



# **BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB**

## **Newsletter**

### **Chairman**

Jack Sharp: Tel: 01189 755 631

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Alan Spooner: Tel: 07768 061368 Email: [alanspooner@hotmail.com](mailto:alanspooner@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.basingstokembc.co.uk](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

Email: [atclark25@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:atclark25@yahoo.co.uk)

## **September 2013**

Well, September is just coming around and it is time for your BMBC Newsletter – I know how much you like it and that you cannot wait to arrive on your doorstep, ha! ha!.

It doesn't seem too long since I put together the last newsletter and thanks to all of you who let me know that they liked it and to those of you who didn't – I must try harder.

It doesn't seem too long ago when the weather was cold and wet, yet despite this many members regularly attended our club meets on a Wednesday and Sunday. Since then June came along, no not a new female member, but the month of June and it was time for me and my wife to take our annual pilgrimage to France with the hope of catching up with a bit of warmth and sun but how wrong it was going to be. Normally we expect temperatures of around 30<sup>o</sup> – 35<sup>o</sup> Celsius or for those old fellows who cannot bring themselves kicking and screaming into the world of metrication and SI units, 86<sup>o</sup> – 95<sup>o</sup> Fahrenheit but the weather in central and western Europe was playing tricks on us all. Eastern Europe was alright and had, if anything, much better weather and higher temperatures than was their norm but us, sadly no! Most of France suffered low temperatures and copious amounts of rain, hail and thick cloud. We normally head south or at least to the Dordogne area but with the weather as it was we kept checking the weather forecast on the internet and decided for once to stay in the North of France and visit the Picardy, Normandy and Brittany regions. Why spend all that

money and time driving South to get the same or worse weather we thought. In the end we didn't fare too badly and we had reasonably dry weather with only a couple of days when it rained but some sun, cloud and it was quite windy. The temperatures hovered around 17<sup>o</sup> – 20<sup>o</sup> Centigrade whilst we were there, you can do your own conversion on that now! and during the nights we had to have the heating on – certainly not June weather. However we did keep dry and managed to get out every day for visits to places of interest and that was the main thing.

Anyway I am sure that you don't really want to hear me rambling on about the weather we were having or our holidays but I thought it might be an introduction to one of the events we attended in France and that you might like to hear about.

We always head out through Rouen in Northern France and this city borders the River Seine that flows between its estuary at Honfleur in the La Manche (as the French like to call it, or to us the English Channel), and Paris then Dijon and beyond in the North East of France.

Before we left on our holiday I had checked on the internet to see what was going on in the area and to my surprise found a link to the 'L'Armada' website. The site showed that from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> June, 48 Tall Ships from around the world would be converging on Rouen and would be moored up for 10 days at the Armada festival and this only happens about once every five years. This looked too good to miss.

From past information that we had gleaned, this event was usually very well attended not only by the French but also many international travellers. With this in mind we avoided going to visit over a weekend but planned for a weekday. We must admit it, the French had this event so well organised with two massive park and ride schemes for visitors one North and the other on the South of Rouen with a bendy bus to take you right to the action. We arrived early and managed to park easily and caught the bus. When it arrived at the terminal "Louis Pasteur" it was a magnificent sight and the event was already very busy. The Tall Ships were moored up either side of the Seine with marquees and event tents all along the riverside and this was over a distance of 7 km or about 4.5 miles in English money !

There were ships from the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Norway, Sweden, France, Holland, Poland, Oman, Brazil, Mexico, Morocco, Portugal to name a few ! What was great was that apart from buying your own food and drink which was, in our experience, quite cheap and good value, everything was free. You could go on board all the ships, visit exhibitions etc. and many 'freebies' were being given away.

Our hats go off to the French for organising such a great event. We spent all day there and walked till we dropped – at night alongside the ships there was a different free concert held each evening whether it be pop/rock/classic with the evening finale being a daily firework display and with all the ships illuminated.

I could go on and on but here are some photos just as a taster :-



'Dar Mlodziezy' - Poland



'Cuahtemoc' - Mexico

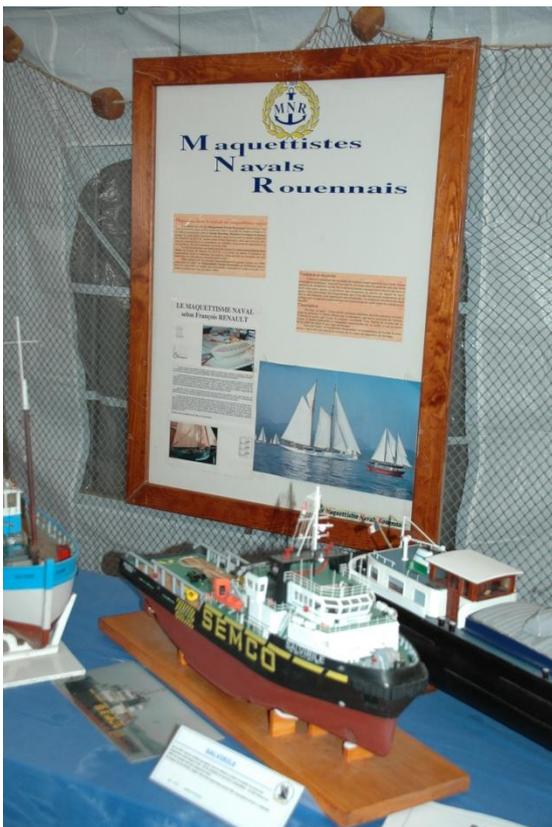
These are only two of the ships that we went on and I have so many more photographs to share with you all which I could do on a PowerPoint display – maybe at an evening get together in the winter sometime if we can find a hall ? There was salsa music being played on the Brazilian and Mexican ships, fire floats sailing down the Seine with all water jets blasting out to the sound of music – it was a great atmosphere and everyone was so polite and eager to talk to you.

Whilst walking around we came across a quayside warehouse where they were reconstructing the copper spires and balustrades of Rouen cathedral and you could see all the work going on and items like gargoyles being faithfully reproduced in sheet copper – magnificent workmanship.

Part of the 'Armada' display was a Marquee that caught my eye with a model yacht outside it and would you believe it – it was the Rouen Model Boat Club's display or 'Maquettistes Navals Rouennais' as they prefer to be known.

They didn't speak English but I managed to converse with them in French and explained that I too was a modeller and was the new Secretary of our Club – they were very interested to know where in the south of England we were and where Basingstoke exactly was and what type of boats we build and sail.

They had an excellent display of models and some photos of which are as follows :-



These are but a few of their models – it was a great display and very well organised. There were too many visitors milling around to get a good photo of the whole marquee though.

It is good to see that there are like minded modellers just across the channel enjoying this great hobby of ours.

Nothing like a bit of 'Entente Cordiale' with our European neighbours, is there – 'hands across the sea' and all that !.

To think, I should have got them 'Twinning' with the BMBC !

## News:

### Annual Membership fees Due

In the last Newsletter I reminded all our members that the annual membership fees were due on the 1st April. The Club year runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year. As stated previously we have again held the membership at £10 again this year, £5 for juniors - under 16 years of age.

We have a membership 'on the books' of 50, of which 40 have paid their fees for this current year. So, please can we have a concerted effort by those members that have yet to forward their monies. If you are no longer interested in membership and supporting the Club and receiving our Newsletter please let me know and I will remove you from our list.

Please hand your membership money over to either myself or our Chairman, Jack Sharp, putting it in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post a cheque to me, made payable to **Basingstoke Model Boat Club** to the following address:-

**Alan Spooner**  
**Hathaway, Stratford Road,**  
**Ash Vale, Hants GU12 5PT**

We hope that you will continue to support the club in the year ahead and enjoy the benefits of a friendly and expanding membership, complimentary Public Indemnity Insurance and use of the best model boat pond in the area !

New members are most welcome – if you have a friend that may be interested in model boating or joining the club then please let them know all about us, or tell them to have a look at our website to see for themselves - [www.basingstokembc.co.uk](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

### New Members

On the subject of **new members** we continue to have new membership enquiries and this time around we must give a warm welcome to Bob Joy, Mike Oliver who now regularly sails his yacht Victoria with us and Ian Halloway our latest member to our Club.

### Liaison with Basingstoke and Deane Council

I have been in touch again with Katy Hooper who is the Community Development Officer and reminded her that our Club still did not have a mention on the "Welcome to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council" website and true to her word that has been rectified with a nice little write up and a link to our club website. It is good to know that we can now be found by anyone new to the area and who are looking for an activity such as ours so we are now, so to speak, on the 'map'.

To see, follow this link <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/browse/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-open-spaces/townparks/eastroppark.htm>

I did also hope to have the Club in attendance at the 'Basingstoke Fun Day' which is held at Eastrop Park during the first week of the children's school holiday. It looked positive and we had an invitation to attend to put on a boating activity for the children. Unfortunately due to unscheduled commitments that I and fellow members who were going to attend had, we had to withdraw but I have asked if we could be considered for next year if the event is being held again.

The Club has been asked by the organisers of the Old Basing Parish Carnival if a group of BMBC members would care to display their model boats and chat to the public on the day of the event. The Carnival is due to take place next year on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of June and I have provisionally agreed with them that the Club will attend – so volunteers please ?

I have had further information from the organisers of the annual Midhurst model engineering show. Many of us who attend this event enjoy this show, meeting up with fellow boat clubs and looking at all the other interesting engineering hobbies that are in attendance. Because the old complex at Midhurst is being redeveloped we were informed by the organisers that this may have been the last show. We have been advised that the annual Midhurst show is alive and kicking and will be held on 16 February 2014 albeit in a smaller format. I have confirmed that the Basingstoke Model Boat Club would be more than willing to attend and would like to be very much part of this show as it is one that we look forward to each year.

## **Bereavement Notice**

I am sure that many of our members have heard by now of the sad news that Keith Dolton's wife Pauline had passed away after a long illness. Keith has received cards from members expressing their sympathies and I too would like to offer him, on behalf of the Club, our condolences at this sad time for Keith and his family. Keith has asked me to insert the following into the Newsletter.

"I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the Club for their kind words and cards received on the passing of my wife Pauline.  
Yours, Keith Dolton"

## **Alan's mutterings**

The last newsletter was my first attempt in trying to put something together that was of interest and worthy of the being called the BMBC Newsletter. I thank all those members who contacted me or spoke to me at the pond to say that they enjoyed it – so that is the good news but where are my budding writers who may be willing to send me an article for future publications ? I think that my requests have fallen on deaf ears. Now, most of you or should I say us, are retired and should have plenty of time on our hands. I aim to get the Newsletter out every 3 calendar months, so that is about every 13 weeks or 91 days. If you were to write just 5 words every day for an article to be included in the next edition, that would be about a 450 word article - a great filler for our next Newsletter, so come on guys ..... please !

It is good to see that Gordon and Gill are regularly attending the pond during the warmer weather. Gordon is looking much better of late – it must be down to Gill's care and support or is it down to all those lunches at Morrisons and Weatherspoons?

Gordon finally launched his new yacht, a Kyosho Fairwind, to a round of applause from the assembled members at the Wednesday pond meeting in the middle of September. It sails really well, as expected and looks great on the water.

We have had some really unseasonal weather of late – it was a wet winter and spring and then the heat wave came, well at least for a while. There has been record numbers of members meeting up at Eastrop Pond on a Sunday – Chairman Jack tells me that there were so many that he had to wait to sail his boat due to no alternative frequency being available on 27 MHz – we will have to get him to move over to 2.4GHz won't we ! We don't seem to get so many on a Wednesday so what is going on. Are all our retired members 'moonlighting' to supplement their pensions?

In the last Newsletter I suggested that if you would rather not hear about my boat building project or my "how to avoid doing home decorating" stories then you should get your pens and paper out and provide me with an article for next time !! Well those articles didn't come flooding in did they – so you are stuck with me !

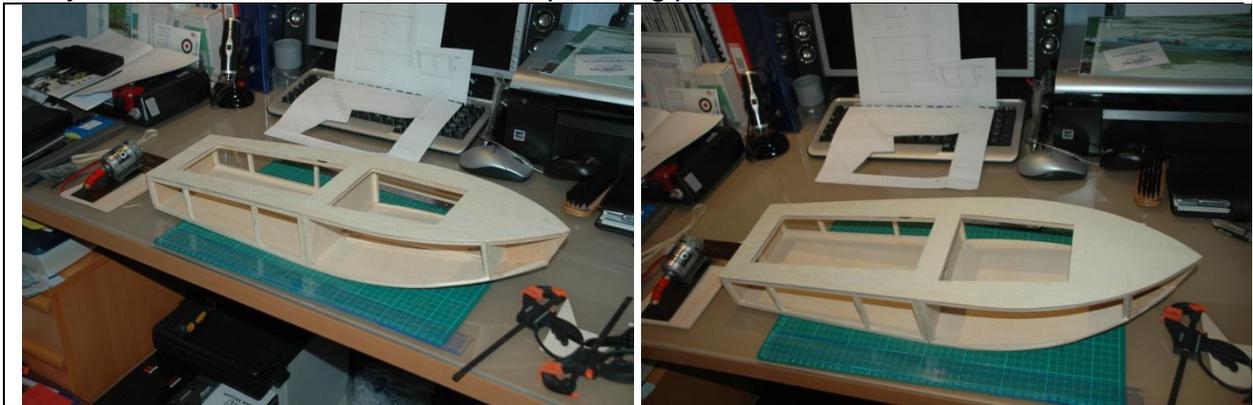
However, fortunately for me and of course you all, we had a change in weather and we had this so called heat wave. Consequently my wife was very concerned for my welfare and said that in no way should I commence the decorating with the weather as hot as it was. I of course protested that I must get on with it and that all would be OK, but she insisted (and who am I to argue) that I leave it for now until we return from our next holidays which will be at the beginning of October – so by the skin of my teeth I got out of that one didn't I – phew !!

## My Model Fishing Boat

I explained in the last Newsletter that following completion of my Perkasa MTB in the New Year I soon became bored and I thought I would build a small boat for my Grandchildren. I saw a plan of a general purpose boat from Model Boats magazine and thought I could use the basis of the hull, suitably modified, to make said boat. I decided to design my own superstructure to go with it so I got down to work drawing it up and making cardboard templates and, bit by bit, it took shape.

The suggested materials for the boat were balsa but I wanted something more durable. I decided to use 3mm birch faced ply for the deck and 'bulkheads' and 2mm liteply for the hull and superstructure. Other materials were a few lengths of 2mm square section wood which could be doubled up as necessary and would be easier to bend to the contours required.

I decided to make a 'ladder frame' skeleton hull and to clad the hull with the lite-ply. This was easy and I soon had the basis of the shape taking place.



The base of the hull was basically flat with a curve from mid-point to the bow and a slight curve from side to side. The deck was flat with two large cut-outs to enable the installation of motor, RC equipment and batteries, etc.

The next job was to apply the hull sides – these were cut to a rough size from the 2mm lite-ply and shaped to incorporate raised bulwarks. I started from the stern and slowly glued and clamped one hull side until it met the bow. After waiting for the glue to dry, I then trimmed that side to a rough shape before applying the other hull side. This was not so easy at the bow connection as I had nothing to clamp the sheet ply to, i.e. hull framework. I used elastic bungee cords to help keep it all together and the final product wasn't too bad.



The next thing to do was to make a keel, fit the prop shaft and add finishing touches to the hull with rubbing strakes, freeing ports, etc. The superstructure was made with scrap bits of the 2mm liteply, flat timber strip for window frames and pieces of plastic packaging for the glazing.



I made the winches for the fishing nets from old plastic cotton reels and bits of lite-ply and dowel. The navigation light housings are ply with the clear section of a Bic Biro for the lenses. In all, the materials cost about £20 but that excludes paint and a propeller. I had a spare Graupner 600 ECO speed motor, an old Hitec ESC and an old micro-servo that I rescued from the local refuse tip and used for the rudder control. I have made aerial masts from scrap aluminium tube and stainless wire. I have made some battery holders from balsa and these are fixed in the hull and take 2 No. NiMh 7.2 volt battery packs which act as the motive power supply and ballast.

In all the boat has been made on a shoestring and I am still adding to it bit by bit. It sails well and is stable with a reasonable turn of speed. Her name will be "Lady Laura" (when I get some transfers) named after my granddaughter but will she get her hands on it now – I doubt it very much !!

Well that is just a quick update on the progress of my fishing boat.

However, I must close now and just to let you know that there are **3222** words of wisdom in this newsletter which goes to prove that you are now getting even more for your money !!  
**Ta,Ta, for now.**

***Newsletter by Alan Spooner – Secretary / Treasurer Basingstoke Model Boat Club***