



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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Where does the time disappear to? It doesn't seem so long ago that I was compiling the last newsletter and now it is time again for the June 2016 edition of your favourite read. Time is against me – newsletter to print and distribute, gardening duties, model boats to build, motorhome to clean, pack and get ready for the off and who says that retirement means an easier life and lots of leisure time.

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 7 new members that, following receipt of their membership application, joined our Club since April and I have sent a letter of thanks to them for joining us and giving them a warm welcome.

So, in this Newsletter we must formally welcome David Stewart, Graham Robinson, Reg Naish, Peter Langford, David Ketterman, Peter Ebbage and Tony Cripps to our midst and we hope to see them in regular attendance at the pond. Reg Naish has sailed with us for some time at the pond and he finally decided to join us – many of you already know him as he is the guy who always wears shorts no matter what the weather, even through the winter, how do you do it Reg!

Since the beginning of this new year we have had 11 new members join our Club which is great news and if most of last year's members renew their subscriptions we will have 62 members in the Club which I believe to be the highest in its history or for some time.

We have lost one of our members for this year and this is Larry Jandron who lived down in Southampton. Larry has been a member for about 3 years but due to poor health has reluctantly had to tell me he won't be renewing his membership and this is what he wrote:-

“Hi Alan just to let you know I will not be renewing my subs. It took a lot of soul searching to do this, I am getting older and also the drive to and from Basingstoke is getting to much for me also my health is not so good these days. I always enjoyed boating there, nice water. I will probably sell my boats and make static ones again. Thank you for letting me be a member and I hope the club carries on going from strength to strength.

Thank you, Larry Jandron”

I Replied to Larry saying how sorry we were to hear that he was not renewing his subscriptions to the BMBC. I wished him well for the future, hoping that his health improves and gave him a big thank you for being a Club member.

Annual Membership fees Due for year 2016/2017

In the last Newsletter I reminded all our members that the annual membership fees for the year 2016/2017 were due and what a fantastic response I have had from many of you. To date I have received about 44 membership subscriptions which includes new memberships, 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.

Most of you will have noticed that we now have blue coloured membership cards. Our old yellow membership cards are now finished and this year everyone who has paid was issued with a new blue card 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.

Our membership 'on the books' has now risen to 62 which is great so, for those members whose subscriptions for the 2016 / 2017 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

General News:

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 and it has been confirmed that our event will take place on Wednesday 27 July between 11.00 hours and 15.00 hours where we will 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 very 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 being held on Wednesday, the 3rd August. This as usual 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 they 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 very successful.

Report of the Club’s attendance at Viables Steam Rally – April 2016

This year I was notified early on by the Basingstoke Model Engineering Society of our invitation to join them again on the 09 and 10 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 along with the Basingstoke MES and Axminster Tools. The weather was kind to us and the sun shone - attendance at the event was good but we thought a little lower than last year.

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 Robin, Charlie Redford, Mike Tomlin and Andy Clark manned the Club stand on the Saturday. Sunday with the weather fine but breezy, our stand was manned by myself, Charlie Redford, Joe Harwood and Jack Sharp.

We had a reasonable 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. However, I felt that the number of boats we displayed was down on previous years and as the organisers go to the effort of providing a marquee are we giving them 'value for money' ? The guys who manned the display were the same old usual members – are we as a Club 'bored' with this event and do we need to consider whether we attend next year if we are asked back by the organisers. Your thoughts and suggestions please ?



Our Display at the Viables Show

Members Articles

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 he submitted in an earlier edition. I thank him very much for this valuable contribution and also to say what a marvellous job he has made in the yacht's restoration.

Reg's boats. Finished at last!

In the Christmas edition of our newsletter, I mentioned that I bought an old Starlet yacht from Mike Tomlin a few months previously as a refurbishment project. I was looking for a wooden yacht; preferably an older one, not too big or complicated and Mikes Starlet seemed ideal, as it had a certain charm and character which initially attracted me to it. Although there was nothing wrong with the model as it was, I thought it could do with a bit of a makeover which is what I was basically looking for so I bought it. I didn't think much of it at the time, that little smile Mike gave as I drove away with the model. Did he know something I didn't? Well what is certain I was soon going to find out.

The Starlet before restoration



Although I appreciated that the work involved to give the Starlet a bit of a makeover would not be a five minute job, I had no idea at the time of what was ahead of me. I thought a bit of woodwork here and there, a bit of sanding and a couple of coats of paint and that would be basically it. Maybe a few weeks or so max. Well reality quickly set in within the first couple of weeks into the project, and since then there have been times where I thought the work involved in completing this makeover would outlive me!! Well I'm pleased to report that I'm still here and the model is finished at last. Well I hope it is as will become apparent later.

Early on in the project around about the time reality started to kick in, I decided to name the model 'Born Again' which I thought would be appropriate. Well now having done the amount of work I've done, the name really does fit the bill and could not be more appropriate, as much of the original model has now been changed or upgraded, so the model really has ended up being 'Born Again'.

Although the work involved has been challenging at times, it has also in the main been very enjoyable, and because of the degree of work involved it has enabled me to put my stamp on the model.

My objective throughout the work was to end up with something that retains the character and charm of the original model and not try to make it into something it isn't. Looking at the model as it is now with its new made over look I think I have achieved that and I'm very pleased with the result, even though I have aged mentally as well as physically getting there.

Basically, apart from the physical framework of the model, i.e. the hull, bulkheads and integral cabin structure which I could not do much with without fundamentally altering the model, most other parts have been rebuilt or hopefully improved. The following is a summary of the main work done:-

New stand made.

Internal framework and cabin sides strengthened and re-varnished throughout. External cabin sides sanded down to the base wood and re-varnished. New Acrylic fitted for the windows.

New split rear cockpit floor and seating area made. Re-lined cabin tops with marine ply and varnished. New Brass aperture surround made for front cabin top.

Deck planked in Lime with Walnut caulking. Deck level rubbing strip fitted. New servo platforms and framework made. New battery and Receiver platforms made. All varnished.

Removable rear deck re-designed.

Hull sanded back to wood, (This was akin to a mini Archaeological dig as I worked my way through the numerous layers of paint to finally reach wood). Holes filled. Hull then primed and painted.

Lead keel ballast removed (what a job that was), reformed with Plastic padding and painted. Keel strengthened due to horizontal split at leading edge.

New Brass Mast head made to strengthen existing mast head. New Brass mast foot fitted. New mast Spreader made.

New Brass Jib hook made. New Brass Backstay hook made.

Mast, boom and Jib spars cleaned up and varnished. All fixings on Mast and Spars realigned.

New rigging lines fitted throughout. Rear name plate fitted. Brass guides for rigging modified.

As a final job I made a Tiller arm. This is something new to the model which I thought would help add to the model character. Not sure if it does, but I like it anyway.

Some of the work involved above deck was a little challenging for me as I am fairly new to model yachts. For instance in order to varnish the mast and spars I had to remove all sails, fixings and rigging lines. Hopefully I've put everything back to where it should be, but I was a little nervous while everything was separated. As with my other models I have made parts of the model removable for easy access and cleaning. For me there's nothing worse than damaging a nice model trying to gain access or needing to remove something, hence although it can take a little longer to make, I try to make fixtures and fittings removable where possible.

At last around mid-March having attached the main and Jib sails to their respective mast / spars, attached the Shroud fixings and other fixings to the hull, attached all the rigging lines, 'Born Again' minus radio gear was finished complete with new rear nameplate. I was well pleased. All I needed now was to fit the rudder and sail servos, dry test the servo sail arm to make sure the sails were released out and pulled back as they should. I thought with a little bit of fine tuning I would be finished at last and then down to the pond. Well that was what should have happened. What actually happened was that after a couple of goes of pulling the sails in and all going as it should and me saying to the boss at home how well I had done in finally completing the work, the drive cog on the sail arm servo suddenly broke in two. Apparently I was heard to shout something like oh bother several times as I looked down at the servo happily going round but with the sail arm stationary!!

I took the Servo to bits but to no avail. Once calmness was restored I tried to order a replacement sail arm Servo only to be told by several suppliers that there was a shortage of this particular servo. Absolutely amazing, of all the servos in the world it would have to be this one that has the shortage. There are other Servos available, but I didn't really want a different type otherwise I would have to remake the servo platform which at this stage I didn't want to do, so I persevered to track one down. At last I managed to get a duplicate Servo and fitted it into the model. With great expectation I turned the radio gear on and operated the sails. The new servo operated perfectly and I thought this is it; the model really is finished at last. However again it was not to be. What I quickly noticed was that as soon as the slightest pressure was put on the sails the Servo arm would slip. The sails were going nowhere. It was at this point having reached the stage of giving up ever trying to completely finish the model that I briefly wondered if Born Again would fit into the Wheelie bin that my wife was pulling past the window!

Having devoured a bar of Whole nut as some consolation I then had a good look at the new Servo; I couldn't see anything wrong, plenty of torque, so my attention turned to the actual sail arm that came with Starlet. It's an Aluminium arm bolted across a conventional rudder type plastic arm to enable it to fit onto the Servo drive cog. I tried the new Servo with a circular Servo arm that came with it and although there was obviously minimal travel vs the Aluminium arm setup, there was plenty of torque, so I removed the original plastic arm and bolted the circular arm to the Aluminium arm (still with me),and retried in the model. Yes, at last we have progress with all seeming to work ok and as it should. It would appear that almost as a last defiant obstacle to completion, the teeth on the original plastic Servo arm had stripped.

Could it be that 'Born Again' really is finished this time? I have yet to sail her, so will take nothing for granted, but surely the long awaited 'victory' of completing the project has been won at last.

Restoration complete – 'Born Again'



By the time this article is published I will know the answer to that question, so will some of you. I just hope it is a good outcome, but nothing would surprise me given the ups and downs of this project.

As I said earlier, looking back this has been in the main an enjoyable, be it a longer than expected project and I am very pleased with the end result. The effort has definitely been worth it. I would therefore like to thank Mike for having the model available for me to acquire in the first place, and for the light hearted banter we have shared about the models progress over the months. It has made the project that much more enjoyable, so thank you Mike.

Also my thanks to Chas Redford who during the Midhurst show gave me further details into the history of the model. Chas suggested that given how the model originally came about and its subsequent history I could call the model Born Again 2. Thanks Chas but I think I will leave the name as it is because I have found one 'Born Again' is more than enough.

Many thanks, Reg Rees.

Alan's mutterings

Zoe Channon, Basingstoke's Green Spaces Officer, has informed me that she received an email from the National 'Green Flag' Awards judges advising that their visit will take place on the 22nd June and luckily for us this is a Wednesday which means the Model Boat Club will be out and about using the model boating lake. She is really keen to include us as a group in this visit so wanted us to earmark the day. She still needs to work with her colleagues to think about logistics and they'll be judging both Eastrop and War Memorial parks on the same day. However she will bear in mind our usual timings and try to attend the War Memorial park in the morning and come on to Eastrop in the afternoon. Can we make sure we have a really good turn out on this day and show them what the Basingstoke Model Boat Club is all about and what a responsible group we are.

Well that is all for now folks, a little shorter Newsletter than I had hoped but I trust that you will enjoy reading this. However, I must close now and just to let you know that there are only **3670** words of wisdom this time around plus 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.