



# **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](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

Email: atclark25@yahoo.co.uk

## **DECEMBER 2017**

Here we are again, happy as can be all good pals and jolly good company – that sums up our Club doesn't it. We have had very good turn-outs at the pond despite the weather and as always, you turn up have a bit of banter, put the world to right and have a good chat – that is our ethos in the Club and long may it be. Summer has been and gone, autumn arrived and now we are well on our way to winter. We have had excellent sailing days where the winds has been conducive to good sailing and that has in turn led to a good turnout of Club members visiting the pond with their yachts. Sundays though still brings out the many and varied scale boats along with the yachts.

Now we have reached December the weather has started to get really cold, much more so than previous years and now we have the sleet and snow to contend with. Of course with that comes less members visiting the pond – only the ones who haven't got a home to go to or ones that have some form of 'mental' impairment !





### **News of other Members:**

I have been in touch with our **Dave Powell** who has not been down to the pond over recent weeks, I knew he hadn't been too well thinking he might have a kidney stone but was surprised to hear from him that they took him into hospital and had to remove one of his kidneys. He is on the mend now and we all give him our best wishes in making a full recovery very soon. As much as we like to see you down the pond Dave, keep warm and tucked up at home and we will see you when the weather gets better.

Another member **Alan Wells** who did so well in selling the late Keith Dolton's boating bits has not been too well of late but hopefully getting better. He too is staying at home in the warm and asks me to let the members know that he still has a few more boat bits from Keith and you are welcome to pop round to Alan to say hello and see what he has left.

### **Membership News:**

As you all know our new Club year started from April this year and it has been an excellent 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.

**Since the beginning of this Club year** we have had 11 new members join our Club which is great news and this time around we have to give a warm welcome to Simon Davidson who has joined our Club. We now have **68 paid up members** on our books which includes 2 junior members and this means that we are continuing to remain very active in terms of membership so we must be doing something right !

I have mentioned this before but it is not a moan for me, as the Secretary and Treasurer, deal with all the new memberships and some people contact me by phone before they join and others just send their completed membership forms to me so often we have not physically met before they join us. Both our Chairman Andy and myself find it difficult to 'put a face to a name' of these new members, especially as I do not always get to the pond on both our weekly sailing days so don't be shy, please come up and make yourselves known to us. I know that the 'lads' who regularly attend the pond are very friendly and I am sure that they make all our new members welcome when they visit the pond irrespective of whether Andy or I are around. So guys if there are new members at the pond that you think we haven't met yet please introduce us to them.

It was this time last year when I let our members know of the passing of one our oldest members – Keith Dolton. Keith had been an expert modeller and sailor and his family told us that there was many modelling items that were still in his workroom. Our Alan Wells met Keith's family and took away those items to sell to Club members with any monies raised going to our Club. Alan did an excellent job and raised the sum of £183 which now sits in our account but is there anything that we could purchase or do that could be in the memory of our Keith – any suggestions please let me or Andy know.



## **Annual Membership fees Due for year 2018/2019**

I can't believe I am 'talking' about 2018 and 2019 already – where do the years disappear to ?

Next year I believe we can still hold our annual subscriptions at £10 and £5 for juniors – now that is not bad is it ! I will be able to be more definitive once I have accounted for everything towards the end of our financial year in March 2018.

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.

**Please remember that Annual Membership runs from the beginning of April to the end of March each year, irrespective of when you joined (however, I do allow those that join us in January / February / March to roll their fees over to the following accounting year).** So, as a reminder can I please have your membership renewal fees in at the beginning of April – it makes it much easier for me and saves me having to keep writing about it and jogging peoples' memories via future newsletters.

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 the 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)

## **News from Basingstoke and Deane Council**

After what seems an age we have finally met the new Council Community Development Officer - Green Spaces (that is a grand title) who replace our Zoe Channon, the previous incumbent. Her name is Charlie Dooley and she has the same effervescent qualities as Zoe had.

Myself and Andy met her for the first time at the pond in November whilst a few of our members were sailing their boats. She was very impressed and enthusiastic about our activities. She asked whether we had any issues and of course we leapt on the problem of the 'commuter parking' whereby on Wednesdays the model boat pond car park is full and members were finding it difficult to park. We explained that previously the grounds staff kept the car park gate locked for us until 10.00 hours to stop the commuters parking and suggested that this could be done again. The next day I had a message from Charlie to say that she had met the staff and that they would again keep the gate closed until – 10.00 AM. Problem now solved and all the Wednesday sailors are happy as well as parents who use the park to access the children's play areas – a great result and thanks.

Charlie has confirmed that next year both the Love Parks and National Play Day events will be held at Eastrop and we as a Club have been asked to assist as we have done in the past.



**Now it is time for that long awaited sequel to Reg's article in the last Newsletter**

### **Regs Rees's boats - Rapier build Part 2**

It seems a long time since I last put pen to paper to outline the first part of my modified Lesro Rapier build. I know many of you will have been waiting with baited breath for the promised follow up, counting off the days and weeks just like waiting for the sequel to a good blockbuster film. Well the good news is the wait is finally over and part 2 is here!

Joking aside, like with most people, the time spent on what we want to do, for me in this instance trying to finish the Rapier, is very much dependent upon factors beyond our control. In my case it has been a combination of trying to return our lawn back to lawn again, after it became an area of scorched earth following the few hot days that comprised our summer, and in the meantime having to do the 'few odd jobs' ordered – oops, I meant requested by senior management. Still the model is now finally finished so onto outlining the second and concluding part of the build process:-

I ended part 1 having reached the deck planking stage which I completed using Lime for the planks and Walnut for the caulking, laid out in a diagonal pattern against a central king plank. Although the planking was straightforward, it was a fairly lengthy job as it took over 200 planks and caulking strips to complete the deck. The only slightly tedious bit was the section between the front cabin and the bow which has a varying convex curve. Because the caulking strips were 4mm high x .05mm wide they could not be bent sufficiently, which meant that they had to be individually shaped to match the curve.



Once the planking was finished, the caulking strips were sanded down to bring them level with the 3mm thick Lime planks, and a Rubbing strip fitted. The deck was then sanded smooth to remove any high and low spots whilst blending the deck into the top edge of the Rubbing strip. The lower edge of the Rubbing strip was rounded off to give a less square profile. Although planking the deck took a fair amount of work to complete, I am very pleased with the result and feel it was well worth the effort.

The next job was to fit the Chine stringers. These are often butt jointed at the bow; however me being me, I prefer them blended into the hull at or just behind the bow as I think this gives a cleaner /more streamlined look on this type of model.



During this time I thought again about the overall look of the model, and felt it would look better with some sort of mast. After looking at lots of full sized fast motor launches on the internet, I decided to make up a short angled mast in wood with a brass extension. I wanted to inset this into the central cabin so it could be removable rather than glued on. To do this I had to cut a hole in the roof covering following the exact shape of the mast footprint. Luckily all went well with the mast having a nice tight fit into the roof. To finish things off I made a brass fillet to go around the cut out on the roof to try and make it look as if the mast is bolted on, as with many of the full size boats I looked at.

In terms of actual construction, other than a few odd and ends the Rapier was now basically finished, so my next job was to seal the interior. For this I did my normal practice of saturating all the interior wood below cabin level with heavily thinned down gloss varnish. Once dry I made up the rudder servo and receiver battery platforms and glued them into position. The rudder tube and water scoop were also glued in place, and a hole for the water outlet tube drilled in the transom. I then applied 3 coats of normal strength gloss varnish.

My next job was to varnish the inside and outside of all cabin areas and the deck. For this I used heavily thinned down varnish throughout, applying 4 coats of Gloss for all the interior cabin areas and 6 coats for the exterior areas (sides, fronts, tops, windscreen etc.). The varnish was rubbed down between coats after allowing each coat 3 or 4 days for the varnish to harden. For the deck I applied 6 coats of matt varnish, again rubbing down between coats. Next I painted the hull. The model was turned upside down and 3 coats of thinned down primer used to seal the complete hull followed by one normal strength coat. This was then rubbed down to remove any brush marks and surface particles. Having now obtained a reasonable surface, I proceeded to give the area below the Chine stringer 6 coats of thinned down gloss paint, rubbing down between coats after allowing 4 - 5 days for each coat to harden. As I wanted to give the model a retro type feel ,I thought something bright and zingy would be good so I chose 'Lime Explosion'. I was a bit dubious about the colour when the first couple of coats went on, but now it's finished I think it looks really nice. For the rest of the hull I chose what I thought was an off white gloss (although it looks like a normal white now it's on) to compliment the varnished topsides, again I applied 6 thinned down coats rubbing down between each coat.

Looking closely, the finished hull has its share of ripples in the paintwork, but from a few feet away I think it looks fine. I could have flattened out the surface more and applied additional coats but decided against that otherwise I could keep going on for ever!

Having completed the hull, I let the paint fully harden for a couple of weeks before putting the model back on its stand. I then lightly sanded all the external cabin areas (600 grit wet), and put on one final coat of heavily thinned down gloss varnish. I did this for no other reason than the model had been resting on its Superstructure for some time and just felt it needed a final finishing coat.

A general comment on painting: - when making my model boats, I tend to paint the hull last because I usually have varnished wood for the deck and superstructure. I find that if the hull is painted first and the superstructure and deck (which is especially vulnerable) are left untreated, then any stray paint whilst painting the hull that finds its way onto the untreated wood can easily soak in and be difficult to fully remove. If the topsides are already varnished, then any stray paint can easily be wiped off or allowed to dry and lightly sanded off without going into the base wood. I find this method works really well when painting a model with varnished topsides, and although not perfect has served me well over the years.

The next task was to put on the bits and pieces such as, Grab rails for the cabin tops, Flagstaff, bollards, 'A' frame for the prop tube, brass water outlet etc. Not sure it saved much weight, but I





used brass tubing with pins glued in at the ends for the Grab rails instead of brass rod. I had a slight hiccup when it came to inserting the Rudder. I found that there wasn't enough clearance on the stand, so I had to make up some pads with the thickest ply to hand in order to raise the stand up. I also had to take off 12mm from the bottom of the Rudder. I don't know how that happened; perhaps my wife was right when she said I have a dithery mind!

I then installed the brushless motor, Speed controller and rudder servo. I'm not sure what battery voltage I will finally use, but I have made up battery platforms that will allow me flexibility with size and position. When setting up the motor I used two 8.4 volt batteries in series and will initially try a 45X prop. and see how that setup goes on the water. Other than Radio all I needed now to complete the model was the nameplate.

As some club members are aware, we have a Field Spaniel at home called Molly who has a terminal illness, and according to the vet should have left us a couple of years ago. However, she is still here coping well, so my wife and I thought it would be a fitting tribute to a lovely pet to name the model after her, hence I have named the model 'Miss Molly II'. Thank you to those members for your ongoing words of support and friendship regarding Molly, it's very much appreciated and valued.



**The finished model with Molly**

(Since writing this article Reg has informed me that their beloved Molly pictured above has passed) (away – her memory will certainly live on in the boat that is named after her. (Editor)



Assuming I've understood the publishing timetable correctly, by the time you read this Christmas will be rapidly approaching. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish all club members and their families a very happy Christmas and good health and happiness for the New Year.

As a concluding comment, I would also like to say thank you to Alan Spooner for his time and efforts in formatting this and my previous articles into the Newsletter, and for his patience in having to manage my poor attempts at email attachments, so thank you Alan.

Best Wishes, Reg Rees.

*Editor* : Reg, It is no effort at all and it is a pleasure to have received another contribution from you.

## Midhurst Model Engineering Exhibition February 2018

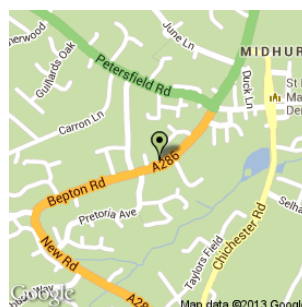
**Now for the big news and the most important. The Midhurst model engineering show is on again at its usual time for next year.** Many of us who regularly attend this event enjoy this show, meeting up with fellow boat clubs and looking at all the other interesting engineering hobbies that are in attendance. The new centre complex at Midhurst a great place to visit and provides great access for getting our exhibits in and out of the halls plus it has welcoming facilities including a small cafe and caters for those persons with disabilities. The date of the show is **Sunday 11 February 2018.**

As we all know the parking is much better at the new centre – larger and more space. I submitted our Club booking for next year following this year's show which was confirmed and we have been given the same size stand in the same location as this year. I will only be given passes for 8 members and the idea is we put on a really good display of boats to show what our Club is all about.

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, it is definitely worth a visit. Doors open at 10.30 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 us and the exhibition, the entrance fees last year were £6.50 adults, £3.00 children, Seniors £5 or £14 per family – as yet the organisers haven't provided me with the entrance fees for this year.

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**





Well, I have nearly finished this newsletter and thought that if you are a little bored over Christmas and have a spare moment you can try this little 'stocking filler' – a mixture of nautical terms and anything else I could think of, no prizes though I'm afraid just the satisfaction of finding them all !!

### BMBC Xmas Wordsearch

S	Y	O	R	T	S	E	D	T	S
A	S	E	A	E	L	P	R	N	I
T	C	E	I	T	A	O	O	A	S
A	N	O	D	E	P	R	O	T	A
N	U	S	O	B	T	U	L	S	O
E	A	C	H	S	E	D	A	P	S
L	L	U	C	S	Y	D	D	A	L
D	U	S	T	O	K	E	E	C	A
A	R	T	E	R	Y	R	P	C	C
L	E	E	K	T	N	E	T	S	K



CAPSTAN, KEEL, RUDDER, TORPEDO, KETCH, STOKE, SCULL, LAUNCH, LADLE, ALURE, EACH, LIFEBOAT, EACH, ARTERY, SPADES, SNORT, BOSUN, BEDECK, LADDY, SLACK, ANODE, DECK, DROOL, OASIS, ADEPT, SORT, STENT, PORT, DESTROYS, SATAN, ROPE, PLEASE, REAR, SLAP, RAID, TIE, TETE, DUST, ELSE, ACER, SPOT



That is it folks - I must close now as Christmas is around the corner and I need a rest from all this work ! Thanks to my contributor this time around as it is much appreciated. I wish you all a very good Christmas and a prosperous New Year (we hope !). Let us hope you get a lot of boat modelling 'goodies' for presents and I look forward to seeing you down the pond in the New Year.





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

## MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU



## ALL THE BEST FOR THE NEW YEAR

Well, I must close now and just to let you know that there are no fewer than **3892** words of wisdom (go on count them if you must) plus many pictures, etc. in this newsletter which I think is excellent value for your money, even if I say so ! 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 PDF copy to any of you who have an email address and I have also asked Andy to place a copy on our BMBC website.***