



HMS SCOTT THE PENGUIN POST

2022, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome to the first issue of The Penguin Post for 2022, written by the sailors on board HMS Scott. We have had a busy start to the year: undergoing important repairs in Gibraltar, a watch handover in Madeira, followed by getting back to our survey work at sea.

In this edition we have updates about life on board from members of Ship's Company. We hope to see many family members at our Families Day later this year.

Remember you can also stay updated via our Twitter page- @HMSScottRN

Train as we Fight

PO(HM) Henderson tells The Penguin Post all about training in the Warfare Department, and keeping Scott safe.

The Warfare department have taken the opportunity now they are back at sea to practise and hone their skills, which may be called upon at a moment's notice. Being hundreds of miles from land, there is no-one available but Scott-trained crew to deal with any emergency. A "mariner overboard" may occur anytime day or night, so the boats crews have been training to handle the Pacific-24 Seaboats to rescue a person from rough waters. Scott's crew may also be required to defend themselves or others from threats at sea, so we have been conducting weapons training in live firings at sea, often with multiple targets simulating the various threats Scott may face. We have also been practising our tactical communication skills, which allow us to confuse and defeat any hostiles.

When the warfare department have not been busy training, we have been focusing on maintenance of Scott's aging superstructure, to allow us to get the most out of her before she is decommissioned in late 2023.



Ship's Company playing basketball alongside in Gibraltar for Wednesday afternoon sports

Fitness is at the heart of the Royal Navy and the crew often do circuit training on the upper deck together. This also helps us to cope with the stresses of work, which over long periods at sea can take a toll.

The crew of HMS Scott are very excited for her next stop in Barbados this month. This will bring a new cultural and life experience to her junior sailors, many of whom have not yet travelled far and wide due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



25 Years of Mission Michael

HMS Scott recently celebrated Mr Michael Kohler's 25th anniversary of service to HMS Scott. Ship's Company gathered in the wardroom and shared an impressive Scott cake from our last port visit, Madeira. AB(HM) Wood found out more about Mr Kohler and how he came to be on HMS Scott.

Mr Michael Kohler was born in Montana, in the United States of America. Michael moved around a lot in his younger years, never staying in one place for more than three years. His favourite film genre is sci-fi. Michael is not hugely into music but does enjoy listening to Meatloaf and Pat Benatar.

He worked on a farm in his teen years. Soon realising this was not the job for him, he enquired for all branches of the military.



Michael's Scott cake, courtesy of our Port Agent in Madeira

He finally settled for the US Navy and in 1976 became a US Navy submariner, with his first deployment on the USS L. Mendel Rivers, a hunter-killer submarine. This draft lasted seven and a half years during the cold war, meaning Michael had top security clearance. Michael explained his reason for wanting to leave was due to watch-keeping (those of us who watch-keep on board will agree it is highly taxing). He left the US Navy in 1985 and transitioned his skill set onto survey vessels. Between 1986 and 1994, he had deployments on USNS Hess, USNS Maury and USNS Tanner.

Once he left the USNS survey vessels, Michael joined HMS Scott on the 9th of January 1997, prior to her commissioning. Michael used many job titles to describe his role on HMS Scott including, but not limited to: survey analyst, equipment maintenance, survey coordinator, equipment trainer, and survey planner. When pressed to pick one title to describe his job the most accurately Michael said "Field Engineer".

When HMS Scott decommissions in September 2023, Michael intends to retire back to the United States. I imagine the majority of ship's company and families reading this will agree that Michael's retirement is fully deserved.

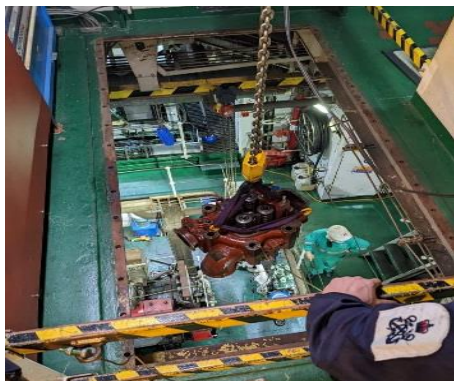


Celebrations in the Wardroom

Busy ship makes for hungry sailors

Chef Sharp has one of the most important jobs on board for boosting morale. So what scran has he been serving Scott's sailors this month?

Since I joined HMS Scott in January, we have been doing new and exciting things with our menus, keeping personnel well fed. As a change from the usual cooked breakfasts, we are serving twice-weekly "continental" breakfasts, with cured meats, cheeses, smoked salmon, fresh croissants and English muffins. We have been rolling out full salad bar lunches to try and encourage healthy eating while at sea. However, ship's company have also been enjoying steak night twice a week, century-old traditions of Fish Fridays, and our own Pizza Sundays. Saturdays are a highlight when we have a whole ship BBQ on the foredeck, featuring sun, sea and fancy dress antics!



Engineering work on Starboard Main Engine



Coming alongside in Funchal, Madeira, in January

Engineering Action

Scott has kept the engineers very busy the last few months. LET Stevenson sheds some light on what they have been doing.

Over the last patrol, the ME (Marine Engineering) department has faced many challenges that we have needed to overcome in order to maintain power to command and keep HMS Scott on tasking. Since sailing from Gibraltar, we have made and used 259,000 litres of water, 316,000 litres of fuel and 2,600 litres of oil.

The department has worked tirelessly to ensure both main engines, 4 generators, 2 reverse osmosis plants (for water production), 5 HVAC systems (for air conditioning), the sewage treatment plant and all other ancillary equipment is working, by means of defect rectification and day to day maintenance.

The team have worked diligently to repair defects to the sewage treatment plant, HVAC, fuel separator and starboard main engine.

The professionalism that has been shown on board has been nothing short of exemplary.



Beam up me Scotty

SLt Brawn takes The Penguin Post out of this world, with his tales of Astronavigation.

While most of the ship's company's attentions have been focused beneath the waves for the last couple of weeks, HMS Scott's Young Officers (YOs) have turned their gaze significantly higher - out of this world in fact. Taking advantage of the good weather, as well as the ship's splendid isolation (light pollution is definitely not an issue in the mid-Atlantic!), the YOs have been making the most of the opportunity to practice their astronavigation.

Fixing the ship's position by taking star sights with a sextant may seem like something from the age of Nelson, and may be redundant in this age of computer and GPS-aided navigation, but it is an essential part of an Officer of the Watch's repertoire in the event of a system failure or outside interference. It's also good fun - and incredibly rewarding when you get it right. Good astronavigation requires taking the angle from the horizon of particular stars before sunrise and just after sunset - when there is just enough light to see the horizon, but not so much that you can't see the stars - as well as at least three 'sun sights' throughout the day. It can therefore be quite a lot of work for one person to manage, all while standing normal watches on the bridge, but the YO's have been ably supported by Scott's capable bridge team, who have helped with taking sights and recording data.

Where the glorious night skies have been great for astro-navigation, they have also been fantastic for stargazing, and SLt Smith's nightly astronomy sessions on the bridge wing have been very popular with the bridge team, who are learning all about the constellations and the names of the stars we are seeing on our voyage. So much so that we are now considering adding a 'fun star facts' section to the morning sitrep pipe. So while Scott continues to map the landscapes of the bottom of the Atlantic, some members of the ship's company are also expanding their knowledge of what lies above...



Using a sextant to astro-navigate from the bridge wing

Get in touch

To receive updates, events, news and family support offers, you can also join our HMS SCOTT Community as part of the Royal Navy Family and People Support page on Facebook.

If you'd like to get in touch with a query or comment you can contact our Families Officer:

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HMS SCOTT

BFPO 381

*To strive, to seek, to find...
and not to yield*