



# **BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB**

## **Newsletter**

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## **December 2020**

### **Covid-19 impact**

At this time (14-12-20) Hampshire and the surrounding Counties are all within Tier 2 for Covid restrictions. Under these restrictions groups of up to six persons can meet in an outside space which includes public parks. Within each group "social distancing" should be followed and also groups should be socially distanced from any other group. Group members should keep within their group of six.

By following the guidelines we can ensure that Sailing is Safe for club members and public onlookers alike.

Please do not come to the lake if you, members of your household, bubble, or social contacts have or had symptoms of the virus.

### **Membership News**

Since the last newsletter and at the time of writing two new members have joined us. Please join me in formally welcoming James Diack and Ben Duffy to the club and we hope to see them at the lake side.

Total paid up club membership now stands at 91.

New members are always 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)

### **Jottings from our Chairman**

Well, here we are again, at the end of the year, and what a year! I wish you all the very best for the Christmas and New Year. I trust that you have not had it too difficult during these trying times.

Due to the virus issues during the year, we have had 2 shutdowns of the club, but in spite of that our membership and attendance at resumed club sessions has been steadily increasing. Model boating is proving a popular pass-time, but for some reasons it doesn't attract too many youngsters. A cause for concern?

Some members have taken advantage of the enforced home stays, and have been very productive. As a result we have had many very impressive new boats, while still many of the old favourites, appearing on the waters. As many as 20-30 boats on the waters on occasions. New members have hopefully been made to feel welcome, and enjoyed their time too.

The wind and weather have been acceptable, there haven't been too many disasters, as far as I know, no total losses, and the yachts have still been able to show off their skills.

Keep well, keep safe, and happy boating.

Chris Cole

*Tony Carter has kindly contributed this article on his unique Llama Boat.*

### **Building the Ark**

It all started when I visited the Midhurst model show! I met a man who had built a rear paddle steam-powered model river boat - an Australian cattle transporter. It stuck in my mind as good fun and during the trip home with fellow member Colin Patient we discussed the design and I said 'maybe the next boat'?

A couple of weeks later the phone rang and Colin told me that his local garden centre was closing. They were selling off some plastic llamas designed to stand in plant pots and he thought they might be about the right size for animals on a cattle transporter. At a pound each it was a no brainer and I asked him to get me a fiver's worth. He did better than that and got me the last 6 for £5.00 so now I was committed to the build! A few days later, while having a drink and chat with other friends in a pub - remember those days (?) - we decided that the size of the llamas would have to determine the scale of the boat.

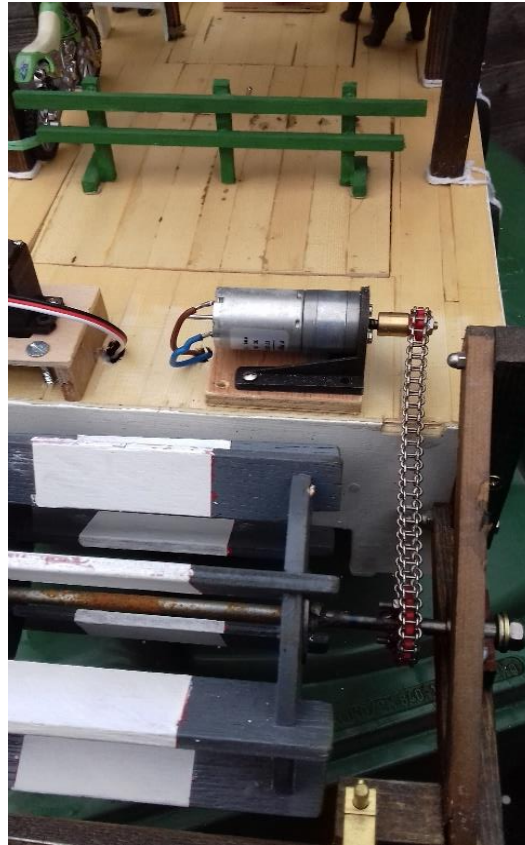
What material to use for the hull was my next consideration. I had thought for some time that I would like to build a boat in something other than wood. Having looked at some model aeroplanes made in expanded polystyrene and being told that they

crash better than wooden ones (easier to repair), I decided a river boat, being flat bottomed, would lend itself to this material.

The next day I went to Wickes and bought a small sheet of polystyrene insulation and a tube of non-solvent glue just to see what would happen. One and a half hours later the hull was finished. I was happy with the shape, and, as I wanted an authentic rustic look, I was pleased with its appearance as well. To protect the polystyrene from damage it was painted with two layers of water-based emulsion paint as a sealer, followed by a layer of small mesh fiberglass cloth using PVA glue to fix it. A sheet of Wickes' thinnest ply glued on as decking completed the look. The total hull build was two hours plus overnight drying time.



Using plywood, my next challenge was to build a cabin, a paddle, and a frame to support the paddle at the rear. A motor was fitted using a chain to drive the paddle wheel. It worked at home in the bath so the next stage was to test it in the pond.



On my arrival Andy and Chris were already there so at least help with recovery was available if needed. All went well apart from the fact that the paddle speed was too fast. Then the Ark was hit by the wind which turned it sideways and caused it to fall over on its side. Consequently, the llamas went for a swim so it was a good job they were tied to the rail. Fortunately for us, polystyrene floats and because the boat was by the bank it was easily rescued. After this minor disaster it was back to the drawing board or in my case the kitchen table with a cup of coffee and my sketch pad.

Once the lockdown started time was not an issue anymore and so I began to experiment with various ideas.

Back in the garage I decided to remove the cabin and make an open frame with a hood instead. The deck was planked with rough sawn strips and I ordered a 4" wooden artist's model as the open-framed structure looked too empty. Having clothed and mounted the model in a suitable place, I decided to get him to wave a flag to make it more interesting. Of course, it had to be a Peruvian flag to match the Llamas and I found that using a small servo to power the arm up and down worked very well. My next idea was to make the front gang plank move, which I found I could drive up and down by using a sail winch and cord. Lastly, a small geared motor was fitted in order to reduce the paddle speed while still using the chain and sprocket arrangement.



Finally, in order to stop the Ark from toppling over a strip of lead sheeting was applied to the central rubbing strip along the underside of the hull to act as ballast. Another bath test proved the stability of the boat and as soon as lockdown finished I tried it on the pond again. This time all was successful as the Ark floated well and turned and operated as expected. The club members who were present at the launch as well as visitors to the pond seemed to enjoy seeing something a little different. Someone said in jest 'you should make the llamas walk the gang plank' so out came the coffee and pad again.





By using another sail winch, a bit of a kite, a brass tube and some ply, a llama was liberated to walk the plank!

For those of you who haven't been to the pond recently have a look at the website where a short video shows the Ark in operation.



Now for the next project, don't ask I'm still thinking about it.

***Tony's Llama boat draws an impressive group of onlookers both young and old all watching the action unfold whenever it is on the lake. Many thanks for the article. Andy***

### **HansaJolle Article #3 Andy Clark**

By the end of the last article the build had progressed to the extent that the deck stringers had been fitted along with the short keel and the hull was watertight. Since then a number of critical stages have been completed but the boat is still a long way from its maiden voyage.

First stage was the fabrication of the cabin roof and hatch cover. The roof and hatch cover both had to be wetted slightly to enable them to be bent over their respective frames without splitting whilst being glued into position. They were both held in place with masking tape for 24 hours to ensure the glue had fully set. The completed roof was then fettled to provide a good fit to the cabin walls.



Second stage was the trial fitting of the servo mounting plates and battery tray. The battery tray fits below the servo mounting plate for the foresail servo. After a bit of trimming the servo plates were located between frames within the cabin area which had to “sprung” to enable the plates to slot in place. The servos were then trial installed.



Next stage was the fitting of the rudder “snake” linkage which consists of 2 semi ridged hollow plastic tubes of different diameter, the smaller fitting inside the larger. The larger tube was installed first between the frames as shown below. The smaller tube provides the action between the rudder servo and the rudder. Unfortunately at a later stage I broke the inner tube close to where it fitted to the servo. I eventually solved this problem by gluing of a steel pin as a “bridge” between two parts of the inner tube.



Following the trial fitting of the cockpit floor and the rudder tiller combination, fitting of the one piece plywood deck was the next step. This was quite a fiddle as the deck first had to be made to fit and then glued in place starting at the bow and then down each side all the while holding the deck in place with strips of masking tape. The tape was left on for a while to ensure the glue had set.





A bead of epoxy resin was applied between the underside of the deck and the hull to "hopefully" provide a water tight seal. Time will tell! The deck and cabin roof have had three coats of varnish so far with a couple more still to be added.

Finally the mast mount was installed. The mount includes pivot and locking pins which, thinking ahead, should allow the mast to be easily lowered for transportation to the lake.



By the next newsletter I hope that the build will be nearing completion, but who knows!

I received the following email from one of our members who wishes to preserve his anonymity.

***Helpful hint that's worth a trial***

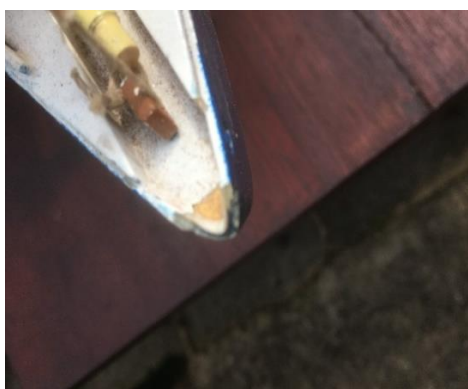
*It always difficult to varnish/paint the inside of a wooden boat Hull whether a new build or a rebuild. In a 1990's woodworker magazine I was given they suggested using a car clear lacquer spray can for difficult to reach areas. As I had a can in the garage left over after a paint touch up from a "woops brick wall problem" I tried it and after the 24 hours hardening time it worked well and is a lot easier than painting.*

*Just don't try it on a plastic hull without testing first.*

### **For Sale #1**

David Leigh has two sailing yachts for sale, the larger one is 42 inches long with fiberglass hull and planked deck. The smaller one is 20 inches long made of hard plastic, it has had some repairs and has a small chip on the bow.

David is asking £75 for the large one and £25 for the small one or very near offer.



David can be contacted on Home 01252654564 or Mobile 0789057763

### **For Sale #2**

Reg Naish as a large racing yacht for sale (£100.00) or swop. Boat needs rudder fixing, new rudder servo, and a general tidy up. 27MHz receiver fitted. If interested contact Reg on 07555 477645.



**A little light relief**

I thought that I would share a few of the best pandemic puns that have been going around.

Now is not the time to surround yourself with positive people

I ran out of toilet paper and had to use old newspapers. Times are rough

Finland has just closed their borders. No one will be crossing the finish line soon

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie

## Close

That's it for this issue, my thanks to Chris and Tony for their contributions. According to word count there are 2284 words in this edition 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.

With this unforgettable year thankfully drawing to a close may I take this opportunity to wish each of you and your respective families a Merry Christmas and hopefully a Happy New Year. In the meantime keep following the Covid guidelines to be safe and well until we see you at the lake one sunny day.

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.*

## And Finally



Looks like this Christmas 🌲  
We have a VAC Scene 😂

