



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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December 2021

Car Parking charges at Eastrop Park.

The public consultation into the introduction of parking charges resulted in an 8 page report being written by Council officers for consideration by the responsible Councillor. The report was accompanied by a 22 page appendix detailing all of the comments and objections to charges. The report to Councillor recommended a drastic reduction in the proposed charges to reflect the amount of opposition and negative comments received during the consultation period.

The revised proposed charges are:

Duration of Stay	Charges (08:00 -19:00 Monday to Sunday)
Up to 2 hours	£1.00
2 to 4 hours	£2.00
4 to 6 hours	£4.00
6 to 8 hours	£7.00
Over 8 hours	£8.00

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

Duration of Stay	Charges (19:00-08:00 Monday to Sunday)
Evening/Overnight Stay	£2.00

The holders of blue badges will still be able to park without charge.

A decision on the report was due by end of October but so far nothing has been published. I feel that charges may well be introduced in new financial year.

Membership News

Since the last newsletter I am sorry to inform members of the passing of Peter Ebbage and Jim Molay who coincidentally died on consecutive days in October and their funerals in November were also on consecutive days. Condolence cards to their families on behalf of club members were sent plus the club was represented at their funerals.

There have been no new members since the last newsletter.

Club Bank Account

For as long as I remember the club has banked with HSBC, however a change of conditions at HSBC has resulted in the club moving the account to Metro Bank.

The clubs bank details are now:-

Bank: Metro Bank
Account name: Basingstoke Model Boat Club
Account number: 42978396
Sort Code: 23-05-80

The new account is now operated online, complete with debit card, which makes life easier for the Secretary/Treasurer. In addition the Community Account is free to operate against the £5.00 per month if the club had remained banking with HSBC.

Whilst we are still a few months away from subscription renewals, if any member has set up a direct debit for their subs payments please ensure that you make the necessary changes.

Night Sailing 27th November

On a cold and very windy night a number of members met at the lake for an illuminated boat night sailing event. This event was initiated by Carl Clement and Phil Hall and from the positive feedback I feel it should become a further edition to the club's activities. A video of the night can be found on the web site and is worth a look just to see Phil's impressive illuminated dock.

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Events 2022

Midhurst Show February 2022

The club has been invited to once again participate in the Midhurst Modellers Show at the Grange Community Centre on **Sunday 13th February 2022**. This in the past has been a well-attended show with a wealth of models ranging from trains, boats, cars, Meccano, buses, buildings and war gamers. There are 2 videos on our web site from the 2020 show.

The club has been allocated a table top stand in the model boat section and I am now looking for up to 8 volunteers to bring models and help man the stand. Please contact either myself or our Chairman if you are able to assist.

Popham Model Show date TBA

The club has been approached by Popham Airfield with a view of participating in their show which next year they are expanding from just aircraft to a wider range of models. They potentially have interest from the Portsmouth Model Boat Club who may bring their portable lake.

I expect to have more information for the next newsletter.

Now an article from Tony Carter.

Another Leftover

What do you do when you have finished the last of the ginger beer in the bottle and looking for something to do towards the end of lockdown 2?

"MAKE A SAILING BOAT OUT OF THE BOTTLE ".



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I have heard about bottle sailing boats but never seen one, so after a quick Google I could only find twin hulled boats with either sails or motors so, basing the design on a "footy", out came the craft knife and the cutting began.

I found a plastic snap lid pill pot to house the electric bits and a 1 metre x 12mm dowel and started to mark out where to cut using masking tape.

Two strips of tape top and bottom were used to try and keep the bottle square. The craft knife was used to cut out the pill pot opening and then trimmed to give as tight fit as possible to maintain the bottle structure. It was only then that I realized that it would need gluing and maybe strengthening with such a large opening, so out came my hot melt glue gun to warm up.

A 12mm hole was drilled for the mast, and a length of the dowel inserted through further holes drilled in the cap and bottle base to stiffen the bottle length and connect the rigging. It was at this time I noticed that the pill pot was in the way, so 12mm holes were drilled through it to let the rod through. Good job I hadn't glued it in place.

After cutting the structural dowel the remaining length was used for the mast, very scientific! At this point the gluing started; firstly the pill pot, then the mast was shaped to fit over the structural dowel, glued, and quickly pushed to hold it square before sealing it around the bottle.

A slot was cut in the bottom for the dagger board and ballast. This caused the problem of how to anchor it, therefore, a slot was made in the bottom of the pill pot and the dagger board glued to it using the same method as the mast. More science was used for the ballast! I found a piece of lead sheet on the shelf left over from my last build which looked about right when the vessel was tested in the float tank i.e. "bath".

After all this I was still undecided how the boat would operate and due to lack of space I decided to make it a combination of RC and free sailing by only fitting steering. To achieve this a micro steering servo was glued into the pot snap on lid and a rudder made and fitted through the structure dowel and connected to the servo via wire and a 12 amp plug pin as an actuator.

The sails were made from leftover kite material cut to fit the boom and mast and sewn onto them for ease.

From start to finish the build only took 6 hours, so a very quick build! When successfully launched for the very first time it created smiles of disbelief from both club members and anyone walking past, but it was worth it.

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Would I change the design to make construction easier? Yes, you only find out by making mistakes and I am still not sure if you need the structural dowel going through the bottle. I would also fit the mast through the bottle and glue the dagger board onto it to save cutting the slot.

How about someone making a 2 litre one with a sail winch?!

Thanks Tony for yet another interesting article. Who is going to take up the challenge to build a 2 litre boat?

Next up is Reg Rees's final article on the build of his Fleetfoot which was held over from the last edition.

Finished at last!

Well when I say finished, I still need to set up and install the motor and wiring but other than that the actual boat build is complete, so I thought now would be as good a time as any to give a final update on the build.

In my previous update I mentioned that I had reached the stage where various bits and pieces needed to be made such as the Steering wheel, Seats, Cutwater, other fittings etc. along with the varnishing and painting. All this took a lot longer than I anticipated, but I got there in the end:-

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Painting and Varnishing

The first thing I needed to do before painting was to fix on a small Chine rail to hopefully reduce the amount of water spraying up into the open cockpit. It may not work but it looks fine anyway. Once fixed, I then started to paint the hull bottom. I gave the model half a dozen or so thinned down coats of oil based gloss followed by two final full strength coats all applied by brush. I chose Pillar Box red which to my eyes goes really well with the Mahogany. However as many of you are aware, wood is a 'live' material, and as such the hull planks in particular are prone to movement as with full size craft. This can result with the plank lines being visible within the painted surface. True to form after leaving the paint to harden off for a couple of weeks the plank lines started to appear. I could have used resin or similar to coat the hull bottom before painting which may have helped, but thought this would distract from the fact it is a wooden boat, so left things as they were. During this painting period I did try to discuss the subject of wood movement with senior management and managed about 20 seconds before her eyes glazed over, which I thought was a good result based on previous model boat related discussions. Anyway on to the varnishing.

As with my usual practice, I first gave the complete topsides several coats of thinned down oil based varnish before starting the hull sides. Although not necessary in this case as varnish was used, I've got into the habit of sealing the deck etc. (given they are going to be left natural wood) before painting the sides, so that if any paint gets onto the topsides it can be easily be wiped off without it sinking into the wood. I then return to the topsides for the final coat once the sides are complete.

Having sealed the topsides I gave the hull sides six coats of thinned down varnish. However when I tried to apply a full strength coat I found the varnish was becoming far too tacky far too quickly. Although the varnish used was the same as I've always used for years, I had noticed the recoating time reduced from 16 hours to 4, but thought it would still be ok to use as it was oil based. However, when brushed on without being thinned it started to harden in around 30 seconds, (a bit like the old tissue dope for model planes) so I could not obtain anywhere near a smooth surface. I've mentioned this to a couple of club members recently and they agree that there has definitely been a change in the make-up of paint and varnish having experienced similar problems.

Anyway having muttered Oh bother or something similar, after a couple of tries with the non-thinned varnish, I rubbed the hull sides down and applied a couple of thinned down coats as previous which I then left to harden for a couple of weeks. I'm not sure how hardwearing the thinned down final coats will be but I can always recoat later if needed. I then gave the complete topsides a final thinned down coat and put the model to one side.

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Cockpit Seats

The front and rear seat frames were simply made up as per the plan and then varnished. The seat cushions were made up using Balsa wood. I shaped and put some grooves into the wood in an attempt to make them look used. I then painted them in the same paint as used on the hull to give a more overall coordinated look to the model. I then gave the seats a couple of coats of Satin varnish to represent a leather look.

Steering wheel

I thought long and hard on how I made the one on my Chris Craft runabout. For weeks I just couldn't work out how I had made it then in a rare moment of clear thinking it came back to me:-

Firstly I cut two squares of 70 x 70mm from a 3mm thick Basswood sheet. I then laminated them at right angles to each other to avoid any splitting along the grain. Once done I fixed a small bolt in the center for holding in a drill collet. When spinning I used a craft blade to cut a groove the width that I wanted the steering wheel to be but not completely through the wood. I then cut an inner groove around 5mm smaller than the first one, again not going completely through. Once taken out of the drill I finished cutting through the grooves manually. I now had a square profiled steering wheel, which I sanded down to a circular profile. All that was left to do was to make up a central boss, drill some holes in it and the actual wheel and slot in three brass spokes. Once all glued in place I had a very reasonable looking steering wheel. I then fixed some brass tube to the back of the boss to represent the steering column which in turn just slips over a length of wooden dowel fixed to the kickboard for ease of removal.

I painted the central Boss in the same Pillar box red to match the seats and varnished the actual wheel. At the same time I also made up a brass gear lever with a wooden knob which again I painted red.

Note: the reason I didn't cut completely through the wood when it was in the drill, was because apart from bits of wood flying off there is a very good chance of chipping/ splitting the wood as I found out more than once!

Dashboard and Fittings

For the Dashboard I used 1mm brass sheet. Once shaped I drilled out several holes to represent dials. I then shaped some .05mm brass and glued this on the back. As some club members are aware my model boats are not for the purists as I try where I can to blend art with function. So to this end I painted the dials in the same red as previous. Although a small detail, for me it just ties in the whole model colour scheme.

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I also made up a couple of air intakes. For this I used round brass tube cut to a very shallow angle and then glued onto a brass base. I then nailed these onto the deck just in front of the engine hatch.

Cutwater

I intended to make this in one piece. I managed it on my Crash Tender which although had to be bent in three directions, it was a short cutwater on a fairly flat bit of the bow so I got away with it.

On many full size craft like Fleetfoot the cutwater often follows the bow shape to at least the waterline. They were (and I suppose still are) often made in two halves, each of which follows the bow shape before being welded together at the front end to form one piece. I tried to copy this method by soldering two bits of brass together but didn't get very far so reverted back to the plan. This provides a cutwater template that splits partway down. This enables the top half to be in one piece and the split halves which follow the lower bow shape, fixed onto the hull separately giving the impression of a one piece cutwater. The plan suggested making the cutwater in thin Aluminum but I used 1mm brass to match the rest of the model fittings. It was a pain trying to obtain a sharp angle on the top one piece section whilst minimizing the gap between the two lower halves, but I near enough got there in the end. There is a small gap between the two lower halves which I filled in with P.38 but once sanded in looks ok.

Motor installation

The rudder, servo and receiver are in place but as previously mentioned the motor still needs to be installed which I hope to do in the next couple of weeks or so, then it's down to the water!

The running gear setup will be a 1000 watt 720 KV Brushless motor running on 14.4 volts with a 45X prop. The ESC is rated at 65amps, all connected using high capacity flexi cable with Bullet connectors throughout. The voltage is down a little compared to my Rapier model (16.8 volts), but should still give a reasonable performance for a model representing a vintage craft. I'm still thinking about using a 4 or 5 S Lipo but will see how the above setup goes first.

Well that's about it. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Below are several photos showing the 'completed' model and cockpit detail.

Reg Rees.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all



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It has been about a month since Reg first sailed the completed Fleetfoot on the lake and it is magnificent. The finish on the hull and deck feel like glass and the cockpit is a work of art. Brilliant yet again Reg! - Andy

Keith Ebsworth has been “encouraged” to provide the first of hopefully a series of articles on the building of his Mississippi river stern wheeler.

Stern wheeler build - Part 1

In the autumn of 2020 I started thinking about what boat I was going to build next and over the years having admired a number of paddle boats at various shows thought I would give one a go. I looked around for some plans of a Mississippi stern wheeler but the companies advertising them in the UK only printed to order and their websites were not very good on how much detail was included or even how many sheets of paper were involved. During one of my many Ebay searches I came across a company in Canada who sell discs on how to make things, they even have plans for a wooden replica, half size Winchester underlever rifle. They had plans for a generic stern wheeler and as I like to make things up as I go along I wasn't bothered that it was not based on a real boat. So, for the princely sum of £10 including P&P I acquired a DVD.

When it arrived I was delighted to find that it was by Vic Smeed, who some of you will have come across from Model Boat magazine. It turns out these are the same plans being offered in the UK for around £50. I think someone in Mississippi must have seen Vic's drawing because the modern day full size “Natchez” is remarkably similar.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all



Christmas Eve 2020 arrived and I had nothing to do, house and tree were decorated, presents all wrapped and I had seen all the films being shown on TV at least 10 times so I started browsing the DVD.

Vic's drawing, I call it a drawing not a plan because it is not fully dimensioned, is for a 33 inch long model. I wanted to include a lot of detail so decide 44 inches would be better and the finished item would still fit in the boot of the car.

Over to my favourite photo editing software, Photoshop Elements, where I imported the pdf file from amongst several different formats available on the DVD. I resized the drawing to give a 44 inch length model and saved it as a pdf file. The reason for using pdf format is that there are free software programmes that allow you to print a life size drawing on any printer. They work by cutting the drawing into "tiles" the same size as your printer paper and you can tape them together to get a life size drawing to take measurement from or use as a template for cutting parts.

By the evening I had a 50 inch by 34 inch drawing occupying a large amount of the lounge floor, which turned out not to be a problem as lockdown had prevented the usual family and friends from visiting.

Let the fun begin

The drawing shows the hull sections, so with son David and wife Margaret busy doing their own things, I retrieved a sheet of plywood from the garage and using carbon paper proceeded to trace out some of the pieces.

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Then Christmas 2020 arrived!

Footnote:

The DVD also contains articles on building wooden hulls including plank on frame, building glass fibre hulls, heat shrinking plastic bottles to make your own plastic parts, scaling and weathering and painting.

Thanks Keith, we all look forward to the next instalment!

Free Model Boat

The club has been offered a 5ft long model of a vintage lifeboat which has been attic bound for the last 20 odd years. This could be a project for an interested member, it needs a lot of work. Pictures will be posted on the web site and the contact person is Nick Lumley contacted via at nick.lumlet@btinternet.com

Close

With yet another Covid impacted year drawing to a close may I and Chris our Chairman take this opportunity to wish each of you and your respective families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. In the meantime enjoy your boating, but with winter here do wrap up warm and keep well

Well that's about it for this issue according to word count there are 3798 words in this edition plus pictures and I hope you found at least some of them worthwhile.

I am always looking for and welcome contributions to newsletters so please feel free to send anything to me for inclusion in the next or future editions.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

If anyone is thinking of building a new boat over the coming months I am sure members would be interested in hearing about it. Just send me some text and pictures of progress and I'll do the rest.

Cheers
Andy

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 have a copy added to our BMBC website.

To keep you occupied until your next trip to the lake, or yet another post-Christmas turkey sandwich, other foods of course are available, try and solve this word search. No prizes just your own satisfaction which you can toast with a cup of tea or your favourite libation!!

Nautical

C	Y	D	E	M	A	R	I	N	A	N	L	L	K
C	A	T	W	O	R	U	H	L	A	I	L	L	R
E	W	A	H	A	A	O	H	C	G	K	L	I	A
S	L	O	Y	R	R	C	A	H	S	A	T	A	W
R	H	B	S	S	B	R	T	D	K	G	A	S	H
A	C	L	L	D	T	H	O	O	C	N	E	E	E
L	T	I	S	A	O	R	S	C	L	I	L	R	E
U	E	A	O	U	N	E	A	K	S	K	C	O	L
C	K	S	S	L	Y	W	E	W	A	C	A	F	A
O	T	E	R	A	U	L	L	U	H	A	B	A	K
N	R	E	O	C	E	A	N	A	A	T	E	S	E
I	A	R	A	M	A	I	N	S	H	E	E	T	L
B	H	S	A	I	L	O	R	U	E	L	A	H	K
H	C	I	A	R	U	D	D	E	R	C	K	O	O

LIGHTHOUSE
CLEAT
OARS
CHART
OCEAN
SAILBOAT
THWART
LAKE
DOCK
MAINSHEET
TACKING
HULL
RUDDER
MARINA
SAILOR
KETCH
WHEEL
FORESAIL
BINOCULARS
YAWL

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

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