

NEED A BARGE?

Servicing the Hauraki Gulf and surrounding areas

MODERN, FAST, ECONOMICAL



BUDGET BARGES LTD



FOR ALL YOUR BARGING NEEDS

CALL 0800 55 44 22

THE PERFECT BARGE FOR YOUR BUDGET

BY KEITH INGRAM



When we were out on the Hauraki Gulf recently we spotted a shiny new motorised barge making way at what can only be regarded as a fair clip. In fact at 10 knots we could not keep pace with her as she pulled away.

A bit of homework revealed that this was *B*, a new barge operated by Budget Barges Limited, in Auckland. The barge was originally designed and built to service the construction projects of an Auckland developer on Rakino Island, and is well suited to this purpose.

However, the developer sold the Rakino property before construction started. This left the *B* as a "barge for hire" for anyone who needs freight and vehicles delivered around the northeastern coast of the North Island.

The *B* is particularly suited to get in close to small, shallow bays, as she only draws 410mm laden. With this in mind, she is fitted with a 45kg CQR (Cuthbert's Quick Release) anchor developed for landing craft during the Second World War.

An anchor of similar size is housed for'ard on the starboard bow as the primary anchor. Both are fitted with 100m of 13mm short-link chain. The hydraulics for the Maxwell anchor winches and the bow door are run off the port motor. The cargo deck is protected by 1m high bulwarks that have large freeing ports protected by storm flaps.

The hull construction was interesting, with the hull and deck plating both being 8mm. The void spaces in the hull are completely sealed into eight major compartments. The

construction within each compartment consists of full-depth longitudinal stringers or beams from the deckhead to the hull, with full-depth cross-beams or frames to give a honeycomb effect of 600sq mm, with T-bar deck stringers for added strength.

Eight small limber holes allow for drainage within the compartment, to a point where a sounding tube and pump connection is available at the side of the hull on the bulwarks.

The two engines, positioned all the way aft, are in their own, independent engine compartments with full-sized access hatches. The main batteries for engine crank and house power are mounted in water-protected boxes on the bulwarks. The deckhouse is positioned aft and some 3m above the main deck to allow access for long loads or trucks.

The pumphouse arrangement for all compartments is by a common Jabsco pump run off the port engine with a long, flexible reinforced suction hose. Around the deck at the foot of the bulwarks are large tie-down lugs and there are a series of tie-down loops along the outer top edge of the bulwarks for lashing down covers when required.

The *B* is powered by two 300hp Perkins M300TI diesels, coupled to two ZF 220 direct drive (reversing) gearboxes which are in turn coupled to two Conrad (Konrad) 520 stern legs. Displacement in light ship mode is 15.84 tonnes, with a loaded displacement of 42.5 tonnes and a maximum speed of 15 knots.

Up in the deckhouse, the spartan design of the vessel is equally evident. To starboard is a small galley and tea-making facilities, while to port is a workbench and chart table. The

RIGHT: The for'ard-facing windows prevent glare and give good vision down onto the deck

BELOW: The aft kedge anchor



Ross Webster at the helm during sea trials



helm station, positioned slightly to port, has all the controls and instruments, electronics and radio within easy reach of the master. The deckhouse is very light, with

the builders providing complete all-round windows. The for'ard facing windows slope in the traditional workboat style, so the crew can lean forward and look down on the deck without suffering from glare.

In the electronic department, the owners have elected to use a single-module Navman wide-screen 8120 chartplotter/GPS/sounder. A VHF provides the radio communications.

Access to the wheelhouse is up a ladder aft of the vessel. ▶



Specialising in Aluminium Boats & Barges 4-20 metres



Commercial or Private

We can build to your specifications or ours.

See our web site at <http://www.phoenixboats.co.nz>

Built by Sealect Marine

29 Hewlett Street, PO Box 1191, Whangarei

Ph/Fax: 09 438 4480

VIP.S51