

# Ensuring the right fix

IKO's 'Fix That Hut' initiative has helped a sea cadet unit in Liverpool to continue to provide the training and sailing skills the young cadets need. RCI hears more...



At the end of 2010, TS Derby was successful in its application to receive the roofing material via IKO's 'Fix That Hut' campaign

IKO has donated free-of-charge roofing material to help with essential repairs to a leaking roof at the TS Derby Sea Cadet unit in Knowsley, Liverpool. As a manufacturer of roofing and waterproofing products, IKO 'Fix That Hut' campaign seeks out needy projects such as village halls, scout huts and other buildings which are at the heart of local communities, and provides roofing and waterproofing materials free of charge to help with refurbishment. The 'Fix That Hut' campaign has helped projects throughout the UK and TS Derby Sea Cadets was chosen due to its importance within the local community.

The campaign was launched in 2006 to celebrate the centenary year of one of IKO's roofing divisions, Ruberoid Building Prod-



The completed roof at TS Derby Sea Cadet Unit

**"The 'Fix That Hut' campaign has helped projects throughout the UK and TS Derby Sea Cadets was chosen due to its importance within the local community"**

ucts, and was inspired when the company pledged materials and support for the restoration of Captain Scott's Hut in the Antarctic, for which Ruberoid roofing was originally used in 1911.

Established in 1854, the Sea Cadets was created by communities wanting to give young people instruction on a naval theme. Traditionally old seafarers provided training, while local businessmen funded the unit headquarters.

The tradition of community-based Sea Cadet units continues today with 400 across the UK, each with charitable status enabling them to raise funds to meet their running costs. The Sea Cadet organisation is a registered charity (number 313013).

## Marine Society & Sea Cadets - TS Derby, Knowsley Park

The sea cadet facility at Knowsley Park is vitally important to the 18 sea cadet units on Merseyside, and has had a presence there since 1962 by kind permission of Lord Derby. Having first had a small lodge on the north bank, they were given the use of a larger boathouse in the 1990s that had originally been built for Liverpool University Boat Club who no longer had use for it.

Nearly 50% of the children come from underprivileged backgrounds, and they can learn to sail and handle small boats safely on the lake. They join at the age of ten and finish as cadets by the time they are 18. Many become adult instructors and it is not unusual throughout the UK to find people who have been members of a Unit for more than 50 years.

In 2001, the lodge was required by the estate for other purposes and the cadets were left with just the boathouse to work from. Unfortunately the boathouse was just that, a large area used for storing boats. The roof leaked and in heavy rain the floor flooded as land drains overflowed.

In 2002, one individual had the idea to convert the boathouse into a training centre where they would be able to provide training



The products were delivered by one of IKO's customers, Chestnut Roofing & Building Supplies, in January 2011

to the cadets in dry and warm conditions. He set about drawing the plans and raising the money and indeed doing the conversion work himself on a DIY basis during his days off from his full-time job. After clearing the land drains and paying out a lot of money to have the roof patched, the building was eventually dry and he carried on with the conversion.

However, during the winter of 2009, the cadets found that the roof had developed a number of leaks that were damaging the work indoors and was now in desperate need of a complete replacement. This was beyond the skill of the management and they required expert help with the project.

At the end of 2010, TS Derby was successful in its application to receive the roofing material via IKO's 'Fix That Hut' campaign. In January 2011, the products were delivered by one of IKO's customers, Chestnut Roofing & Building Supplies, in preparation for the work to commence by IKO's specialist national roofing contractor, BriggsAmasco. Climax Scaffolding kindly donated the scaffolding free of charge to gain access safely to the roof area.

The volunteer adults who manage the Cadet Units maintain the premises and in the past year have carried out some major changes. There is now overnight accommodation for 36 people while running many courses both land-based and waterborne, with heating, a galley, store, office and staff room with cooking and toilet / shower facilities.

Lt Cdr Paul Rycroft RNR, The District Officer for Liverpool based at TS Derby Boating Station commented: "We are really pleased that our unit was successful in receiving the much needed free roofing materials. TS Derby has always been a valued unit for the cadet members, and with help from IKO, Chestnut Roofing & Building Supplies and BriggsAmasco, it will continue to provide the sailing skills to these young cadets for many more years to come."

The 'Fix That Hut' campaign has helped many projects throughout the UK since its formation in 2006. They range from a Scout hut in Scotland, to a beach hut in Cornwall, and a District War Memorial in Gilberdyke.

[www.fixthathut.co.uk](http://www.fixthathut.co.uk)