

# MALLAIG BOATBUILDING & ENGINEERING

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## Spotlight on... Donald Ferguson

Having worked at Mallaig Boatbuilding & Engineering (MBE) for two years now, Donald Ferguson - better known as Louie (although he won't tell us why...) - brings some amazing talents as an experienced carpenter and joiner, plus he can

turn his hand to welding, burning and fibre glassing. We catch up with Louie to find out more about him...

Originally from Uist, Louie now lives in Fort William and commutes daily to Mallaig. He loves the variety of work and challenges he is

faced with at the boatyard, 'the work is never the same two days in a row, every day is different which keeps the job interesting and fun.'

He learnt a lot of what he knows from his previous experiences, specifically working on an estate on Uist, where he undertook work similar to that which he does at MBE.

He was also fortunate to work with an ex-shipwright who taught him all about hull repairs, carpentry, etc.

In his spare time, Louie is a very keen SCUBA diver, so working at MBE seems to bring his enjoyment of all things subsea together. He has mainly dived around the

## In this issue...

Spotlight on... Louie  
New charge out rates

Welding training

Subsea ROV survey

Articles for sale

And finally...

coast of Uist and actually found a wreck there a few years ago, which had seven cannons onboard! He also enjoys taking to the hills and has bagged a few Munros, but has yet to conquer Ben Nevis, 'maybe when I have a bit more spare time, and the weather improves, I might attempt it!'



*Above:* Louie's painting skills are put to the test with marking the waterline on a recent job

## New Simpler Charge Out Rates

At Mallaig Boatbuilding and Engineering, we consider our providing you with the level of service you want and need, to be one of the cornerstones of building a lasting relationship.

We've had a number of suggestions from our customers asking that we look at simplifying our charge out rates for MBE personnel. So, we've reviewed our current system against what you've said you'd like as well as comparing ourselves against other

boatyards and local businesses.

As a result of this work, it has become clear that a simpler, more uniform, charge out rate will make costing and billing more straight forward and ensure that there are no nasty surprises for you when you receive your invoice. On this basis, we are now charging a flat basic rate for boatyard personnel of £25 per hour. Where our members of staff are required to work overtime, this will be charged at £30 per hour.



*Above:* Boats on the slip at MBE; new charge out rates will make estimating and billing easier

The new pricing structure could result in savings of almost 17% on the cost of labour when your vessel is on our slip.

We're confident that this new, revised pricing

system will ensure that you continue to get great service and great value from Mallaig Boatbuilding & Engineering.

## Vital Welding Training Completed

Two of our staff recently completed vital welding training, courtesy of The Underwater Centre. Louie and Liam were provided with the introduction to surface welding during the 4 day practical and classroom-based training. The course covered important safety aspects as well as giving them the opportunity to do various flat runs onto different types of welds, along with gas cutting and mig welding.

This is another great addition to the team's

qualifications, meaning they will be able to complete work on wooden vessels where welding, cutting or fabricating is required, plus there won't be unnecessary delays waiting for an engineer.

Liam commented; 'It's great to have the chance to further develop my skills through MBE's sister company The Underwater Centre. The course was really interesting and it was brilliant to have the hands-on experience with Stuart at the Centre'.

## Subsea ROV Survey Undertaken

Being part of the Crannog Concept Ltd has also provided us with the opportunity to undertake important subsea survey work. A Seaeye Falcon ROV and its operator, from The Underwater Centre, came to Mallaig to record subsea footage of the main slipway. The aim being to better understand the condition of the slipway in preparation for any remedial work required. The results showed the slipway to be in excellent health.

The Underwater Centre ROV team regularly



undertake subsea construction inspections, fish farm inspections and hull or prop surveys, etc, so their experience was second to none.

## And Finally...

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Robert (Robbie) Findlay as our new engineer. Robbie starts with us at the end of April and is already looking forward to working with the rest of the team.

Originally from Glasgow, Robbie completed his apprenticeship with Strathclyde Buses maintaining their fleet. He brings with him extensive engineering and maritime experience, and recently enjoyed doing voluntary refit work on the famous Waverley Paddle Steamer. Previous to this he worked for the MoD at HMNB Clyde Faslane. Robbie is a keen walker and by moving to Mallaig he is looking forward to taking to the hills when he can. He might even get a chance to improve his poor golf swing - his words, not ours!

To contact Robbie directly, give him a call on **07795 331 498**.

## Articles for Sale

Listed here are just some of the items we have available for sale. For more information or to purchase, please call **Claire on 01687 462304**.

- Fully overhauled Caterpillar 3406B, 300bhp engine with parts & labour warranty. Twin disc gearbox (suited to Cat engine) MG514B transmission 4.58:1 reduction. For engine & gearbox; £20k.
- Ford Mermaid D360 6 Cylinder Nautically Aspirated diesel engine. Included in the sale are oil filter housing, fuel pump, injection pump & fuel filter housing, flywheel, inlet manifold & exhaust manifold. For engine & parts; £3.5k.



Shaft to go with prop, KN & stern gland; £1.5k



Prop, 1.2m diameter, with KN; £5k



Kort Nozzle 1.3m diameter with prop; £5k



Wheelhouse, 4.2m x 2.4m x 2.9m, snatch block arms 1.15m long; £2k



Stern gland, with shaft; £1.5k

**Please note:** Prop, shaft, KN & stern gland can be sold as one lot; £6k meaning an overall saving of £500 on individual prices.

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