



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

Chairman

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March / April 2016

Well, April is just coming around and it is time again for your BMBC Newsletter and Christmas seems to have only just been put to bed for another year. This edition marks the end of the 2015 /2016 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 no longer able to sail with us but new blood (metaphorically speaking) in the form of members joining us which is most 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 55. Our latest members who joined us since January 2016 are Trevor Strudwick and Peter Gidley - we give them both a warm welcome and thank them for joining our Club.

A letter from Gill Philpott

Gill has forwarded the following letter to the Members of the BMBC :-

“Dear Boat Clubbers,

Thank you so much for your cards, messages, donations and for attending Gordon’s funeral. Also to Alan Spooner for the lovely tribute in the last Newsletter. I am sure you will remember Gordon with a smile as I know that is what he would want.

See you down at the lake with Rosie when the weather improves.

Best wishes

Gill Philpott

P.S. - Total donations to the Hospice so far stands at £235.”

Thank you Gill – yes, we will remember our Gordon with a smile and look forward to seeing you and Rosie soon. - Editor

Gordon Philpott

Local Charity. Quality Care.

St Michael's Hospice (North Hampshire)
Basil de Ferranti House, Aldermaston Road,
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG24 9AB
Rotton, East of Portsmouth D1

T 01256 844744
F 01256 840357
E info@stmichaels-hospice.org.uk
www.stmichaels-hospice.org.uk



Basingstoke Model Boat Club
C/O Alan Spooner
Hathaway
Stratford Road
ASH VALE
Hampshire
GU12 5PT

22 December 2015

Dear Alan

Thank you

Thank you for your letter and the extremely kind donation of £50.00 to St. Michael's Hospice from the Basingstoke Model Boat Club in memory of your long standing member Gordon Philpott. As a previous volunteer at the Hospice, Gordon was often referred to as 'Batman' as he partnered a gentleman called Robin assisting with maintenance here at St. Michael's. He was a lovely man who will be missed by many people.

At St. Michael's Hospice we care for people throughout North Hampshire who are affected by life-limiting illness, both within the Hospice and in patient's homes. All our services are geared to helping people live life to the fullest and ensure that their quality of life is the best that it can be. As a charity our care is provided to our patients and their families free of charge. In 2015/16 it will cost over £3.2 million to provide these services to the local community with just 22% funding from the North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group. We therefore need to generate a net contribution of £2.5 million from Fundraising, Gifts in Wills, Lottery and Retail activities to support patients and their families affected by life limiting illnesses.

Thank you very much for your generous gift and continued support of St. Michael's Hospice.

With my very best wishes

Yours sincerely

Helena Maskell
Senior Fundraising Manager
Telephone Number: 01256 848851
Email: Helena.maskell@stmichaels-hospice.org.uk

As you can see from Gill's letter above you will see that she mentions donations to the hospice. The Hospice in question is St Michael's Hospice, Basingstoke – in fact Gordon was a previous volunteer at the Hospice carrying out maintenance duties in his spare time. We as a Club made a donation to St Michael's in Gordon's memory instead of a floral tribute. We have received a letter of thanks from St Michael's which also outlines the work they undertake and the care they provide which you will see here in their letter.



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Forthcoming Shows / Events

Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society Rally, Viables April 2016

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 9th and 10th April 2016 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 will attend one day and if others would like to display their boats and help man the display please contact me for further details. We also welcome any Club members visiting us on either day.



Basingstoke and District
Model Engineering Society



STEAM GALA

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

9th and 10th April 2016

10am – 4.30pm at Viables Craft Centre
Harrow Way, Basingstoke, RG22 4BJ

Entrance FREE - donations appreciated
Web site: www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bdmes

Souvenir Programme £1
Organiser: Jon Evans 01256 471233
Contact: bdmes@hotmail.co.uk

Car Parking in Jays Close by the rally field

Sumners Pond Model Engineering Show 2016

I have previously explained via the Newsletter that the Club was invited last June to attend a model show at Sumners Pond near Horsham but due to the short notice of this event and lack of support 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 will take place on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June 2016 and if anyone is interested in visiting the show please let me know and I will provide you with further information.

Basingstoke - Love Parks Event

“Love Parks Week”, a national event sponsored by the Keep Britain Tidy group. Following on from last year's successful attendance at this event we have again agreed to support this activity on provisionally Wednesday 27 July where we intend to have a Club stand displaying our boats, a table or two for making paper boats for/with the children and their parents and a gazebo to keep us dry if the weather is inclement, in fact similar to last year. We will still be sailing our boats as normal and 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.

National Play Day – Basingstoke

Another event in the park is the annual summer Nation Play Day for children held at Eastrop Park – which is to be held as usual on a Wednesday, the 3rd August which makes it difficult for us as a Club for our general meet. We will again displaying our boats, making paper boats, letting the youngsters have a go at sailing a boat under supervision, etc. As you are aware during this event, which has always occurred on a Wednesday, our Club meet day, there is no parking for the general public or us. The car park is reserved for exhibitors and disabled access. Last year I was only issued with 3 car parking passes which, if I manage to obtain the same again this year will go to those setting up and manning our stand. However don't let it deter you from attending as you can drop a boat off with us and then park your car on the common car park where a free courtesy bus will drop you off at the pond again – a few members did this last year to join us and help and it was successful.

Show / Event Report

34th Annual Modellers Exhibition - Midhurst 2016

This year I had early indication from the organisers that the Midhurst show was going to happen and following on from last year it was again being held again in its new home, 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. Andy Clark wanted to attend and fly the flag along with myself and Joe Harwood, Chas Redford and Ron Rich, Jack Sharp, Mike Tomlin and Reg Rees reserved their places to support us. Dave Paget came along to take photos and have a look around and also helped man the stand plus we had visits from other members.

Sunday morning of the 14th February arrived and the weather was cold and damp. I arrived safely at about 07.30 hours at The Grange, with boats intact, having loaded up in the cold of the morning at 06.00 hrs. When I arrived I found the car park was already filling up fast. The new Grange Sports complex building looking impressive and as we were promised our usual spot in the main boats hall I quickly found out where the BMBC stand was going to be – the layout of club stands had been kept the same or so I thought !. We were next to Phoenix Model Boat Club and their guy said he didn't have sufficient tables and when I looked, we too only had 3 tables although I had requested and had it confirmed we wanted 6 ! I managed to get another table for us and one for Phoenix so panic was starting to set in as we had 8 members attending with at least 2 boats each. I had to hastily re-organise our tables, put the display covers on them along with our BMBC signs and notices and suddenly our members started to arrive burdened down with their model boats. With a bit of judicious tight placement we managed to get all of our boats in and what an impressive display it was too, if I say so myself.



The club stand finished and an impressive Reg Rees launch !

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

A lot of interest was shown in our boats especially the two that Reg Rees brought along. One guy gave him 11 out of 10 for effort – he was so impressed with the craftsmanship. There were a great number of people who couldn't / wouldn't believe that Reg had hand painted the hull of his cruiser version of a Fire Tender – the finish is like glass ! If there were a competition at this event for best in show his boat would have been up there.

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 Andy Clark, Campbell Winder and Reg Rees posing for our Dave Paget by our display.



Mike Tomlin and Chas Redford having a break, waking up from a nap after a busy spell.



Yours truly with Ron Rich displaying our boats.



Chas Redford and Reg Rees discussing the merits of Steam versus electric ?.

Looking around the exhibition the train section and Meccano certainly excelled themselves with magnificent displays, especially the Indian Hill Railway by the East Surrey modellers group. In the main train hall was a great trade stand that all our members kept nipping off to. It was a couple who owned a model shop in Bognor and were selling up – they had loads of marine accessories where the prices already looked good but then had an additional 50% reduction on all your purchases !

For me this is a good venue with excellent facilities, e.g. 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 and they have thanked us for our support and informed me that they have booked us in already for 2017 !

My thanks go to Chairman Andy, Ron Rich, Joe Harwood, Jack Sharp, Chas Redford, Mike Tomlin, Reg Rees and Dave Paget 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.

Model Build Update

Back in June 2014 I included an article about a model boat kit that I had purchased. It was a Caldercraft Model Tug 'Westbourne' and was from their original mini-fleet range, the other two boats of the range being the MFV 'Ocean Crest' and the Motor FiFie 'Amaranth'. Of these only the 'Amaranth' exists today. I was lucky enough to find a kit of the Caldercraft 'Westbourne' on Ebay – it was complete and unopened in its box and I was fortunate to win the auction.

Well many months have passed and I have finally completed my tug – I haven't worked on it all the time but as you all know my other hobby is travelling in our motorhome and we certainly have done a lot of that over the last 18 months or so ! I managed to complete the tug a couple of days before the Midhurst show so as an update, here it is. You should see it at the lake soon (apart from the bath it has not seen the water yet !) weather dependant :-



MT 'WESTBOURNE'

Item for Sale

Alan Wells has asked if anyone wants a wooden B /Q workbench - it's as new it's 4ft long and 18" wide and it is free. It belongs to a friend of Alan and if you would like it, please phone Alan on 07910273541 and he will arrange to pick it up for you. I have photos of it but cannot include them here, so if you want further information email me and I will send photos to you. (alanspooner@hotmail.com) .

I have decided to sell my Robbe Estelle yacht as I am currently building another boat and having too many boats (so my wife says), I don't have enough room to keep them all. The yacht is a metre long, very wide beamed and sails very well in all winds. No transmitter or receiver included but has rudder servo, and sail winch and a great set of sails. Contact me if you are interested. (Alan Spooner – 07768 061368)

News:

Annual Membership fees Due for year 2016 / 2017

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 2016 / 2017 year are due, so please can I have your membership subscriptions in just after the 01 April 2016. 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 for this coming financial year 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 80% of the Club members' fees by May 2015 which is a first and I thank you all for that.

You may have noticed that some of our newer members had blue coloured membership cards. Our old yellow membership cards are now finished and this year you will all be issued with new blue cards which will take us right through to 2020. When you pay your subscriptions for this coming year you will be issued with the new cards, which by the way also have slight rule changes on them to bring them in line with latest technology, etc. Please hand your 2016 / 2017 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

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 – new members have this year stepped up to the plate so rather than boring you with my ramblings I hope to receive many more articles from any of you out there for future Newsletters. You don't have to be an expert or a wordsmith – just give me anything and I will try to knock it into shape. I know that 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 this Newsletter is a simplified version of the Club Account for this year. If anyone wants to see the actual accounts, receipts, etc. please let me know and I will bring them to the pond for you to view and inspect.

A few facts from the accounts for the financial year 2015 / 2016 :-

1. Membership fees collected £535.00 (53 seniors and 1 junior membership)
2. Postage costs for the year £153.36.

3. Club and members PI Insurance has been renewed for the same level of cover at the cost of £63.49 which is 3.6% increase over last year's premium.
4. After all payments have been made we have an approximate surplus of £89.30 over expenditure.
5. We will carry forward a sum of £631.00 to next year's account.

Below is a copy of the simplified version of the accounts for the year 2015 /2016

Basingstoke Model Club Accounts 201						
Item	Income	Cash/Cheque	Expenditure	Cash/Cheque	Date	
Balance carried Fwd (Petty Cash)	£2.58	Cash				
Monies at Bank carried forward	£539.12					
54 Member Fees	£535.00					
Chairman Resign Letter / EGM Print cost			-£6.00	Cheque	20.04.15	Cheque to A Spooner
48 1st Class Stamps @ 63p (Alan Spooner)			-£30.24	Inc with above	20.04.15	One cheque for both items
Website Fee (One Com)			-£23.76	Cheque	01.05.15	Cheque to Andy Clarke
Newsletter Printing Cost (55 Copies)			-£27.50	Cheque	26.05.15	June 2015 Newsletter
60 2nd Class Stamps @54p (Alan Spooner)			-£32.40	Inc with above	26.05.15	June 2015 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	26.05.15	June 2015 Newsletter
100 Avery Address Lables for Newsletters			-£14.99	Inc with above	10.05.15	For All Newsletters
48 2nd Class Stamps @54p (Alan Spooner)			-£25.92	Cheque	26.08.15	September 2015 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (55 Copies)			-£22.00	Inc with above	26.08.15	September 2015 Newsletter
60 2nd Class Stamps @54p (Alan Spooner)			-£32.40	Cheque	03.12.15	December 2015 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (55 Copies)			-£42.60	Inc with above	03.12.15	December 2015 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	03.12.15	December 2015 Newsletter
Funereal Donation for GP			-£50.00	Cheque	15.12.15	St. Michael's Hospice
60 2nd Class Stamps @54p (Alan Spooner)			-£32.40	Cheque	10.03.16	March 2016 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost			-£36.00	Cheque	14.03.16	March 2016 Newsletter
PI Insurance			-£63.49	Cheque	02.03.16	Cheque to Stamp Insurance
			-£445.70			
Cheques to be presented to Bank	-£131.89					
Monies to be paid into Bank October 2015	£0.00					
Current Monies at Bank October 2015	£760.31					
Petty Cash October 2014	£2.58					
Total Monies	£631.00					

I trust that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter however, I must close now and just to let you know that there are only **3100** words of wisdom this time around plus many, many pictures in this newsletter – what is happening, I am running out of words 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, etc. – if you would like to see this version in full colour we will place a copy on our BMBC website.