



# BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

## Newsletter

### **Chairman:**

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

### **Secretary/Treasurer/Newsletter Editor**

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

### **Events Coordinator**

Phil Hall Email: fishingmania@live.co.uk

### **Webmaster**

Carl Clement Email: carl@alt-view.co.uk

**Website:** [www.basingstokembc.co.uk](http://www.basingstokembc.co.uk)

## **September 2022**

### **Car Parking charges at Eastrop Park.**

Currently parking remains free at Eastrop Park, but members should be aware that as from 17<sup>th</sup> October charges will finally be introduced. Parking for up to 2 hours will remain free but periods over 2 hours and up to 4 hours will incur a charge of £2.00. The parking machine will accept coins and cards for payment.

### **Membership News**

At the time of writing the paid up club membership now stands at 105 including 3 junior members.

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed **Dave Cleveland**, **Grant Molay** and **Laurence Head**. We look forward to meeting and seeing you at the lake when you are able to attend.

**Error!**

In the last edition I made an error I had the date for the visit of the Vintage Model Yacht Group as 21<sup>st</sup> August. This date was actually when the Hovercraft Association visited and I left their visit out completely. Sorry for any confusion and any disappointment this may have caused members.

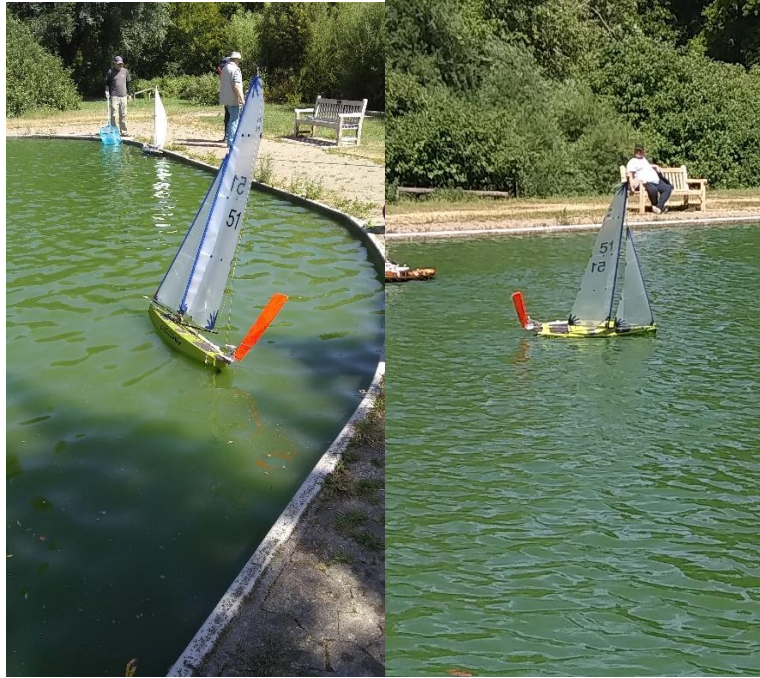
**Vintage Model Yacht Group Visit**

On a fine summers day on the 24<sup>th</sup> July yet again we hosted a visit from the Vintage Model Yacht Group. Their members started arriving around 11.00 am with a wide selection of boats. As it was such a good day there was a large number of club members present and our visitors were made welcome.



I was particularly taken with the vane control yacht as it took me back to my childhood watching such yachts on the Canoe Lake in Southsea.





Old school turn around in action, thank goodness we now have radio control. Hopefully we will see the group in 2023, and I'll make sure that I have the right date.

### **Hovercraft Association Visit**

We hosted another visit by the Association on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> August. I was contacted by their events co-ordinator a couple of days beforehand to let me know he planned to arrive around 11:00 am after setting off from his home in Leicester at 09:00.

In the end 4 other members arrived having travelled from Reading, Southampton, Nottingham and Coventry. As a national association they do not have a "home lake" to use and so travel around to lakes such as Eastrop.

The members brought a long a variety of craft ranging in size from 18 inches to over 4 foot in length. All craft are powered by electric motors and in the main use Lipo batteries which give a run time around 15 to 20 minutes depending on the size of craft.







After the event I contacted their events coordinator to see how their day went. And received this reply.

We thoroughly enjoyed the day and had some interesting discussions with some of your members. You have a very friendly club there. Perhaps we could do 2 events next year. Let's see what shows turn up.

*The club was invited to take part in the Popham Air Show as the organisers were looking to expand the range and types of models being displayed. As a result of this Phil and a number of members organised and manned the club's stand over the weekend. Phil's report on the show follows.*

### **Popham Airfield Show 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August**

The Popham Air Show was a great weekend for everyone. We had a bad start as one of the Gazebos got destroyed by wind on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Saturday morning was a quick rebuild but we got it sorted out with just one Gazebo.

The guys really pulled together and we set up the boats. We had a lot of interest over the weekend about the club and the boats on show.



All of the guys had a good walk around the show and we all watched the aircraft performing stunts and flybys. They even had jet planes that sounded like the real thing it was an awesome sight.



Sunday was a great day as Nigel came with his camper van and we used this instead of the remaining Gazebo. Of course we then had tea and coffee on tap. So a big thank you to Nigel for that. I wish to thank all the guys for all their help with the show as they made the weekend.





We had some great laughs and fun and got on well with the Portsmouth club who were next to us. A couple of the guys got some new boats and other bits but it was mainly aircraft. However we all still had a great time.

When we do the next event if anyone wants to help or has any ideas let me know. Once again thanks to all the guys for a fantastic weekend and all the help. And sorry to Keith as his Gazebo got destroyed, it will be missed as it helped a lot.

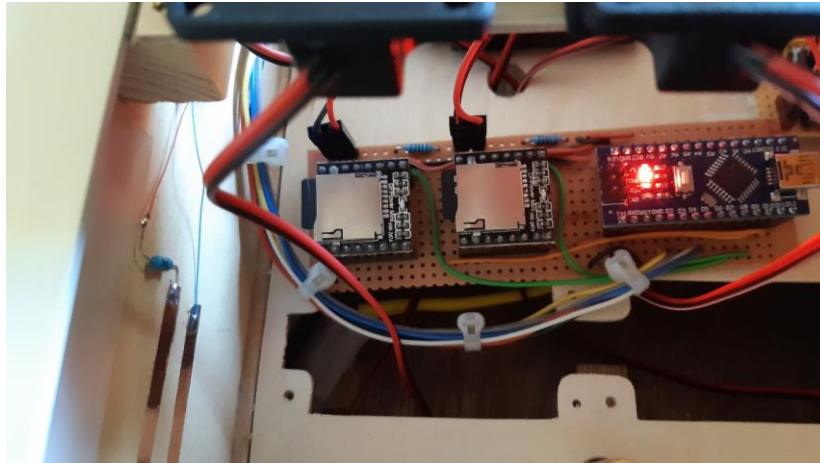
*Keith Ebsworth has kindly written another article on the progress of his Mississippi Stern Wheeler.*

### **Stern wheeler Build, Part 3**

As I write this in September 2022, I am in month 21 of my 24 month build plan. In the 9 months since the last article I have managed to make it look more like a boat. The decks have been fitted with railings, all staircases are now complete and valances added around the Texas deck and wheelhouse roof.



On the electrical side, after a short diversion into the world of Arduino, everything is now fitted and working with the exception of the smoke unit. I now have 9 of my available 10 channels in use controlling paddle wheel, rudders (3), lights, music (with tracks selectable and volume control), engine sound (with volume control), bell and steam horn sounds, twin gangways and smoke.



### I Dual mp3 players and Arduino Nano for engine sound and music

I experimented with my homemade smoke unit but have been unable to get one unit to provide enough smoke for the twin stacks. It works fine on one but when split across two it is uneven and lacking in quantity. I will fit two smaller separate units later on in the build.

The most recent addition was the twin gangways which were a bit of a challenge to get working consistently and I ended up casting some small weights to fit onto the end of the gangways to assist them in lowering smoothly. I originally considered having them working independently of each other but decided I was just creating more work in terms of finding space for an extra drum servo plus using TX stick sideways motion to control one was probably a disaster waiting to happen, so they operate on channel 3 up/down stick.



As usual the cnc has been working overtime and I managed to break my first cutter a few weeks ago when the wood moved on the bed and the cutter then plunged in several millimetres and tried to move sideways. This is not recommended with a

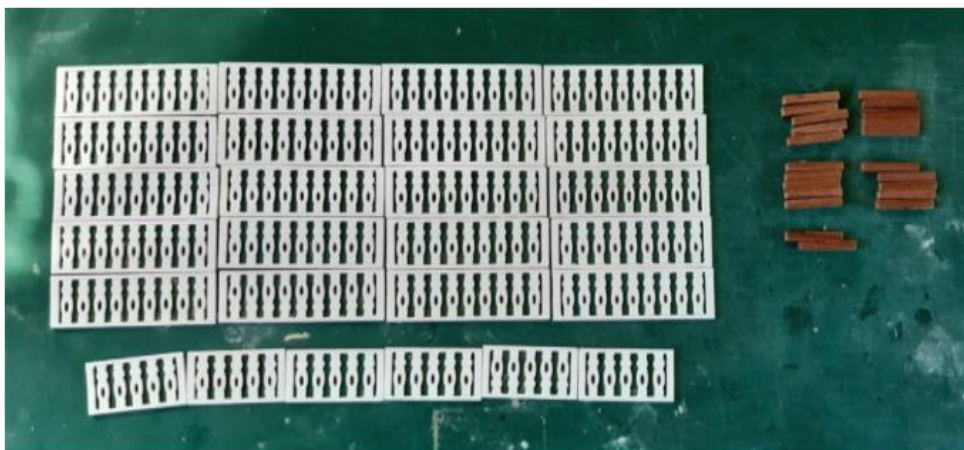


0.8mm cutter. Still 21 months use from a cutter that cost about £1 is not bad going and fortunately I have spares so just had to start the job again.

I have run a couple of “sea” trials on her and after some experimenting with keel weights I managed to come up with something that stops it oscillating madly from side to side and still allows the rudders to work. Being flat bottomed and having the rudders in front of the paddle it was never going to be the most manoeuvrable vessel but I think it now has a turning circle of about 10 feet.



The latest job to finish was fitting railings to the promenade deck. I first needed to fit posts to glue the railings onto so I made jigs which clamp to the edge of the deck and hold the posts vertically and correctly spaced while the glue dries. Once the posts were fixed I added the railings between them. It was a couple of weeks work as there were 29 posts and railings to fit.



I also finished the last few railings on the main deck so I will now turn my attention to the final keel design and twin smoke boxes.



I have a whole pile of detail I want to add so it will be an on-going event even after she is regularly on the water. Future items for it include some period people but I haven't decided yet whether to cnc them or get into 3D printing. Either way I think I will be learning some 3D design software soon.

I hope to have her on the water in October and definitely in time for the next night time sail to see all the lighting in action.

*Thanks Keith we're all looking forward to seeing the model on the lake in all its glory.*

#### **An update from Tony Carter.**

As most of you will know I moved to Somerset nearly a year ago and for my sanity looked about for a boat club and joined the Yeovil and District model boat club that is Yacht racing with DF95 on a Wednesday, One metre Saturdays and scale motor boats Friday and Sunday.

Problem was I had to buy DF95 made in plastic and I like making my own in wood and I don't have any scale boats, also the lake is a reservoir the middle of nowhere so totally different than what you Basingstoke boys have. My Lama ark and narrow boat are still packed up in the garage.





The reason for this is to show you a picture of the lake as September comes to a close. And yes because of the drought the water company is pumping water so no water for us to sail in. We normally launch from the bank.

Must be nice to have water all year and be topped up when needed, at least we don't pay for car parking!

From your Somerset correspondent Tony

*Thanks Tony, hope that your lake fills up over the winter period.*

### **Pictures from Holiday**

My lady friend and I spent 3 weeks in France during September and part of our holiday was 2 days in La Rochelle on the Atlantic Coast. Whilst walking around the various marinas and quays we came across a 3 mast Barque which I thought could make a short article for the newsletter.



The vessel is the Le Francais and is registered in St Malo Brittany. It is similar in design to a vessel used by the French Antarctic explorer Jean-Baptiste Charcot in his 1904 expedition. That vessel was wrecked off the coast of Argentina in 1907. The Le Francais was built in Svenborg, Denmark in 1948 and is constructed with an Oak hull, pine decks sealed with pitch and masts of Douglas fir.

Overall length 37 metres, waterline 32 metres, beam width 8.5 metres, draught 3.2 metres and deadweight of 330 tonnes.



The ship was open to visitors as part of an exhibition that was being run by the vintage sailing club of La Rochelle. Unfortunately we didn't have time to go on the vessel as I had booked Sunday lunch (Fruit de Mer) in a recommended restaurant the other side of the port. I can recommend a visit to La Rochelle lots of different boats to see and plenty of places to eat good seafood.

#### **For Sale**

Keith Barnes, whilst not a member is often at the lake, wishes to sell some of his boats which are all in running order and ready to sail. If anyone is interested then contact Keith directly on 01256 359928.

Three models of deep sea tugs, Zwarte Zee Motor Tug, Metina III Steam Tug and Rumania Steam Tug. Each at £275.00

SS Truro Cargo Ship (Deans Marine Kit) also at £275.00

#### **Close**

Well that's it for this issue according to word count there are 2091 words in this edition plus an abundance of pictures and I hope you found at least some of them worthwhile. My thanks to Phil, Keith and Tony whose contributions made this newsletter, without member's contributions newsletters would be quite short! So please feel free to send me any contributions for the next edition.

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.*