



Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC August 2006



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BATTLE OF COLLETT PARK LAKE

Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

Weed Weed Weed has been the major talking point about

Collett Park Lake with the lake being totally unsailable due to the dreaded problem. BUT a mini miracle has happened this week! Namely from the local paper last week which covered a front page picture of the ducks struggling to swim in the weeded lake as described by Ted in his editorial below. At the Bath & West showground for over 4 weeks during the school holidays a religious gathering known as NEW WINE take up residence and this year they have agreed to participate in local community projects and yes they saw the local paper last week and have been at Collett Lake weed clearing! In fact we made an inspection this evening (Friday 4th August) and at least half of the lake is sailable!! Admittedly the water level is a little low but apart from the very large models it is certainly usable and there are still some young ducklings!!

We have had a kind offer from the Yeovil Model Warship Association to join them sailing while Collett is 'out of action'.

I understand from Verd that we have had an enquiry from a modeller in Australia wishing to join the Drifters (I only hope he is not getting confused with the 60's pop group!!)

Editorial

In this months letter we have the latest competition reports, don't forget Cranmore Railway Open weekend 26/28th August which we have once again been invited to attend. Remember "Gazebo City" by the tanker sidings, for those that have been to Cranmore in previous years. As I cannot get to all the club events either at Collett Park or away venues, if any member would like contact me by phone, e-mail or write, just a few words as to what went on (or didn't), then I could enter a short report in Driftwood.

Battle of the Lake: As reported in on the front-page in this week's Shepton Mallet Journal (*Thursday 27th July 2006*), accompanied by a fantastic photo of one duck and the weed! The heatwave has caused problems for many creatures that call Collett Park Lake their home. The whole pond is weed clogged, with ducklings having difficulty is moving around. Park contractor QUADRON is battling to clear the algae, and praying for rain to bring some much needed water to the lake. It has already lost half its water through evaporation.(Ed. Incidentally no mention of the efforts made by the Drifters who originally cleaned out the lake in February, our advice, and the problems we have with sailing!) So down to Charlton Brewery our secondary lake (no excuse for boating withdrawal symptoms). As mentioned at the recent club meeting, future Sunday sailing's will be held there. Charlton Brewery Lake (near the Thatched Cottage Inn), is also open during the week and weekends, parking is close to the lake. Just watch out for the centre Island, as the water is deep, and you can't just walk in to save your beloved boat (*unless your Christian name starts with a "J" and your "circa 2030" years old*)

Weymouth 2006 by Ted

SWAMBC and Weymouth Council would like to thank the help from various members at Weymouth with putting up and dismantling the displays, tables and pond. Also help in the hall with stewards. Yes another successful SWAMBC Festival again well backed up by Weymouth Council, they appear to appreciate us there and seem to pull out the stops, with a lot of help. There is always a debrief following the Festival, where problems are aired and rectified (if possible) for the coming year. That is why probably it is such a well-organised show after 12 years of problem solving, with most modellers satisfied, but again as mentioned at our last club meeting if you got a genuine gripe (suggestion) please let the organisers know. (tell Barrie S. you can't get much higher!)

So why did the numbers *appear* down? One of the reasons could be the clash with the World Cup. Then this year, and, **for only the second time in 12 years!** the weather was a bit unpredictable (it turned out nice after

all). It is difficult to judge the reason. The organisers and members have introduced new ideas like; Dioramas, Photos for competitions or show, special nautical presentations, model car racing on the forecourt, children's competitions, Ladies craft section and the Model match stick fleet, plus "real" tall ships visiting Weymouth at the same time, it is difficult to see what to do next. The Council in advance advertise the event in all their publications, leaflets, and the holidaymaker's yearly guide. We must remember that Weymouth is a major sea-side holiday destination (*in the summer!*) the main summer holidays (for children) have not yet started, and to the local people of Weymouth early July is just another weekend on the calendar (I know I use to live there). According to Mike we still had a high record of model entries, and the Camping is as ever, full. But if you have any ideas on how to improve the Festival, get more general public and modellers visiting, then the organisers would love to know. The car racing was open for some criticism at the beginning, but it has been found that they do bring the general public to the active (pond) area outside the pavilion, that must be better for all. ***All we need is more of those lovely model boats that are displayed on tables in the pavilion to get their bottoms wet! But how do we tell the owners***

Ponderings. Unfortunately the next issue of Ponderings miss our publication date by a week. But the next publication of Driftwood will again be carrying extracts from the August/September Ponderings publication. Don't forget though if you want your private copy early, you can always get one sent by post or read it for FREE on the Internet the SWAMBC web site. (the e-version will be sent out to all members who have requested a copy on 4/8/06)

Return to Cranmore! Once again the Drifters have been invited to Cranmore (East Somerset Railway) this year themed as a forties weekend! Please let Jackie have your names if you are planning to attend. Unfortunately the organiser we assume is on holiday and we cannot give any further details yet, but we are planning to be in the same position as we were 2/3 years ago.

Brynbach MBC 10th Anniversary - Saturday 12th August 2006. All members are invited to attend this meeting. Excellent facilities including parking near water edge, cafeteria, hot/cold snacks, toilets and a caravan site with electric's. Display facilities inside and out. Parking is FREE as is the entrance. Brynbach in Wales? Take the A465 from Swansea towards Abergaveny then turn right (third exit on round-a-bout) towards Tredegar then at the first round-a-bout 4th exit turn right to Brynbach, keep left at the first fork and the club house is right in front. For full information please contact Jeff Heath Tel: 02920 758854. ***(I know it is a long way to go, but if you're in the area on business or holiday it sounds an ideal event to visit)***

Bristol Harbour Festival. With the recent news (27th July 2006) of a £10million grant to the industrial museum at Bristol, the future of the Bristol Harbour Festival is looking bright. This year again we attended with our "Have-a-Go" boats and again they proved as popular as ever! Thanks to all the help from members!

Welcome aboard! We would like to welcome a new members, Fred Merson, Matthew Lee from Bristol and John Spratley from Radstock. We wish them all good sailing and fun with our club!

Newquay 10th June - 1st Round Scale Steering by Mike Knight Owing to weather problems at Clevedon resulting in very high water reluctantly they could not host the 1st round, Newquay MBC very kindly offered to host . The only suitable date being the 10th meant that they would hold scale steering on Saturday, Tug Towing on Sunday. They even arranged camping on the Crealy site for those who chose to come down for the weekend. The course looked very challenging on a very pretty lake, it was like déjà vu with Crealy at Exeter. There were 13 competitors from the Drifters , Yate, Tone Valley and the local club Newquay. The small class had 2 competitors and was won by a very delighted Mike Ford of Tone Valley from James Winnett of Newquay. Pilot class was a rematch of Tom Holton (Drifters) and Rebecca Tiley (Yate) with this time Tom coming out on top, therefore after 2 rounds they are tied overall. Medium Class was very competitive but Samantha Knight (Drifters) won from the Poulterers (Newquay) Jamie 2nd, Chris 3rd. Large Class was the clash of the day with the Big Buoys (Phil Winnett & Pete Thatcher) against the Coxed Pair (Mike Knight & Steve Cox) but this was not Tug Towing but individual scale steering. Phil led after the 1st round and by the end of 3 rounds Pete was just in front. The final round proved decisive Pete held on with Mike 2nd and Phil 3rd.

Newquay 11th June - 2nd Round Tug Towing by Mike Knight. Another lovely day in a wonderful setting, the Newquay team arrived early and set the courses, one for singles and another for the team. Lovely day it was but the wind was gusty that made it really interesting. The Tone Valley club arrived in force and were made instantly aware of Mike Ford's success in scale steering. There were 3 teams competing and it was very tight between the Big Buoys and the Coxed Pair but local knowledge (Perhaps practise?) prevailed and

Little & Large (Roger Durbin/Ian Dingle) in 3rd. Single Pushing had 5 entries of which 4 were from Tone Valley. It was a very tight competition with only 5 points separating 1st & 2nd. Roger won from Ian with Richard Bowden (Drifters) in 3rd. Single Pulling had 8 entries and owing to the gusty wind, tight course and reluctant tows, scores varied but in the end Chris Poulter (Newquay) won from Richard Bowden (Drifters) and Jamie Poulter in 3rd place. They were two lovely days in a great environment. It was a lot of work for the local club and I would like to thank Pete, Phil, Jamie and Chris for putting on a great weekend. They even volunteered to do it again and it is well worth the effort.

Shepton 25th June - 3rd Round Scale Steering by Mike Knight After phone calls and an e-mail advising of the problems of a territorial swan Torbay MBC could not hold the round, the Drifters stood in but it did not look good. The previous weekend the pond was full of blanket weed and we were undecided on whether to continue. We persevered Steve Cox built these great rakes and in approx 2 hours on the Saturday morning Steve, Maurice Edwards, Samantha and myself cleared enough weed to hold the event. It was a certain relief as Sam & I had spent hours painting the limited edition world cup Coke bottles like footballs. Well we had to have some reminder of the football especially with England playing on the same day. It was a very technical course, a lot of reversing but it was possible and clear rounds were achieved. Possibly the football had an effect on the numbers but the 13 competitors had a good day with some obstacles proving very tricky, the rabbit defenders in the penalty area were a real joy especially when you had to reverse through them. Pete Thatcher of Newquay arrived declaring that he had to beat me and if he did he would have to do the journey from Newquay to Eastleigh, competitive Scale Steering is tough. It proved not to be Pete's day the early leader was Steve Cox but in a very tight finish he lost to me by a point with Pete in 3rd. Medium class had 4 entries and it was lovely to see Dave Dicker (Eastleigh) competing again, but in the end he finished 4th with Gordon Tiley (Yate) 3rd, there was only 4 points between 1st and 2nd with Samantha Knight (Drifters) 1st and Jamie Poulter (Newquay) 2nd. Pilot Class 6 entries and guesting from OMRA was no less a legend than John Kerr who obviously knows how to guide a boat and finished 3rd however old habits die hard and he could not help himself modifying the rudder after 2 rounds. The leading places were a battle between the Holton brothers with Tom winning from Ben by 5 points. This class is proving very popular with the youngsters why not bring your sons and daughters to have a go. Presentations were made and every thing was put away before it rained but England won so who cares!

Scale Steering/Tug Towing by Mike Knight. We are now halfway through the season and must already start contemplating what we do next year. To summarise the year to date, owing to problems with weather and a territorial swan, two rounds of Scale Steering have had to be quickly rescheduled. Competitors at Scale Steering are down year on year, noticeably with the Small class having no competitors at Shepton Mallet. Tug Towing numbers are generally good, however there are now only three teams competing regularly.

Where do we go from here? Does the format need to change? Are there too many other shows? Is the price of fuel prohibitive? Just a few questions to consider. To help us to help you, I would like feedback from those who compete, those who have competed and now stopped, and others who haven't but might if the circumstances were right, to let us know your thoughts for the future. Do not be afraid to be radical - it might be what we are looking for. If you believe that the reduction in competitors is just a phase, please say so, as it is very difficult to move forward without any information from the members.

Thanks Mike Knight. **Feel free to contact me by telephone, email or by talking to me at any event!**

For Sale White rectangular patio table and two white strong folding chairs, only £25
Contact Gus 01761 418007

Some Future Events (Put them in your diary NOW!) *More in the "What's on Guide"*
Don't forget deadline 24th September for "Driftwood items" to Ted ASAP gemini01@btinternet.com

Yeovil Transport Festival - 12/13th August - Contact Barrie or Jackie
Brynebach MBC 10th Anniversary - 12th August - Contact Jeff Heath 02920 75884
Cranmore East Somerset Railway - 23 to 28th August - Contact Jackie
Clevedon Festival Model Boat Show - 16/17 September - Contact Verd or Jackie *NEW EVENT FOR US!
MODEL SHOW Bugle call 2006 (Bath) - November 26th - contact Jackie

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C

Held at the Thatched Cottage at 7.30pm Monday July 17th 2006

Members present. B.Stevens,C.Button, V.Redwood, G.Haberfield,J.Stevens,D.Harris,R.Trott,, N.HarveyG. Bowkett,F. Merson,S. Jackson,I. Rodda, P.Rodda,D. Semper,M.Edwards,T.Porter.

Apologies R.Stevens, A. Marchmant,A. Martin,D. Porter.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman welcomed the new member Fred Merson. He expressed thanks to Dave Semper for taking the chair at the last meeting due to his holiday. The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.

The Chairman reported on a very successful Collett Day and had received various positive comments from members of the Public and there was good press coverage. However the weed was beginning to cause a problem in the pond. The council was approached, and he had also spoken to the Parks Contract Manager who assured him that there was a bale of barley straw available, but it proved too late as it should have been used when the pond was cleared out in February. The Chairman reported on a very successful Weymouth weekend and special thanks were extended from Weymouth Council to Shepton Mallet Drifters for their hard work especially around the Pavilion. An e-mail had been received from the Square Sail People offering a discount to the Drifters for next year's event.

Secretary's Report. The Secretary also thanked Fred Merson for joining the club, who said he had been looking forward to sail on the pond at Collett Park. The Chairman said that sailing could take place on the Charlton Brewery lake just behind the Thatched Cottage whilst the weed is causing a problem at Collett park.

The Secretary reminded the club of the following dates:
Warship sail day at Yeovil on Sunday 23rd July.,
Cwmbran Model boat Club open sail day on September 10th
Autumn Model boat show at Yeovilton on October 21st

Photographic presentation on Africa to be shown at the Club meeting on November 13th by Christine Button.
The secretary will be away on the next club meeting, Dave Semper agreed to take the minutes in his absence.

Treasures Report. The treasurer presented the financial report to the meeting including the money taken on Collett day, which was accepted. He also reminded members of the arrangements for Bristol Harbour exhibition on 29th and 30th July.

Any Other Business. The Chairman asked for report on the Newsletter, Ted Porter replied that it was progressing. The chairman stated that it was due out on August 1st

A decision also has to be made whether the Sunday sail in August will be at Collett Park or Charlton Brewery Lake.

Anyone interested in the Box event to let Jackie know.

The Chairman reminded anyone using the storage facility to remember to turn off the light; the battery had run down due to the light being left on.

George Bowkett reported on feedback from the Weymouth weekend.

1. The radio mike was not adequate and should be replaced by various speakers around the pond area.
2. The layout was exactly the same as last year.

There was a further discussion on the weekend.

The Chairman took note of the comments, he stated that the Traders requested the same sites as last year and they do bring in the money. However it was useful discussions,

The meeting closed at 8.20

NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING
7.30 Monday September 18th 2006 Thatched Cottage!
DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday September 24th 2006

