



# BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

## Newsletter

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## **March 2020**

### **Membership News**

Since the last newsletter and at the time of writing one new member has joined us. Please join me in formally welcoming Alan Fuller to the club and we hope to see him at the lake side.

As previously notified to members one of our founder members, Alan Wells, died in December 2019 after a long illness. A number of members attended his funeral in January and the club made a donation of £30.00 to Macmillan Cancer Support in Alan's memory.

Total current membership now stands at 88.

### **Annual Membership fees Due for year 2020 / 2021**

Just to remind members, the Club year runs from the **1st April to 31st March** and I now have to inform you that the annual membership fees for the 2020-2021 year are **now due**, so please can I have your membership money at the earliest opportunity.

Please hand or send your 2020/2021 membership fee money (£10.00, £5.00 for juniors) to myself and I will sign your membership card. Alternatively hand your fees to our Chairman, Chris Cole at the lake side by putting it in an envelope with your name on the outside and he will pass it to me.

You can of course send a cheque to me, made payable to **Basingstoke Model Boat Club** to the following address:-

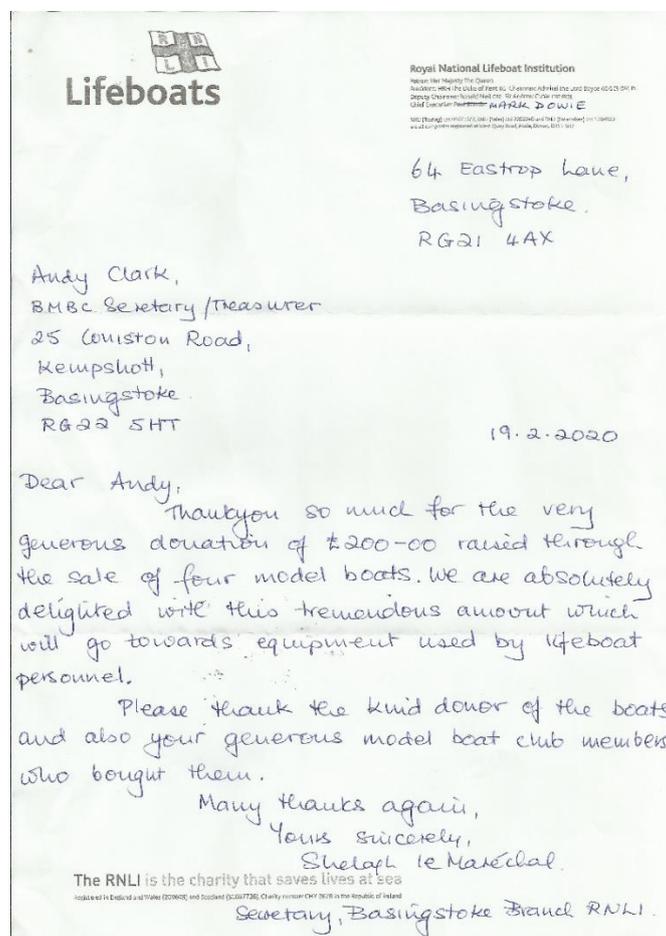
**Andy Clark**  
**25 Coniston Road**  
**Kempshott**  
**Basingstoke**  
**Hants**  
**RG22 5HT**

If you do not wish to renew membership please let me know by phone, email or letter and I will remove you from the list and this will be your final newsletter.

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)

### Donated Boats

In January I was contacted by an ex member of the Kingfisher Model Boat club who was downsizing and offered to donate his four boats to the club for sale to members. I am pleased to report that all boats were quickly sold and raised the sum of £200.00 which in accordance with the donor's wish was donated to the RNLI.



## Midhurst Show Report

The show was held on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February when storm Ciara was at its height, which made the journey to and from interesting, with fallen trees and debris across roads coupled with torrential rain and standing water.

Despite this the club was well represented with a wide selection of some 25 boats on display. Thanks, in no particular order, to Keith Ebsworth, Reg Rees, Alan Spooner, Joe Harwood, Charlie Redford for their support on the day.

A number of other members also braved the elements and attended the show throughout the day. Considering the weather the event was well attended by members of the public and the organisers were pleased with the numbers through the door. The club's display drew a number of positive comments on the range of boats being shown.



The Club's Display

Other highlights of the show were the models displayed by the London Meccano Club including a clock of which a short video is on our website. The Victoria

Steamboat Club which was established in 1904 had some excellent steam launches on display.

On the Eastleigh and District Club's stand was a fantastic model of an oar powered open lifeboat which through its system of cams and levers the "rowers" were able to propel the boat. I have also placed a video of this on the web page.



Oar Powered Lifeboat

After the show the following was received from the organisers

*Dear Stallholder,*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the stallholders and club members who attended The Grange Modellers Exhibition this past Sunday. I have been involved in the event in one form or another for many years now, and as the first Modellers event I have been responsible for running I am pleased to say it was a very positive experience and I am personally extremely happy with how it all turned out this year. Despite the weather the event was just as successful as previous years, and it could not have been so without the support and attendance of you all.*

*However, I must now look ahead to the planning of the Summer Modellers Show on June 21<sup>st</sup>. I know I have spoken with many of you already, but in order to ensure that I am as organised as possible, I would ask that you respond to me again even if we have already discussed your attendance on Sunday. I have attached the booking forms to this email, along with the forms for next February's event, for which I intend getting a head start on the organisation of. As stated on these forms, we would be very grateful if anyone that can provide their own tables, could do so for future events, as we are limited on the amount we can provide as a centre and hire charges have formed an increasing part of the costing for the event over the past few years. Once again, many thanks for your support this year, and in the past, and I look forward to hearing back from you regarding our upcoming events.*

The club has confirmed that we will be attending the February 2012 event, as to the Summer Show in June of this year volunteers will be required if the club is to attend. I will be on holiday at this time so unable to take part.

### **Basingstoke Miniature Steam Gala 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April Viables**

I have been contacted by the Chairman of the Basingstoke and District Model Engineering Society asking if any members of the BMBC would like to attend and bring a boat that could be displayed and floated on a small pond which is being erected for the event. The Portsmouth Model Boat Club are bringing their portable pond to the event and this will be located within the circular rail track at Viables. The pond will not be suitable for yachts and sailing boats and I suggest any attendees take a boat which is easy to carry from their car to the portable pond area.

If any member wishes to attend on either or both days then please let me know so I can pass on details. Note that parking near the pond will be difficult but there is plenty of parking in Jays Close.

The event runs from 10:30 to 4 pm each day. More information can be found at [www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk](http://www.basingstoke-dmes.co.uk)

***As promised at the end of December's newsletter there now follows an article from David Leigh on his unique spoon powered Waddler.***

### **The Waddler**



One day in June 2018 I came across a large pile of Model Boat magazines, and as I normally do, decided to sort ready for filing away, I do them up in 1year bundles and place a log of all the months that have plans in on the top copy. Having done this I came across the October 2017 issue with the plan of Waddler a two man canoe by Glyn Guest. Thinking this might be fun to have a go at I read the article again and decided to go ahead.

After checking my wood supply I found I had enough to build the basic canoe. Three pieces of planed square edge pine 12mm thick were glued edge to edge clamped in my workmate and 4 pieces were cut for the bulkheads. When dry the hull base was marked and cut to shape and the bulkheads were attached in the correct position, then shaped to suit the base curve. The sides of 3mm plywood were cut and fixed in two stages first to the centre bulkheads and base using workbench and clamps then to the outer bulkheads and base using clamps and bungees. Hardwood strips were added fore and aft and shaped, a 12x5mm strip of pine was glued to the inner top edge resting on the bulkheads, which completed the basic hull.

Owing to family commitments the build had to be put on hold and it was not until early 2019 that I started work on it again. The backs for the rowers were cut from 3mm ply and a piece of 12x12mm strip fixed to top edge to secure the arms on, the inside edges cut to the angle shown on the plan and were secured to the centre bulkheads, using the dimensions from the plan the holes were drilled for the drive shaft and arm locations.

The shafts were 4mm knitting needles and came from the wife's knitting bag when she wasn't looking and bent as per the plan. I decided on inserts in the hull sides for the shafts and these were cut from brass tube secured with super glue. Two MFA RE 385 50 to1 motors had been purchased and fitted with ½ inch pulleys from a Meccano website with two 1inch pulleys for the shafts giving a 2 to 1 reduction. Plinths were made for the motors with elongated slots to allow for some adjustment in tension.

Now came the time consuming part the rowing action, two wooden spoons were bought at my local Morrison's store and many strips of plywood for arms were cut, an outer one was drilled and attached to the rower with a screw and a spring between arm and body. A spoon was held up between shaft and hand of arm to get the angle of the holes which were to be drilled, the arm was fixed to the spoon handle with screws and washers. Several arms and two spoons later I gave up for the day feeling very frustrated and wished I had set a mock-up of the mechanism to try first.

Some days later after more spoons had arrived from eBay I took up the challenge once again. After a few more arms were made and discarded I finally had a movement that worked (sort of) with some adjustment to the holes and washers it was improved. I added the inner arm which caused a few problems but managed to overcome these with adjustment of washers and holes, I then repeated this on the opposite side.



The motors were fitted to the hull base and a measurement taken for drive belts which were to be 3mm thick rubber O rings (which I got wrong) after several sizes were tried sourced (on good old EBay) a 64.5mm inside diameter which suited my build.

Connecting a battery direct to the motors I found I had a movement I could live with. The arms were removed and outside edges built up with polystyrene as were the bodies of the rowers. Two balls were bought from Hobbycraft for heads, two Mtronics speed controllers and a 7.2v battery were added. The resulting action was a bit slow so changed to 8.4v, ballast was added to the opposite side to level the boat, tops were made for open compartments, everything was stripped down and painted and when dry reassembled.



Now came the time to put my build to the test I tried it in the bath to check for list, I could see that the oars dipped in and out ok but was worried that they might come off the shafts at full speed. So it was with much apprehension on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019 I took it to Eastrop Park for the maiden voyage, given it was windy day I was very pleased with the performance and the fact that I did not look like an idiot. Waddler was well received by the club members present some saying it was nice to see something different to the usual models sailing there.

I know if my brother in law Peter Upton who was a club member were still with us he would have had to make one and being a master carpenter it would have made mine look very amateurish.

The boat was relatively easy to build the main problem was getting the rowing action right as Glyn Guest said be prepared to make parts and discard some before you get it right (and I did quite a lot of that).



I will order some more spoons to see if I can make it better at a later date and a pair of 4mm knitting needles for my wife (I don't think she has missed them yet).

**Happy sailing  
David Leigh**

***Thanks Dave we all hope to see Waddler on the lake again soon.***

*Next up is Tony Carter's article on how he solved the problem of storage space for boats in already congested garages.*

### **A problem solved**

In the last 4 years I have enjoyed building a collection of different types of boats - from a series of sailing yachts to motor sailers, fishing and work boats, and even a power boat which against the tradition of naming them 'Leftover' is called 'Leftbehind', but that's another story. My most recent build, the one metre, was illustrated in the last magazine.

This has caused a dilemma which has recently got worse with the purchase of a Laser (yes I know its plastic, one sail, and I brought it complete) with 4 sets of sails,



the 'A' rig being about a metre tall for which I had to find space.

My problem is, as many of you have already experienced, storage. With limited space in the garage due to motor bike, bench and tools (to build even more boats), garden instruments, freezer and everything else that will be useful one day, I had to look for a new solution. The obvious answer would be metal racking with adjustable shelves, but where do you put it? The walls are inaccessible due to cupboards, bike, and garden tools etc. so I had to think of another solution. So using the time honoured method of 'drinking tea, eating biscuits and sleeping on it' I came up with the following: make a wooden frame and mount it on wheels.

The frame holds three boats, Laser sails, boat stand and RC controller and is mounted on castors that can be pushed away from any working area or in order to retrieve anything from behind it. Now what do I do with the rest of the boats? Any ideas will be gratefully received in writing for the next Magazine.

### For Sale

Colin Patient would like to sell his Volere '50s sport boat and an unused kit of a Vosper MTB at £60 each. The Volere is ready to go with two batteries and controller. Contact Colin on 07876373006.



Colin is also looking for any information on PT boats numbers 41 and 61 as he is looking to build a version on an Elco PT109 hull which he has. If any members can help Colin then please contact him on the number above.

Dave Barrett wishes to sell a model of Richard Branson's Atlantic Challenger power boat which he recently acquired. The boat is 27 inches long complete with 27MHz radio equipment and is reputed to be fast. Dave is looking for £20.00 for the complete setup. Contact Dave on 01256 466241 or Mobile 07779855950



## **2019 / 2020 Accounts**

As it is the end of the Club's financial year, I have to make you all aware of our financial position and how your money is spent. Below you will find a simplified version of the Club Account for this past year 2019/2020. 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 2019 / 2020:-

1. Membership total was 88 made up from 87 seniors and 1 junior.
2. Membership fees collected £855.00 during 2019/2020 year – (84 senior, one member also paid for next year, plus 1 junior fee).
3. Postage costs for the year, includes EGM notification £272.06
4. Newsletter printing costs £253.22
5. EGM notification print costs £13.92
6. EGM Charitable donations (RNLI/Help4Heros) £200.00
7. Sale of Donated boats £200.00 cash to RNLI
8. Club and members PI Insurance has been renewed for the same level of cover and cost of £68.80 which is a zero percentage increase over last year's premium.
9. We will carry forward a sum of £1756.06 to next year's account plus the donation at 11 below.
10. Apart from membership income we still hold a donation of £1500 from 2018/2019 year.

Item	Income	Cash/Cheque	Expenditure	Cash/Cheque	Totals
Monies at Bank carried forward	£3,256.06				
Total Fees	£855.00				
Sale of donated boats to members	£200.00	Cash			
Total Income	£1,055.00				
Website Fee (One Com)			£34.74	Cheque	£50.73
Printer cartridge for correspondence			£15.99	Inc with above	
Membership Cards			£0.00		
2x2hole ring binders			£2.00	Cheque	118.92
50 pack punched pockets			£1.29	Inc with above	
Newsletter Printing Cost (85 Copies @ A4)			£57.80	Inc with above	
84 2nd Class Stamps @61p (Andy Clark)			£51.24	Inc with above	
500 A5 Envelopes (Andy Clark)			£6.59	Inc with above	
100 2nd Class Stamps @61p (Andy Clark)			£61.00	Cheque	£135.82
Newsletter Printing Cost (87 Copies)			£74.82	Inc with above	
72 second class stamps			£43.92	Cheque	£57.84
EGM notice printing costs (87copies)			£13.92	Inc with above	
Charitable donation voted on at EGM			£100.00	Cheque	£100.00
Charitable donation voted on at EGM			£100.00	Cheque	£100.00
Donation RNLI from sale of donated boats			£200.00	Cash	£200.00
Donation to Macmillan Cancer memory Alan Wells			£30.00	Cheque	£30.00
90*2nd Class Stamps @61p (Andy Clark)			£54.90	Cheque	£119.70
Newsletter Printing Cost (90 Copies)			£64.80	Inc with above	
100* 2nd Class Stamps @61p (Andy Clark)			£61.00	Cheque	£116.80
Newsletter Printing Cost (90 Copies)			£55.80	Inc with above	
PI Insurance			£68.80	Cheque	£68.80
			<b>£1,098.61</b>		<b>£1,098.61</b>
Donation November 2018	£1,500.00				
Cheques to be presented to Bank	£0.00				
Cash paid/to be paid into Bank	£0.00				
Current Monies at Bank 06 February 2020	£3,256.06				
Total	£3,256.06				
<b>operating balance excluding donation</b>	<b>£1,756.06</b>				

### Assistance Requested

One of our members Doug Turk is recovering from a stroke and asks if any members in the Farnborough area would be willing to bring him to the lake now and again in the better weather.

If any members can help, please contact Doug at 13 The Crescent, Farnborough, HANTS

Tel. 01252 378629.

## **Close**

A while ago I had an accident in my garage which resulted in the mainsail of my 1Metre Proboat yacht being damaged. I "repaired" the damage with gaffer tape but at a recent outing at the lake the wind was so strong that my "repair" failed. I took the sail to Kites Up in Cliddesden just south of Basingstoke where for a small fee they repaired the sail and it is now as good as new.

Kites Up also have a range of carbon fibre/glass fibre rods and tubes, ripstop material and lines suitable for yacht rigging. If interested check out their website, <https://kitesup.co.uk/>

Well that's it for this issue, many thanks to all contributors and hope you have enjoyed reading it. There is a grand total of 3320 words of "wisdom" plus a number of pictures.

For any member wishing to attend the Viabes event please do let me know which day/days you are able to attend so I can inform the organisers.

I look forward to receiving membership monies from you all in the near future.

Just a reminder to members to take care during the current interesting times and continue washing your hands!!

Happy Boating whatever the conditions!

***Cheers Andy***

*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.*