

Off your Trolley?

By Rodney Arnold, Shrimper 294 (*Morning Vicar*) (Winter 2003)

No? If you normally have to leave your Shrimper on its trolley and would like to get to the bottom of things, try inverting the wood track, screw it down, and position three of four, one inch blocks on top, spaced to avoid the centreplate housing. You will then be able to scrape off all the barnacles and antifoul all those bits you couldn't get to. You will need to chock the hull to stop it rocking, and to guide the boat on to the trolley, temporarily screw a short plank, slanted, 6" deep either side of the forward end of the trolley.

Beware the Runaway Winch

By Robin-Cecil-Wright, ex Shrimper 164 (Winter2002)

The piggyback trailer system works, but it could also kill you! The slippery plastic winch handle could escape the grip of your cold wet hand and it might in a flash, spin and knock you senseless if not lifeless to the ground. I was lucky - I was only bruised. I was however sufficiently alarmed by the danger to make a simple modification to both my procedure and to the hardware.

Advice:

1. Try to unload the boat and launching trailer from on top of the road trailer on a level surface.
2. Never ever leave the winch handle in the winch whilst unloading. USE the brake.
3. Do away with the existing shoe ramps and fit extension shoes to lessen the angle from the road trailer down to the ground. I had some made out of galvanised channel about 3ft. long. This dramatically reduced the launching angle of descent. It of course also made it much easier to pull the boat and launching trailer up onto its piggyback position.
4. When you are a little bit older make life really easy for yourself and by pass the hand winch by fitting an electric one that runs off your car battery. That's luxury Shrimping!

Bramber Combi Trolley Wheel Warning

By Brian Jones, Shrimper 107 (*Dipper*) (Winter 2000)

I have a Bramber 'piggy back" trailer of unknown vintage (probably the same age as the boat, which was built in 1983). Recently, prior to re-launching, I used an electric car tyre pump to bring the launching trolley tyre pressures up to the recommended level (80psi). However, when the offside tyre reached 70psi the wheel literally exploded - nobody was hurt but my heart rate sure increased! It seems that the years of submersion in salt water had corroded the wheel to such an extent that it just could not stand the design pressure anymore. Both wheels were rusty on the outside but when I checked the bent and buckled metal of the exploded wheel the actual metal thickness had been reduced in several places, weakening the whole structure. Bramber Trailers has now supplied me with two new wheels and tyres. These now also have a higher rated tyre which is more suited to the weight of the Shrimper.

So if the launching trolley wheels of your 'piggy back" trailer look rusty I suggest you get them checked or replaced.