



MERSEY BEAT

The monthly newsletter from HMS Mersey to
all our friends and affiliates



ISSUE 32 – May 2011

CLIPPING THE FLAMINGO'S WINGS

No sooner had Mersey sailed from Liverpool she detained the Belgian beam trawler Flamingo for using illegal nets and failure to keep proper records. During an intense twelve hour



operation in difficult weather conditions, Mersey's boarding team discovered the trawler in Morecombe Bay using smaller mesh size nets than permitted. The Flamingo was escorted back to Liverpool where her Master and Owner eventually pleaded guilty at Liverpool Magistrates Court and were fined a total of £15,576.30p including costs. Her nets were also confiscated. Using smaller mesh size sweeps up undersize juvenile fish, which if left unchecked, will seriously effect the ability of a species to recover and the knock-on effects up and down the food chain will therefore effect future fish stocks.

ON PATROL

During April Mersey has:

- Steamed 3,092 nautical miles
- Inspected 33 fishing vessels
- Detained one vessel.
- 3 sets of statements forwarded for further investigation.
- Issued 5 cautions for minor infringements.
- Sub/Lt Andy Davey endorsed as a Marine Enforcement Officer whilst on loan to HMS Tyne.



Mersey safely alongside RFA Mounts Bay in Falmouth after what turned out to be a challenging berthing operation.

A GRAND DAY OUT

As Mersey's stand off in Liverpool just happened to coincide with the Grand National, the ship's company were lucky enough to wangle some complimentary tickets.



Everyone had a great time with one or two individuals even having a lucky streak.

WEDDING FEVER



Despite being at sea, you can't escape from a Royal Wedding and being onboard HMS Mersey was no exception. Although fish protection carries on regardless of public holidays, the Ship's Company still

managed to watch the event unfold. Even the boarding team were able to keep tabs on the day, as the crew of a French gill netter had already set up a portable TV in the wheelhouse. So the 1Lt didn't miss the first glimpse of the dress or the kiss, whilst inspecting fish!

SPOTTY MERSEY

Do not adjust your eyes or your set. This was Mersey at the mid-point of her ship's husbandry period. All the patches of rust that accumulated over the patrols have been ground away and



coated with a protective red primer ready for top coating with the more familiar "Pussers" Grey. Mersey sailed a week later looking once more like the Steely Grey Warship that she should be.

Caption Competition Fun

Last month's photo



•*"This is pop gun compared the cannons I looked after on the VICTORY"*

•*"Honestly mate I don't know anything about guns, just keeping cats happy"*



Thought of a funny caption to accompany this photo of LCIS Davies?

Let us know at
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See you next month