively supported by sailors and contractors alike which highlights the strong bond we have forged together as we bring the mighty Defender to life. The events ranged from a ships quiz night, to the RN version of 'crown bingo and even into the physical challenges of an 'Ironman' competition. These events together with horse racing, which also hit the decks, raised a total in excess of £1500 towards the charity count which was then shared equally across RN and BAE charities.



Defenders Sailors and BAE contractors celebrate the end of the exhausting 'Iron Man' competition. After the stirring effort by all, 'Dels Deli' tuck shop was available for out of hours 'nutty' and 'goffas' (crisps and pop) in celebration of their great achievement.

HMS Defender coveted horse racing night took place in the venue that was the 'Epsom Downs Hangar' and horses were paraded around the paddock before the bidding wars began. There were a number of races, 'Port out Starboard home Gin Stakes' and 'Supervisors Centenary Handicap' to name two. The races were a mixture of flat and jump courses with all Jockeys hoping they didn't land in the water as they got squirted by onlookers using water pistols to simulate their misfortune.



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## AFFILIATION NEWS



It was a great pleasure to welcome our Lady Sponsor Lady Julie Massey and daughter Bella together with several affiliates on our recent VIP sea day, Mrs Sheena Duncan Winter (Lady Provost Glasgow), Douglas T Boyd OBE-Lord Dean of Guild - Merchants House, John R Steele (Jack) Decon Convener - Trades House and John Owen-Ward MBE-Master of Worshipful Company of Fletchers had a wonderful day exploring Defenders decks.

A Glasgow to Exeter cycle ride will take place in June with the Logistics Officer Charlie Reeves leading a team through over 500 miles of tarmac; they are planning to arrive at the Armed Forces day celebrations in the City on 23 June.

HMS Defender is very proud and honored to have the following affiliations:

**Sponsor:**

Lady Julie Massey

**Civic:**

City of Exeter

City of Glasgow

**Livery Companies:**

Worshipful Company of Fletchers

The Trades House of Glasgow

The Merchants House of Glasgow

**Charities:**

Kelbourne School - A children's special needs school in Glasgow.

Dream-A-Way - An Exeter based charity that provides holidays and outings for disabled people of all ages throughout South West England.

**Military:**

The Exeter Flotilla - (An association of retired Royal Navy and Royal Marine Officers, and their Reserves, who meet once a month at Lympstone near Exeter.)

12 Regiment Royal Artillery – An air defence regiment based at Thorney Island near Portsmouth and recruiting from Cumbria and Lancashire.

Exeter School CCF

Devon Sea Cadet District - IncTS EXETER - The City of Exeter Sea Cadet Corps

Clyde North Sea Cadet District – Inc TS GALATEA - The City of Glasgow Sea Cadet Corps

13 (City of Exeter) Squadron – Air Training Corps

**Others:**

The Paddle Steamer Waverley - (The last seagoing paddle steamer in the world.)

The D-Boats Association – A Veterans organisation covering WWII and post war 'D Class' and 'Daring Class' Destroyers

## USEFUL LINKS

HMS Defender's Website - [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/surface-fleet/future-ships/air-defence-destroyer-type-45/defender](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/surface-fleet/future-ships/air-defence-destroyer-type-45/defender)

Royal Navy Website – [www.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk)

City of Glasgow – [www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)

Trades House of Glasgow – [www.tradeshouse.org.uk](http://www.tradeshouse.org.uk)

Merchants House of Glasgow – [www.merchantshouse.org.uk](http://www.merchantshouse.org.uk)

City of Exeter – [www.exeter.gov.uk](http://www.exeter.gov.uk)

Worshipful Company of Fletchers – [www.fletchers.org.uk](http://www.fletchers.org.uk)

Exeter Flotilla – [www.exeterflotilla.org](http://www.exeterflotilla.org)

Paddle Steamer Waverley – [www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk](http://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk)

Dream-A-Way Charity - [www.dream-a-way.co.uk](http://www.dream-a-way.co.uk)

12 Regiment Royal Artillery – [www.army.mod.uk/artillery/units/12\\_regt\\_ra](http://www.army.mod.uk/artillery/units/12_regt_ra)

D-Boats Association – [www.d-boats.co.uk](http://www.d-boats.co.uk)

TS EXETER - [www.exeterseacadets.co.uk](http://www.exeterseacadets.co.uk)

TS GALATEA - <http://www.units.ms-sc.org/glasgow/default>

13 (City of Exeter) Squadron – Air Training Corps – [www.13atc.co.uk](http://www.13atc.co.uk)