

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **YDSA Fellow Member selected as Royal Rowbarge Surveyor**

The Yacht Designers and Surveyors Association (YDSA) is pleased to announce that Ted Spears, a highly experienced Fellow member of the YDSA has been selected as the specialist surveyor to Lloyd's Register for the Royal Rowbarge which has been specially commissioned for Her Majesty the Queen in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee.

Commissioned through Lord Sterling, with the support of a small syndicate consisting of The Gosling Foundation, Eyal Ofer, Lloyd's Register and the Weston Foundation, the Royal Rowbarge will highlight and pay tribute to the role of the River Thames in the history and pageantry of London through the ages, whilst providing a long term legacy of the Jubilee for years to come.



Built by traditional boatbuilder, Mark Edwards of Richmond, the Royal Rowbarge will take part in a number of high profile events throughout 2012, including leading the Jubilee Pageant on the Thames on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as a number of other functions celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympic year.

Ted Spears is a marine surveyor and designer of wooden boats, and is a Fellow Member of the YDSA. Ted was awarded his Fellowship by the YDSA in 2011 following his term as YDSA Chairman. A Fellowship is the highest grade of membership available to YDSA members, and Ted was recommended by the YDSA due to his extensive experience and expertise as a marine surveyor.

Ted will be working closely with Ron Heasell, who is working on the Rowbarge project for the Client. Ron spent 39 years at Moodys, working his way up from apprentice to Yard Manager. He then spent a further ten years at Lloyd's Register as a senior yacht surveyor, and has been running his own survey business for the past five years. Ron Heasell is also an affiliate member of YDSA.

As the Lloyd's Register specialist surveyor, Ted is responsible for assessing, monitoring and reporting on the overall condition of the Royal Rowbarge, as well as ensuring the materials used for the build are compliant with official standards and specifications.

Ted comments: "My extensive experience with the construction of modern timber vessels has enabled me to add to the scope of Lloyd's Register surveying capabilities. The vessel is being constructed using high quality timber and plywood utilising epoxy resins to produce a monocoque hull. The vessel is being built at a fast pace with two shifts of 14 craftsmen, each working a six day week. This means that frequent inspections are required to ensure compliance and to work with client's surveyor, Ron Heasell, to make certain that problems are solved quickly without delaying the work."

Jane Gentry CEO at the YBDSA (management company for the YDSA) said: "We are thrilled and proud that Ted was appointed to undertake this project. 2012 is the Centenary Year of the YBDSA and we are proud to be involved in a small way in the Queen's Jubilee Pageant which gives focus to the maritime history of our nation."

The Queen's Rowbarge will form a tangible link between Britain's status as a seafaring nation and maritime London. The majority of the vessel will be built and furnished using traditional British timber. When completed it will be close to 90 feet long and will be rowed by 18 oarsmen. It will fly Royal and City standards at the appropriate times, along with the traditional flags of the United Kingdom. It will also carry 16 crests representing the Realms of the Commonwealth.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

The YBDSA is the management company for ABYA (the professional association for individual brokers and boat dealers), the YDSA (the professional association for marine surveyors and designers specialising in yachts big and small, and small commercial vessels), and the PCA (the association for professional charter skippers and operators in the UK). Other professionals in the marine industry can become members of the YBDSA as Subscribers, offering them attendance at Association events at the member price.

The organisation is headquartered in Petersfield, Hampshire, and represents the interests of over 450 internationally located members. It is funded by membership subscriptions and the services provided by members, such as tonnage measurements and small craft certification authorised by the MCA and the Customs Warehouse scheme, approved by HMRC for non-VAT paid boats being sold in the UK.

Members are required to maintain their professional skills under the Continuous Professional Development programme. All new applications and up-grading applications are carefully scrutinised by the committees to ensure the high standards of members is upheld.

YBDSA was set up by a group of like-minded brokers, surveyors and designers in the early days of recreational boating when clients would have been the rich and famous and GRP hadn't been invented! It has broadened its remit over the last 100 years to provide services to the wider clientele now available to the boating industry.

**January 2012 (PR04)**