

## TUNA – conversion to electric

*By John Martin*

Tuna is the name of my father's launch, which he had built at Dauntless, Benfleet in the 1930s. She came to Paglesham in the mid-70s and was kept in the Oyster shed at Buckland Cottages. These days she spends the season in Burnham Marina, wintering in our barn at Mashbury.



***John Martin and TUNA***

The original Stewart Turner engine was replaced several times during her life, and the last one ended its life a few years ago. I had dealt with ST's since the 1950s but decided that these engines would not be used in future. That's when I decided to look into electric power.



***Before***

I decided to fit a LMC Yellowtail 2.5 Direct Marine Drive System. In order to fit the boat I had them make a standard bracket which lifted the motor higher to avoid it being flooded with bilge water. The motor is 2.5 KW and is almost

equivalent to the output of the ST4. Cost of the motor, controls and parts was a shade over £4,000 in 2017.

I was able to alter the engine beds fairly easily, and installed the equipment with the help of my good friend Ian Murdoch. The 24V system is powered by two 12V 110A lead-acid batteries, which appear to last well on short trips around the Burnham moorings at full power. It has been really quite successful and of course very quiet in operation. Up to now I have not found anybody who is prepared to take the boat on a longer trip to find out how long it will go on a charge!



***After***



***The usual suspects***

*John Martin is a founder member and past President of the RSA – Ed.*