



BASINGSTOKE MODEL BOAT CLUB

Newsletter

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June/July 2025

This edition of the newsletter is later than normal as I have been away on holiday from the 20th June to the 9th July.

Membership News

It is with sorrow that I have to inform members of the deaths of **Jim Hill** and **Harris Early** since the last newsletter. Messages of condolences were sent to their families on behalf of the club and all members.

A further 8 members have not renewed for the 2025/26 season which is the largest drop in membership for a number of years. However I am pleased to report that 3 new members have recently joined so please give a warm welcome to **Michael Stewart, Shirley Oakford** and **Graham Munday** to the club and we hope to see you at the lake whenever you are able to attend. The current membership now stands at **86**, of which 2 are junior members.

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

Round up of club events since the last newsletter.

It's been a busy few months since the last newsletter, here's what's been happening at events either attended by the club or ones that we have hosted at the lake.

The Basingstoke and District Model Engineering Society Spring Gala weekend was held at the Viables Centre Harrow Way Basingstoke RG22 4BJ on the **12th and 13th of April** and the club provided a static display of boats.

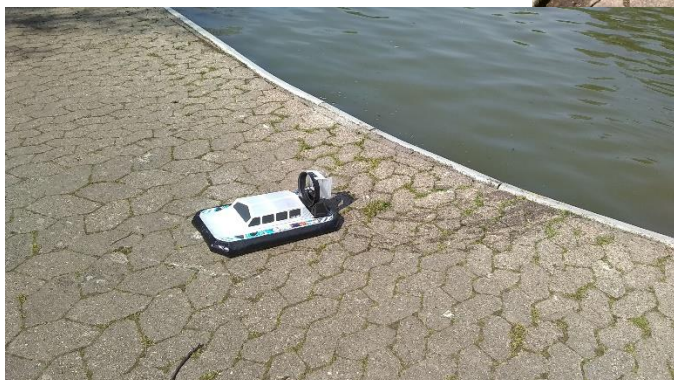


Thanks are due to Andrew Will, Joe Harwood, Joe Beckett, Dave Powell, Laurence Head, Keith Ebsworth, Pete Edwards, Terry Welch, and Chris Cole for manning the club's display and bringing along some of their models.

Club members Derrick Rendell, Neil and Darren Davis who are also members of the Model Engineering Society were on locomotive driving duty giving rides to the general public, whilst Alan Fuller was displaying a couple of his stationary engines.

Visit by **Model Hovercraft Association**, once again we hosted the association on the **27th April**. Members of the association travelled from Isle of Wight, Chepstow, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire to attend at the lake. Hopefully they will make a return visit later in the year if they can find space in their schedule.

Jacob, one of our junior members also brought along his small hovercraft to join in with the association members.



Surface Warships Association, visited us at the lake on the 4th May. The association was formed in 1994 with the aim of promoting the hobby of building scale

model warships. The definition of a warship covers ships of all periods, types and nationalities which have served or are serving under the service flag of the Country concerned.

Members of the association travelled from the London area and Essex.



Member Graham Woodhams also brought his model of HMS Sirius for its maiden voyage after a 2 year restoration.



Popham Airfield Model Show was held on the weekend of **10th and 11th May** and like the Spring Gala weekend the club provided a good display of model boats for both days



The club's display was held in the main marquee through which was the access to the flight line for the RC flying displays.



The above gives a flavour of the many types and sizes of aircraft that were flying and when the fast jets were displaying it was hard not to think of them as full size aircraft being seen at a distance.

Thanks to Barry Parsons, Alan Fuller, Tim Jeffries, Dave Powell, Chris Cole, Keith Ebsworth, Graham Woodhams, Joe Beckett, Joe Harwood and Andy Will for bringing models and manning the club's stand.

The **Vintage Model Yacht Group** joined us one again on **Sunday 8th June** bringing a range of free sailing yachts and also some vintage radio controlled.





We hope to see the group again next year.

Dave Cleveland has kindly put finger to keyboard to produce the following article on his model of HM Tug Resolve.

Project Resolve

Back in 2022, following the completion of my first model boat (Caldercraft's Milford Star), I thought I'd tackle the largest of their kits, a 1:48 scale model of HM Tug Resolve.



The Resolve class was based on the commercial tug Sir Resolve. They were twin screw, 1,360 tons displacement, 182 ft overall, two triple expansion steam engines with four coal-fired boilers, 2,400ihp, 14 knots, bunkers 350 tons, range 2,450 nautical miles, 28 crew. Six vessels were completed between September 1918 and May 1919: Resolve, Respond, Retort, Rollicker, Roysterer and Rollcall. They were used mainly for the salvage and rescue of ships, both merchant and military. The recovery of disabled ships bringing supplies to Britain during WW1

Soon after buying the kit, I was tempted by a couple of wrecked models of pleasure craft found in an antiques/bric-a-brac/junk emporium in Suffolk. Both were crying out for renovation and the proprietor was similarly keen to sell them to me.

As often happens in life, what starts off looking like a swift piece of work turns out to be just an illusion and so it was with these two boats. They occupied my boat-

building time through to the end of 2023 and so Resolve languished in the corner awaiting attention. The building of a new shipyard in the garden (the subject of an earlier article) further delayed the start until August '24.

My estimate at the start for completing the boat was sometime in April 2025, after about 500 hours of enjoyable stress. This is based on stats collected during those two 2023 builds.

The Resolve kit is typical of Caldercraft's scale models, comprising a GRP hull, CNC and laser-cut plywood sheets, white metal castings, etched brass, brass & steel rod and a few items (actually, just four) of plastic.

A further sum was expended on two high-torque motors (Caldercraft '900 Torque'), a 12v lead-acid battery (making a welcome 1.9 kg contribution to the required weight), Hitec 311 rudder servo, two 40-amp Viper ESCs and a Radiolink receiver. Two 270 mm prop-shafts, couplings and 50mm brass propellers completed the 'not-included-in-the-kit' extras. I later decided to include LED lighting, 15 LEDs in total.

The first issue was that the GRP hull had suffered a degree of distortion. Some of this was remedied with the judicious application of a hair dryer and cramps, but others were more fundamental and required other modifications later in the build.

As a first step I decided to get all the running gear and other stuff that lives below deck installed and working before the deck gave them something to be under.

Although the instruction manual was far superior to that supplied with Milford Star, the trickiest job in the early stages was aligning the prop-shafts and motors with where the propellers were supposed to be – many adjustments to holes in hull, prop-shaft A-frames and motor mounts were needed to achieve prop-shafts parallel to keel in both planes and unavoidably slightly nearer the surface than plan.



The clearance at the top of the rudder arm from the underside of the deck and the stern was minimal and so to avoid the risk of fouling the arm on full port lock, I've offset it by about 30 degrees from what would be the normal mid-ships position (i.e. at right angles to the plane of the rudder). The supplied plans show a different hull shape at the stern such that there's much more rudder shaft inside the hull than with the actual one. Also, having had problems before with poor adhesion of white metal to the rudder shaft, I made a tight-fitting one from copper.

Although I'm not expecting problems with this arrangement, some modifications to the build have made the deck at the stern removable to give good access to the rudder gear (a lesson learned from my Milford Star experience).

Having got a working hull, I was tempted to take it to the lake straightaway to check it out, but applied some patience and waited until the hull was fully painted. Before this, the decks had to be fitted and this served to achieve a much more rigid structure, albeit with some further GRP mods and the application of Isopon P30 car body filler.



One of the real positives about this model is that the design of the superstructure gives good access to the

'works', also easy to add the lighting – it's possible to get to most places below deck.

Sub-decks fitted

Having painted the hull (aerosol spray) and applied a coat of matt lacquer, the boat had its first sea trial on 3rd November. This was successful, i.e. no ingress of water and all R/C functions working well. Motors kept nice and cool and good manoeuvrability, helped by independently-controlled port and starboard motors.



Printed deck planking fitted and hull painted

Rather than use lead sheeting for ballast, as I've done before, I've chopped up several odd bits of old lead into pea-sized pieces and made up some 500 gm bags, using bank coin bags. I was prompted to do something like this by Alan Spooner who uses bags of lead shot. The big advantage is that they sit snugly wherever you place them. When ballast weight and placement is finalised, some Velcro will be applied to stop them misbehaving under stress.

Having a working hull encouraged me to get on with fitting the remaining 1,700 pieces. I had no doubt that there would be some issues along the way, but with a working hull and everything sorted below decks I looked forward to the prospect of faster progress thereafter. It had taken 69 hours to fit 296 separate bits at that point so a further 1,700-ish was a little daunting.

I more-or-less followed the sequence in the manual and started with the foredeck. A lesson learnt from previous models was to paint components before fitting them – this has served to make for nice crisp edges between, for example, painted deck fittings and varnished deck planking. A fair bit of straightforward 'paint some', 'fit some', but the assembly and painting of the anchor winch (35 bits), the gun (53) and arranging for the anchors to be attached to the chains and then to the winch tested my dexterity and some ingenuity (nearly) to its limit.

There are a few points where the untrue hull shape required some mods to supplied components – nothing major, but a little disappointing to have to settle for less than the perfection that we modellers strive to achieve. I think that maybe the mould and/or the production processes for the GRP hull are getting a little tired; or maybe it's the people!

Anyway, progress was steady and by Christmas 1,010 bits had been fitted and the model started to look interesting. The model above deck does, I think, represent almost every item present on the real ship. One variation from the instruction book I did make was on the railings. Instead of the soft wire as supplied, meant to model the rope used in the original, I used rigid wire, as I found it impossible to make the former hang naturally between the stanchions and it just looked as though it had been badly fitted.

Having opted for the Royal Navy colour scheme (as opposed to the alternative multi-coloured scheme used for the original commercial version), when I'd fitted stanchions and railings (mostly in brass), it seemed a shame to deface the shiny metal with the ubiquitous matt grey so I just used a light coat of varnish to stop tarnish and corrosion. It also adds a little interest to an otherwise rather bland colour scheme, albeit authentic.

Most of the wood and metal components supplied with the kit were OK, but the white metal components of the 20-odd bottle screws securing shrouds and mast stays were a real challenge to make. The manufacturers must know this because several spares are included. Many of them weren't complete and/or didn't have holes where holes should be. Drilling tiny holes in tiny bits of soft metal was fiddly and fraught with issues: many were just too weak to use and others gave way when a little tension was applied during rigging, so I resorted to complete the number using 2mm aluminium wire, flattened at each end with the simple application of pliers. These

have proved to be very strong and drill easily so I'll probably replace all of them in due course. It's a shame that the makers of the kit continue with components that are clearly not fit for purpose.



As supplied with the kit;



Replacement using 2mm aluminium wire

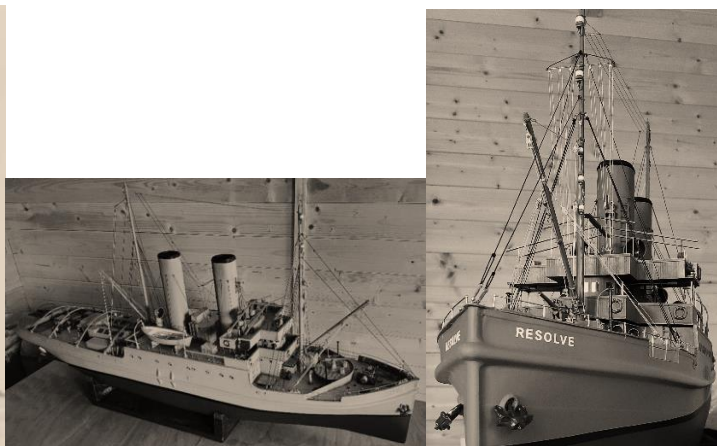
Another irritation was that, instead of supplying the tube components of the masts in alloy, they were plastic, which flexes rather more: The kit cost over £800 (plus motors, ESCs, battery, props, all R/C gear and lighting) so such economies are not justifiable, are they?

Anyway, by the end of March, all work covered by the instruction manual was complete. Soon after starting the build I decided to add lighting: not everywhere, but enough to sail in the dark. A pack of 10 12v Clear LEDs from Hobbies and a Navigation lighting set from Mobile Marine Models provided for basic navigation lights and illumination in the bridge, wireless house, officer's mess and the crew accommodation under the mid-deck (through drilled-out portholes in the GRP hull).

The scale weight (i.e. 1,360 tons divided by 48 x 48 x 48) would be 12.49 kg but the actual total displacement is 11.3 kg and she rides nicely at the right waterline. First outing was at Eastrop on 11th May.



Sir Resolve in 1918



Model HM Tug Resolve in 2025

All-in-all, a very satisfying project: 2,079 bits, 32 elapsed weeks and 335 hours. Total cost, valuing my time at £25 an hour (mates-rates) £9,635: worth every penny!

Many thanks Dave and we hope the model makes a return visit to the lake in the near future.

There has been a lot of discussion in the media in how Artificial Intelligence (AI) will change the world as we know it. So I thought I would try out ChatGPT to see what it would make of the question, “write an article on the pleasures of RC boating”.

The following came back in 2 seconds!

The Pleasure of Radio-Controlled Model Boating

Radio-controlled (RC) model boating is a fascinating and rewarding hobby that has captured the imaginations of enthusiasts for decades. Whether you're navigating a sleek sailboat, a powerful speedboat, or a detailed scale model of a historic vessel, the world of RC boating offers an exciting escape into the art of precision control, design, and competition. But beyond the technical aspects, it's the joy of being on the water and the thrill of seeing a miniature boat come to life that make this hobby so special.

The Thrill of Mastering the Waters

At its core, RC boating is all about control. Steering a small but powerful boat across a body of water requires concentration, coordination, and an understanding of the elements. The sound of the motor humming, the rush of the water as it parts to make way for your vessel, and the sheer satisfaction of seeing your boat execute sharp turns and smooth glides are a pleasure that only an RC enthusiast can truly appreciate.

The beauty of the hobby lies in the challenge it presents. For beginners, there is a learning curve. It's not just about pressing buttons—understanding the intricacies of controlling speed, direction, and handling in various water conditions makes every outing an opportunity to improve. Whether you're mastering slow, steady navigation or testing your skills in more challenging environments like windy lakes or ocean currents, RC boating sharpens your reflexes and helps you develop an intuitive sense for the water.

Craftsmanship and Customization

One of the most appealing aspects of RC boating is the opportunity to craft and customize your own model. For many hobbyists, building a model boat from scratch or assembling a kit is one of the most rewarding parts of the experience. The process involves careful selection of materials, as well as intricate planning and construction. This brings a deep sense of pride when the boat finally takes to the water.

For others, customization can be an ongoing project. Whether it's upgrading the motor for greater speed, fine-tuning the hull for better manoeuvrability, or adding scale details to make the boat look like a real-life counterpart, RC boaters enjoy the creative aspect of making their vessel uniquely their own.

Connecting with Nature

RC model boating allows enthusiasts to engage with nature in a special way. Whether it's a peaceful lake, a slow-moving river, or the open sea, there's something incredibly calming about being out on the water with a model boat in hand. The tranquil atmosphere, combined with the soothing sounds of the boat's motor or the

gentle lapping of water against the hull, offers a sense of relaxation that many boaters find almost meditative.

For those who prefer competition, racing adds an exciting dimension to the hobby. RC boating races are a staple of the hobby, with participants pitting their boats against one another in a test of speed, handling, and skill. Competitions are often held in local clubs or organized events, creating a sense of community among fellow enthusiasts. The camaraderie and friendly rivalry make the sport even more fun, adding to the sense of accomplishment when you cross the finish line.

Community and Camaraderie

The RC boating community is one of camaraderie and shared enthusiasm. Whether you're a seasoned expert or a complete novice, there's always someone willing to offer advice, share experiences, or simply enjoy the day out on the water. Many clubs and online forums exist where hobbyists can connect, discuss new techniques, and participate in group activities. Events like RC boat races and meetups are great opportunities to bond with others who share your passion.

The social aspect of the hobby is often overlooked, but it plays a major role in its charm. Meeting new people, learning from each other, and celebrating shared successes can make the experience even more enjoyable. For many, the friendships forged through RC boating last a lifetime.

A Hobby for All Ages

One of the best things about radio-controlled model boating is that it's a hobby for all ages. From young children fascinated by the mechanics of a boat to retirees rediscovering the joys of the outdoors, RC boating offers a universal appeal. It's easy to start at any age, and there are boats available for all levels of skill, from simple beginner models to complex, high-performance machines.

Whether you enjoy racing against others, building and customizing your boats, or simply relaxing by the water, there's a place in the world of RC boating for everyone. The possibilities are endless, and the only limits are those of your own imagination and creativity.

Conclusion

In essence, the pleasure of radio-controlled model boating lies in the fusion of technology, craftsmanship, nature, and community. It offers a perfect balance of challenge and relaxation, allowing individuals to hone their skills, express their creativity, and form lasting connections with others. So, if you're looking for a hobby that offers both excitement and tranquillity, RC boating might just be the perfect fit.

For Sale-Tony Carter

I have now decided to sell a couple of my boats as they have not been in the water for about 3 year's due to the lack of a pond in my area that sail this type of boats. Before I put them on the open market I would like to offer them to the Basingstoke club where they may be remembered and I think the build detailed in the magazine.

Mini Moonbeam based on Andy Clark's full size model and using plastic Hull (ask Andy).

The model is 980mm long with a beam of 250mm and hull depth 250mm including the fixed fin, Mast height 1020mm. The boat comes fully rigged with cotton sails in a gaff type format and is controlled via a single arm sail servo. A single rudder at the stern is operated via a separate servo. The model is controlled by a 2 channel transmitter / receiver and driven with a 4 x AA battery

NOTE: THE TRANSMITTER, RECEIVER AND BATTERIES ARE NOT INCLUDED

Club price £75



1960 design speed boat.

This model was totally scratch build from a petrol engine design and modified to a brushed electric motor but still using the traditional ply rib and lite ply construction. The deck was then laminated in a herringbone design before sealing with varnish.

The model is fitted with a rudder servo and motor controller and requires a 2 channel transmitter/receiver to operate

TRANSMITTER, RECEIVER AND BATTERY NOT INCLUDED

Price £50 for further information Tony Carter 017966644260



For Sale-Joe Beckett (email joebeckett126@gmail.com)

I have a Kyosho Fairwind 2 in red and white, all in good working order. Just needs a receiver and batteries to go. A great sailer, goes well on windier days. Comes with an old stand. 900mm longx1550mm high. Fits easily in an estate car or back seat of a saloon. I'm asking for £80 but club members can make me an offer. It's also on eBay.



Second boat is a Nauticus Monsoon. A copy of an ocean racing yacht. Black, red and white in colour, looks fantastic on the water. Handles exceptionally well even in rough weather. Needs receiver and batteries to go. Only issues are missing rail trims and the keel bulb split but has been taped and does not affect anything. I'm asking £90 for this one, again members offers considered.



Close

Well that's it for this issue, for those of you taking bets on this, according to word count there are a massive 3782 words in this edition plus quite a few pictures. I hope that it was worth the wait!!

Articles from members for newsletters are always very welcome so if you are restoring a model or undertaking a new build do share your experiences with the whole club.

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 ask **Carl**, our “**Pembrokeshire located member**”, to add a copy to our BMBC website.*