



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

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Club Structure

The club should be being run with as a minimum a Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer. However since May, only I am running the club which in the best interest of the club and its members cannot continue. As a minimum at least a second person is required in order to provide an oversight of activities/expenditure and to enable the authorised signatures for the club's bank account to change. Currently our old secretary/treasurer is by default still a signatory and address holder for our account and this is unfair burden on him which needs to be resolved quickly.

I am quite willing to continue as Secretary/Treasurer if no one wants to take on this role, but in such instance I would have to relinquish the Chairman's role and the club would need to appoint a new Chairman. I am also willing to retain the maintenance and updating of the website as I have the relevant software installed on my PC.

Who would like to take on the role of producing the quarterly newsletter?

Therefore I urge all of you to consider if you would be willing to give up some of your time in order to assist in the running and promotion of our club.

If there are any volunteers please contact me.

I believe that our clubs informal nature, with meetings at which all sorts of model boats are welcomed, combined with the benefits of membership (newsletters/website/liability insurance) and the social interaction at club meets is the way in which members want the club to continue to operate.

However if members want the club to operate in a more formal manner with such items as an AGM then this would need to be put to the membership. I would however expect that members wishing a more formal arrangement would be in the vanguard of volunteers for taking up roles in the club's structure.

As Chairman I have the responsibility to call for an extraordinary meeting of members so that the way forward can be ascertained. I am planning to call this meeting in mid to late October, a separate notification and agenda will be sent out to all members on record in advance.

Membership News

At the time of writing six new members have joined us since the last newsletter. Please join with me in formally welcoming Terry Welch, Steve Osborne, Ray Darby, David Wilkes, Derrick Rendell and Andrew Dalton to the club and we hope to see them at the lake side.

In addition David Moseley has re-joined after a 2 year gap.

Total current membership stands at 85.

Events Roundup

Vintage Model Boat Club at Eastrop 16th June

The chairman of the club contacted me on the 13th June to say that they will be coming to the lake on the following Sunday. As I and lady friend were going on holiday to France on the 14th an email about this was quickly sent to members. A number of members were in attendance and gave the VMBC a warm welcome. Wayne Bevan even managed to rescue one of their Star boats from the dreaded island which was much appreciated.

Tony Carter has kindly put the following together to allow those of us who could not attend to have an idea as to how the day went.

From the pen (or keyboard for the younger members) of the pond correspondent.

On the 16th June the pond had a visit from the Vintage Model Boat Club. Now I know nothing of this club and struggled to find even a website on them so decided to take a wander on a bright windy morning to see for myself.

On arrival I was surprised to see the amount and variety of boats lying on the grass bank and soon got into discussion with their owners. It seems that any sailing or motor boat built in the 60's or before is OK, as they put it, but they must be kept to the original build specification.



Nearly all the boats on display were free sailing but a couple were fitted with steering vanes. These are only accepted within the club if manufactured with them. No Radio Control of course, although RC was about at the time, but it was big and expensive and trying to run an original one now would be nearly impossible so none were on display.

A couple of boats caught my attention as being different and worth a mention the first being a clockwork motor boat made of pressed tin plate.

The owner thought it was made in the 1960s but does not know any real details about it. However, note the size of the winding key protruding from the funnel.



The second boat, a 10 rater, looked very impressive on its stand and was graceful in the water. This boat was built in 1947 and was bought from the original owner who was given it for his 9th or 10th birthday, so it has a good provenance.



It also has a set of 5 spinnakers, still in the original bag, but the new owner did admit they did not come out much.



Just before launching this free sailer, a considerable amount of adjustments were made for the wind direction. These included main and jib, sails to rudder linkage and springs to dampen this movement, which, as he said, is great with a constant blow, but, as we all know, that does not happen in the Basingstoke pond. He was worried about hitting the island, but when in the water it successfully arrived at the other side and was turned round with a pole for the return.

If you missed this event then look out for the next one and have a chat with this friendly bunch of boaters, admire their boats, and on the way home think I LOVE MY RADIO CONTROL.

And from Wayne,

The chairman of the Vintage boat club sends his thanks & his members enjoyed a good day's sailing until 3pm when they left the pond. There were a few 'grandchildren' there sailing some small pond yachts & having a fantastic time.

I received the following text message on the 17th from Martin Bandey VMBC Chair

“Hi Andy, Just to say your members gave us a warm welcome yesterday and Wayne was most helpful when rescuing a boat from the island. Very many thanks”

Hopefully after this successful session we will see this club again at the lake. Andy

Midhurst Summer Show Sunday 16th June

The club did not exhibit at this show however some members did attend and I am grateful to Colin Patient and Keith Ebbsworth for their thoughts on the show which follow.

“I eagerly went to this summer show in anticipation that it would really show the modelling ideas in many classifications. Sadly it was poorly attended by the public and had only two trade stands, I have never seen the carpark so empty.

Only one Squash court was in use and nothing upstairs as in the past. War gamers had the biggest stand, in the Main Hall, but there were two railway layouts proving that they do have a sense of humour! One depicting the pioneer spirit in the Wild West of USA, the other was Rainbow Rock, a fabulous, complicated scene showing quarrying rock for sweet making! Very busy, very colourful, highly entertaining!!! How he packed it up and transported it I will never know!

There was no outside pools, no military trucks running around, but an unusual small scale layout of the busy Normandy beaches on D.Day, very detailed. Runnymede Meccano held court 1 with many historic carousels, traction engines and an amusing rocking chair operated by electric motors via rubber belts.

I took a long list of small items I needed, but came home without many”

Colin Patient

And now Keith,

On Sunday 16th June I visited the Midhurst Summer Modellers Exhibition. Ironic title as the weather was probably the worst day of the year with torrential rain for most of the hour drive.

The layout was much the same as previous events although stall holder numbers were down and there were gaps where some of the usual attendees were absent. In the main hall Malcolm Bailey had an interesting display of working N Gauge trains which had been fitted in a collection of small spaces such as aluminium boxes, guitar cases, etc.



Opposite Malcolm was a very nice collection of old American automobiles many of which were originally built from kits but had been modified and painted to give a more authentic feel. I particularly liked a 1930's model made to look like a gangster's car.



During the exhibition the owner was working on a scratch built gypsy wagon that he was refurbishing.

Hanwell and District Model Society had a selection of boats and vehicles on show with a couple of scratch built boats that looked as though they could be a quick build. Ideal for those of us who don't want to spend months in the workshop.



As at previous exhibitions the war gamers were represented by Bognor Regis military modelling and war gaming and the Black Hole war gamers who extended the usual invite to members of the public to join in.

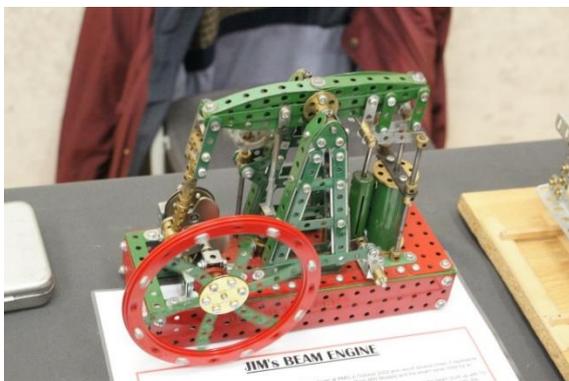


South Downs Light Railway Society had some nice scale models of Omnibus originally built by Thomas Harrington and Sons, who were coach builders based in Brighton.



Whilst in the main hall I visited Fratton Model Centre who had a varied selection of models, kits and components where my sole purchase of the day was made, an electronic switch for the lighting on my TID tug. It was a heavy duty model with input and output connections covering a wide voltage range and switched using an RX channel.

Squash Court 1 was occupied by the Runnymede Meccano Guild with most of their models working and they had some plastic Meccano models that I had never seen before. I think I might have to start using Meccano to prototype some of my builds in hope of speeding up the process.



Squash court 2 was occupied by two people playing squash, due to the limited number of stall holders I guess. In February the court had been occupied by some fine looking masted ships including some nice schooners.

The Simon Sainsbury hall contained the majority of boat clubs as per normal with Portsmouth and District having the largest display including a couple of nice steamers and a beautifully aged tug.



Swiss Cottage Model Boat Club had a selection of civilian and military boats and were collecting for the RNLI.



All in all I had a good couple of hours browsing the various stands despite the limited turnout compared with the February show.

Basingstoke - Love Parks Event 17th July

Yet again the club put on the make and sail a paper boat activity for children throughout the event together with a display of some of our boats. The day started at 09:00 when Alan Spooner, Chris Cole, Joe Hardwood and I arrived to set up the gazebos and tables for this activity. We were all set up for a 10:00 start by which time a number of members had also arrived for a day's sailing.



As this event is held during school term time our main "customers" were mums and grandparents with preschool children aged 3 to 4. In the afternoon we also had a party from a local school for children with physical disabilities with their careers. Over the day about 20 paper boats were made, some of which were still floating at 16:00.

A number of members also allowed children to have a go at sailing RC boats, which was well received.



Basingstoke National Play Day

This was a virtual rerun of the Love Parks event with the usual suspects erecting and manning the club's display. The day went well with people arriving, some in ones and twos and at other times we were at full capacity making boats working with about 8 children at the same time plus their parents. We lost count of the number boats we made but we think it was about 50 to 60. Some people turned up after we had finished and were disappointed because we were taking down our display due to the possibility of inclement weather, however we gave them some of the paper sheets to make some boats at home. A lot of the parents told us that they saw the event on the Council's Facebook page.

Once again a number of members were on hand to allow their boats to be sailed and thanks again to all those who helped make the event such a success.

After the event we received the following from the Council organisers:-

"You guys are amazing and there has been some really lovely feedback from families, so definitely a day to be proud of.

Thank you so much for all your hard work.

Take care"

Tracey

A Noodle Boat

I'm not sure where the time has gone, but it has been well over a year now since I last wrote in our club newsletter outlining the completion of my latest model 'Miss Molly 11' a modified Lesro Rapier. I'm particularly fond of this model as it was named after our pet Spaniel Molly who was very ill during its construction, and one of the last photos of her was with the completed model shortly before she died. Some club members are aware of this, and I would like to thank them for their very kind comments about the model and its performance, they are very much appreciated.

A few months ago I started to think about my next project. Normally I have a tendency to chop and change before making up my mind with model boats, (senior management would say I'm like that with everything), but not this time I'm pleased to say. This is because I had recently read an article about a fast Mahogany runabout called Fleetfoot, which is based on a full size boat design popular in the 1930s and 40s. The plan for the model which is around 33 inches, replicates all the main bulkhead stations, curves and sections of the full size craft on which it's based, so the construction is very much as the full size boat would be. I really like the graceful lines of these older designs particularly where the wood is on show, so I made up my mind there and then that this would be my next model. Having acquired the plan, I scaled it up to give a size of just over 40 inches. I did this for two main reasons. Firstly the extra size gives me the option to increase battery voltage if I wish. Secondly and more importantly, it hopefully gives me a little more flexibility to reposition the battery/ batteries vs the less than ideal battery position suggested on the plan and acknowledged in the associated article.

The hull will be double planked with Mahogany planking following the boat length over marine ply planking laid diagonally. The deck area will be Mahogany planking with caulking made from strip wood kindly given to me by Keith Barnes which is exactly the right size, so many thanks Keith.

I started construction by cutting out the two part 6mm ply keel and eleven 4mm bulkheads from a couple of old divan drawers which were then sanded down to their final dimensions. The bulkheads took a little while to sand down (well a long while actually), but they needed to be precise because with a clear varnished hull any unevenness will be on show.

In terms of running gear, I found an old Stainless steel prop tube and shaft of almost the exact length I needed which was a bit of good luck. I had to adjust the keel dimensions a little to accommodate the tube diameter but other than that it was a perfect fit. I also have a spare brushless motor very similar to that used in 'Miss Molly 11' so performance should be good.

Anyway this is all well and fine but what has it got to do with a Noodle boat you may ask. Well, just as I reached the stage of putting keel and bulkheads to the building board, a Model boats magazine dropped through the letterbox. In that edition was an article on Noodle boats. These are small tear drop shaped model boats that have a swimming noodle formed around a plywood or similar base. For those not in the know like I was, a swimming noodle is basically oversized foam pipe insulation, brightly coloured and used to give youngsters extra buoyancy when learning to swim. At one point it seemed like I was only person in the universe who had never heard of them. Suddenly everyone was a Noodle expert!

During a debate by the Noodle police over my lack of Noodle knowledge, it occurred to me that it may be a good idea to make a Noodle model boat for our Grandson Joseph. I know he's only a little over a year old, but is one ever too young to be introduced to model boats? You never know in time with the right guidance, Joseph

could become the youngest member of our exclusive model boat club joining his old Granddad at the pondside. The Noodle police gave their blessing to this idea and so the Noodle boat project started and Fleetfoot was put on hold.

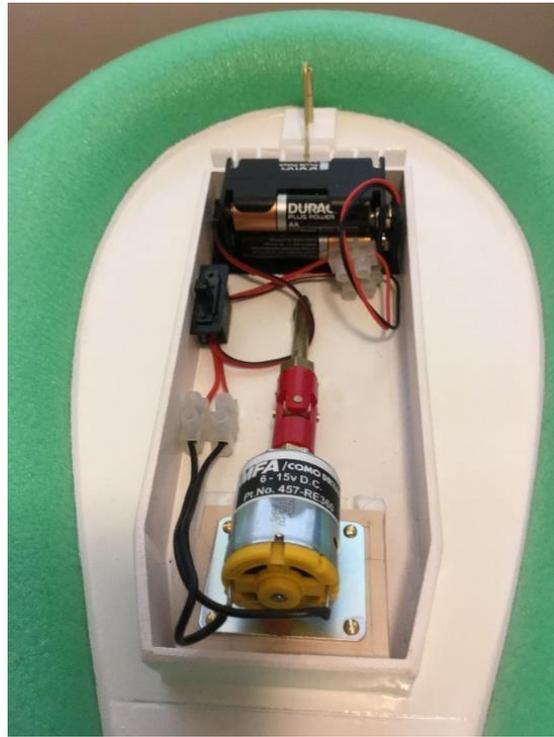
The first requirement was to source this thing called a Noodle. I delegated what I thought would be a lengthy task to our Daughter Rachel. I was immediately informed that they are apparently everywhere and very easy to source. Sure enough in a couple of days two bright green Noodles appeared.

I estimated from the photos shown in the article, that the model had a deck length of around 8 to 10 inches. However after a little experimentation I ended up increasing this to 14 inches to better suit the propeller tube, motor and coupling combination that I had to hand.

After I cut the plywood base and keel as per the article and waterproofed everything, the Noodle was glued in place. Cutting the 4ft long Noodle lengthwise so the ply base fits into it by an inch or so was a bit of a pain but all went well in the end. Once dry the next job was to make the cabin which was to a Tug design as per the article. I thought this was a wise choice because given the small size of motor, minuscule propeller and the massive foam buffer; this is never going to be a speedboat. The cabin fits over 25mm high coaming to stop any water from getting into the electrics which I thought it may do if the coaming was lower.

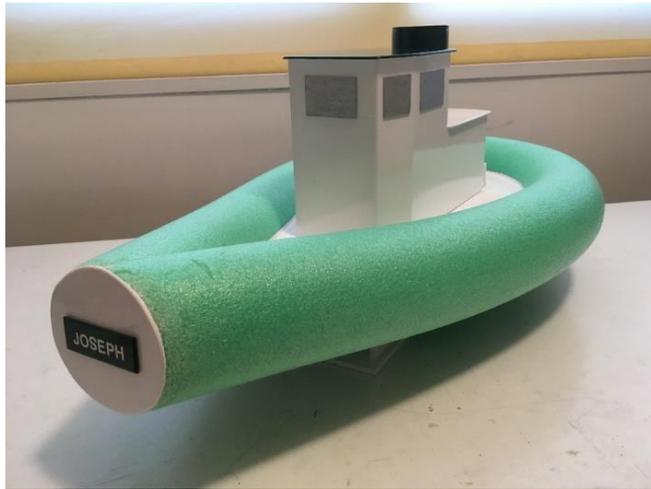
Having glued the propeller tube in place and all going well, even letting Senior management know what a brilliant job I was doing, I suddenly had one of those 'I don't believe it' moments, the ones where 'oh bother' or something to that effect comes to mind. I was looking at the model in profile as I began to line up the motor, when it dawned on me that the propeller, even though the shaft was at a good angle, was actually higher than the lower part of the Noodle surrounding the deck. I suddenly had this image of the Noodle model in the water with the propeller spinning in mid-air! All I can say is thank goodness for the battery and motor weight. After a rush floatation test in the bath, I could see from the water line after removing the model that a good 50% of the propeller was submerged with the cabin still to be added. Phew!

The motor was then installed, all wiring completed, cabin finished and the deck painted.



All that was left to do was to fit a Funnel and a rudder assembly. I had a rare moment of inspiration with the Funnel. After experimenting with various plastic tubes, looking at the best way to stick them on firmly, I spotted a Trimline container. This was ideal as it is made from thin plastic and has a lid that 'unscrews' with a tab on it. My moment of inspiration was to cut a slot into the rear cabin roof so the lid tab could fit into the slot and then fixed with a couple of small bolts. The container body could then be screwed onto the lid. And there we have it, one firmly fixed Funnel that can be 'unscrewed' from its lid (now the base), so if it's damaged easily replaced with another container body.





Because Joseph is so young I made the model free running with no radio gear. The rudder assembly is a simple ratchet system requiring the position to be set manually by mum, dad (or granddad). When Joseph is a little older and assuming the model is still in one piece, a cheap remote control unit could be installed, but that's thinking too far ahead at this stage.



The Noodle boat had its first voyage early June as some of you are aware. My assumption that the model would not be a speedboat proved correct, with performance, how can I put this, somewhere between slow and close to static would be a generous assessment. It even made Mike Tomlins steamer look quick. Still the model stayed afloat, and appeared very happy to completely ignore the rudder settings and merrily go around in ever decreasing circles, bouncing off any other models in its way.

Looking back I have learnt a lot from making this little model boat, not least I now know what a swimming Noodle is. As far as the Fleetfoot project is concerned, that is going nowhere at the moment due to recently acquiring a long list of non-model making jobs to do before the summer ends. Lucky me!!

Thank you. Reg.

Well I think we have all learnt something about Noodles from Reg's article!

Well that's about it for this newsletter, I hope you have enjoyed reading it and thanks again to everyone who contributed and also those members who attended and helped at the Love Parks and Fun Day events. If there are any other members who wish to contribute an article then please put pen to paper or start bashing the keyboard. I am sure some of our more mature members have a wealth of knowledge on the early days of RC boating which would be of interest to the wider club.

The next newsletter will be in December and there are 3877 words of wisdom in this newsletter plus a profusion of pictures! My thanks to all those who took the time to produce articles for this edition. Who's going to be in the next newsletter??

ps To save costs the Newsletter is 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 I will as usual place a copy on our BMBC website.