



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

Chairman

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Gordon Philpott has been the Secretary / Treasurer of our Club for about 15 years and, as many of you are aware, ill health of late has meant that Gordon has not been able to get to the lake to meet and chat to the members as much as he would like and he has found it increasingly difficult to carry out and continue in his role as Secretary. To that end Gordon gave his notice of intention to retire from his position so that he could take things easy for a while to aid his recuperation. As Gordon's health improves we will hopefully be seeing more of him down at the lake with all his friends and he tells us that his new Fairwind yacht that is nearing completion – so watch this space !

Gordon has been a stalwart Club member and has served us extremely well over all these years with his 'behind the scenes work for the Club'. He has been a great ambassador for our Club, makes everyone feel welcome and loves to have a chat with as many members as he can.

Both Gordon and our Chairman Jack approached me to see if I would take on the role of Club Secretary and Treasurer and after some contemplation I agreed so now you are stuck with me ! Not everyone in the Club knows me as I am more of a

Wednesday sailor, however I do come along on some Sundays and enjoy attending the exhibitions that our Club supports so my 'face' is getting known. I hope to emulate Gordon in meeting and chatting to you all and giving you the welcome that he first gave me when I joined the Club and which he continues to do to our members old and new.

On behalf of our Chairman Jack and all the Club members I would like to thank Gordon for all the work he has carried out on our behalf. Our best wishes go to him and Gill and we hope to see them both down at the lake as soon as it warms up a bit and Gordon's health allows.

News:

Basingstoke & District Model Engineering Society Rally, Viables - April 2013

The Club yet again attended this 2-day exhibition and thanks must go to all members that helped. Mike Tomlins 'dressed' the tables on the Friday evening before the event and Charlie Redford, Robin Lock, Joe Harwood and Dennis Moore manned the Club stand on the Saturday. Sunday was a much better day weather wise and the whole event was so well attended. Again, our stand was manned by many more members including Jack Sharp, Mike Tomlins and myself along with Dennis Moore and Robin Lock and our display of boats was fit to bursting. Alan Wells came and joined us for the afternoon and it was great to see that our Gordon and Gill managed to get along too – I think that eventually there were more members on the stand than we sometimes see at the pond ! I think we all agreed that It was a very enjoyable event and thanks to all our members for their support.

Some photos of the Viables event:-



Our models on show



Chairman Jack holding court

Annual Membership fees Due

I need to remind our members that annual membership fees were due on the 1st April. The Club year runs from the 1st April to 31st March each year. We have again held the membership at £10 again this year, £5 for juniors - under 16 years of age.

Please hand your membership money over to either myself or our Chairman, Jack Sharp, putting it in an envelope with your name on the outside, or post a cheque to me, made payable to **Basingstoke Model Boat Club** to the following address:-

Alan Spooner
Hathaway, Stratford Road,
Ash Vale, Hants GU12 5PT

We hope that you will continue to support the club in the year ahead and enjoy the benefits of a friendly and expanding membership, complimentary Public Indemnity Insurance and use of the best model boat pond in the area !

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

On the subject of **new members** we have had quite a few enquiries of late and we must welcome Dave XXXXXX who has, after many visits to talk to us, joined our Club and he is now the proud owner of a lovely old fishing boat that he purchased at the Beale Park model boat show – I saw it sailing on Sunday 12 May and it looked quite impressive on the water. We must also welcome Jim Dewar who joined us recently and hope to see you down the pond soon and Paul Dancy who joined the Club on 12 May and came down to the pond with his new trimaran – it is a pity I missed it.

Liaison with Basingstoke and Deane Council

I have been in touch with Katy Hooper who is the Community Development Officer for the Council – she was previously the Green Spaces Ranger and was effectively in control of Eastrop Park amongst others.

My reason for contacting her was to promote the Club and to get some views on how the Council see us as an organisation. We had an exchange of emails which culminated in a meeting at the pond on Wednesday 8th May. I had already explained that our membership was slowly growing and that we take great pride in being part of the 'Eastrop scene' and that we enjoy talking to the many visitors, both local and foreign, who use Eastrop Park.

We had a very fruitful meeting and Katy told us that our Club was most welcome at the pond and was seen as an asset to the park. She was keen to hear how we act as a 'community service' in sailing our boats at our meets and talking to the visitors where we regularly answer questions on our model boating activity. She enquired whether we were happy with the maintenance of the pond and its surroundings, to which I and other members said that we were more than happy. She explained that there may be some funding available to provide facilities for both our members and other visitors and she was having to submit funding requests at a future meeting

within the Council. She suggested that a hard wood bench top and backrest could be provided on top of the stone wall that we congregate along and sit on, plus a picnic table for our use. These suggestions originally came by way of Malcolm, the park groundsman, whom we have a bit of banter with down at the pond - we thank him for that and we then discussed how we could develop the idea a bit further. Nothing is promised at the moment but Katy is more than willing to help us.

I have made up a 'flyer' advertising our Club and Katy has placed it on notice boards, etc. and I believe their website with a link to our Club web page. We also discussed the possibility of an open day during the summer where we can officially display our boats and invite the general public to come and meet us. She suggested that we may be able to attend the 'Fun Day' which is held during the first week of the children's school holiday and is going to send me some details. If it looks positive then I will be looking for some volunteers or failing that I think we will organise a press gang - so watch out !!

Alan's mutterings

In the last newsletter we had an excellent contribution from Ron Rich detailing his 'Year in the Club'. It was good to see an article from one of the members instead of one of the Club officers churning something out, however I can't believe he is only 57 years of age though - only joking Ron !

So, if there are any budding writers out there please send me an article for future publication, it doesn't have to be long and don't worry about the spelling or layout as I will knock it into shape. Anything boat related or from our older members - the history of our Club, would do nicely and will all go towards providing future interesting Newsletters. It is your Club so show us what you are made of.

Following completion of my Perkasa MTB in the New Year I soon became bored again, although my wife did say I had some decorating to do. I thought I would build a boat for my Grandchildren and saw a plan of a general purpose boat from a model boat magazine and thought I could use the basis of the hull, suitably modified, to make said boat. I designed a superstructure to go with it and got to work and bit by bit it has taken shape. It is now almost complete barring some finishing touches and if it sails OK, which I expect it will or should I say hope it will, I will include its build in the next newsletter.



This is it nearing completion !

So if you would rather not hear about my boat building project or my "how to avoid doing home decorating" stories then get your pens and paper out and provide me with an article for next time !!

As most of you have seen Andy Clark is now in charge of our Club website so if you have any photos of your model boats or items of interest please forward to him – how about a 'For Sale' or 'Wants/Swap' section on the website ?

The Club was invited to attend a new model show at Sumners Pond near Horsham for this coming June but due to the short notice of this event we had to decline for this year but if it is a success perhaps we can make a go of it next year. It was a weekend event with no charge to the Club and free camping/caravanning too if required. It is on the Sumners Pond and Southwater Dabblers Model Boat Club websites – have a look ! I have had another email from the organisers thanking us for our help and suggesting that, as it was short notice for this year, we might like to attend next year. They have a good poster for this year's event which is over the weekend of 8 / 9 June with entrance of £4.50 per adult – if anyone wants a copy please email me ASAP and I will forward it on to you.

I have had some further correspondence from Katy Hooper of the Council and she provided me with a contact for the forthcoming Eastrop Park Fun Day – this event is held annually during the school holidays, about the first week in August on a Wednesday (our sailing day !), It is a family/children's event but it can provide an avenue to raise the Club's profile in the community and I mean not just locally.

I have been in contact with Mike Nicholls, the Council's event organiser, who replied to me by email as follows:- "Your Club would be more than welcome to attend play day which is on Wednesday 7th August between 11 and 4pm. The only criteria we have is that any organisation has to provide a free activity for children / young people, alongside which they can freely promote their own organisation or activity. So if you are able to perhaps have some boats which the children could have a go at (appreciate they may need to be older vessels as I suspect you wouldn't want any damage to occur from a 'trainee captain'!!) or can perhaps assist the children to make a boat to sail in a mini marquee or similar that would be great." Therefore it looks feasible and I will be in touch with fellow members to see what we can do before I speak to Mike Nicholls again.

As you know from the last newsletter the Club were in attendance, as is usual, at Midhurst for the annual model engineering show. Many of us who attend enjoy this show, meeting up with fellow boat clubs and looking at all the other interesting engineering hobbies that are in attendance. Because the old complex at Midhurst is being redeveloped we have been informed by the organisers that this may have been the last show but they have thought about holding a possible 'farewell' show in November of this year, unfortunately the proposed date does clash with the Warwick boat show and Remembrance Sunday. However, if it is on and I am yet to have it confirmed, I am willing to attend on behalf of the Club – so any volunteers to assist me ?

In closing, did you know that there are 2252 words of either wisdom or rubbish (whichever way you look at it) in this newsletter which goes to prove that you only get what you pay for !! Ta Ta for now.

Newsletter by Alan Spooner – Secretary / Treasurer Basingstoke Model Boat Club