



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

Chairman

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March / April 2015

Well, April is just coming around and it is time again for your BMBC Newsletter and it doesn't seem so long ago since it was Christmas. This edition marks the end of the 2014 /2015 year and we start a new year in the Club from April this year.

Again 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'.

This year has, from a membership point of view, been very successful and we now have a membership that stands at 52.

Bereavement Notices

Mrs Pam Clark

Many of our members know our Andy Clark, our website editor and fellow sailor, and some were aware that Andy's wife had been very ill for the past couple of years. It is with regret that I inform you all, Andy's wife Pam passed away on Friday 20th February at home with Andy and his family. On hearing the news I spoke to Andy to tell him personally how sorry I was to hear the sad news and also that on behalf of the Club we send our sincere condolences to him and his family.

The funeral service for Pam was held at Basingstoke Crematorium on Thursday 05 March. As a mark of respect I sent a card and a floral tribute on behalf of all the members of the Club. Joe Harwood attended Pam's funeral service to personally pay his respects and that of the Club members.

Andy has asked that I insert the following message from him :-

"Many thanks for the kindness and support that the BMBC has given to me and my family over the past 2 years whilst my wife Pam, battled bowel cancer. I found our twice weekly meetings the ideal respite care as it gave me the opportunity to "chill out". Pam often asked as to how many "boys with their toys" were present on club days, especially if it had been inclement weather!

The flowers and condolence card sent by the club were an example of how unexpectedly kind and thoughtful people can be.

Once again thank you one and all and see you lakeside.

Regards

Andy"

p.s. Joe did a sterling job representing the club at her funeral

Geoff Crane

I am not sure if many of our members have heard of the sad news that one of our members, Geoff Crane, had passed away in December. For those of you who are wondering who he was, Geoff was a member who joined us about 3 years ago and I am sure you will 'remember' him as he used to go down to the pond on his red mobility scooter and always had the willing help of fellow members in launching his boats or sorting them out when they wouldn't work. He hadn't been down to the pond for some time due to breathing problems which was due to his emphysema and of course him feeling the cold. Our memories of Geoff would be seeing him trundling along the edge of the pond on his scooter with his model boats critically balanced across his legs or under his feet. I would like to offer, on behalf of the Club, our belated condolences at this sad time to his family and friends. One of our members, Robin Locke, attended Geoff's funeral.

Mrs Barnes

Although not a member, many of you will know Fred Barnes, a fellow modeller who sails his model tugs and other boats at Eastrop. During the warmer or summer months Fred used to bring his wife down to the pond in her wheelchair whilst he sailed his boats and talked to our members, many of whom had known him for years.

I spoke to Fred on Sunday 25 January and he told me that his wife had just passed away after a long spell in hospital. Quite a few of us will have known his wife as Keith used to bring her down to the pond in her wheelchair when the weather was warmer. She had been unwell and disabled for many years and I amongst other members would often have a quick chat with her at the pond side.

I spoke to Keith and told him that I was sorry to hear of her passing and that both I and the Club send their condolences.

Since Christmas we heard the news that one of our older members, Pete King, was taken unwell and was shipped off to hospital with lung and heart problems. Pete had a bit of a time at the A&E Department of the hospital and despite the seriousness of his complaint he was eventually admitted and later sent home after treatment because they needed the bed or was that the trolley !. I spoke to Pete on his return home and he sounded as fit as a fiddle after his 'heart attack' and is now on the mend. I didn't think we would see him again on his old electric chariot and trailer until our weather warmed up a bit but you can't keep a good man down and Pete has recently visited us down at the pond and he even made a welcomed visit to the Midhurst Model Engineering show where he sat and chatted to us on our stand. Take care of yourself Pete and keep well – we look forward to seeing you down the pond as soon as this weather warms up a bit more.

Articles for the Newsletter

It is very strange that in the March Newsletter 2014 I told you that I had been looking for contributions to the Newsletter and said how Charlie Redford had come to the rescue with a little ditty and again the same month but one year on he has come to my aid again with the following potted history of his time in our Club.

The Testament according to Chas Redford

I was a keen canoeist but 33 years ago I broke my back so, as I made model boats, I decided to join the local model boat club.

Off I go one Sunday afternoon and met Alan Wells and Roger. They said "There are only two of us left in the Club and we are going to close it down". Don't do that" says I, "there's three of us now". Now look at us !

There have been lots of good old mates over the years, too many to mention but a few really stand out in my memory. Ken Gigney was one of them, an ex Aldermarston engineer along with Bob Daulber, another fellow Aldermaston

engineer. They were very good to me and taught me how to use my lathe, etc. Under their guidance I made 3 engines and several boilers. Bob Daulber made very fast steam launches. He was a veritable Heath Robinson but everything worked. I still have one of his boats but have lowered the steam pressure from 110 psi to 80 psi.

Harry Rolf, whose hands were eaten up with rheumatism, was another member and friend. He made a fire float boat and put several firemen on board complete with hoses as well as hydrants – when operating it looked like an upturned shower head.

Another member, Jim Chapman, had a diesel speed boat and while sailing it his attention was distracted and it went to the left hand corner of the pond, went up the ramps and across the path. There was Don Brown whose hands were very twitchy. He made exquisite Victorian warships where the guardrails were as thin as hair – Lord knows how he managed it.

That was just a few of the early members but there are a lot of nice fellows now of course !

For quite a number of years I was Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer of the BMBC as no-one would do it and then Bryan Hill came along with his computer and said “I can do it better on my machine”. I had used a school exercise book for my duties and at that time we had 52 members.

Over the years I have made nearly 40 model boats and to this day still have 23 of them. Nearly all are scratch built and after all that work one doesn't want to get rid of them but the problem is where to keep them.

Chas Redford

“Thanks for this Chas – keep ‘em coming” !

Forthcoming Shows / Events

Sumners Pond Model Engineering Show 2015

I have previously explained via the Newsletter that the Club was invited last June to attend a new model show at Sumners 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 20th and Sunday 21st June 2015 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 & District Model Engineering Society Rally, Viables April 2014

We have again received an invitation and request that the BMBC attend and bring their boats along to the Basingstoke and District Model Engineering Society's Steam Rally on the 11th and 12th April 2015 at Viables, Basingstoke. This year they will be having two marquees so that we, along with other modellers, will be in one marquee and Axminster Tools will be in another. So far Chas Redford, Joe Harwood and Jack Sharp have said they will attend on behalf of the Club. I and others will, I am sure also attend.

Basingstoke and District Model Engineering Society



Miniature Steam Rally

Traction Engine & Train Rides, Tombola,
Garden Railway & Leading Engineering
Suppliers

11th-12th April 2015

10am - 4.30pm at Viables Craft Centre
The Harrow Way Basingstoke RG22 4BJ

**Entrance FREE - donations appreciated
Souvenir**

Programme £1

Web site: www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk

Organiser: Jon Evans 01256 471233

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bdmes

Contact:
bdmes@hotmail.co.uk

Car Parking in Jays Close by the rally
field

Show / Event Report

33rd Annual Modellers Exhibition - Midhurst 2015

This year I had early indication from the organisers that the Midhurst show was going to happen and it was to be held in the new Grange Centre complex. As usual 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 and support our display. Chairman Jack of course wanted to attend and fly the flag along with myself, Joe Harwood, Chas Redford and Ron Rich. Our newer members were not to be left out with Mike Hoare and Graeme Daborn eager to attend and display their boats. Dave Paget and Reg Rees also came along and helped man the stand and we had visits from other members.

Well Sunday morning of the 15th February arrived and the weather was fine and dry. I arrived safely at about 07.30 hours at The Grange, with boats intact, having already loaded up the night before only to find I had been beaten to arriving early by Mike and Graeme (I think they couldn't sleep for the excitement of attending !). When I arrived I found the car park was just as promised by the organisers, in excess of 300 spaces and already filling up fast. The new Grange Sports complex building looked impressive and I quickly found out where the BMBC stand was going to be – it was very much like our usual hall and layout of club stands had been kept the same. With the help of fellow members I started to organise our tables, put the display covers on them along with our BMBC signs and notices.

Boats were placed on the tables – spread out temporarily whilst we waited for our members to unload their boats from their cars and eventually we filled 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.



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 although there was not as many trade stands as previous years. There were many halls housing boats, model trains, other forms of model engineering not to mention the Mecanno.



Chairman Jack, myself and Reg Rees holding court at the show.



Joe Harwood and Chas Redford having a break or taking a nap after a busy spell.



The Club stand looking good and waiting for the doors to open to the public.



The Warship Squadron Model Club's impressive stand..

My thanks go to Chairman Jack, Ron Rich, Joe Harwood, Chas Redford, Mike Hoare, Graeme Daborn, Dave Paget and Reg Rees for supporting us and representing the Club at this event. This type of event certainly puts the name of our Club to the fore and we had the usual membership enquiries and information requests from visitors – and that is what it is all about.

For me the new building venue was a success, maybe not quite as large as the previous building but all the facilities were there. There were very good facilities in the way of toilets, refreshments and ease of access within the building including a lift which was good for those with disability / mobility problems. The organisation was great and they welcomed all the clubs attending. I wrote and thanked them on my return home to which they thanked us for our support and informed me that they have booked us in already for 2016 !

News:

Annual Membership fees Due for year 2015 / 2016

Throughout the year I have reminded all our members that the Club year runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year and I now have to inform you that the annual membership fees for the 2015 / 2016 year are due, so please can I have your membership subscriptions in just after the 01 April 2015. Although we are breaking even each year, costs have risen but we are still in the black and we have therefore 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.

As a matter of interest this past year I received 70% of the Club members' fees by May 2014 which was very pleasing and I thank you all for that.

You may notice that some of our newer members have a blue coloured membership card. Our old yellow membership cards are now in their final year and I had used up all my stock of these cards so had to have new cards printed for some of our new members. After this coming year all members will be issued with new blue cards

which will then take us right through to 2020. If any member has a card that has become tatty or has lost one and needs a new card now please contact me.

Please hand your 2015 / 2016 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

Alan's mutterings

This is the fourth and last newsletter for the current Club year. You will see in this edition that I have not provided an article this time around – Chas has provided me with something and other new members have this year stepped up to the plate so rather than boring you with my ramblings I hope 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.

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 free venue. I trust it meets with your approval.

A few facts from the accounts for the financial year 2014 / 2015 :-

1. Membership fees collected £515.00
2. Postage costs for the year £117.68
3. Club and members PI Insurance has been renewed for the same level of cover at the cost of £61.65 which is no increase over last year's premium.
4. After all payments have been made we have an approximate surplus of £120 over expenditure.
5. We will carry forward a sum of £541.70 to next year's account.

Below is a copy of the simplified version of the accounts for the year 2014 /2015

BMBC Year End
Accounts 2014-2015

Item	Income	Cash/Cheque	Expenditure	Cash/Cheque	Date	
Balance carried Fwd (Petty Cash)	£2.58	Cash				
Monies at Bank at April 2014	£421.57					
52 No. Membership fees	£515.00	Cash/Cheque			01.03.15	
Website Fee (One Com)			£23.76	Cheque	23.07.14	
Newsletter Printing Cost			£24.00	Cheque	01.06.14	May Newsletter
48 2nd Class Stamps @53p (Alan Spooner)			£25.44	Cheque	01.06.14	May Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			£2.91	Cheque	01.06.14	May Newsletter
60 2nd Class Stamps @53p (Alan Spooner)			£31.80	Cheque	19.08.14	September Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost			£28.80	Cheque	19.08.14	September Newsletter
100 Membership Cards			£18.00	Cheque	20.08.14	
48 2nd Class Stamps @53p (Alan Spooner)			£25.44	Cheque	05.12.14	December Newsletter
5 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			£5.00	Cheque	05.12.14	December Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost			£30.00	Cheque	05.12.14	December Newsletter
Printing Membership Forms and Adverts			£8.40	Cheque	12.02.15	
Flowers for Mrs Clark			£52.95	Cheque	26.02.15	
60 2nd Class Stamps @54p (Alan Spooner)			£31.80	Cheque	25.03.15	March / April Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost			£27.50	Cheque	25.03.15	March / April Newsletter
PI Insurance			£61.65	Cheque	05.03.15	Paid in March 2015
Totals	£939.15		£397.45			Overall balance
						£541.70
Less Cheques to be presented	-£120.95					
Current Monies at Bank March 2015	£660.07					
Petty Cash November 2013	£2.58					
Total	£541.70					

25/03/2015

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BMBC Accounts 2014 - 2015 End Year Account.xlsx

The following is not an afterthought but I have left this news until last because of the changing situation with our dear friend and member Gordon Philpott.

Many of you know that Gordon had another fall at home where he suffered a bad head and leg injury. Despite her best efforts Gill had to get an ambulance to get Gordon up and he was taken off to hospital where he has been now for about 6 weeks. Gordon's hadn't improved and at times he has worsened after medication that was given to him reacted unfavourably with him. A couple of our members have visited him in Basingstoke hospital and have at times found him a little confused. Gill has recently updated me on his condition and she has now had delivered to their home a special bed and is waiting for 'carer assistance/provision and once in place, Gordon would be allowed home. Gill feels it would aid his recovery if he was in his own surroundings and she wouldn't need to make the frequent journeys to hospital to be at his side. On behalf of all the members I sent a card to Gordon wishing him well and a return to better health and welcome him home as and when.

I trust that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter, albeit that much of it contained some sad news. However, I must close now and just to let you know that there are only **3550** words of wisdom this time around plus many pictures in this newsletter – what is happening, my crown is slipping ! **Ta,Ta, for now.**

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