



December 2017 edition – News from MV Balmoral Fund Limited – owners of MVBalmoral

MV Balmoral is now at her winter berth outside M Shed in Bristol. Behind the scenes there is much going on:

- £3.75 million Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid submitted to secure MV Balmoral's long term future
- The Harbourside Events team are organising a number of social and money raising events on board and there are a number of lettings to outside organisations booked too.
- The Winter Maintenance team are now on board on Tuesdays and Fridays
- Our Urgent Appeal for funds to enable MV Balmoral to sail again has been launched.

The HLF Bid

We have been aware for some time from our discussions with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) that substantial and costly improvements would need to be made to the crew accommodation before the 2019 season. We have more recently been advised that the long accepted practice of using doubled plates to repair the hull was no longer acceptable for anything other than emergency repairs. This would not only apply to future repairs but also means that previous repairs need to be removed and re-done. The cost of this work is included in our £3.75 million bid.

- If the bid is successful we would expect to have to raise £375,000 in match funding – some of which might be provided by costing in volunteer time.
- We expect some indication from HLF by March 2018 whether our bid can be progressed and if so would be required to develop this into a “second stage bid” by August 2018.

How does this affect sailing in 2018?

- We had expected to be required to deal with the “Doubled Plates” issue immediately before the 2019 season but in the last few weeks the MCA have advised that they will not issue a passenger certificate until the work has been done. The problem is that such repairs can fail without warning and many potential failures might not be detected, even by ultrasound surveys.
- We do not have the funds to undertake this work in time for the 2018 season, and until HLF funding becomes available (hopefully later next year) the work cannot be put in hand. MV Balmoral will therefore unfortunately not be able to sail in 2018

What will happen to MV Balmoral now?

- The ship will remain in Bristol in the care of our maintenance volunteer team. Overall she is in much better condition than for many years thanks to the efforts of both the crew and volunteers.
- The Harbourside Events Team and the MVBFL Trustees will work to develop further ways of raising funds by on board activities in fulfillment of our charitable objective of *preserving and exhibiting, in sailing condition, the historic vessel MV Balmoral*

What about White Funnel Ltd?

- The WFL Directors are responsible for making the appropriate arrangements and have announced the immediate closing of the office in Bristol.



MV Balmoral Fund Limited – Registered Charity 1155339 – Company Limited by Guarantee 08555385

www.mvbalmoral.org.uk

Appeal update:

The £450,000 appeal has gone out to all our members, supporters and our passenger mailing list.

- Although we have been overtaken by the events described above, the appeal is still very much open and donations will be used to continue with planned maintenance, to preserve and maintain the ship in operating condition in Bristol.
- Thanks to those who have responded already – but we still need a lot more and the need is urgent so please respond quickly – if you haven't had the details please [CLICK HERE](#)
- Responses are invited by cheque ([CLICK HERE](#) for Donation Form) or on-line via the [MyDonate button](#) on our website – or at the bottom of this page. Gift Aid which boosts donations by 25% at no cost to the donor can be used with either method.
- Cheques (made out to MV BALMORAL FUND LTD) can be sent to 23 Adder Hill, Great Boughton, CHESTER CH3 5RA.
- Please note that My Donate can be used for regular monthly donations which are particularly welcome. Although the maximum donation option appears to be £500 – there is a space to write in larger donations!

How you can help:

- Obviously donations are most welcome from anyone anywhere but if you live within striking distance of Bristol you may be able to help in practical ways with either Ship Maintenance or Harbourside Events. Our ability to develop both activities depends on enough volunteers being available – particularly as we intend to use Balmoral as a venue and educational facility to generate income. Ross Floyd who runs these events writes "Tasks may include: 'minding the ship', running the bar, gangway minding, providing conducted tours and checking the ship's services. Most events have a minimum of three people required. In practice, we all do everything as is needed but some prefer certain tasks. As they say, 'training will be given'. The way it works is that I put out a request about 10 days before so you don't have to book up in advance.
- For details of all volunteering opportunities and to sign up to help please visit our Volunteer Website www.mvbalmoral.com

People:

- Paul Doubler, who has worked tirelessly for the last 4 years publicising MV Balmoral, has resigned as a Trustee as he no longer has enough time going forward with family commitments to devote to the charity. We would like to thank Paul for the huge contribution he has made to making MV Balmoral so widely known. It is going to take several people to replace him.
- Ross Floyd has relinquished his Trustee role after making a considerable input into the 1st round HLF bid and getting the Harbourside Events programme moving – a role with which we hope he will continue to be involved, but he does have to spend some time looking after his own business interests too.
- We are pleased to welcome Iolo Llewelyn as a new Trustee. He is a qualified accountant and audit management and financial consultant with a long standing interest in maritime matters and sailing. He will take over as Fund Treasurer from Richard Mills who remains a Trustee.
- With the closure of the office and not sailing in 2018 we sadly say good bye to Janet and Kate in the office, and of course Captain David Howie and his crew – all of whom have worked so hard to establish the reputation of the Balmoral operation. We wish them well for the future and thank them for their contribution

What next?

Clearly there is a lot of detail to be worked through in this new situation and we would welcome more members willing to help us take this project onwards. Join via our website www.mvbalmoral.org.uk As and when there are developments we will keep you informed. The last 3 years have demonstrated the popularity of coastal cruises on MV Balmoral - particularly when the sun shines. We need all the support we can get to build on that for a sustainable future.

Issued by Dick Clague – dick.balmoral@gmail.com on behalf of MV Balmoral Fund Limited.



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