



Voting was undertaken at the pond side by Club members present using a show of hands and I am pleased to inform you that Mr Andy Clark was duly elected as the new Chairman of the Basingstoke Model Boat Club.

The following are the minutes of the meeting (not verbatim but a summary of what was said) held on Sunday 17 May 2015.

### **Notes of an EGM Meeting 17 May 2015**

#### **Held at Eastrop Park Pond Side**

#### **Present:**

Mr Jack Sharp – Outgoing Chairman

Mr Alan Spooner – Secretary / Treasurer

22 Members present at the meeting at Eastrop Park, Basingstoke

**Agenda:** To elect new Chairman for Basingstoke Model Boat Club and General Discussion

#### **Minutes:**

1. Mr Spooner (Secretary/Treasurer) said that he had received two nominations for the position of Chairman as follows:- Mr Andy Clark and Mr Ron Rich.
2. A vote was taken for the position of Chairman and votes cast were as follows:- Mr Andy Clark - 19 votes, Mr Ron Rich – 3 votes. Mr A Clark was therefore duly elected as the new Chairman.
3. Mr Spooner thanked Mr Sharp for his hard work over the 15 years of Chairmanship for the Club and gave him the member's best wishes and hoped to see him continuing to take an active part in the Club at future meets.
4. The new Chairman, Mr A Clark thanked the outgoing Chairman for his services to the Club.
5. A question was raised by members requesting that an AGM be held at the end of each year. Much discussion ensued with the general consensus that the Club was informal and there was little or no need for such a meeting. Members stated that meetings held in the past had such low attendance that it wasted both time and money. The Secretary/Treasurer said that the accounts were always available for inspection by any member at any time and that he always included a simplified year end account in the March / April Newsletter.
6. A question was raised by a member as to whether completion racing could be held at Club meets. Following discussion it was evident that the majority of members preferred the normal 'sail and chat' format and that competitions can lead to friction within the membership. One of our newer members stated that "the strength of our Club is in its informality". It was agreed that our sailing should stay as it is but should any member wish

to lay out a course for some informal racing between like minded members then that would be acceptable.

7. The Secretary/ Treasurer explained that they have good lines of communication with the Council officers and that the Club had been asked if we would participate in a 'Love Parks' event at the pond. This is a national event which is to encourage the local population to use the parks. It was explained that we, as a Club, are lucky in having full access to this boating pond and at no cost and maintaining involvement with the Council keeps us in a better light. The idea would be to have a Club stand, some boats on the water that could, with the aid of members, be sailed by the junior members of the public and possibly a paper boat making and sailing 'instruction class'. The proposed dates are either Sunday 26 July or Sunday 02 August. A meeting with the new Green Spaces Officer is to be held next week where matters will be discussed regarding parking for the event, stands/display, etc. The members were in general agreement to go forward with this suggestion.

**There being no other business, the Secretary / Treasurer thanked all the members for attending and the meeting closed.**

**And here we have a message from our new Chairman - Andy Clark**

*Dear BMBC members, a heartfelt thanks for allowing me to become the next chairman of our Club. I have been a member of BMBC since 2008, and enjoy the friendship of the club. It is a very sociable organisation and provides all of us the opportunity to meet and get to know people that without the common bond of model boats we would never met. I feel that the ethos of the club is best summed up as " a social gathering with model boats on the side" and long may that continue.*

*Looking forward to seeing you lakeside.*

*best regards*

*Andy*

### **Membership News:**

As you know we started a new year in the Club from April this year and it has been another good time for new members joining our Club. To date we have had 3 new members that, following receipt of their membership application, have joined our Club and I have sent a letter of thanks to them for joining us and giving them a warm welcome. The welcome to our

Club is hopefully more than matched by our existing members' friendliness at the pond side at regular Wednesday and Sunday meets.

So, in this Newsletter we must formally welcome Ken Green, John Moody and Dave Peates to our midst and we hope to see them in regular attendance at the pond.

It is difficult at this exact time to say how many members may not renew their subscriptions for the coming year but I have heard from one of our newer members, Ken Stevens. Ken wrote to inform me that he would not be renewing his membership and I thought it best to insert his letter in full as follows :-

**Hi Alan**

***Just a courtesy note to explain why I won't be renewing membership this year.***

***Alas, I have to undergo extended treatments related to prostate cancer and so model boating is suspended indefinitely, along with other sorts of out & abouts. It had already been anticipated that we will be downsizing to another area next year and so Eastrop will then no longer be an accessible location anyway. (Herne Bay looks a handy possible place!)***

***I much enjoyed my few forays afloat last summer, albeit curtailed by weather, Thames bridge closures (I'm north of the river) and other commitments but have been impressed by the informality and friendly demeanour of the club and its members, along with the superb location. I wish you and the other members continued happy enjoyment of Eastrop Park pond.***

**Regards**

**Ken**

You may remember that Ken was one of our first new members to provide me with an article for the Club Newsletter back in September last year on the subject of '**Musings of a New Member**' for which I thanked him at that time.

I have replied to Ken thanking him for joining our Club and to give him all our best wishes in the treatment he is having to undertake and for his future move to another part of the country.

## **Annual Membership fees Due for year 2015/2016**

In the last Newsletter I reminded all our members that the annual membership fees for the year 2015/2016 were due and what a fantastic response I have had from many of you. To date I have received about 44 membership subscriptions which is great and a welcome improvement on previous years. **If you do not wish to renew your membership please let me know immediately by phone, email or letter and I will remove you from our list - this will be your final Newsletter.**

To remind those who haven't yet paid, the Club year runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year so please can I have your subscriptions in as soon as possible. We have held the membership fee at £10 this year and £5 for juniors under the age of 16 years and 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.

Our membership 'on the books' has now risen to 53 which is great so, for those members whose subscriptions for the 2015 / 2016 year are still outstanding please hand your membership fee money over to either myself or our Chairman, Andy Clark 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](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

### **General News:**

### **Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society Rally, Viables - April 2015**

This year I was notified early on by the Basingstoke Model Engineering Society of our invitation to join them again on the 11 and 12 April at the Viables centre for their Miniature Steam Rally.

The Club attended this 2-day exhibition and like last year we were housed in a marquee but this time it was for our sole use. This year the weather was kind to us and the sun shone and there was record attendance at the event.

Many thanks must go to all members that helped support our Club stand. Robin Lock 'dressed' the tables on the Friday evening before the event and Charlie Redford, Joe Harwood, Mike Tomlin and Andy Clark manned the Club stand on the Saturday. Sunday with the weather fine but breezy our stand was manned by our myself, Charlie Redford, Mike Tomlin, Jack Sharp and Robin Lock.

We had a good display of boats on the tables and many visitors came to look at the boats and talk to us. It was a good event and one that the organisers like us to attend and we too like to be there as it puts the name of our Club to the fore in Basingstoke and beyond.



**A few of the members at the Viables Show**

## **Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council**

It was only a year ago since I was informed by the Council that Katie Hooper, the previous incumbent for the role of “Community Development Officer – Green Spaces” had been replaced by Sarah Moore and just recently I received a communication from them telling me that Sarah had left and that her replacement was to be a Zoe Channon.

Zoe met me along with some of our members at Eastrop pond on April 22nd to discuss our Club and to find out how she can help us. She was very interested in our boats and had not seen anything like them before. We discussed access to the pond for our members and parking facilities which are a bit of a problem at times for the Wednesday sailors.

Many other things were discussed, e.g. BMBC Leaflet printing and updating with fresh posters on BD Council’s new notice boards - the old ones were a little faded. She also undertook to ensure that our details on the Council website were updated.

Zoe said that our Club is now linked to Natural Basingstoke and that she wanted to stay in regular contact and get out to see us once every month or two. She said that we are free to contact her about anything necessary. She also said that she would be looking in to getting a Friends Group set up in the park, however this would be a long term objective and will use various events to advertise and gauge interest.

On the subject of events, Zoe asked if we could get involved in “Love Parks Week”, a national event. We have agreed to support this activity on Wednesday 29 July where we intend to have a Club stand displaying our boats, a table to make paper boats on (the council will print the boats for us and supply the glue) with the children and parents and a gazebo to keep us dry if the weather is inclement. We still have to work out the parking arrangements but the car park will not be closed off so we will need to get to the park early, i.e. 10.00 hours to establish ourselves.

Another event in the park is the annual summer Play Day – which is to be held as usual on a Wednesday 5 August which makes it difficult for us. If we can sort out some parking with the Council we may participate in this event too.

We continue to work with Basingstoke and Deane Council and we have after all, this fantastic facility of a model boat pond to be proud of for both our and the public’s use and we must ensure we continue to have the Council on our side. We have always had praise from the Council for our hobby so let us keep it that way.

### **News of our Members**

Many of you will be aware that our **Gordon Philpott** finally came home from hospital. He has had to have a few modifications carried out at home to enable him to be able to live more comfortably at home and both Gill and Gordon feel that his recovery will be much better in his own surrounding rather than that of a hospital ward. Best wishes to you Gordon and we hope to see you down the pond when you feel able.

Our **Peter King** has been in hospital recently and had an ‘electronic device’ inserted in his chest to help stabilise his heart. So no pointing your transmitters at him down the pond or you might find him doing strange things – but hold on, he already does that, so no change there then ! Best wishes Pete and hope you go from strength to strength.

Our **Keith Dalton** has been in hospital too. Following extensive testing he has been given a clean bill of health except for old age and mumbling to himself, etc. and following a re-bore. he is now fighting fit and ready to pee with the best of them ! By the way have you seen Keith's new 'Lackawanna' – no it is not an euphemism for his 'reconditioned bits'. It is his new American tug. It was constructed by Keith from a Dumas kit and is a replica of a coal burning steam tug built in the 1900's that hauled coal barges along the New England coast line. It is a sleek looking tug and Keith has made an excellent job of its build, despite making his swear box nearly full to the top whilst building it.

I am fortunate to have some members now helping to contribute to our Club Newsletter. Reg Rees has provided a follow-on article to one Reg submitted in an earlier edition.

### **Reg Ree's boats**

A couple of months or so ago while my car was at the garage for a minor job it was smashed into, necessitating major repair work taking nearly 5 weeks. However I now have my pride and joy back as good as new, which has cheered me up enough to sit down and write a few words about my latest model which is a modified Crash Tender. I originally intended to write about the Crash Tender in time for the previous edition of the newsletter because by the time you read this, some of you will have already seen the model at the pond, so the timing of this is not very good but I got side tracked with the car episode. Even so I thought it still worthwhile, without wishing to inflict my new found happiness on unsuspecting club members, to share the model details:-

I originally bought the kit (46" Crash Tender) from Vintage Model Works from their initial production run of the kit while I was still at work. I have always liked the look of the Crash Tender ever since my Clapham Common days so I snapped it up. At the same time I also bought a couple of suitable brushless motors and appropriate ESC's together with a stainless steel prop shaft and tube. And there it all sat in the garage until I finally got round to starting the build which was about 18 months or so ago, but what with illness and one thing or another it's taken me all this time to complete it. This is not like my younger days when I could knock a model boat out in about 6 -8 weeks. I suppose, as with most other things in life, the older I get the slower I seem to become. As senior management at home keeps pointing out, at this rate in a couple of years I'll be at full stop !

As with most of my working model boats I have kept any model detail to a minimum. I know this can make my models sometimes look slightly under finished, but bitter experience on numerous occasions has proven to me that when I put detail on a working model, especially detail that's not firmly nailed down, then I always tend to knock it off, either during transportation or when launching or recovering the model.

With this model as with a couple of previous models, I have converted it into something different than originally intended. I have had purists in the past tell me that it's not the thing to do, but in my eyes making model boats is my longest standing hobby, and sometimes I like to break away from convention and put the effort into the build quality, I suppose I have always been a bit like that. When on my travels I will sometime see full size ex-navel craft converted to pleasure craft, you can sometimes see this on the Thames, so with this model I have tried to do the same, and convert the Crash Tender into my interpretation of a luxury motor launch type model.

The model itself as most of you will be aware, has ply skins which unlike planking can often flex. To reduce flexing I have put doublers at every few inches across the inside bottom and

sides skins at right angles to the keel to help strengthen the skins. This has worked really well ensuring minimum flexing. The central part of every Bulkhead has been removed to both save weight and to allow better internal access, and I have put a 'trap door' on a forward bulkhead to again allow better access to the front area. I have made the cabin Bulkhead that goes across the engine compartment removable to allow unrestricted access to the motor and batteries, because lack of good access can often be a pain and can be a problem even in a larger model like this.

Most of the wood that came with the kit was replaced, e.g. Cabin sides, Bulkheads, etc. some pieces were resized.

I have made everything on the model to be as removable as I can. The rear raised deck is held in place by brass rods to allow easy removal should I need to get access, the rear lower floor is made in two parts as apposed one part re: the kit so that I do not keep disturbing the ladders when the floor is removed. The forward part is held in place by a couple of screws, so just the rear part lifts out which is ample. The ladders are held in place by Brass rod as are the battery trays. This means that all the parts that need to be removable at the pond side can easily be, while all the other parts are held sufficiently permanent for day to day use but can easily be removed if need be.

The deck is planked in 3 x 7mm Lime wood with Walnut caulking, all fittings are in Brass. The middle and raised rear decks are edged in Brass, as is the forward part of the rear floor and around the rear floor trapdoor..... all removable of course.

I've fitted a Brass bow protector as sometimes seen on full size luxury motor boats; this took an age to make. It's not a perfect fit by any means but looks good enough to me when on the water.

The hull was given around 12 coats of gloss paint applied by brush with the paint rubbed down between each coat. The deck was given around 8 coats of satin varnish, again applied by brush but thinned down sufficiently to give a more matt appearance.

As with all my model boats, the model is named after the boss at home, although to my amazement there is still no apparent appreciation of this great accolade. I think it was Robin Locke who suggested that I should name my next model after another female, in that way I'm sure to get a response. Hmmm I will think about that very carefully as I'm not sure the response will be very positive !

When the model undertook its maiden voyage and on its next outing it did not have a mast. Dave Paget very kindly took some great photos as always and video of the model, but I wasn't totally happy with the lack of mast. It was a bit of a dilemma because I didn't want to install a permanent mast as I will almost certainly knock it off, and knowing my luck with half the forward cabin roof in tow as well. I also knew that by trying to fit a removable type mast on the finished model I would risk damaging things, so as I say I was not sure what to do. However not wanting to be beaten and against advice I set about making a removable mast. It has brass sleeves at the bottom of each mast leg that fit into brass connectors on the cabin roof. Luckily this all seems to work fine and I have not damaged anything in the process, so now all I have to do is not knock it off when launching and recovering the model!!

I have used a Stainless Steel prop shaft made up for me coupled up to a Brushless motor rated at 1500 watts controlled by a 120 amp ESC on a 50X prop. I do have another 2000



watt motor with a higher Kv rating so would be quicker per volt, but the current motor appears fine with the model easily getting onto the plane.

The motor itself is attached to a custom-made engineering grade aluminium motor mount, however having spoken with Jack at the pond side a little while ago who shared his initial experiences with Brushless motors, I thought it prudent to upgrade the bolts that secure the motor to the motor mount with Stainless Steel engineering bolts as I don't want this motor flying off!

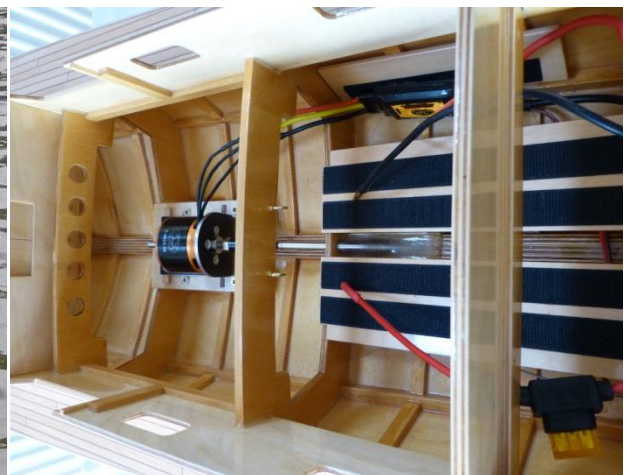
I took the Crash Tender to the pond for its maiden voyage one Wednesday morning when it was nice and quiet. I tested the model on both 19.2 volts and 24 volts. However the 19.2 volts seems favourite as it provided a fairly quick but more realistic speed which I feel is quite fast enough as the Crash Tender is not a racing boat, and I also need to keep in mind the fact there is no reverse capability on the ESC installed unlike ones available today, so it's forward only.

I'd only been down at the pond for half an hour or so when Dave Paget came along and kindly took some professional looking photos for me, (unlike my attempts) so thanks for that Dave.

By the time you read this, I dare say I will have been down to the pond with the model quite a few times so this is all a bit behind really, but thought it still may be of some interest.

In conclusion I would like to thank the club members for their continuing help and support and the friendliness always shown to me down at the pond.

Thank you, Reg Rees.



Well Reg, thank you for sharing this with us all – for those that have yet to see this boat, the build is to say the least, exquisite. Every tiny detail is well thought through to produce a model boat of such high quality and that makes us all very envious. (Alan)

I am coming to the end of this Newsletter but not before I tell you a bit about my travels again ( Oh no ...!). We spent a week on the Isle of Wight at the beginning of May and of course we went in our motorhome and stayed on a site at Cowes that overlooked the Solent – yes, this is so I can get my fix of boat watching. The view from our pitch was right at the point where the shipping has to undertake a couple of turns in the Solent to follow the channel into Southampton water. It was great watching some of the huge container ships and car transporters trying to make it either up to Southampton or down into the Solent – some so large that they had tug escort to nudge the bow and stern around. We also saw some of the largest cruise ships entering and leaving Southampton – these ships such as Royal Caribbean's Destiny of the Sea and Celebrity X ship Celebrity Reflection are absolutely enormous and dwarfed the normal P&O cruise ships – whether I would like to be on board with 6000 other passengers is another matter.

As we were staying at Cowes we thought it only polite to have a look at the Classic Boat museum at East Cowes. The museum is in two parts, the Gallery which houses a treasure trove of maritime photos, films, model boat that chart the history of boating over the past century from modern day to a display showing the history of the Saunders Roe factory and flying boat they developed. The other part which is housed in a warehouse about 100 metres away contains over 50 examples of sailing and power boats of local interest. These include Uffa Fox's dingy 'Cowslip' which he built and was given by the town of Cowes to the Queen and Prince Philip as a wedding present. Another worthy exhibit (although they all were) was The Airborne Lifeboat an ingenious invention by Uffa Fox that helped save hundreds of lives during and after the war.



This museum is a little gem and well worth going to see if you are on the Island. We spent about 3 hours there and didn't see everything and excellent value at £4 for Seniors. I had a limited number of museum handouts given me to insert in this Newsletter and I have inserted them into the envelopes randomly – so some may be luckier than others with this 'free gift'.

### **In Closing**

I must close now and just to let you know that there are **4831** words of wisdom (go on count them if you must) plus many pictures in this newsletter which is even more value for your money ! Anyone who would like to send me an article for the next edition , I would be most appreciative.  
**Ta,Ta, for now.**

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