



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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March / April 2017

Well, April is just coming around, spring is here and it is time again for your BMBC Newsletter. This edition marks the end of the 2016 /2017 year and we start a new year in the Club from April this year.

This has been a year of unprecedented gains in 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 69. Our latest members who joined us since January 2016 are Peter Hills, Chris Cole, David Barrett and Wayne Bevan - we give them all a warm welcome and thank them for joining our Club.

Keith Dolton



1933 – 2016

It was a sad end to 2016 in losing a good friend and fellow Club member Keith. Many Club members attended Keith's funeral on a bleak, wet mid-January late afternoon.

I sent card of condolence to Keith's daughter and family on behalf of all the members of the BMBC and met and talked to Keith's family at the funeral. On behalf of the Club we made a donation in Keith's memory to a cancer charity. A member of the HMS Protector Association (Keith's last naval ship he served on) attended and lowered their 'Colours' at his funeral.

RIP our Keith and God Speed

Forthcoming Events

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 during the 3rd of August where we intend to have a Club stand displaying our boats, a table or three 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 Wednesday 9th August (TBC) 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

35th Annual Modellers Exhibition - Midhurst 2017

As you can see from the above it was the 35th Annual Modellers Exhibition held at the Grange Centre, Midhurst and that is some achievement.. 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 would attend and support our display on the day. In the end flying the flag for our Club were Andy Clark, Joe Harwood, Chas Redford, Mike Tomlin, Reg Rees, Keith Barnes and myself who attended with many boats to put on a fine display.

Sunday morning of the 12th February arrived and as usual for early February the weather was cold and damp. I arrived safely at about 07.30 hours at The Grange, with boats intact, having loaded my car in the cold of the night before. When I arrived the car park was already filling up fast and the centre already open for business. Our Club's stand was in our usual spot in the main boat hall – the layout of club stands had been kept the same as last year. We again had table problems as, although I had requested and had it confirmed that we wanted 6, I ended up with 5 (better than last year)! I managed to get another table for us but our friends from Swiss Cottage MBC only had 2 tables so I let them have one of ours. I hastily re-organised 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 placement we managed to get all of our boats on the tables and what an impressive display it was too, if I say so myself.

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, Crawley Model Boat Club, Southern Model Lifeboat Society and The Warship Squadron, just to mention a few.

A lot of interest was shown in all our boats especially Keith Barnes' HMS Vanguard and two of Reg Rees' finest examples that he brought along again. Keith's boat was almost 1800mm in length and filled one of our tables set at the front with the members' larger yachts behind, e.g. Joe's Black Swan and Andy's 'Killer Whale'. On one table we had 3 Clyde Puffers – all at different scales plus 2 'Falke' fishing boats. Chas brought along a river / lake 'steamer' boat that he also managed to sell just before the event closed, so Chas went home happy and ready to hand over his cash to his wife at home !

This year at the show there were a lot or radio control model tanks on display and modellers giving demonstrations of their manoeuvrability, true engine noise and armaments. Also for the first time was a large amount of Drones / Quadcopters on display. Both these activities seemed to appeal to the younger visitors to the exhibition – is it the technology associated with these 'big boys' toys' that is so attractive to these youngsters ? Any ideas how we can make our hobby more attractive to the youngsters - answers on a postcard please ! Still not to worry as we seem to be getting our fair share of new members who are recently retired and looking for something different to do or to re-kindle something that they took undertook in their youth.



As usual there were always sufficient of us on our stand for each of us to go and have a look around the exhibition and 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, and other forms of model engineering not to mention the Mecanno.



The Mecanno Group – 110 LandRover and trailer complete with sheep at about 1:4 scale. The owner used the small model Landrover in the foreground to develop his model.



The Mecanno Group 110 LandRover Defender Built in 3 months from scratch by this great modeller Greg Worwood.



The Arf Bric Mine Railway display.

Looking around the exhibition the train section and Meccano certainly excelled themselves with magnificent displays, especially the Arf Brick Mine Railway by the East Surrey modellers group – a variation to their usual Broke Brick Railway display. In the main train hall was again a great trade stand that all our members kept nipping off to. It was there last year run by 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 ! I managed to buy 2 Futaba servos and switches for £10 and a Graupner Bow Thruster for £10 and this is almost £40 to buy today at other model outlets. Many of our members kept popping along to the stall to purchase odds and ends whether they needed them or not – it is nice to buy them and have them 'just in case' !

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 I have already booked us in for 2018 !

My thanks go to Chairman Andy, Joe Harwood, Chas Redford, Mike Tomlin, Reg Rees and Keith Barnes 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 Yacht Sailing and Set-Up

This is the fourth and last newsletter for the current Club year. I have a continuation article about model yacht set-up and sailing that John Farley has kindly given to me but I have decided to hold it in reserve for next time. However in this edition I have decided to write an article about the new types of yachts many of us have been sailing. 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.

Model Yachts

Many of our newer members have joined the model boat fraternity with little previous experience of model boats and their first 'toe in the water' is to purchase a 'ready to run' model yacht. There are many to choose from, some complete with RC transmitter and receiver and some just the yacht on its own. For a lot of people the larger IOM (1 meter designs or Marbleheads) are too large to put in the boot of their cars and of course are expensive but the smaller RG65 and Dragon Force 65 Class of yachts seem to fit the bill due to both their size and cost. There are a few DF 65 yachts now owned by members and Brian Osborne was one of the first to purchase one about 2 years ago. I too succumbed last year to this new yacht, one which I could just put in the car along with my scale model boats without any problems when visiting the pond. It is a good size being only 65 mm in length, with a sail height of 915mm and overall height of 1340mm.

Dragon Force 65 (DF65)



The Joysway Dragon Force 65 was developed to introduce an affordable competition yacht to the RC market. A collaboration between Joysway and 3 top performance yacht designers (Mike Weston, Mark Dicks and John Tushingham) resulted in the Dragon Force 65. Sleek lines and competition developed sails make Dragon Force race perform and competitive.

The boat is based on the ICE design with an ABS hull, profiled aluminium fin and moulded plastic rudder. The rig is a full sized, low aspect RG65 rig with carbon spars and a ball raced gooseneck. The intention was to develop a set of rules to allow the Dragon Force 65 to sail as a restricted class within the RG65 class rules.

Many accessories are available for the DF65 including racing sails made from Mylar Film or laminate as below photograph shows.



This DF65 yacht is shown with an A rig with Mylar Film sails. The A Rig being the largest sail and is primarily used for light air sailing and is what many of our members are sailing with at Eastrop.

Update:

Dragon Force have just introduced the DF65 Version 6 which is very similar to their new DF95. It has a white hull and comes complete with a set of Mylar sails and updated running gear. They are also providing a Mylar sail rig upgrade for all DF 65 versions, it is called an A+ and is designed for light air sailing.

The RG65 Dragon Force 65 can be raced within its own strict one design rules with three measured rigs/sails. The yacht is a commercially available racing yacht which it is sold, if required, complete with a 2.4Ghz radio set and comes almost fully constructed and ready to sail.

DF Racing UK (DFRUK) is the racing organisation for the class. Their recent bid for MYA affiliation of the DF95 Class has now been agreed by the Model Yachting Association (MYA) Council after some deliberations. This now means that both the DF65 and DF95 classes are MYA affiliated which strengthens the DF Racing UK Association and will allow access to MYA online entry and suchlike.

Apart from the DF65 there are other similar 'compact' yachts available.



Micro Magic (Racing) Yacht which is 535 in length and raced competitively. From many good model shops or on-line such as Howes, Cornwall Model Boats.



Aura 650 RTR Yacht. From many good model shops or on-line e.g. Howes or Cornwall Model Boats.



HydroPro Affinity RG65 Racing Yacht. Available only on-line from HobbyKing or Ebay.

These yachts are relatively easy to 'build' – they say that they are almost ready to run (ARTR) but you do have to do a little assembly and rigging – don't believe it though when they say it will only take 30 minutes as it will not. I took about a day in all putting my DF65 together. They are compact yachts, easy to transport and sail and you can get a lot of fun out of them and if you are new to yacht sailing, a good learning base. Try one and I am sure you will enjoy.

Financial News:

Annual Membership fees Due for year 2017 / 20178

Just to remind our members, 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 2017 / 2018 year are due, so please can I have your membership subscriptions in just after the 01 April 2017. We are making a small surplus each year and although costs have risen we are still in the black (due to the increased revenue from more memberships)

and have therefore decided that we should again hold the membership fees for this coming financial year at £10 for seniors and £5 for juniors under the age of 16 years.

I am sure you will agree that this is excellent news and value as each 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 2016 which is lower than the previous year so please help by paying your fees promptly this year. Please hand or send your 2017 / 2018 membership fee money to myself and I will sign your membership card or hand your fees to Chairman, Andy Clark at the lake side by putting it in an envelope with your name on the outside. You can send 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

2016 / 2017 Accounts

It is almost 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 2016 / 2017 :-

1. Membership total was (70) 68 Senior and 2 Juniors.
2. Membership fees collected £620.00 during 2016/2017 year - 2 Junior fees, 3 membership fees (£30) being paid in the year 2015/2016 and 4 membership fees (£40) held over to next year's accounts, i.e. 2017/2018.
3. Postage costs for the year £150.58.
4. Club and members PI Insurance has been renewed for the same level of cover at the cost of £63.75 which is 0.4% increase over last year's premium.
5. After all current payments have been made we have an approximate surplus of £222.01 on fees received this year over yearly expenditure.
6. We will carry forward a sum of £859.01 to next year's account.

Below is a copy of the simplified version of the accounts for the year 2016 /2017

**Basingstoke Model Boat
Club Accounts 2016-2017**

End of Year

Item	Income	Cash/Cheque	Expenditure	Cash/Cheque	Date
Balance carried Fwd (Petty Cash)	£2.58	Cash			
Monies at Bank carried forward	£634.42				
61 Senior and 2 Junior Member Fees **	£620.00				
Website Fee (One Com)			-£24.96	Cheque	Cheque to Andy Clarke
Newsletter Printing Cost (65 Copies)			-£31.20	Cheque	June 2016 Newsletter
72 2nd Class Stamps @55p (Alan Spooner)			-£39.60	Inc with above	June 2016 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	June 2016 Newsletter
100 A6 Laminating Pouches			-£2.99	inc below (1)	For 2016 Membership Cards
Plastic Clip-on Name Badges			-£1.99	inc below (1)	For exhibitions
60 2nd Class Stamps @55p (Alan Spooner)			-£33.00	Cheque	September 2016 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (60 Copies)			-£28.80	Inc with above	September 2016 Newsletter
60 2nd Class Stamps @55p (Alan Spooner)			-£33.00	inc below (1)	December 2016 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (65 Copies)			-£32.50	inc below (1)	December 2016 Newsletter
2 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£2.00	Cheque (1)	December 2016 Newsletter
Donation K Dolton's Funeral			-£20.00	Cheque	Paid at Funeral (A Spooner)
84 2nd Class Stamps @55p (Alan Spooner)			-£46.20	Cheque	March 2017 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (70 Copies)			-£35.00	Cheque	March 2017 Newsletter
PI Insurance			-£63.75	Cheque	Stamp Insurance Services
			-£397.99		
Cheques to be presented to Bank	-£144.95				
Monies to be paid into Bank March 2017	£0.00				
Current Monies at Bank March 2017	£1,001.38				
Petty Cash October 2014	£2.58				
Total	£859.01				

13/03/2017

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BMBC Accounts 2016 - 2017 End of Year Accounts

I trust that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter however, I must close now and just to let you know that there are only **3377** words of wisdom this time around plus many pictures and lots of interesting facts and figures in this newsletter – what is happening, I am becoming a bore ! However if you want to send me something for the next edition which will save you from more of my ramblings I will be only too pleased to include it. **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.

***** **Late News** *****.

Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society are holding their annual Steam Gala at Viabes, Basingstoke and we have again been invited to attend and display our boats over the weekend of 08 – 09 April 2017. Volunteers to man the Club stand are required, so please let me know if you are interested.