

MERSEY BEAT

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

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SISTER ACT

The big news this month is the rare get together of the Fisheries Protection Squadron. The sister ships Tyne, Severn and Mersey met up in the Solent and conducted a Squadron Exercise (SQUADEX). Mersey was joined by Tyne the evening before and together with minesweeper HMS Atherstone and Omani corvette Al



The sister ships then executed a number of “Officer Of the Watch” manoeuvres, with a helicopter from the Naval Air station in Yeovilton flying overhead capturing the formations on camera. The distance at times was as little as 100yds. At the “Con” (ship equivalent of driving) was Midshipman Kevin Diaper (21) one of the officers under training.



Skamikh they made an impressive sight at anchor off Spithead. Severn sailed the following morning from Portsmouth and slid majestically past Nab Tower with her sister ships.

Flying his flag onboard was Commodore Portsmouth Flotilla, Rupert Wallace who took the opportunity to chat to members of the ship’s company.

Once out of the Solent, Mersey launched the “Killer Tomato”, a large inflatable Day-Glo cube target ready for the gunnery practice. The near gale force winds plucked the target up and the ships were forced to chase it downwind.



ENJOY THE ISSUE

“You have the ship”

Thursday 3rd February 2011 was another red letter day for Mersey when Lieutenant Commander Carl Wiseman handed over command of HMS Mersey to Lt Cdr Mark Anderson.

With the ship signed over to its new Captain, Lt Cdr Carl Wiseman addressed the Mersey crew for the last time before leaving the ship.

Once the old captain had departed Mersey’s new captain was introduced to the ship’s company.



Mark grew up in Belfast, Northern Ireland , joining the navy in 1996. Mark has served as far afield as Hong Kong, Caribbean and the Far East.

Mark is already well acquainted with Mersey having served as her Executive Officer, which is navy speak for Second in Command.

Mark is specialist in underwater warfare (UW) and prior to assuming command he was in charge of UW training at the Maritime Warfare School, HMS Collingwood, Hampshire.



Career highlights include; Anti-smuggling in Hong Kong, protecting the Iraqi oil platforms in the Gulf and extensive travel around the Caribbean on counter drug operations

Mark relaxes by fencing competitively, skiing, playing the piano and looking after his young family

Long Service Award



Whilst Commodore Wallace was onboard he presented a long service medal to Lt Paul Lane. Paul had served fifteen years as a Marine Engineering rating before becoming a Warfare Officer.

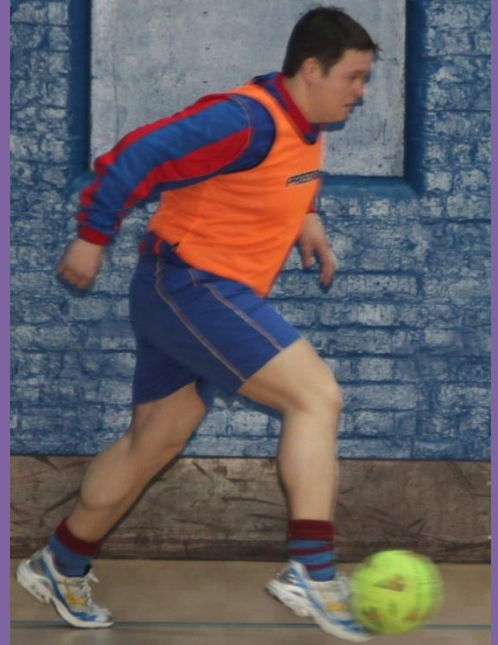
Sports Page



With the command teams and fish boarding officers attending a conference, the remainder of the ships companies took part in some healthy rivalry in the shape of a squadron sports day at HMS Nelson, Portsmouth.

Mersey took on Severn and Tyne in five-a-side, bucketball and the cliff and chasm. The "Mersey Marauders" comprehensively beat the other two ships at bucketball and held them to a draw in five-a-side.

So it all came down to the Cliff and Chasm challenge. Spirits were high as the other two ships had to combine to form a team to take on Mersey. Yet despite an encouraging start and bucketsloads of spirit, the Mersey team were only beaten on penalties.



SEE YOU NEXT MONTH