



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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March / April 2014

Well, April is just coming around and it is time again for your BMBC Newsletter and it doesn't seem so long ago since I sent the last one out. This edition marks the end of the 2013 /2014 year and we start a new year in the Club from April this year. It has been a year of ups and downs with regards to membership with a few of the older members dropping off the radar but new blood (metaphorically speaking) coming in to join us which we welcome. Our Club can only stand on the active membership and we must be seen to be using our lake at every possibility and to put the name of our Club forward at every opportunity we have, so thank you to the many members, old and new, who support us. We are not a Club of formalities and we try to make it as relaxed as it can be and that is why it is, I believe a great Club to belong to. We do not race boats / yachts or take ourselves too seriously yet we have some great modellers and models in our midst and although we have the occasional collision, both with the boats and maybe opinions, we treat each other with respect and never 'come to blows' - in other words a truly 'friendly club'.

Well I have been regularly asking you all for some contributions to the Newsletter and at last I have had a response - thankfully Charlie Redford has come to the rescue with the following little ditty – so thank you Charlie for this.

“The Skipper and the Engineer”

The skipper and the engineer
had fussed throughout the trip
the arguments were loud & clear
" Who runs this blooming ship ?
It takes good brains to navigate"
the skipper roughly said
or engineers would be fish bated
down on the ocean bed".

The engineer with eyes agleam
replied without a flinch
"Whenever I turn off my steam
you cannot steer an inch".

The skipper roared "look here you
snob, a dollar to a dime
that I can run your blinking job
and you can't tackle mine".

The engineer said "that's a go,
give me your cap and coat
and you take mine and go below
and I will steer the boat.

→

they switched their jobs
and each one swore
that, whilst fags were lit,
in just an hour or more
he'd make the other quit.

Whilst on the bridge, the engineer
enjoyed the cool sea breeze
the skipper breathed an atmosphere
bedewed with oil and grease.

The day's routine seemed just the same
for all was going well
when up on deck the skipper came
and started raising hell.

"Dam you" he yelled, "I have to quit"
as on the bridge he darted.
"Your engines stopped and I'll admit
I cannot get it started".

The engineer just turned around
and gave a hearty laugh
He said "Old boy, we've been aground
for over an hour and a half".

32th Annual Modellers Exhibition - Midhurst 2014

This year it was difficult to predict whether the regular Midhurst show was going to happen or not. Despite keeping in close contact with the organisers there was no certainty it would happen due to the new sports complex being built and the possibility of the old Grange Centre being demolished. It was in October / November when we knew for sure that it was to be held, so not long to organise the 'troops'.

As the weeks counted down towards the show and despite meeting up regularly at the pond it was difficult to get an idea of who exactly could attend – Chairman Jack of course wanted to go and fly the flag dependant on his leg not giving him problems and our stalwart, Joe Harwood, said he would be there along with Ron Rich.

Well Sunday morning of the 5th January arrived and the forecast was for it to be no change to the extremely bad weather we have been having throughout December and January. I got up at 06.00 hrs in time for my 07.00 hrs departure, having already loaded up the night before for the journey down to Midhurst. It was a surprisingly dry morning but biting cold with a very thick frost, so much so that I couldn't open the doors or the boot of the car as the previous night's rain had frozen on the car with a frost on top of it. I eventually got into the car, windscreen scraped, quickly started the car and demisted the screen before moving off the drive to a lay-by opposite so that I could defrost the front and rear screens properly without waking up my neighbours not to mention the wife ! It was an icy drive to Midhurst with plenty of standing water that had frozen and fallen trees by the wayside, blown over in the previous day's storms.

I arrived safely at about 07.45 hrs at The Grange, with boats intact, and found the car park was already quite full; the building of the new Grange Sports complex adjacent robbing us of plenty of car spaces. I quickly found out where the BMBC stand was going to be – it was our usual place, just as I had requested. I started to arrange our tables, put the display covers on them along with our BMBC signs and notices - this was done with the assistance of a member from the Phoenix Model Boat Club who was adjacent to our stand and was waiting for his colleagues to arrive (a friendly gesture from a fellow enthusiast). Soon, Ron Rich with our Chairman Jack in tow arrived, followed shortly by Joe Harwood with their boats.

The boats were placed on the tables – spread out temporarily whilst we waited for the other club members who said that they would like to attend, to arrive. Eventually new members Jim Dewar, Paul Mott and Ian Holliday arrived and helped to fill the vast space that was our stand ! . It wasn't long before we had everything ship shape and the boats displayed proudly on the tables. And what an impressive display it was too, if I say so myself. Jim had brought along some of his small scale boats as well as some very interesting solar powered boats that he had built. Ian Holliday brought along his lake steamer that he has almost completed – and what a thing of beauty a Higgins steam engine is.



The club stand finished !

The doors were opened to the public at 10.00 hours and they gradually began filtering in. Our hall was mostly boats, with a couple of small trade stands. Around us were the Portsmouth Model Boat Club, Portsmouth Model Boat Display Team, Phoenix Marine Model Club, Springbock Model Boat Club, Model Lifeboat Display Group, just to mention a few.

There were always sufficient members on our stand for each of us to go and have a look around the exhibition as there was plenty to see and a few things to purchase. There were many halls housing boats, model trains, aeroplanes and many other forms of model engineering not to mention the Mecanno modellers and what a show they gave with one guy bringing along his working 1/5 th. scale model of a Tornado GR1 fighter jet with an exploded view of its engine running in simulated mode – all made from Mecanno pieces. It had been a labour of love for him for many years.



The model is pictured in a squash court and note the size of the model against the full size table tennis table !



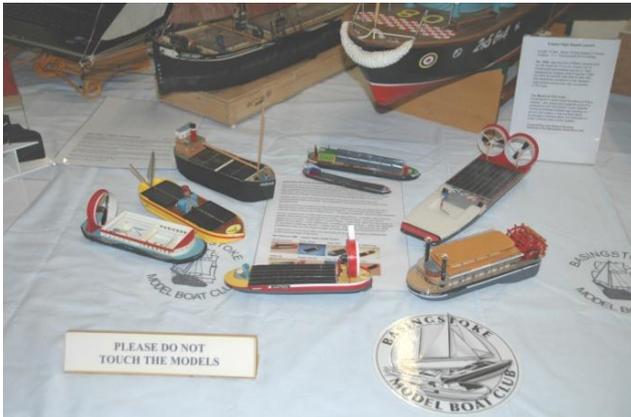
Some of Jim Dewar's small 'micro' boats that were well received by the general public and fellow modellers



Paul, Joe, Ian and Ron 'standing guard' at our display ready to answer questions from the public



Ian Holliday's impressive lake steamer drew quite a lot of admiring looks and questions.



Jim Dewar's solar powered micro boats that he had built over the years and he had run in competitions. There was certainly a lot of interest shown in them.

My thanks go to Chairman Jack, Ron Rich, Joe Harwood, Jim Dewar, Paul Mott and Ian Holliday for supporting me at this event. This type of event certainly puts the name of our Club to the fore and we had quite a few membership enquiries and requests for membership forms – let us see what happens.

News:

Annual Membership fees Due for year 2014/2015

In the last Newsletter I reminded all our members that the annual membership fees for the year 2014/2015 are due soon. The Club year runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year so please can I have your subscriptions in just after the 01 April 2014. Although we are just more than breaking even each year, costs have risen but we have decided that we should again hold the membership fee at £10 this year and £5 for juniors under the age of 16 years.

I am sure you will agree that this is excellent value as the membership has to cover the cost of Club insurance, 4 Club newsletters each year and Internet web hosting costs for our Club web site, etc.

We now have a membership 'on the books' of 44, of which all have paid their fees for this current year. There were about 10 other members on our old list who, despite numerous reminders, did not pay their fees so their names have been removed from the Club membership list. Fortunately we have attracted quite a few new members this past year so that has helped to bring our membership back to 44.

Please hand your 2014 / 2015 membership fee money over to either myself or our Chairman, Jack Sharp at the lake side by 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

Bereavement Notice

I am sure that many of our older members have heard of the sad news that one of our older members Alfred Stait had passed away on 30 December 2013. Alfred hadn't been down to the pond for some time due to him having difficulty in walking. Charlie Redford knew him well and said that he was a perfect gentleman. Although Alfred had few if any remaining relatives I would like to offer, on behalf of the Club, our condolences at this sad time to his friends. Charlie Redford and Alan Wells attended Alfred's funeral both as friends and representatives of the Club.

Forthcoming Shows

Old Basing 2014

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 21st of June and I have provisionally agreed with them that the Club will attend – so volunteers please ? I have yet to get final confirmation of this.

Midhurst 2015

Following sending my congratulations to the organisers of the Midhurst Model Engineering Show for this year's event I have had further information from them regarding next year. Many of us who attend this event enjoy this show, meeting up with fellow boat clubs/members and looking at all the other interesting engineering hobbies that are in attendance. We have been advised that the annual Midhurst show is alive and kicking and will be held again on 15 February 2015 in the new centre. 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.

Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society Rally, Viables April 2014

A show that is usually well supported by our members and it is local too. As yet we do not have any information on this show and I will update as soon as I can.

Summers Pond Model Engineering Show 2014

I have previously explained via the Newsletter that the Club was invited last June to attend a new model show at Summers Pond near Horsham but due to the short notice of this event we had to decline. Apparently it was a great success and the organisers have asked us again if we are interested in attending this year. It is a weekend event with no charge to the Club and free camping/caravanning, if required. It will take place on Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June 2014 and if we were to go ahead we must commit ourselves to a manned Club stand for the weekend so if anyone is interested in organising it please let me know ASAP.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

We have very good links with the Council who own our pond and have had great communication with them through their Community Development Officer for Green Spaces – Katy Hooper. Katy has met with us and visited us at the pond and asked us to attend various ceremonies such as the Green Flag award. She has kept in touch regularly and listened to our needs - she has sent me the following message.

Dear Alan,

I am sorry to say that I am moving on from Basingstoke and Deane Council to work for The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. My last day will be Friday 7th of March.

There will be no change to the support that you and the other groups receive from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. A job advertisement is due to go out very shortly for my replacement and in the interim June Balcombe will be able to help.

The Basingstoke Model Boating Club have given so much to Eastrop Park. You and the other committee members have done a fantastic job at keeping the group going so that others can enjoy the beautiful boats in the park and opportunity to sail them or just watch them. You should be very proud of the work that you have put into the group and all that you have achieved.

I wish you all the best for the future and please pass my best regards onto the other members of the group.

Very best wishes

Katy Hooper

Community Development Officer - Green Spaces

*Community Development, Community Services
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council*

The new job for Katy is great news for her but it is a loss for us and the Council as she really got involved in her dealings with us and other groups who use the Basingstoke and Deane green spaces. We will certainly miss her and trust that her successor, when appointed, works as hard to foster good relations with us and other users of Eastrop and other parks. On behalf of the Club I have sent our thanks and best wishes to her and hope that she will find satisfaction and success in her new job with the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust.

Alan's mutterings

This is the fourth and last newsletter for the current Club year. It wasn't my intention to do this job along with the post of Secretary and Treasurer but in fact I quite enjoy it and as long as I can find something interesting to write about and do not bore you with my ramblings I will continue. However I would still like to receive articles from any of you out there. You don't have to be an expert or a wordsmith – just give me anything and I will try to knock it into shape. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience out there within the Club – how about some naval memories Keith – our odd chats at the pond of your service days hold my interest so you don't need to write them down just have a sit down and chat with me and I will take some notes.

Charlie Redford has made a start with his 'article' so how about some more of you ?

Gordon, Gill and little Rosie are still coming down to the pond for a walk during the winter months when it is dry but it is a little too cold for Gordon to sit around and sail during the winter months – roll on the spring and summer and we will see him more

Our Chairman Jack has not been so active of late as he has had problems with his leg. He is presently walking with the aid of a walking stick and is finding it difficult getting to the pond, especially when it is cold. Jack did get to Midhurst though (he told me there was no way he was going to miss this event) with the aid of Ron Rich who kindly collected him with his boats and returned him home at the end of the day – thanks Ron.

We have certainly had some really horrible weather of late – it was a wet winter and spring in 2013 and then the heat wave came, well at least for a while then we have been plunged into this unbelievable wet weather since, which has gone on so long. We have had extremely strong and violent winds of late and this has been challenging at times for our yachting enthusiasts down at the pond, at times it has been so strong that it wasn't advisable to sail scale models, yet the 'yachties' have been seeing their boats shooting across the pond with them laid on their beam ends (the yachts I mean – not the members !) but none have suffered loss or major damage – quite exhilarating at times !! Eastrop Park has been flooded the likes of which have never been seen before yet despite the weather our sailing goes on – a truly hardy bunch are we.

Our 'webmaster' Andy has a new yacht to play with – he has purchased a Pro Boat Ragazza 1 Metre yacht based on the One Metre Class. It comes complete with Spektrum 2.4 GHz Radio Control System and is almost ready to run with minimal build requirements. We have seen it sailing down at the pond in light to medium winds and it certainly sails very well – you cannot miss it because it has a very bright red hull with complimenting sails. I had a good look at it down at the pond and the build quality is very good and the RC components excellent. He purchased it from Howes Models and it was the last one of the batch they had in February – I have had a look on the internet and they are still around from a few model outlets – I think that they will be very popular.

Keith Dolton is currently building a Caldercraft North Light – Clyde Puffer, a representative model of a typical small coaster from the western isles of Scotland. It has over 200 white metal parts which Keith tells me need a lot of fettling to get them looking good and he hopes to have it completed by early summer. I am sure that he will make an excellent job of it as usual and we look forward to seeing it. This brings me to my new toy – I have bought the Caldercraft Mini Fleet kit of the PLA Tug 'Westbourne'. Now my chat with Keith has got me thinking as mine has over 300 white metal parts, so I hope mine doesn't present me with as much work as Keith's has ! My model is for me to do during the next winter period, or so I told my wife but I keep looking at the plans and parts and can't wait to get going on it really. As usual I have been investigating, via the internet, whether my tug 'Westbourne' has any history and it certainly has – more in the next Newsletter (bet you can't wait !!)

It is nearly time for me to sign off and in closing and as it is the end of the financial year of the Club, I thought you all should be made aware of our financial position and how we spend your money. At the end of the Newsletter is a simplified version of the Club Account for this year. I hope to be able to present it properly to the members in April if we can find a venue. I trust it meets with your approval. You will see that I have added in the Club Public Indemnity insurance for 2014/2015. I have, via a new insurance broker, negotiated a much reduced premium than we pay presently for a better level of cover by having used the same insurers as that used by the Solent Radio Model Boat Club (thanks to them for their help).

Quite a few of our members are either not sure or unaware of the insurance cover the Club has in respect to our model boating activity. To make it clear to everyone the insurance we hold, and this is the same for all other model boat clubs and other clubs and organisations, is what is termed **Public Liability**. Below is an extract of what is / isn't covered :-

Limit of Indemnity £5,000,000 any one cause (This was £2 million under our previous policy and most events and councils now require £5 million)

Covers our legal liability for accidental bodily injury to any person and for accidental loss of or accidental damage to material and property happening in connection with any Society activity.

Legal costs and expenses incurred with the Insurer's consent are also covered.

Individual Society members (in their capacity as such) can also be indemnified under this Section.

Territorial Limits

This applies anywhere in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

Main Exclusions

Any property belonging to you or in your custody or control

Personal property of Society members and employees

Liability arising from the use of motor vehicles

Any liability which attaches by virtue of an agreement but which would not have attached in the absence of such agreement

Liability which arises for the ownership of the buildings

Liability caused by products other than food and drink

Liability arising out of asbestos or its derivatives

Terrorism, war and kindred risks

Liability arising from or caused by any event occurring on the premises other than

i) events restricted to members of the Society and their guests

ii) any other event notified to the Company and noted by endorsement

any event occurring away from the premises other than

i) events of a non-sporting activity nature involving only Society member and where public participation is limited

ii) any other event notified to the Company and noted by endorsement

Employers Liability

Limit of Liability £10,000,000 and one cause (£5,000,000 if arising out of terrorism)

Covers your legal liability for injury to employees and legal costs and expenses incurred with the Insurer's consent, all in connection with their employment by the Society. (This covers the Officers of the Club instructing members to do certain things at the pond or exhibitions)

Territorial Limits

Anywhere in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

Insurance as you all know is always written in legal terms but I will try to explain what we are covered for in more simplistic terms in my hypothetical example that follows:-

Our normal activity of sailing model boats at the pond or other ponds is covered in respect to any member causing damage to either the pond and its surroundings and to members and members of the public. An example could be given such; if a member of public tripped over our equipment at the pond side, fell and broke their leg, rolled into the pond and died of a heart attack or hypothermia then we would be covered subject of course to us not being reckless in what we are doing – a claim against the Club by the deceased would be dealt with by our insurance.

Similarly if one of our members contaminated the pond or surroundings by dropping their mouldy sandwiches, causing death and destruction to the local wildlife and fauna, then we are covered.

What we are not covered for is damage to our own property or other members property, i.e. if anyone crashes into another boat and sinks it or destroys it then it is down to you chaps – you will just have to fight it out between yourselves by the time honoured sport of fisticuffs.

I hope that this has made the insurance a bit clearer but if there are any questions please ask me.

BMBC Year End
Accounts 2013-2014

Item	Income	Cash/Cheque	Expenditure	Cash/Cheque	Date
Balance carried Fwd (Petty Cash)	£117.24	Cash			
Monies at Bank at Handover	£148.38				
44 No. Membership fees	£445.00	Cash			01.03.14
Newsletter Printing Cost		Cash	£22.50		24.05.13
48 2nd Class Stamps @50p		Cash	£24.00		24.05.13
Web Host Transfer Fee (Nominet)		Cheque	£12.00		26.07.13
Website Fee (One Com)		Cheque	£20.16		22.07.13
Newsletter Printing Cost		Cash	£21.60		23.08.13
48 2nd Class Stamps @50p		Cash	£24.00		23.08.13
Newsletter Printing Cost		Cash	£22.56		29.11.13
48 2nd Class Stamps @50p (Alan Spooner)		Cheque	£24.00		29.11.13
Newsletter Printing Cost		Cheque	£25.00		11.03.14
48 2nd Class Stamps @50p (Alan Spooner)		Cheque	£24.00		10.03.14
2014 Insurance premium		Cheque	£61.65		10.03.14
					Paid in March 2014
Totals	£710.62		£281.47		Overall balance
Less Cheques to be presented	-£110.65				
Current Monies at Bank December 2013	£537.22				
Petty Cash November 2013	£2.58				
Total	£429.15				

11/03/2014

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BMBC Accounts 2013 - 2014 End Year Account.xlsx

However, I must close now and just to let you know that there are **4292** words of wisdom plus many pictures in this newsletter which is certain proof that you are now getting even more and more for your money !! **Ta,Ta, for now.**

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