

Established 1985

Editor: Jason Quayle

MANX MODEL BOAT CLUB Newsletter

Chairmans Chat

Dear Friends

By now you will now have heard of the untimely death of our esteemed club treasurer Alan Harper, who's hard work over many years keeping the club finances in perfect order and his unique sideline as the clubs master chef? will be sadly missed by us all.

Alan was a great help to me as a newly appointed Chairman and tried his best to keep me on an even keel.

Although a good number of members have known Alan for a lot longer than I have I am sure we all have our own memories of this hard working club stalwart. On behalf of the
Doug Wheeler

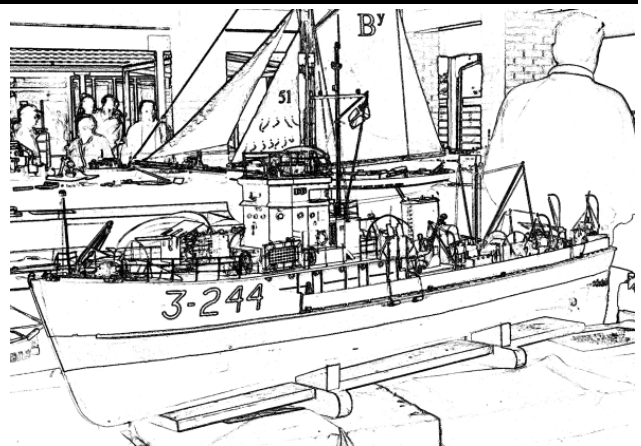
Donations in lieu for Alan Harper are going to the Royal Liverpool University, Broadgreen Hospital Trust. A number of club members have sent individual donations in memory of Alan, but if you would like to make a contribution through the club please contact the club chairman, Doug

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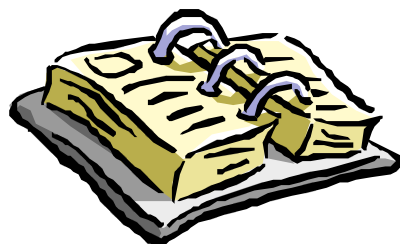
Further information on the Manx Model Boat Club, and photographs of recent club events can be found on the Manx Model Boat Club web site at <http://homepages.enterprise.net/jasonquayle/mmbc/intro.htm>.

Any contributions or ideas for the web site or club newsletter can be e-mailed to me at



Winner of the Mannanan 2004 "Best in Show",
British Yard Mine Sweeper Built by Alan

Forthcoming Events



Saturday 11th September - Venetian Evening & Barbecue - Onchan Park - 7:00pm.

This is our late summer Venetian Evening event which is judged for the best illuminated boat on the water for the Lighthouse Trophy. The nights are now starting to draw in, so you don't have long to wait before it gets dark enough to fully appreciate the models when lit up. The alternative date for this event if the weather is unsuitable will be Sunday evening 12th September.

Sunday 26th September - Tug Towing Competition - Onchan Park - 2:00pm.

This event is open to all tug boat skippers who want to try their hand at towing a disabled casualty around the lake, manoeuvring between buoys without touching or missing the gates. This event can be quite tricky when the casualty decides to sail with a mind of its own, especially if there is a slight breeze across the lake at the time. The alternative date for this event if the weather is unsuitable will be Sunday 3rd October at 2pm.

Sunday 10th October - "Round the Island Yacht Race" - Ramsey Mooragh - 2:30pm.

This is traditionally the final sailing event of the season, although yacht racing does take place as an informal event throughout the winter provided that there is water in the lake. Turn up early to book your place and get your yacht trimmed before the start.

Saturday 13th November - Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation.

I have included this event here for advanced notice to members. The venue, start time and menu choices for the annual dinner will be forwarded to you in due course.

Now that the summer season is drawing to a close, there should be more opportunity for Sunday afternoon sailing at Onchan Park when the motor boats are not running. If you are thinking of going for an informal sail, why not ring around one or two members and make up a flotilla.

Ellesmere Port 2004

Once again this year, the club made the annual trek over the pond to attend the Model Boat Convention at Ellesmere Port. Despite organisational problems and uncertainty where the club would be located, we turned up on Saturday morning to find that everything was in order and we were displaying on the top floor of the Rolt Centre. The number of boats which we had on display was slightly down on last year, but we more than made up for that with the size and weight of them. For those who are not familiar with the Rolt Centre, all boats have to be carried up a tiny external wooden staircase. With several boats measuring over 6ft in length, this was not an easy task.

The theme for this year's event was the "Scottish Connection". Following the club's success last year when we won the best themed stand for tug towing, we decided to undertake a similar exercise and

dedicate part of the club stand to the Scottish Connection and part to the remaining boat display. A large map of Scotland was hung on the rear wall of the display and 5 boats all with a Scottish connection were laid out in front of it, connected to various points on the map by a ribbon. In front of each boat there was a brief description of the vessel and its association with Scotland. Despite our efforts we did not win the themed prize this year.

The event was attended by the usual number of regular club members, comprising of Bill, Barry, Jason & Brian as the main contingent and then

by Bob, Mike, Nigel, Chris, Les & Bernie with families for part of the event. It was nice to see Keith & Shareen Jewell, now living in Fleetwood, who also attended the event. Everybody was envious of Nigel Latham who had managed to talk his way on board one of the tug boats which was going out to meet the QE2 on the Mersey on Monday morning.

The trade stands were very busy on Sunday and slightly quieter on Monday, selling all manner of tools, equipment, spares, kits and materials relating to model boating. Most members were seen buying one or two 'spares' for the workshop, but Bill Callow

National Aerokits Rally

This was the first event of this type to be staged anywhere in the world. Both Robin Rose and myself attended the event held in Branston Water in Burton on Trent. Having stayed over after Ellesmere Port, I filled in a few days visiting the children and friends before picking up Robin from Manchester airport on the Saturday morning before setting off for Burton. It was great weather on the way down and it got even hotter the next day!

Accommodation had been arranged for us on Saturday and Sunday night at a club member's house and they turned out to be excellent hosts. Both husband John and wife Jenny had been founder members of the club and were keen to enhance the club's reputation. I don't know whether the whisky sampling was a club policy but it was much appreciated by both Robin and myself!

Saturday dawned bright and clear and due to a 10.30am start it was not too much of a rush as the lake was not far down the road. The lake was a reclaimed and landscaped gravel pit with proper parking, toilets and jetty facilities (paid for by the local council).

When we arrived there were already a few boats

there and more quickly arrived. Eventually there were 25 Crash Tenders and one or two Huntsman and Sea Queens. There was no static scale judging just everybody looking at everybody else's boats. The competition element was a good steering course with everybody having two runs (metaphorically speaking!). We were told how many points we had lost individually after each round but had no idea how everybody else had done. The second round was held after lunch, which involved a couple of strolls to the nearby canal side pub!

The standard of building was very good with slightly more 36in models than the larger 46inch although both were in the same class for the steering competition. There were several i/c boats which all had a good turn of speed, as indeed did some of the electric driven boats.

The presentation was done by a Mr Deeming who had been instrumental in having the excellent facilities. It was the Burton's Club 25th anniversary and they were having a larger event in two weeks time. However when the results were announced both Robin and I were surprised when we learnt that Robin had won the whole steering comp and I received the third prize. Both of us received lovely trophies!

Mannanan 2004 Event Report

This is the seventh year that the Manx Model Boat Club has staged the Mannanan event during late June, attracting model boat enthusiasts from Isle of Man and from other areas of the UK. This years event appeared to be as popular as ever, attracting more visiting modellers than previous years. The event is held over three days with model boating activities staged at three separate sailing venues throughout the Isle of Man.

Saturday's event was a steering competition held at Onchan Park boating lake in dry but windy conditions to test the competitors skill. A challenging course was set up on the lake with each competitor in the under 1 meter, over 1 meter and mini classes having two separate runs on the water to clear the buoys without losing marks by touching or missing a section. The under 1 meter winner was Mike Leece with his boat "Cabbyl Marrey", the over 1 meter class was won by Alan Gough with his fishery protection vessel "HMS Shetland" and the mini class was won by Jason Quayle with his diving tender "Dornoch". The best junior competitor in the event was Laurel Latham who won third prize in the under 1 meter class with her boat "Nancy Raymond".

Sunday's event was a Scale Competition held Ramsey Mooragh lake in warm and sunny conditions. Ted Hawksworth from the Barrow club was invited back to the Island to join Barry Kerfoot from the Manx club as the competition judges. Marks were awarded in 5 separate classes for Static Boats, Naval Boats, Work Boats, Rescue & Lifeboats and a Super Class for previous winners, with each class being broken down into kit built boats, scratch built boats and semi kit boats. Winners of the respective classes were visiting modeller Gerry

Long with his model "Freetown", Doug Wheeler with "PK Perkasa", Howard Quayle with his German buoy layer "Vliestroom", Bernie Hinds with his Trent Lifeboat and Alan Gough with his British Yard Mine Sweeper. During the afternoon, several boats took to the water for free sailing to entertain the crowd who had turned out to watch.

Three events were scheduled for Monday at Silverdale Glen lake. They were an "On the Water" Competition, a Tug Towing Competition and the now famous Manx Model Boat Club Fun Competition. Winner of the under 1 meter "On the Water" competition was Jason Flemming with his "Wacht Am Rhein" and the over 1 meter was Alan Gough with "HMS Shetland". The tug towing competition was won by Alan Gough with his large tug boat "Niatal" – the boats name means 'Powerful' in Manx. The fun competition was won by Jason Flemming, who managed to bring the first float back.

The weekends activities were rounded off on Monday evening with the Mannanan Dinner and Prize Presentation at the Wellbeck Hotel, where the award for the best in show was presented to Alan Gough for his British Yard Mine Sweeper.

The club would like to thank all those modellers who took part in this years events to make it such a success. Special thanks also go to all the event sponsors and local authorities

Jason Quayle