



Established 1985

Manx Model Boat Club Newsletter 2003

Editor: Jason Quayle

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Chairman's Chat

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2003.

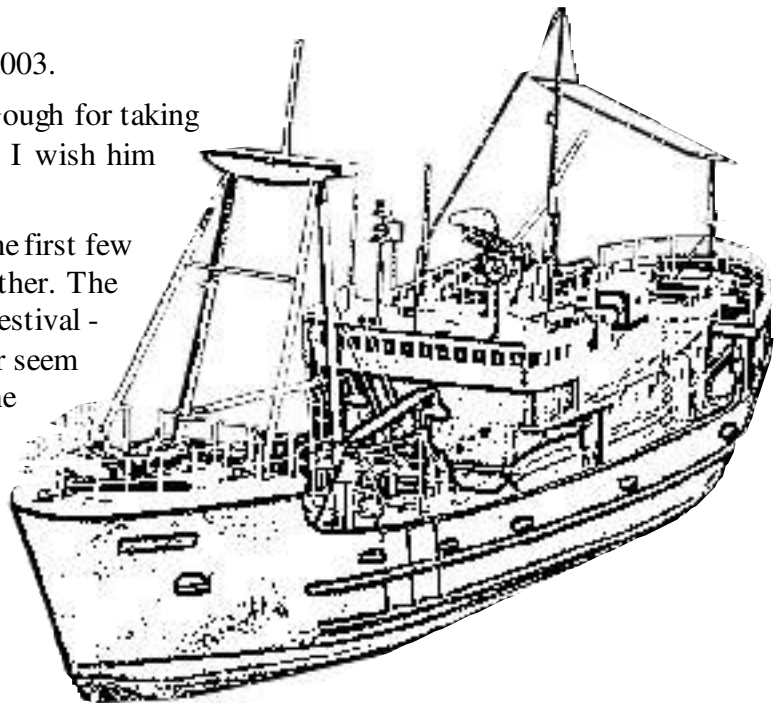
First of all I would like to thank Alan Gough for taking on the position of Club secretary and I wish him well in this challenging position.

We have now successfully completed the first few of this year's fixtures despite the weather. The next big event is this year's Mannanan festival - entries from our friends across the water seem set to break all records, so to any one who has not returned their entry forms to Graham, please do so as soon as possible - thanks.

That's all from me for now so weather permitting I will see you all at Onchan or even Ramsey.

Happy sailing

Doug Wheeler



Graham Normans new fishing boat "Inca Warrior".

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- Report from Steering Competition and Scale Competition
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Don't forget that the Manx Model Boat Club has a site on the internet where you can view new photographs of recent events. <http://homepages.enterprise.net/jasonquayle/mmbc/intro.htm>.

Still Going Back - But Not As Far This Time

by **Bob Bagshaw**

I left off my last effort about the mid-thirties. Things were slowly on the mend employment-wise in Manchester although still rough in the Lancs cotton towns. My Dad, a company cashier, had been sacked & out of textiles for just 6 months but had then found a similar job in the metals industry, so money was becoming easier. In his spare time he was a very good amateur cabinet maker so brother Geoff & I learned how to use wood-working tools from an early age. (He also taught my two, Colin and Susan in the 60's.)

Things were still fairly normal in '36 although re-armament rumbles were in the air. I became 11 so went to my secondary school - Chorlton High School for Boys - very few co-eds in those days. It was far enough away for me to stop for school dinners (quite good) but the main attractions were 1) I could go by bike & 2) there was a woodwork room with 1 lathe & a metalwork shop (no machinery). If you showed interest you were allowed to do projects in the dinner hour. Thus was born one of my earliest & more lethal constructions.

Pete, one of the lads in my form was also keen on boats so we got together to make a speed boat. Power was to come from a gramophone motor so we had to have plenty of beam. We knocked up a hard chine affair (birch ply & hot melt glue -ex school - can still smell it!!) plus a lash up Meccano drive train. The real expense - a prop & shaft ex Basset Lowkes. I think it was 2/6d (12 ½p for the younger ones - which was 2 weeks spends) I bought that as Pete had donated the motor. We painted it up (Woolworths) & took it to the outdoor swimming pool in a park near the school for a test run. Very impressive but it evaded being caught a couple of times & nosed the side of the pool which we found had sprung the bow skins. We glued them back together then reinforced the bow with a piece of tin can angle pinned on.

Did the trick so we brought it down to Platt Fields boating lake one evening for a real work out. Wound the thing right up & launched. Went like a scalded cat although the torque dug the port side in a bit. Had a few straight runs, steering clear of all other traffic, until disaster struck. We were on another fast run but half way across we hit one of the small Star yachts, as usual, lying on its side. That was no problem but it deflected us & we ran into one of the proper yachts & our armored bow stove in some of its planks, so it sank! Our boat reached the side so we retrieved it & being severely scared (or words to that effect) I'm ashamed to confess that we ear -'oled it as fast as we could. It was a long time before I went sailing there again but when I did I saw that the casualty had been repaired as new. The speed boat met its end shortly after.

We were sailing in another pond which was wider so we wound up full; let go, but the motor ran out before the boat had crossed. With its weight it coasted the rest of the way BUT this drove the prop which really unwound the gramophone spring. This forced the sides of the boat out & by this time the glue was just about perished. The chines separated & down she went. We did salvage it but that was the end of our boating lark. We went into air guns after that.

I did see some other racing from time to time - tethered hydro's etc plus some straight running. However this took place at a lake that was a long way away & very few people had cars in those days so I only visited once or twice on my bike. I can remember the hydros tho'. The I.C. ones were bad enough, fearsome beasts of about 25 to 30 cc - with cylinders that had so many transfer ports they looked like lace curtains but the real frighteners were the flash steam ones. They looked lethal even when cold but after I saw one explode I gave them a wide berth. On the other hand the straight running was a very gentlemanly affair & I often think that it still might provide a fun event for the Club. Just imagine it - no Tx's or Rx's to bother about - just a thought.

It was about this time 1938 that I got my first new push bike - a Royal Enfield which cost £3. 19s 11d - call it 4 quid. (My first one had been a Hercules which cost 5/-d (5 bob or 25p). All my mates at school & at home were into bikes so that became our hobby & a favorite trip was to go to watch the aircraft at Ringway, not knowing that I would be in the Met Office there when it became Manchester Airport. When I started it was still the same small building with a control tower & a hangar next door but the Met Office was in a hut that had been put on the roof where pre-war open air cafe had been. But I digress.

The war came the following year and the yachting lake became an Emergency Water Supply for fire fighting but before 1945 it was drained & filled in, because the puddled clay gave up the ghost & typically surrounding houses were flooded. Our school was evacuated to Lytham for a time then back to Manchester so we developed a scheme for using scrap/blitz wood to make waterline toy boats & animals for local children especially in hospitals. After I left school it was the ATC that took up all my time so my boat modeling closed down until the 50's, which brings us back full circle.

Bob Bagshaw

Steering Competition

This, the first competition of the season, was held in dry and sunny conditions but with a gusty breeze which always seemed to blow at the wrong time for some members!

There were the regular boat entries featuring, the only new boats being Doug's motorised 1/72 Flower class corvette and the other, Jason's mini Loyal class tender.

Both boats performed well considering their size and managed the steering course easily despite being affected by the wind. It will be necessary to have a Mini class course for Mannanan in order to separate them.

In the under 1 metre class, both Brian and Jason lost 1 point each over the two runs but

were beaten by Alans T.I.D. which had two clear rounds - and this with a single rudder/propeller system.

In the over 1 metre , Doug and Alan both found the wind a problem, although Doug's big Perkasa also had some 'gyrations' due to aerial problems. {always uncoil your aerial!} Alan was sailing his large Island class fishery protection vessel which suffered from windage but still only managed to lose 14 points as opposed to Doug losing 20 something!

Everybody had a free sail afterwards, including Les with his Fairy Huntsman, and Jason carried out some simulated attacks [and some that weren't] with his U47 submarine on the Perkasa.

Health & Safety

Members may be interested to learn that the committee has recently undertaken a review of health and safety requirements for organised events which the club holds, in line with recent government guidelines. The review took the form of a risk assessment covering all potential risks which may arise to either club members or members of the public as a result of holding an event. The review has resulted in one or two improvements which we will be making to the way in which we run events to enhance our approach to health and safety. Any member who would like to have a look at the results of the review are welcome to contact the club secretary.

For Sale

Interceptor 650

Fast Electric Boat

Brand New - £100

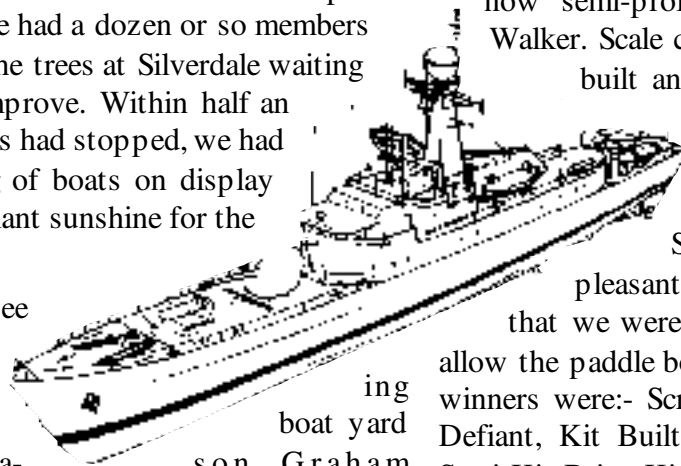
Contact Arthur Taggart.



Scale Competition and On the Water Competition

This event had already been postponed from its original date due to the very inclement weather which we have been having recently, and when the alternative Sunday date dawned, the weather wasn't too brilliant either! One or two phone calls later and we had a dozen or so members huddled under the trees at Silverdale waiting for things to improve. Within half an hour the showers had stopped, we had a good showing of boats on display and we had brilliant sunshine for the event.

It was good to see a couple of new boats being rolled out of the boat yard for the new season. Graham Norman had his new fishing boat "Inca Warrior" which he has nearly finished and Jason Quayle had his 1/48 scale Loyal class vessel



"Dornoch". There were of course many regular club vessels, including Bernie who must have almost brought his entire fleet.

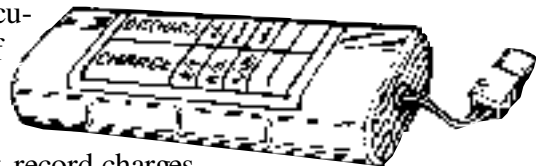
Judging the competition was ex-member and now semi-professional model builder Phil Walker. Scale classes were scratch built, kit built and semi kit models, with the "On the Water" competition open to all members actually sailing.

Sunday morning passed very pleasantly and it was only too soon that we were having to vacate the lake to allow the paddle boats on at 12 o'clock. The winners were:- Scratch Built Alan Gough with Defiant, Kit Built Jason Quayle with Yessir, Semi Kit Brian King with his Crash Tender and "On the water" Berine Hinds with his aircraft carrier Ark Royal.

Top Tips

CHARGING HISTORY

Here's a way to document the history of your battery packs. Tape a label to each pack and on it record charges, discharges and capacity / date etc. If you cover the labels with wide clear plastic tape, you'll be able to use a wipe-off wax pencil. This record will quickly reveal any deterioration in performance in your battery pack.



Club Videos

Don't forget that the club has a collection of about 20 videos covering a range of full size boating and marine related subjects, which are available for club members to loan for a small donation. Contact any committee member for more information.

Club Secretary

For those members who are not aware, Howard Quayle has stood down as the club secretary. The committee would like to thank Howard for the many years of hard work which he has put into the secretaries position.

Alan Gough has volunteered to take over as secretary and we all wish him well in his new role.

Forthcoming Events

1m Yacht Championships - Friday 13th June - Ramsey Mooragh - 7:00pm.

The usual format applies for this event which is held around the Mooragh lake in Ramsey.

Mannanan 2003 - Saturday 21st June to Monday 23rd June - Onchan Park, Ramsey Mooragh and Silverdale Glen - 10:00am.

Once again it is time for our annual three day Mannanan 2003 event. Entries from over the water are already up on last years event, however the the local entries are a little slow in coming in. Could members please try and make an effort to get your entry forms completed and returned to Graham Norman or any committee members as soon as possible to allow him to prepare the paper work. This will avoid too many problems with entries being accepted on the day.

The format for the weekend is a Steering Competition on Saturday with 3 classes for over 1m, under 1m and mini class boats. Sunday is the Scale Competition at Ramsey Mooragh with free sailing on the lake if you want and Monday is the "On the Water" Competition, Tug Towing Competition and Fun Competition. There is also a social event at the Douglas yacht club on Saturday evening and Mannanan meal and prize presentation on Monday evening.

Onchan Commissioners Fund Raising Event - Saturday 5th July

This is a fund raising event, which the club has been invited to attend and put on a display of boats, organised by Onchan Commissioners in the field at the rear of their offices. The club will be putting on a static display of boats at this event, setting up using the new club marquee. Unfortunately we do not have the start time of this event, so please make contact with one of the committee members nearer the date to find out the full details.

Tynwald Day Exhibition - Monday 7th July

The club is supporting the Tynwald day event this year instead of attending the traditional boat weekend in Peel. This will be a static exhibition in one of the marquees along with other island based model clubs. Once again, exact details of the event have not reached the club by the time this newsletter was ready for print, so please phone the committee or look at the web site nearer the time (towards the end of June) to find out the details.

Vintage Yacht Racing - Sunday 29th June - Ramsey Mooragh

Unfortunately last years vintage yacht race was cancelled due to the weather, lets hope that we have better conditions this year. The event is a trial to see if we can recreate the vintage yacht races which we have run in the past at Port St. Mary. The evening is open to all classes of free sailing yachts and will be run over several widths / lengths of Ramsey Mooragh depending on the wind conditions. Helpers may well be required to turn the boats on the far side of the lake.

Venetian Evening and Barbecue - Saturday 12th July - Onchan Park - 9:00pm

Once again chef Harper will be dusting off the barbecue to prepare another culinary feast for us all to enjoy at Onchan Park. The event is open to all boats fitted with lights - turn up and sail while there is still daylight and then turn the lights on when it starts to get dark (not forgetting to tuck into the barbecue food which will be on offer).

Fun Competition - Sunday 12th July - Onchan Park - 9:00pm

This is the same event which we use to draw the Mannanan event to a conclusion and is open to any boats which you don't mind having a bump or two! Alternatively if you don't want to chase floats around the lake, come along and have a free sail away from the action.