



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Chairman

Andy Clark: Tel:

Email: atclark25@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor

Alan Spooner: Tel: 07768 061368 Email: alanspooner@hotmail.com

Website: www.basingstokembc.co.uk

Email: atclark25@yahoo.co.uk

December 2015

Christmas is just around the corner and here we are in December and it is time for your BMBC Newsletter and just like your Christmas presents, I bet you couldn't wait for it to arrive on your doorstep !

Looking back over the years I always seem to repeat myself – is that a sign of old age or that I am just lost for words, you choose ! It doesn't seem so long ago that it was summer/autumn and the weather was conducive to good sailing and that in turn led to a good turnout of Club members visiting the pond on our sailing days. Now it is December and how different it is now – I don't mind the cold because you can always wrap up and put another layer on but it is the wet/dampness that gets to us all. Nevertheless we still have many happy souls turning up regularly and some of our members are still getting to the pond earlier in the morning and staying all day, well most of it – now if they were youngsters they could be forgiven but at their age it is foolhardy ! (only joking chaps).

However I do have some very sad news to report which you will find on the following page.



1936 - 2015

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of our member Gordon Philpott.

Gordon was a stalwart Club member for many years and was the previous Secretary and Treasurer of our Club. He was an expert carpenter and modeller and had made many high quality model boats over the years. Gordon is well remembered for his welcome that he gave to new and prospective Club members and for always making time to talk to everyone. He was a great Club ambassador.

Gordon had been unwell for many years of late which curtailed his modelling hobby somewhat but he still tried to get down to the pond when the weather permitted aided by Gill and Rosie their 'westie'. Gordon hadn't been down the pond for some time and was confined to bed at home and was frustrated at not getting better and not being able to get up and about.

Gordon passed away on Wednesday 18th November and our heartfelt sympathy go out to Gill and Gordon's family. They have lost a dear loved one and we have lost a very good friend and fellow modeller.

Rest in Peace our Gordon

Gordon Philpott's Funeral Arrangements

I have spoken to Gill and she has now finalised the arrangements for Gordon's funeral.

A humanist service will take place for Gordon at the Basingstoke Crematorium on Tuesday 15th December at 13.15 hours. Gill has requested no flowers but if anyone would like to make a charitable donation please do so, the recipients being St. Michael's Hospice, Aldermaston Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9NB.

I know that many of you would like to attend if you are able - I and Andy Clark will be there to pay our respects. If you need any more details please contact me.



Membership News:

As you all know we started a new year in the Club from April this year and it has been another good year for new members joining our Club. Unfortunately we do however lose some members who for one reason or another do not renew their subscription. We now have 52 members on our books which means that we are continuing to remain active in terms of membership. This month we must give a big welcome to Alan Whitefoot who is our latest new member – you can see him down the pond with his tug 'Southampton'.

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 all of you I am pleased to report that I have now received all membership subscriptions which is most welcome.

For next year I believe we can still hold our annual subscriptions at £10 – now that is not bad is it ! I will be more definitive once I have accounted for everything towards the end of our financial year in March 2016.

If we do hold the membership fee at £10 next year and £5 for juniors under the age of 16 years, then 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.

Next year you will all be issued with new membership cards (a nice blue colour for a change) as the present ones have 'run their time' also we have updated the sailing rules in line with present trends etc. I will issue these to you when I receive your subscriptions for the year.

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

General News:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

As usual, 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. Their "Community Development Officer – Green Spaces", Zoe Channon has let me know that they will be running Love Parks again next year – it will run from Friday 22nd July – Wednesday 3rd August. Events will be running throughout the week and she has asked whether the Model Boat Club would like to be involved again. Some key dates already identified would be:

Sunday 31st July – running a big conservation bioblitz on Millfield in Old Basing
Wednesday 3rd August – will be Play Day again in Eastrop Park

Other points of notes are that Eastrop Park was awarded its Green Flag again this year, the application for next year will be written by Zoe and is due to be submitted on 31st January 2016. The Management Plan for Eastrop Park will be re-written shortly, to cover the next 10 year period starting for 2016 onwards,

On the Basingstoke and Deane website there is a user on-line survey for park users – I have completed for Eastrop Parks but it is worth all individuals having their say for all parks in Basingstoke.

Midhurst Model Engineering Exhibition February 2016

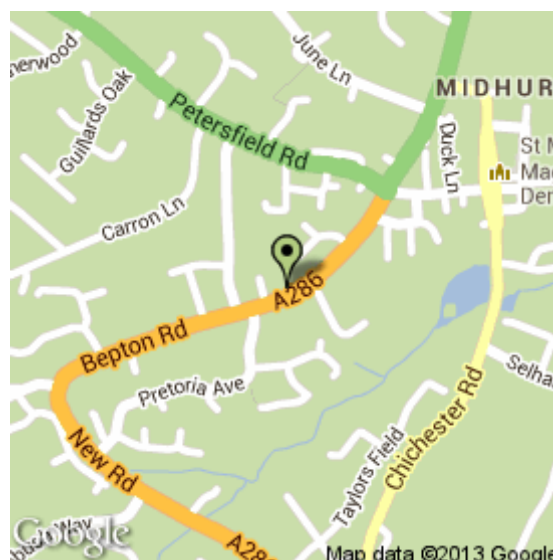
Now for the big news and the most important. The Midhurst model engineering show is on again for next year and is back to its usual date. Many of us who regularly attend this event enjoy this show, meeting up with fellow boat clubs and looking at all the other interesting engineering hobbies that are in attendance. The new centre complex at Midhurst was a great success last year making it very easy to get our exhibits in and out of the halls plus it had welcomed facilities for those persons with disabilities. The date of the show is **Sunday 14 February 2016.**

As we know the parking is much better now at the new centre – much larger and more space. I have submitted our Club booking which has been confirmed and we have been given the same size stand in the same location as last year.

I have already spoken to some of our members with regard to supporting me in manning the Club stand. For those that have not been before it is a very good exhibition with all forms of hobby modelling and as usual many of our fellow model boat clubs will be there – definitely worth a visit. Doors open at 10.00 am to the public. For those that have offered to help man the stand we usually get to the Grange Centre at about 08.00hrs to set up our stand – it is a longish day for us because we usually stay until the end which is about 16.30 to 17.00 hours. For those just visiting, the entrance fees are £6 adults, £2.50 children, Seniors £4 or £12.50 per family.

For those that want to go to this excellent exhibition further details are on the Grange Leisure Centre Website or you can contact me for further information and for those that have not been before, the address is :-

**The Grange Leisure Centre
Bepton Road
Midhurst
West Sussex, GU29 9HD**





As you are aware I am always looking for articles to include in the Newsletter and once again Reg Rees has come up trumps with the following article :-

Reg's Boats - Part 3,

Well that's it, as I'm writing this article summer is over, and by the time this is published the year will be nearly over. I don't know where the summer went; it just seemed to fly by. Those lovely warm days down at the pond will quickly become a distant memory. Perhaps it's just me getting older. I know it's illogical but time really does seem to go quicker as you get older. I used to laugh when an elder would say that to me, but know it's my kids and Grandkids who laugh at me when I say it!!

Anyway it's not my intention to use up valuable space in our illustrious club Newsletter writing about the weather or getting older, so without further ado onto model boats:-

Firstly, as I mentioned in my first article I have made two static wooden models, one being a Billings kit of the Danish training ship Danmark, the other a Corel kit of HMS Unicorn. I wasn't sure before writing about these models if club members would be interested because they are static, and our club activity is centred at Eastrop pond floating non static model boats; however I thought on balance as they are still model boats, a little bit of info about them may be of some interest.

Secondly, I thought I would share where I am currently regards new working models that I hope to sail at the pond sometime in the future. Well that's the plan anyway.

The Danmark.



The actual Ship



Reg's model



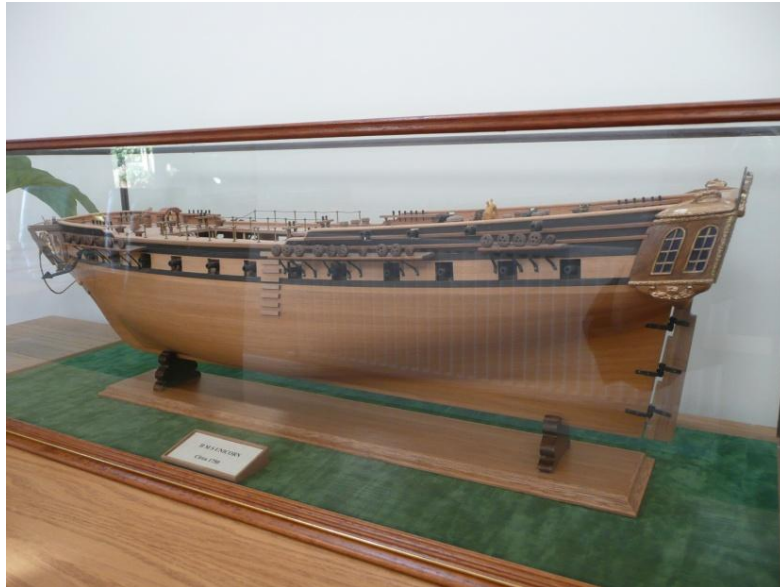
The Danmark is a Danish training ship built in the 1930s. It was built with a steel hull and is a fully rigged Tall ship that is still in use for training purposes.

The model itself is a fair size at approx. 900mm long by 600mm high. The hull was fully planked and the model fully rigged. I remember the rigging taking an age to complete, but it looked the business when finished. All the rigging was attached and positioned as with the full sized ship, but I did not include sails as I wanted the rigging 'exposed'. A difficult bit as I remember was to get all the mast sections to angle back in line with each other as per the drawings. As with most of my model boats I modified the Danmark, not in terms of construction this time but in the presentation. The full size ship is painted white with Green at the waterline and below, whereas my model was varnished as I liked the look of the wood, and did not want to paint over all that hard work involved with the planking. I eventually sold the model through Phillips Auctioneers in London as it was proving to be a dust harbourer with all that rigging, and in our house at that time the model was too large to have on display within a case, even if I could have afforded one, so it had to go. I clearly remember taking it up to London in the back of my old VW Beetle in a crate that I had made to protect it. How I managed to get that crate complete with model into and out of that old Beetle without damage is a wonder, as it was a fairly big crate when considering the length and height of the model and the Beetle is not the biggest car in the world.

The model was duly sold and I was told it went to America. Hopefully it's still on show somewhere there and being enjoyed by whoever owns it.

HMS Unicorn.

The Unicorn was a 5th rated frigate circa 1750. The history is a bit woolly with the kit narrative saying it was built for the Royal Navy at Chatham in Kent in 1748, whereas other sources say she was built in Plymouth. The Unicorn had 24 Cannons on the lower deck and 8 on the upper deck which again some historical sources say that makes the Unicorn a 6th rated Frigate ! Perhaps a club member knows the definitive answer? The Unicorn had an advanced hull shape for her time built for speed, certainly more slender than the usual very rounded shape found at that time. Apparently she was broken up in the 1770s, so not a long life then. There is a Unicorn located in Dundee, but this is a later ship. Whatever the historical truth is, there is no doubt that the Unicorn makes a lovely looking model measuring around 800mm long. For those of you who have had Corel kits, I think you will agree that they were, (and I suppose still are) really good quality kits. The plans and drawings supplied with the kit are works of art in themselves. Unlike my model of the Danmark, I decided to make this as a hull only model and display it within a glass case, where it still takes pride of place in our house today.



The hull is double planked in Lime and Walnut, with the Walnut being the planking on show. I put considerable effort into making the hull, ensuring that Stealer planks were positioned as per the drawings, and that all planking lined up Starboard to Port when looked at from the Bow or Stern. To ensure each plank sat correctly against the next plank along the length of the hull, each plank was bevelled along its top and bottom edges, to ensure a close fit with the next plank taking account the varying curvature of the hull. Each individual plank was glued on, and then held there by hand until the glue set as I could not at that time find suitable scale pins. This took ages but I think the end result made it worthwhile. Some planks were also made narrower in places to ensure the correct positions of the Stealer planks. The rudder was also planked and then hinged. The deck is fully planked in teak and plank ends staggered. I made one minor modification tweak (can't break the habit of a lifetime), with the upper gun ports but that was it. There is a fair amount of detail on the model unlike my working models, with Belaying pins, cannon balls, coiled rope, Stanchions, hinges for Skylights, ladders, post supports etc. on show. I also included a little bit about myself together with a Sixpence under the stand for history.

Current models

Several months ago I bought the model yacht Starlet from Mike Tomlin. I wanted a traditional wooden yacht not too big, that I could refurbish, and Mikes Starlet fits the bill brilliantly. My first job was to make a drawing of the rigging to help me remember which line went where, and then I made a new stand. Other work carried out so far include refitting and strengthening some of the internal bulkheads, making a new floor and Sail winch platform, fitting a new rudder servo platform, fitting deck and cabin supports, and stripping the cabin sides down to the original wood. Next immediate jobs include starting work on the hull exterior and planking the deck. Having thought about what to call the model I came up with 'born again' as that seems to be appropriate given the amount of work involved. Although this is a fairly substantial refurbishment, I hope that the finished model still retains the character of the original model and doesn't make it into something it isn't.



Other projects in the pipeline once the Starlet refurbishment is complete are as follows:-

I have a 48in Hard Chine model yacht kit bought from Germany that I will try to make at some point. I thought the hull was Mahogany like my Chris Craft runabout so thought I would look good varnished, but on opening the kit I found it was only Mahogany veneer, and extremely thin veneer at that, so it's back to good old Marine Ply. I'm not sure how I will get on with the kit, as the building process differs from the usual Bulkhead / Gunwale and Chine stringer setup, so perhaps this is an opportunity to add in the odd modification!!

For Father's day my Daughter bought me a plan for the model boat Tarpon to replace my original old tatty plan. The model is based on a 1950s Vosper design motor launch, and is 35in long with a 9in beam. It has a fully planked displacement hull, and is a model that my old boss made in the mid-1960s when I was an apprentice in London. It really is a beautiful looking boat, so eventually I hope to get around to making it, but if I do I will scale it up to somewhere around 45in.

Keith and Alan very kindly gave me a part completed model of the Orca, which was the boat that starred in the first Jaws film. It's had a really good start with the Keel, Bulkheads and skins in place, so I just hope that I can do it justice. Perhaps I will make a shark to go with it! Once again, thank you Keith and Alan for entrusting me in this model.

Well, I think that's about it, so In conclusion I would like to wish all club members and their families every happiness and good health for 2016, and to once again thank you all for your friendship and help at the pond side, it is very much appreciated.

Thank you Reg for the above article – I trust the members find it as informative and interesting as I did (Editor)

On a new note – have a look at Ken Green's new shed

I had a message from one of our newer members Ken Green who you may remember has built a paddle steamer – Mississippi style. Well, Ken was 70 recently and his wife bought him a shed and his sons bought some tools to go in it – what a lucky guy ! Ken is going to provide me with an article about the building of his paddle steamer for a future Newsletter. Thanks Ken and we look forward to seeing you down the pond soon.





We now have a letter from one of our older members - John McMillen

Dear members

The time has come for me to retire from model boat building (old age has crept up).

I was placed with the dilemma of my workshop which was a spare bedroom – after 20 years of building boats you can imagine the sort of mess it made.

Thankfully two very good Club members came to my rescue. They removed all my odds and ends, took down racking and shelving, took away all the rubbish including the carpet which was covered in oil, paint and glue! This was all put in a skip. Many thanks for all the help I had from Ron Rich and Dave Richardson.

I will now be able to redecorate and re-carpet the room and return it to a bedroom again.

Ron has helped me to sell a few of my model boats but I have kept a couple of boats to sail at the pond when I am able.

My next birthday which is on 05 September will be my ninetieth so below is a little poem :-

Eighty Candles And Still Counting

***Today, dear Lord, I'm eighty with so much I haven't done
I hope, dear Lord, You'll let me live to eighty-one.
And if by then I haven't finished all I want to do,
Do you think that I could stay until I'm eighty-two?***

***There's places I would like go; so very much to see.
Do you think that You could manage to make it eighty-three?
The world is changing very fast, there is so much in store,
I'd really like to live until I'm eighty-four.***

***And if by then I'm still alive,
I could hang on 'til eighty-five.
Assuming then the heart still ticks,
I'd like to live to eighty-six.***

***I know, dear Lord, it's much to ask, with things so nice in heaven,
But really I would like to stay until I'm eighty-seven.
By then I shall be slowing down and sometimes be quite late,
But it would be rather nice to be here at eighty-eight.***

***I'll have seen so many things and had a lovely time,
But still have lots of life left when I'm eighty-nine.
By then it will become quite clear,
That ninety is just another year.
I'd like ten more, as I'm so keen
To have a telegram from our Queen.
And then I think I'd better mention,
I'll be ready for the next dimension.***



On behalf of the Club I would like to echo our thanks to Ron and Dave for the help they have given to John – in the true spirit of our Club (**Editor**)

Also a belated happy 90th Birthday to you John – well done !!

And Finally, my pennies have run out to buy you all a card so

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND



ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR

Well, I must close now and just to let you know that there are **3841** words of wisdom (go on count them if you must) plus many pictures in this newsletter which must be value for your money ! If there is anyone who would like to send me an article for the next edition , I would be most appreciative because my brain aches thinking of something to write ! **Ta,Ta, for now.**

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

PS To save costs I always have the Newsletter printed in black and white so you miss some of the detail of the photos in colour – if you would like to see this Christmas colour version I will email a copy to all those who have an email address and have asked Andy to place a copy on our BMBC website.