



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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Since the last Newsletter I have travelled almost 3000 miles through France on our hols, first of all evading the storms in late May and then outrunning them to the South of France in June. There we found extremely good and hot weather which I brought back with me only to find that you were having a heatwave over here too and this good weather has stayed with us here up until August at least. For our members it has meant a bumper early summer with good sailing and hot weather to warm those old bones and joints up after the cold and wet winter months.

Membership News:

In the last Newsletter I reported that we had 6 new members join our Club since last April and we have now had another member join us this August so Roy Poynter

is now a member and I have sent him a letter of thanks for joining us so please give him a warm welcome when he visits the pond. Since the beginning of 2018 we have had 12 new members join our Club which is great news and if all of last year's members had renewed their subscriptions we would have had 81 members in the Club, however 5 members have not renewed their membership to date which now means we have 76 members in the Club - I had hoped to reach and maintain the 80 or more but it is what it is, I can't try more than I have to get everyone to renew their membership.

New members are always 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:

Whilst I was on my travels around France the Midhurst Summer Show was to be held and I asked our Chairman Andy Clark if he could organise a team of members to attend and put on a display, similar to what we do at the main winter show at Midhurst. The following is Andy's report on how the event went.

Chairman's Report on Midhurst Summer Show 24th June 2018.

A clear bright and sunny day dawned and with hopes of a good turnout a number of club members arrived early at the Leisure Centre venue and set up the club's display.

7 members of the club manned the stand and we had 18 boats of all shapes and sizes on display. Our display was definitely the best within the boat section of the event.





As this was the first summer event to be held at Midhurst a small pool was made available to those exhibitors who wished to use it. The pool also played a major part of the WW2 Normandy Tank battle which with RC tanks rolling off landing craft to play a part in the affray. The main hall had a number of railway exhibits and trade stands but the quantity was noticeably less than at the show in February. Throughout the venue there were a number of empty tables where clubs/organisations were no-show on the day.



The hoped for good turnout of paying members of the public however did not occur and talking with the organisers after the event they estimated that they had only between 120 and 150 paying attendees throughout the day. This was a great shame as a lot of effort had been undertaken by the organisers to advertise the event, but the draw of good weather, World Cup Football and Formula F1 on the

same day was a lot to compete with. On a positive note the next show will be the 38th Modellers Exhibition on the 10th February 2019.

My thanks, in no particular order, go to Reg Rees, Charlie Redford, Keith Barnes, Keith Ebsworth, John Meacher and Chris Phillips for manning the stand and bringing along such a good selection of boats to display.

My thanks go to Andy Clark for organising this event for the Club (Editor)

Basingstoke - Love Parks Event 2018

Unfortunately "Love Parks Week", a national event sponsored by the Keep Britain Tidy group was not organised and run by Basingstoke and Deane Council last year due to staff issues but this event was back on the Agenda for this year.

It was not until a few weeks before the proposed event in July that the Council confirmed that they wanted us to put on an event. With our usual format we agreed to have our 'Make a boat and sail a boat' event at Eastrop Park for the children of Basingstoke. The date is fixed by the Keep Britain Tidy group and was set for the week before the start of the school holidays (a week earlier than previous). This caused a couple of issues as it was a little late for the Council to advertise our event through their channels and with it being before the main school holidays, the catchment of children would be those only of pre-school age.

Dawn arrived on Wednesday 18 July and we awoke to the usual blue sky and bright sun that we have been accustomed to of late. A few of us arrived early to set up gazebos, tables, signage etc. and to put some of our boats on display. We quickly put together our Club stand to display our boats and with work tables on which to make our now famous paper boats.

We had a good support from our members on the day with many attending with their boats, talking to the visitors and children and letting some of them sail their boats under supervision. Quite a few families comprising of mainly mums and grandparents with their pre-school charges visited us to make paper boats and to look at the boats on display. I am not sure how many boats we actually made on the day (not as many as in previous years however) but all the children were pleased with their efforts especially when they sailed them on the water - some even managed to sail their treasured boats the whole length of our pond. There was not as good attendance as in previous years which was mainly due to the Council not advertising the Love Parks event early enough but our reward was when one visitor to the park said to me "It was so good of the model boat club members to give up their time to provide this event for the children of Basingstoke"

During the afternoon the Council's new Green Spaces Officer, Charlie Dooley visited us to see how we got on and to thank us for once again organising it.



Some satisfied 'Customers'

My thanks go to all members who helped us set up and run this event and who gave their time to let some of the Children have a go at sailing one of their radio control model boats.

Basingstoke - National Play Day 2018

The 'Love Parks' event was a forerunner to our next event which was previously known as the National Play Day and which was regularly held during August at Eastrop Park. Rather belatedly the Council informed me that the usual Basingstoke Play Day, where almost 40 children's events were held throughout Eastrop Park (this is a National event and similar Play Days are held in many towns throughout the country) was not going to happen. Instead, the Council wanted each individual organising group to hold their event in one of the various parks and open spaces throughout the Borough. We were asked if we would put on event again and they were very happy for us to again display our boats at the event and our main focus would be to make more paper boats for and with the children, plus of course to let some of the children have a go at sailing a radio controlled model boat. With many new council employees now working for the Council replacing those that had previously organised the main event before and had now either left their employ or were made redundant, the Council bureaucracy machine 'kicked in'. After much correspondence and phone calls I was finally given the go ahead to get the event

organised, albeit a little later than I would have liked – phone calls with the Council's communications team and family liaison helped to finally get our event advertised on the Council's Facebook page although only a couple of days before the event.

We arrived early to set up our display and quickly erected our gazebos and tables in readiness for the 'onslaught' from the members of the public. The weather was fine, sunny but not quite as warm as recent and with a little breeze. The event was due to commence at 10.00 hours but parents, grandparents started to arrive before we had finished so we were quickly targeted by them. We were not rushed off our feet but were certainly kept very busy with many boats being made at any one time – our two tables were full most of the time with children making their boats and we even had some parents sitting on the grass cutting out the boats ! The day certainly didn't drag and we were pushed to the limit assisting in cutting out and gluing boats and generally helping the children. Some of our members also had their boats on the water, letting the children have a go at sailing them under their supervision. The Play Day event attracted a good attendance up until mid-day when it started to tail off a bit – most of the visitors we spoke to said that they had seen the event on Facebook so that was good and perhaps next time the Council can promote our events much earlier and more frequently. We enjoyed the challenge and hope we gave something back to the children and residents of Basingstoke and that they had some fun trying to build the paper boats as well as putting them afloat on the water. It was certainly tiring for us but good fun too.

My thanks go to Andy Clark and Dave Barrett who assisted me with the model boat making and along with Joe Harwood were the mainstays in helping make sure all was set up on time and that all went without a hitch. Joe Harwood, Glen Miles, John Farley and many other members were the 'pond side team' letting the children have a go at sailing their model boats and helping us clear up. The Council's Charlie Dooley again visited us on behalf of the Families Team to thank us for all our hard work and supplied us with a few photos of the day.

The next day I received the following email from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

"Thanks again to you, Andy and the rest of the club for today and hope you enjoyed it. Great that you got such a good turn out and lovely to see all the children enjoying themselves."



As usual, we continue to work with Basingstoke and Deane Council and we have after all, this fantastic facility of a model boat pond to be proud of for both our and the public's use and we must ensure we continue to have the Council on our side. We have always had praise from the Council for our hobby so let us keep it that way.

Green Flag Award

The Green Flag award is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces in the UK and inspections takes place each year in parks and green spaces all over the country and these areas are judged by representatives of the 'Keep Britain Tidy' organisation. Basingstoke and Deane BC has consistently won this award for their parks for a number of years. We have just been advised that Eastrop Park and The War Memorial Park have again been awarded their Green Flag award for 2018. Great news for all of us that use the parks and Eastrop in particular.

Members News

A little bit of news regarding a couple of our members:

Alan Wells

Quite a few of you will realise that we haven't seen our Alan for quite a while now. Alan is I believe one of our oldest members in terms of Club membership (the other being our Chas Redford) as he was one of the founder members back in the midst of time in the 1980's.

Our Alan often attends the pond on a Sunday morning but has been missed of late and that we find out was because he had a 'funny turn' - a fall and has spent some time in hospital whilst they tried to find out what the problem was. Apparently they think that he has had a stroke or possibly a heart attack – how much confidence can we have on the doctors when they are not sure ! Anyway fortunately Alan is out of hospital now and back home and I have had a chat with him. He is not his usual bubbly self as one would expect after this but he is taking it very easy with the good Mrs. Wells taking good care of him. We all wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him back at the pond as soon as he is well and able.

Glen Miles

Glen is again one of our oldest members if not our eldest in terms of his age and earlier this year he had been having a bit of a hard time at the hands of doctors and surgeons. Glen told me recently that he has had for about 6 months treatment for skin cancer on his face – and he said it was due to his 'misspent yoof', i.e. enjoying the sun, not using any sun screen and not wearing a hat. Thankfully following 6 months of invasive treatment he seems to be out of the woods and he is still looking as handsome as he was previously plus he now treats the sun with more respect. Well, that is a salutary lesson for us all as I am sure we have all been guilty of it in the past and perhaps still are – so when you are out and about in the sun and particularly at the Eastrop Pond cover up and wear a hat – you know it makes sense.

On My Travels

As many of you are aware my wife and I are ardent caravanners (previously motorhomers too) and have been for over 40 years and spend much of our time touring Europe and in particular France and we will be off again soon to meet up with friends and to visit new areas/regions in France. I will not bore you more as the main reason for mentioning this is that looking ahead to next year there is an event I would like to advise you all of.

Between **06 and 16 June 2019** at Rouen in France the 'Armada' is due to take place. Rouen is a city in Northern France that stands on the River Seine and is about 50 miles East of Le Havre and about 40 miles South of Dieppe. The Rouen Armada is one of the largest free-admission maritime events in the world with over 10 million visitors expected. In June 2019, the event promises to be bigger and better than ever before as the Armada will be celebrating its 30th anniversary. Some 50 beautiful sailing ships (tall ships) from many countries around the world will be berthed along the River Seine quaysides, from the Esplanade Saint-Gervais under the spectacular Pont Flaubert lift bridge to the Guillaume le Conquerant bridge upstream. In addition, there will also be several pleasure cruise boats, warships and even submarines to marvel at! On the last day of the event, all of the ships will set out for a 120 km trip on the River Seine from Rouen to Le Havre, navigating past towns and villages such as La Bouille, Duclair or Caudebec-en-Caux. You will often see sailors/crew standing on the masts of their ship, providing a unique and unforgettable show. Hundreds of thousands of spectators will be watching from the riverbanks, and this long parade of ships back out to sea will last for hours, as some vessels can take up to a whole day to sail to Le Havre.

We went to the Armada in 2013 and had a marvellous time and wandered along and over all the ships that were berthed alongside the banks of the Seine and you could go on/visit all the boats totally free of charge. Every evening there was a free open-air concert arranged which ended in a firework display and the crew of the ships illuminated the masts and spars of their ships with lighting and bunting. Along the quayside there were a never ending row of marquees selling food and drinks at non rip-off prices, mementos and freebie give-aways from the exhibition sponsors. Plus it is also the home of the Maquettistes Navals Rouennais otherwise in English known as the Rouen Model Boat Club whose meeting place is one of the quayside buildings – I spoke to them when we visited in 2013 and they had a magnificent display of boats for all to see which again was free admittance. The organisers arrange great parking with shuttle busses taking you down to the quay so no problems there. I know that this is next year but if you are planning your holidays already or if anyone is interested in further information please speak to me or email me and I will try to help. Below are a couple of photos of the 2013 event we attended.



'Tall Ships on the quay'



'Rouen Model Boat Club'

You know that I am always on the lookout for contributions to our Newsletter and this time our Tony Carter sent me this little item that he had found in an old catalogue advertisement.

“This was found in a 1904 catalogue about models. I think it's for model boaters who are without the use of a pond, only a washing line”



Me being me decided to see if I could find out if there was any more information on this and found that it was mentioned in the 'Scientific American' Journal in May 1903 with a small accompanying advert, so it at least pre-dates 1903. If you find it difficult to view this image, a copy of the newsletter will be placed on our website where you will be able to open up the Newsletter file which is in Adobe PDF format and zoom it up to a readable scale.

For Sale

Keith Barnes has the following boats still for sale and has reduced the prices so, if you are interested – contact Keith on 01256 359928 or see him at the lakeside. All models are ready to sail and are fitted with Planet 2.4GHz receivers.

SS Truro reduced to £300.00
 SS Hudson Sound reduced to £250.00
 WWII Liberty Boat reduced to £300.00

Dragon Force Yacht

Joysway Dragon Force 65 Yacht virtually new condition, only sailed 2-3 times, complete with 2.4GHz transmitter/receiver setup. The yacht is lying near Hook Hampshire and is offered for sale on behalf of the owner. **£100.00 ono. See or phone Andy Clark**

*Well, I must close now and just to let you know that there are **3340** words of wisdom (not all mine you know !) plus many pictures in this newsletter which must be value for your money ! If there is anyone who would like to send me an article for the next edition, I would be most appreciative as its saves me thinking of something to write ! **Ta,Ta, for now folks.***

***Newsletter by Alan Spooner – Secretary / Treasurer /
Newsletter Editor Basingstoke Model Boat Club***