



# **BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB**

## **Newsletter**

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## **March / April 2018**

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 2017 /2018 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 73 (69+4 new for 2018), if everyone renews their membership. Our latest members who have joined us since January 2018 are Tim Coombes, Ian Buckie, Richard Phillips and Trevor Martin and we thank them for joining our Club and look forward to seeing them sailing at our pond.

## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Basingstoke - Love Parks Event**

“Love Parks Week”, a national event sponsored by the Keep Britain Tidy group. Following on from the previous year’s successful attendance at this event we have again agreed to support the Council with this activity. It is being held a little earlier this year on 15 July where we intend to have a Club stand displaying our boats, a table or three for making paper boats for/with any children and their parents and a couple of gazebos to keep us dry if the weather is inclement, in fact similar to previous years. We will still be sailing our boats as a normal BMBC meet 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Modellers Exhibition - Midhurst 2018**

As you can see from the above it was the 36<sup>th</sup> 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, Reg Rees, Keith Barnes, Chris Cole, Chris Phillips and myself who attended with many boats to put on a fine display.

Sunday morning of the 11<sup>th</sup> February arrived and as usual for early February the weather was cold and damp. I arrived at about 08.00 hours at The Grange, with boats intact, having loaded my car in the cold but dry night before. When I arrived the car park was already filling up fast and the centre was 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 previous years. Yet again we had table problems as, although I requested each year and had it confirmed that we wanted 6 tables, I ended up with 4 ! However, with the help of the centre manager I managed to get another 2 tables for us. With the help of our members I hastily re-organised our tables, put the display covers on them along with our BMBC signs and notices and our members started to bring in 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.

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 and Springbok Model Boat Club – hope I haven't forgotten anyone.



A lot of interest was shown in all our boats especially two of Reg Rees' finest examples - his new Rapier which is a beauty to behold and his impressive launch based on a Fire Tender. Keith brought a couple of his boats (SS Truro and SS Hudson Sound) which he hoped to sell plus we had many fine yachts on display with Joe's Patricia, Andy's Moonbeam and my Koh-i-Noor. Chris Cole brought along his tanker British Tamar and his German Search and Rescue vessel Hecht, Andy displayed his Hynish Bay Clyde Puffer along with the 2 'Falke' fishing boats with Joe's coaster and Chris Phillips showing his Swordsman.

Thanks to all the guys that manned the display and helped make it a success and to all those members that visited us on the stand – great to see you there.

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 impressive Mecanno – a must visit for next year..

The Model show at Midhurst was very successful and the organisers have decided to put on a summer exhibition based on the usual winter format with the addition of 'portable ponds being provided in the car park for all Clubs to take it in turn to display their boats on the water. Also, they are going to have a mock battle with radio control tanks assaulting a 'model village' – again in the car park area. **The date for the event is 24 June 2018** and I have provisionally booked a place for our Club – what I

need now are volunteers to man our stand. I unfortunately cannot be there but think it will be great so please let me know if you want to help – we need to have a good display of boats and willing members to talk to the public to promote both our hobby and our Club.

## Other News:

### Reg Rees - Letter of thanks from Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice

Many of our members will know that our Reg Rees was earlier this year 'selling' bits and pieces for models that he was given by the Farnham Model Shop, Models of Distinction who were closing down following many years of service to all types of modellers. He was asked that any monies that he collected be donated to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Reg has told me that he collected £40 and had forwarded this to the hospice. I attach their letter of thanks in reply.

Many thanks Reg for taking the time to do this and to provide Phyllis Tuckwell with some much needed funds.



## BMBC Website

Andy Clark our Chairman, who is also our website manager has informed me that we have now had 11,000 'hits' (persons who have viewed our site). This is good news and shows that we are slowly making ourselves known on the World Wide Webb !

## The Park Bench for the Pond

The saga of the proposed park bench that one of our members wanted to kindly donate lingers on – in fact it shall in future now be known as 'Bench Gate'. Despite me writing to the Council Officer concerned again and an email sent 2 weeks ago I still have not had the courtesy of a reply. I have suggested that if they do not respond to this generous offer then I will have no other course of action but to speak to the elected Councillors of Basingstoke to seek their opinion and their assistance. Watch this space for further news.

The word has got around that you don't want to keep hearing about my ramblings each Newsletter so two of our members have stepped up to the plate and provided me with an article for your delectation – now, there's a big word for you !.

### **And now an article from our member Keith Barnes - “Some Observations on Large Working Model Boats Excluding Sail”**

So what is a **large model boat**? I would say that if it is more than 4 ft long and weighs more than 20 lbs – that would be a large boat by most members standards.

**Large boats** come in 3 forms namely the kit, semi-kit and 'out of the box' almost ready to sail.

With the **kit type**, everything should be supplied, sometimes including running gear. You still have to fit servos, receivers, etc. Also don't forget the paint and glue.

The **semi-kit** is much more complex and time consuming. You have to build and fit all the decks, then the most difficult bit the superstructure. In the following case, e.g. a battleship, it is like working out the layers of a wedding cake – what overlaps what !

The fittings are all available but you may have to shop around via the internet. 3 of my large models are from Fleetscale of Cornwall. They can supply the hull, funnels, running gear and all the fittings. I have been to their factory several times and seen how they make the kits.

They are very nice people to do business with – orders normally taking 5 to 6 weeks.

The '**ready to sail**' sometimes still has to have the receiver and speed controller fitted.

Do you really want a **large boat** ? some of the drawbacks being finding room at home, what will the wife say, is there room in the garage for it (no not the wife !), Transporting the boat can be difficult – an estate car might do or of course a van. I have an adapted wheelchair car with a ramp. It is ideal and in addition a garden trolley will help with transporting the boat to the waterside. The weight of the large boat could be a problem for many, not too bad if you can wheel it to the edge of the pond. It is critical to get the ballasting right and the running batteries can double up as ballast.

Is it expensive ? It can be £500 to £1000 for a large warship but you can buy 'one off the shelf' for £1400 If any of the above does not put you off you can have a model boat that does attract a bit of attention at ponds or at exhibitions. We are lucky enough to have one of the best boating ponds I have seen and it is best to have a large pond for a **large boat**.

I would be very pleased to help any member who wants to 'go large' and at the moment I am building a 6 ft 1:48 scale Escort Destroyer. I bought the kit for £500 and it had been in the owners house for 20 years untouched – the cost now will be over £1000.

Good luck to you all. Keith Barnes

\*\*\*\*\* **Late News** \*\*\*\*\*

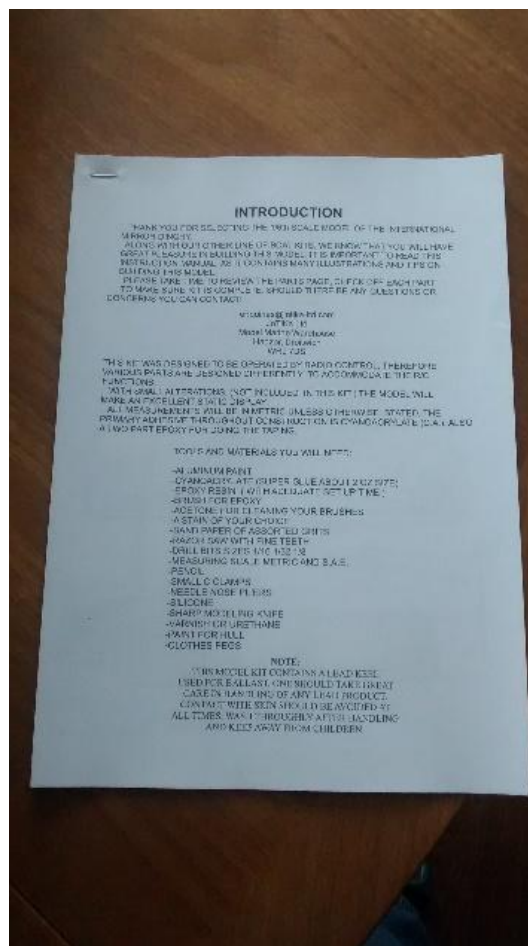
*Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society are again holding their annual Steam Gala at Viables, Basingstoke and as usual we had been invited to attend and display our boats over the weekend of 07 – 08 April 2018.*

*Unfortunately the BDMES cannot this year provide a marquee for our boat display and suggested that we might want to bring a gazebo along to shelter under. As this is a 2 day event and is being held at a time of year when the weather is often cold and inclement I sought the views of those members who help man our display. Many are of the older variety and would not do too well exposed to the elements all day so with much regret we have had to decline the request of the BDMES to attend this year. They understand our position and have suggested that we will keep in touch for next year in case things change.*

## Now it is time for a long awaited report on our Chairman Andy Clark's build report of his model Mirror Dinghy

### Building a 1:6 scale model kit of a Mirror Dinghy.

Following a rush of blood to the head I ordered the Osborn kit from the Ship Wright Shop web site in July 2017. The kit was finally delivered in October and is no longer available (Feb'18) on the web site. The kit is very comprehensive with thankfully a detailed instruction booklet which made for a good read.



### A little bit of History

The Mirror Dinghy, named after the Daily Mirror, was conceived by yacht designer Jack Holt and TV do-it-yourself expert Barry Bucknell in 1962 as a way of bringing sailing to a wider population. It employed a novel construction method where sheets of marine plywood are held together with copper stitching and fibreglass tape. This is called tack and tape or stitch and glue construction. Buoyancy being provided by four independent integral chambers rather than by bags. It was originally designed to be built with simple tools and little experience, and this meant that the design was quite simple. For example, the characteristic 'pram' front reduces the need for the more complicated curved wooden panels and joinery needed for a pointed bow, and a dagger board is used instead of a hinged centreboard.

The scale and dimensions are 1:6 scale, 22 inches in length, 9 inches beam.

Building so far!

This is my first attempt at building a boat from scratch with the build taking place on my dining room table. I started in October 2017 with this article being written mid-February 2018. Obviously some time out was taken over the Christmas and New Year period.

The kit faithfully follows the original build techniques and the first job was to stitch the 6 pieces of the hull together using 30mm long pieces of copper wire. All 70 of them!



Following this the fibreglass tape was added to the inside seams and thoroughly soaked with resin. The hull was then left to dry for a couple of days before trimming off the excess copper wires as flush to the outside of the hull as possible.

The next step was to add the gunwales around the hull, plus internal strapping, using 1/8x1/8 wood strips, superglue and a number of clothes pegs to hold the wood in place. The addition of the gunwales and strapping made the hull quite rigid.

The four internal bulkheads, three transverse and one perpendicular were made next and these fit such that the top of the bulkheads are flush with the internal strapping fitted earlier. Fitting three of the bulkheads required the hull to be spread apart to ensure a tight fit. This step was approached with some trepidation to say the least! The instructions suggest using a piece of wood to slide along the inside of the hull to spread it apart. In the end I used a small reversible clamp to spread the hull apart taking care to use some packing material to protect the hull.



The creaks and groans the hull made whilst be spread apart was quite unnerving but amazingly it all held together.

The dagger board case and thwart were made next followed by the side panels of two of the internal buoyancy chambers. With the side panels in place the dagger board case and thwart were fitted ensuring that the case sat squarely over the slot in the hull and the dagger board was vertical.

At this point the floor battens were fitted, way out of instructional sequence, but I wanted to start varnishing the buoyancy chambers and other areas which will have decks fitted over them. At the time of writing I have put down 4 coats of water based exterior satin finish varnish diluted by 20% and two coats of undiluted varnish to all areas which will be decked. The other internal areas of the hull so far have had 5 coats of varnish diluted by 20%. In all cases at least a day between coats was left followed by a light sanding with fine grit prior to the next coat.



My thanks go to Reg Rees for his advice on varnishing and finishing. Thanks also to Robin Locke who kindly gave me a 1/32 drill bit and also lent me a small hand drill for the duration of the build. Well that's all for now, the next major stage is the fitting of the decks but I'll bore you all with that next time!!

**Many thanks Andy for the article and I believe we will see the completed boat in the summer of 2020 !!**



## **Financial News:**

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

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 2018 / 2019 year are due, so please can I have your membership subscriptions in just after the 01 April 2018. 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 82% of the Club members' fees by May 2017 which is record for us so please help by paying your fees promptly again this year. Please hand or send your 2018 / 2019 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](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

### **2017 / 2018 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 should all 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 2017 / 2018 :-

1. Membership total was 69 made up from 67 Seniors and 2 Juniors.
2. Membership fees collected £680.00 during 2017/2018 year – (2 Junior fees).
3. Postage costs for the year £152.88

4. Club and members PI Insurance has been renewed for the same level of cover at the cost of £68.80 which is 0.5% plus tax increase over last year's premium.
5. After all current payments have been made we have an approximate surplus of £426.65 on fees/donation received this year over yearly expenditure.
6. We will carry forward a sum of £1285.66 to next year's account.
7. Below is a copy of the simplified version of the accounts for the year 2017 /2018
8. Apart from membership income we have this year received a donation of £183 from the sale of Keith Dolton's model bits by our Alan Wells

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	£856.43					
67 Senior and 2 Junior Member Fees **	£680.00					
Donation from sale of K Dolton effects	£183.00					
<b>Total Monies / Income for year</b>	<b>£1,722.01</b>					
Website Fee (One Com)			-£31.15	Cheque	02.08.17	Cheque to Andy Clarke
Newsletter Printing Cost (70 Copies)			-£33.60	Cheque	01.06.17	June 2017 Newsletter
72 2nd Class Stamps @57p (Alan Spooner)			-£40.32	Inc with above	01.06.17	June 2017 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	01.06.17	June 2017 Newsletter
72 2nd Class Stamps @57p (Alan Spooner)			-£40.32	Cheque	21.08.17	September 2017 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (70 Copies)			-£42.00	Inc with above	21.08.17	September 2017 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	21.08.17	September 2017 Newsletter
60 2nd Class Stamps @58p (Alan Spooner)			-£33.60	Cheque	14.12.17	December 2017 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (70 Copies)			-£37.80	Inc with above	14.12.17	December 2017 Newsletter
3 x 35 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	14.12.17	December 2017 Newsletter
Epson 18 Black Ink Cartridge			-£10.00	Cheque	06.10.17	October 2017
72 2nd Class Stamps @58p (Alan Spooner)			-£41.76	Cheque	22.03.18	March 2018 Newsletter
Newsletter Printing Cost (75 Copies)			-£45.00	Inc with above	22.03.18	March 2018 Newsletter
3 x 30 A5 Envelopes (Alan Spooner)			-£3.00	Inc with above	22.03.18	March 2018 Newsletter
PI Insurance			-£68.80	Cheque	03.03.18	Stamp Insurance Services
			<b>-£436.35</b>			
Cheques to be presented to Bank	£0.00					
Monies to be paid into Bank March 2017	£0.00					
Current Monies at Bank March 2017	£1,285.66					
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,285.66</b>					

I trust that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter however, I must close now and just to let you know that there are only **3850** words of wisdom (not all mine thankfully) this time around plus many pictures and lots of interesting facts and figures in this newsletter – I told you that it was great value ! 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.**