

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

Chairman:

Chris Cole Tel: 07518244624 Email: colechr@googlemail.com

Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Andy Clark: Tel: 07802668433 Email: atclark25@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.basingstokembc.co.uk

December 2019

Minutes of Extraordinary General Meeting – 27-10-19

Held at Eastrop Park Pond side starting 10:00am

Present:

Mr Andy Clark – Outgoing Chairman acting Treasurer/Secretary

35 members present at the meeting at Eastrop Park Basingstoke

Agenda:

- 1) Motion to elect a new Chairman of the Basingstoke Model Boat Club
- 2) Motion to elect a new Secretary/Treasurer
- 3) Motion to determine whether an Annual General Meeting (AGM) should be held each year.
- 4) Motion as to whether the club should make a charitable donation from club funds

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Minutes:

1. Mr A Clark (Chairman acting Secretary/Treasurer) said that he had received one nomination for the position of Chairman as follows:- Mr C Cole
2. The members were asked to ratify this nomination and by a show of hands Mr C Cole was unanimously elected to position of Chairman.
3. Mr A Clark then resigned as Chairman
4. The new Chairman, Mr C Cole said that he had received one nomination for the position of Secretary/Treasurer as follows:- Mr A Clark
5. The members were asked to ratify this nomination and by a show of hands Mr A Clark was unanimously elected to position of Secretary/Treasurer.
6. The new Secretary/Treasurer then asked for the members to vote by a show of hands on the motion of holding an AGM at the end of each financial year. **The result of the voting, for the motion 2 against 32.**
7. The new Secretary/Treasurer then asked for the members to vote by a show of hands on the motion of donating some of the clubs funds, not exceeding £200.00 to charity, namely RNLI and/or Help For Heroes. **The result of the voting, for the motion 29 against 2 with 4 abstentions.**
8. A clarification on which charity to support was requested by the Treasurer/Secretary and the members decided to split the donation between the two nominated charities such that each would receive £100.00.

The Treasurer/Secretary then thanked all members present for attending and closed the meeting at 10:05am

Actions arising from the EGM

As Secretary/Treasurer I sent the cheques and covering letters to the RNLI and Help For Heroes in accordance with the voting on the 4th motion at the EGM.

Donation from Basingstoke Model Boat Club

Dear Shelagh

At a recent EGM members of the model boat club, some of whom in earlier times were sailors on full size boats, voted to make a charitable donation to the RNLI of

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£100.00. It was felt that the RNLI was an appropriate organisation given the club's interest.

Please find enclosed cheque made payable to the RNLI.

Could you please send an acknowledgement of this donation for our records to my address above?

Donation from Basingstoke Model Boat Club

Dear Sir/Madam/Mss

At a recent EGM members of the model boat club, many of whom are HM Armed Forces Veterans, voted to make a charitable donation to Help For Heroes of £100.00. It was felt that the Help For Heroes was an appropriate organisation given the members past experiences.

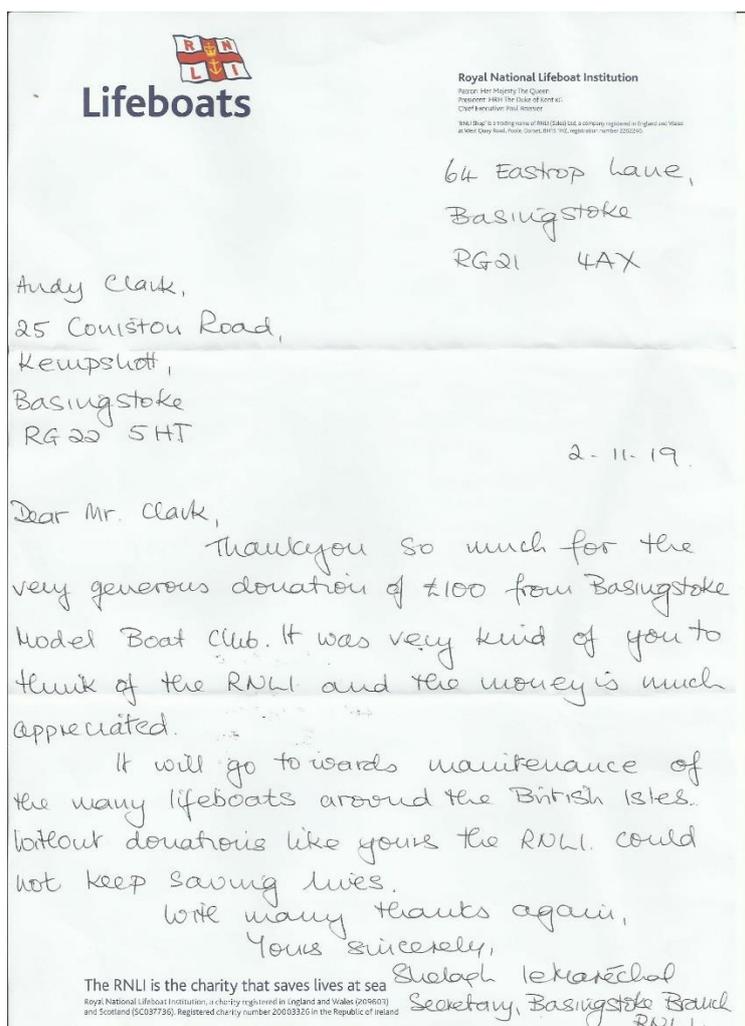
Please find enclosed cheque made payable to Help For Heroes.

Could you please send an acknowledgement of this donation for our records to my address above?

The following acknowledgement letters were duly received.



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Chairman's Address

Following the EGM, it was good to see a large turnout.

Many thanks to Alan for his long and successful "navigation" of the club, over the past many years. His knowledge and experience has been very welcome and valuable in all matters of boat building and operations. The very high standard and turnout of his boats supports that. The club membership has continued to grow, during his tenure, and now is into the 80's. Hopefully he will still be able to continue to entertain and "elucidate" us for a good while longer.

Thanks too to Andy for holding all the club official positions, until the EGM. Of course he now takes over as the main man. Please continue to give him support and enthusiasm.

Please do forgive my poor memory, and you may have to remind me who you are, maybe many times too, but let me and Andy know of issues, concerns, advice, or any other matters.

And so, enjoy your boating, bring down your old boat, your new boats, your part completed projects, join in the short stories, the tall stories, the banter and

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anecdotes, support your fellow enthusiasts, relax, or just even have fun and be inspired.

Membership News

Since the last newsletter and at the time of writing three new members have joined us. Please join me in formally welcoming Terry Fisher, David Searle and Lawrie Cooper to the club and we hope to see them at the lake side.

Total current membership now stands at 88.

Warwick International Model Boat Show

Keith Ebsworth

This year the Warwick show was only a 2 day event this year so my usual Friday visit was switched to the Saturday.

On entering the exhibition hall it was immediately apparent that the layout had changed from previous years and the trader's booths had been replaced by tables, additionally a number of the usual traders were not present.

Luckily the boat clubs had turned out in force and in general the build quality was of a pretty good standard.

Kent Model Boat Display Team has some extremely nice large scale tugs with an incredible amount of detail.



John Boyd Tug

After about an hour browsing I realised I had seen a large number of steam launches and there was some really good wood and brass work. Perhaps it was this year's popular build, the way Trent class life boats dominated for a few years. Coventry Model Boat Club in particular had a very nice collection.

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Coventry Model Boat Club Gloucester and District Model Boat Club

The Association of Model Barge Owners had a smaller number of boats on display, I think, primarily due to Peter Simmons being at the show but without his models. Nevertheless they still had some nice examples of Thames Sailing Barges, amongst others.

As in recent years Tamiya Truckin were in attendance with some very impressive trucks, although I would need a much larger house if I ever got interested in them.

Howes Models and The Component Shop were very busy all day but I managed to get through the crowds to buy a few bits and pieces ready for the next build. I was after some plans for a Schooner but Slec only had a very basic layout of Bluenose so I had to resort to ordering on-line from Bearospace Industries when I got home.

I had a good time at the show but like many it is getting smaller every year and if the number of traders continues to reduce I can see it going the way of others with lower attendance.

Thanks Keith.

The R.A.F Maritime Service 1918-1986 and my 6 models of their vessels *Jack Sharpe*

In the full knowledge of my interest in this service the club's Secretary/Treasurer asked me to write a short article regarding my models giving a brief description of each and its full size equivalent in RAF service.

I have been a member of the BMBC for 20 years, before that with the Mid Thames MBC for a similar time together with a short period in the Portsmouth MBC, Elmbridge and the Surface Warship Association. During these 40 odd years the number of models I have has risen to 17, however pride of place are those bearing the Royal Air Force ensign.

During my many years of boat modelling I have often been asked about the factors which established my affection for the craft of the RAF Maritime Services. Although I made my first model of their type of craft in 1968, a RAF Crash Tender, it was not until the early 1970's that my interest deepened. After 4 1/2 years of service with the Army in Germany, the posting's section decided that having had that privilege I

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should serve a similar term in not so pleasant surroundings, hence I found myself in a Head Quarters Branch in London. The 07:10 service Reading to Paddington Station every day.

Apart from the main building in Whitehall the Ministry of Defence has a number of HQ branches in the Capital and my place was Sentinel House in Southampton Row. Just around the corner in Theobald Road stood Aadastral House the long standing home of the Royal Air Force. Occasionally in the course of my duties I had reason to visit that establishment and tucked away in the passage which contained the coffee and tea machines was a sign for the Directorate of Maritime Services R.A.F. It appeared to be a ghost branch with no one around, but one day the door was open and around the walls were photographs of the many craft in service with the RAF during the three periods, pre-war, hostilities and post war. I made my interest known and armed with photographs, plans, descriptions and contact phone numbers I was on my way.

Having obtained my baptism into the service through an unusual and unexpected source my interest was further heightened during the mid 1970's when Model Boat magazine published a series of articles by John Pritchard covering a great number of the craft giving enough information for model construction. Pritchard's involvement with Model Boat magazine is covered later in this article.

The late 1970's and almost all of the 1980's were barren years as far as my boat modelling was concerned but with final retirement in the 1990 brought about a complete change. I had never forgotten about the RAF craft and as the magazine articles were still in my library I got started, often commencing another model before the previous one was finished.

Although my first model kit was an "Aerokits" Crash Tender purchased in 1968, in the mid 1970's a series of articles in Model Boat appeared, by the late John Pritchard, which not only detailed the boat classes but included plans and photographs so important to modellers. John was not a modeller, but had served post WWII with the RAF on these craft so he was able to write in a style which was easy to interpret.

At this time little was available in kit form so scratch building was the only means of construction. I had completed my Crash Tender in 1968 but due to domestic issues it was not until the mid 1980's after reviewing my library of boat magazines that I started on the second of my RAF launches. Without realising that I was about to embark on a series of modelling this type of craft, I made a fatal mistake in that I ignored the importance of a common scale. My considerations when deciding to build a model, are ease of transportation on one hand, whilst having a model of reasonable size that is viable on the water. With these factors in mind I decided the Seaplane Tender prototype of 41 feet 6 inches at 1/12 scale would give a model of satisfactory size. Unfortunately the much larger Air Sea Rescue and the Rescue and Target Towing Launches at the same scale would produce models of an

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unacceptable size. Scale 1/24 was the answer, resulting in the complete range of models ending up at approximately the same size.

A description of each of my models now follows:-

The Crash Tender

This was a post war development by Vospers for the RAF. Little seems to be known about its role apart from the ability to fight fires when aircraft crashed at sea. The dual fire monitors mounted fore and aft testify to this. If my information is correct only 2 of this class were built and numbered 93 and 94. Their ultimate fate is unknown.

The Model

Aerokits of Wickford in Essex produced two kits the larger 45 inches the smaller 34.5 inches. I chose the smaller which in the 1975 editions of Model Boats was priced at £10.15. My original model kit would have been a lot cheaper in 1968. Fittings for the kit were available in white metal but I chose the Graupner equivalents in plastic. Both versions of this kit were 1/16 inch plywood so it was hard going, glass fibre was still a long way off.



Crash Tender

Seaplane Tender No 441

The search for my next project came up whilst going through Model Boats for 1976-77 and 78, and once again it was an article by John Pritchard that produced no 441. During the war years 1941-44 the British Power Boat Company at Hythe built 67 of this class for the RAF measuring 41 feet 6 inches long with a 12 foot beam. At the

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early stage of WWII they undertook rescue duties unarmed in the face of the Luftwaffe.

The Model at 1/12th Scale

This time scratch built in plywood, assisted by Model Boat plans and photographs from an independent source. It is powered by dual low drain Electronize motors with an Electronize Sped Controller and is finished in the traditional red and black hull paint scheme with a mahogany planked deck. This model is now about 35 years old.



Seaplane Tender

Range Safety Launch

The later stages of the 20th century saw the birth of the Military Power Boat Trust, dedicated to restoring small craft which served in the Royal Naval Coastal Forces and the RAF Maritime Service. Every year they held an open day at Husbands shipyard on Southampton Water. It was at one of these events that I saw both the prototype under restoration and a model on display. My mind was made up that this would be my next model. Designed by Thorneycroft's it entered service in 1956 to ensure safety on the ranges used for target practice. Some 27 were built, the majority by the firm of Herbert Woods. The launch was 43 feet long with a 13foot beam and a top speed of 20 knots.

The Model at 1/12th Scale

Scratch built using plank and frame method of construction with plywood of various sizes. It has a planked mahogany deck and is powered by twin 550 motors with an Electronize Speed Controller. It also has a full lighting system, but has been virtually unused for 20 years. This model is about 25 years old.

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Range Safety Launch

Air Sea Rescue Launch No 2564

At this stage I realised I did not have a model of the most famous of all craft in RAF service i.e. its Air Sea Rescue Launch. Once again a search of Model Boat magazines came up with the answer through an article in July 1976. Designed and manufactured by Vospers Ltd of Porchester, the first of 15 entered service in 1942. At 73 feet long with a 16 foot beam and a top speed of 27 knots it was fully armed fore and aft and had the capability to deal with the hazardous conditions often found in the Western Approaches.

Many versions of A.S.Rs were available to model such as MSL100 type one, Thorneycroft Whaleback, Hants and Dorset, Miami and others but I had an excellent photograph of No 2564 which is what I based the model on.

The Model at 1/24th Scale

Scratch built using plank on frame method, powered by twin Marx Monoperm Super Speed motors, with Graupner shafts, Prop Shop screws, gold Hitec Speed Controller and full lighting system. It sails very well at scale speed and is my favourite RAF Launch.

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Air Sea Rescue Launch

Range Target Towing Launch (RTTL) 4001 HMRFV Sunderland

Introduced in 1976 to replace the ageing wooden marine craft James and Stone of Brightlingsea were commissioned to build 8 vessels numbered 4000-4007 and named after famous aircraft of WWII. They were 80 feet in length with steel hulls aluminium superstructure giving enhanced range and all weather capabilities with a crew of 9. After 1986 many of them found their way performing general harbour duties in the UK and elsewhere.

The Model at 1/20th Scale

The decision to make a model of this type of craft was really made up for me. Once again it was an edition of Model Boats magazine which caught my attention. Not an article this time but an advertisement by J.B Mouldings of Caernarvon North Wales displaying a 48 inch Fibreglass hull for HMRFV Sunderland one of the latest Spitfire Class MkIII RTTLs. Unsure of the scale I ordered one through Maritime Models of Greenwich which duly arrived together with details and a model plan at 1/20th scale.

For the first time in the series I was halfway there with a fibre glass hull. The plans were excellent and enabled me to go ahead building the superstructure in plasticard. The majority of fittings were also constructed fusing plasticard. The model is powered by motors purchased from Model Motors Direct and are of American manufacture controlled by an Electronize Speed Controller.

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Range Target Towing Launch 4001

RTTL MKII 68 Foot No 2754

Designed by Vospers of Porchester in 1956 to tow splash targets for air gunnery purposes it was the direct fore runner of the launch described previously. Powered by 2 Rolls Royce Sea Griffin 1700HP Engines with a hull of double diagonal mahogany planking. In January 1976 while based in Gibraltar the vessel developed substantial hull damage whilst on patrol in heavy weather. An unsuccessful attempt was made to tow the vessel but 2754 was doomed and declared lost at sea. All the crew however survived.

An example of this type of craft launch 2757 can be seen at the RAF Museum in Hendon.

The Model at 1/18th Scale

Here I was faced with a dilemma what scale should I choose. 1/12th was out of the question as it would result in a model of 68 inches, at 1/24th scale 34 inches which was too short, so I went halfway at 1/18th producing a 51 inch model. With hindsight I wish I had gone small!

Once again scratch built plank on frame using 1/16inch birch ply with a few commercially sourced fittings. Twin motors operating on 12V through an Electronize Speed Controller. Because of its size and my mobility problems the operating life of this model has been limited and now remains in the reserve collection.

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Range Target Towing Launch 2754

Finally this little known branch of the Royal Air Force which had a life span of 68 years thoroughly lived up to its motto "The Sea Shall Not Have Them".

Many thanks Jack.

Conclusion

A reminder that the next event will be the Midhurst Modellers Show on Sunday 9th February 2020 and that volunteers to man the club's stand will be welcome. Please let me or our Chairman Chis Cole know if you can help.

Due to the inclusion of the EGM minutes and matters arising in this edition, the articles I have from Tony Carter, on how to solve boat storage, and David Leigh on his Paddler Boat will now be included in the March 2020 edition. I assure you that they will be worth the wait!

There is just space to wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Who will be lucky enough to receive a new boat from Santa??

There are 3339 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.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

For those who may suffer from boating withdrawal symptoms over the festive period, the following word search may provide some light relief. Possibly to be completed with a small, or large, libation after a hearty Christmas Lunch. There is no prize save your own self satisfaction!

Cheers Andy

Nautical

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POWERBOAT
LIGHTHOUSE
WHEEL
MOTOR
MAST
SAILBOAT
REEFING
CHART
ANTIFOUL
CAPTAIN
KEEL
THWART
LAKE
DOCK
KETCH
BOW
YAWL
SUBMARINE
HORN
CAPSTAN

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/37506/>

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 it in full colour I will as usual place a copy on our BMBC website.