



Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC April 2006



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**See NEW dates for model boating
In the "Future Events" section.
(put them in your diary NOW!)**

Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

I think the season has just about started??? It has been like starting a car with a duffy engine with a lot of hesitating trying to get going with the stop go of the Swansea event and likewise for Bude. It was very reassuring this evening to get a call from the new organiser of the East Somerset Railway events inviting our club again to exhibit over the August Bank Holiday. When I mentioned to the guy that our club must have been forgiven from the chaos we caused when we last visited he did not know what I meant!! ... Verd can tell the story of his infamous de-railment!! I know many Drifters enjoyed this local event and I am assured camping will be allowed again and he suggested a good site would be on the tanker sidings, I did explain that is exactly where we used to be! Anyone interested in attending from 26th - 28th August please let me or Jackie know. For the folk who have a computer or brave enough to enter a library (see Ted's notes below) we will start to archive the old Driftwoods on the website. If you wish to receive this newsletter by e-mail and are not on our list please drop me an e-mail with your address. barrie.stevens@btinternet.com

Subscriptions Final Reminder

DEADLINE Friday April 14th 2006

If you have not renewed your subscription for 2006 to remain a member of the Drifters MBC please do so **as soon as possible**. Anyone who has not renewed their subscription by **14th April** will no longer have "Public Liability Insurance" which is a requirement at all SWAMBC and all National model boating events. **If your subscription is not renewed by April 14th then a re-joining fee will have to be paid.** Subscriptions to be paid to Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC. Please contact Verd Redwood, treasurer Tel: 01749 343832

Editorial

So the model boating year has weighed anchor and steaming full ahead into 2006 (not an iceberg in site?). Having recorded the recent television programme on icebergs, I was a little disappointed in not seeing either Barrie or David in swimming trunks at "Pontins" during the making of the show, who knows they may be asked to perform in the sequel "Iceberg 2". By the time you read this some of the "away team" will be in deepest Wales (Swansea) trying to decipher the road signs and getting berthed into the "new look" Swansea Maritime museum, later (much later?) you may be reading a report in one of the Model Boating magazines.

In this issue I have enclosed a short extract from the latest Ponderings the SWAMBC newsletter, unfortunately it is a little dated, with most clubs wishing everyone a happy "New Year", still as they say? "Better late than never".

Perhaps a few of you read, and saw the photo in the local paper (Shepton Mallet Journal) of the dozen brave Drifters that turned up to clear our home water of mud (Collett Park). It was a cold but worth while exercise. Although the event was well advertised! *The numbers of members unfortunately were down*, which made it a little harder for the ones that did turn up. But they did a great job and 80% of the mud, which included that dreaded weed, (which a number

of members complained about) was shifted, and by 3pm most of us were back home. Many, many thanks to Daisy and Roy Stevens, who supplied hot sausage rolls at lunch time, they were well received, and went down well with the hot coffee and tea served from David Semper's mobile canteen (van). If you want to know who was there Barrie has the photo!

Don't forget if you have any thing for Driftwood, any item wanted or for sale (or sail) any news or areas of interest our next issue is out in June (yes that's June as in Summer!), just give us a call!

You can get onto the INTERNET FREE ! (NO telephone bills, NO home computer) and see our club web site and the SWAMBC web site FREE!

I understand that there are members who are not on the internet (or even own a computer) and, who may not know how to go about getting onto the "World Wide Web" (another name for the internet), to see our web site, the excellent photos, up to date news, and future events.

Well you can now, just pop along to your local library, which has "internet" access. Ask the librarians for help and "*away you go*". The librarians in Shepton are excellent and very helpful (no doubt in the rest of the county also). All you have to do is join the local library and just follow the easy help lines and library rules. YES it is as simple as that..... **OH! and don't forget to have the Drifters web site and the SWAMBC web site address ready to punch in on the keyboard.**

Ponderings (extracts taken from issue 45, February 2006)

Yes, a little dated but news all the same. First the SWAMBC new web site, following on from the previous article about getting onto the internet free, the SWAMBC's new web site is www.SWAMBC.webeden.co.uk where you will find a full copy of their newsletter "Ponderings".

By now all members should have received their personal copy of the new "What's On Guide to Model Boating" again an excellent publication, with more than just dates of events but also how to get there, and "who's who" in the SWAMBC line up. **The Clevedon and District MBC** is just 6 months old and already going from strength to strength, and in December (2005) had their first Christmas night sail with fireworks set off from a model barge towed by a model tug! With over 200m spectators it must have been quite a display. OK Barrie start saving for the fireworks! **Hayle MBC** has no less than 5 sailing venues to choose from. I would love to see their calendar of events, I bet the modellers are running all over the place looking to see where the venue is being held, I could just imagine it with the Drifters! **Exeter and district MBC** events are dominated by sailing during the winter months, with their sailing season running from October to March (oh! it must be over now!) *I did say these extracts were a little dated!*

Kenwith Castle MBC are busy constructing new models with an Australian pearling-lugger, a Athel Line molasses tanker and a BT Cable ship, a couple of ketches which originated from Appledore ship yard a two-masted sailing vessel, quite a range to be spotted at a future event. **Newquay MBC** has been extra busy with their move to the new "Crealy Cornwall" site, members are reminded that there are now 2 Crealy's one in Devon and the other in Cornwall, please don't get mixed up on Fathers Day! You might find you are alone by the wrong pond! **Poole Radio Yacht Club** have a busy year ahead with a number of events including May 7th, August 20th and October 8th open scale days, Laser racing 24/25th and June July 25th. **Sedgemoor MBC** (our sister club and rivals in battle) Again quite a year for them, pity we did not have our fun day at Pontins this year, still there is always the Skittles (as reported in this news letter). And they are hosting 4, yes four SWAMBC competitions in 2006, always look forward to meeting our compatriots and *fellow helpers at Weymouth Festival!*

Solent R/C Yacht Club. Again a very busy club (aren't they all), with many events lined up during 2006, they have a steering competition on June 4th, a vintage yacht meeting on Setley Pond on June 25 and of course Weymouth Festival in July. Their membership currently stands at 83, so quite a growing, large club. **Torbay and District MBC** have a new management team following

their AGM, and like the previous club mentioned have many events lined up including the Torbay Steam Fair. **Weymouth MBC** have been suffering from weed and also ice and quite low water levels, so we are not the only ones who have had problems, like all of us Weymouth are looking forward to the warmer weather (where ever that is!) **Yeovil and District MBC Ltd.** reports that this time of the year it is very quite with not a lot happening (I bet they are warming up now) and plans are being materialised for the Sherborne Castle Show (see our future events) in May. **Yeovil Model Warship Association**, under the leadership of one of our members *Dennis Harris*, as you know came to the rescue when we had that dreaded weed in our lake at Collett, but through out the winter period have held competitions for small kit yachts. One of the main events is their Open Warship event on Sunday 23rd July and an additional open event on 28th August. Now you have informed well in advance!

That's it for the extracts from Pondering's the SWAMBC newsletter, just to say we now have 35 clubs in SWAMBC stretching from the Isle of Wight to Jersey to Penzance to Bath to Warminster to Poole, Appledore, Looe, Plymouth, Weymouth, Cheddar etc. etc. etc. etc. etc.

I have taken artistic licence with these extracts, but if you want to read the full Pondering newsletter, you can visit the web site: www.swambc.welbeden.co.uk or make a yearly subscription, our club also has printed copies on loan to read. Photographs are also on the web site and on the printed copy.

[Sedgemoor Skittles Match 2006](#)

Once again Sedgemoor MBC hosted the annual Skittles match between them and us on 18th March 2006. Another fine **win** for the Drifters, all-be-it just 3 points it was a win. In what was a very close match. The top skittler was a Sedgemoor player Ian with 36 pins, and on the winning Drifters team both Barrie and Ivan were the top scorers with 35 pins and close behind with 30 pins Christine and Steve. The total score at the end of the match was:

Drifters 331 pins and Sedgemoor 328, a close run ending. Many thanks to Ivan and Pam our organisers.

[Whoops!](#)

Three Belfast shipyard workers, fishing off Bangor in County Down, were hauling the fish in fast and the first one said, "I wish we could find this spot again". That was agreed, but the question was how?. One man said, "we could paint a white cross on the side of the boat", "No that would never do", said the other". "Why not?" said the first man. "well, you see", retorted his companion, "next time we may not get the same boat".

[Some Future Events \(Put them in your diary NOW!\) *More in the "What's on Guide"*](#)

Don't forget deadline for "Driftwood items" to Ted ASAP geminio1@btinternet.com

Swansea Model Boat Show - April 1st and 2nd - Contact Barrie or Jackie

Bude Model Boat Festival - 30th April to 1st May - Contact Barrie or Jackie **ASAP !**

Sherborne Castle Country Fair - 29th May - Contact Danny Harris **ASAP !**

Fathers Day Crealy Park DEVON - 18th June

Margham Park Weekend Boating Show - 24/25th June - Contact Rick Jones Tel: 01656 650425

Woodspring Wings - 1st & 2nd July - Contact Barrie or Jackie **ASAP**

Open Warship event - 23rd July - Contact Danny Harris

Weymouth International MB Festival - 8/9th July - Contact Mike Knight or Barrie or Jackie **ASAP !**

Yeovil Transport Festival - 12/13th August - Contact Barrie or Jackie

Wanted Yes! still looking for a trailer tent, please contact Ted Porter 01749 830015

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C

Held at the Thatched Cottage at 7.30pm Monday March 13th 2006

Members Present B.Stevens (Chairman) C.Button (Secretary) G. Haberfield P.Sadd, C.Sadd, I. Rodda, F. Biggs. R. Stevens, D.Semper, G.Bowkett, D. Harris, J.Stevens, S. Jackson, R.Trott, M.Edwards.

Apologies. T. & D.Porter. Christopher Sadd. V. Redwood, S & D Webb, N.Harvey M.Stevens

Minutes of meeting held on the 15th January including A.G.M. Minutes were read by the secretary. Dave Semper pointed out that A.G.M. Minutes should be read out at next A.G.M. This was agreed by the Chairman.

Chairman's report The chairman gave progress report on the Treasurer Verd Redwood who has had Laser treatment on his throat having spent a day or so in hospital. He was now with his sister at Devon to convalesce. A 'get well' card was signed by all members present, wishing Verd a speedy recovery.

The Chairman discussed the pond clearance, which had been completed by club members. It is apparent that it is becoming more difficult for members to clear the slurry and weed. The Chairman suggested that the club should write to the council requesting that they take responsibility for clearing the pond probably by some mechanical means. The Club members to keep the islands clean and tidy. It was disappointing that no letter of acknowledgement for the hard work by members had been received to date from the Council. There was also a Health and Safety issue regarding clearing the pond by club members. After much discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Council with regards to the pond clearance. The Chairman has received a letter from the Council regarding Collett day on June 10th. This will be a special Centenary occasion with parades and opening ceremony at 11am. It was agreed that the club takes part with the usual presence at the pondside with sailing and displays.

Treasurers report Due to the treasurers illness the Chairman reported on his behalf that there were some 8-10 subs outstanding. A reminder would be sent to those concerned as subs are due by the end of MARCH otherwise a renewal fee of £10 would be due. The room hire for the club meetings would be increased by 17% which would include VAT which has not been previously charged. The table tops have been revamped. There has been postal expenses and "What's on Guide" Costs.

Secretary's report The secretary reported that several members enjoyed a sail at the pond last week. Nothing further to report.

Any other business Kenwood Castle 23rd April. Contact John Butterworth by the end of March if anyone is interested. Sherborne Castle 29th May anyone interested should contact Danny Harris. Annual Model Boat show at Surrey on 3/4th June. George Bowkett pointed out that the Weymouth weekend clashes with a competition, this was noted by the Chairman. The Chairman suggested contacting the Bomb Squad for a display.

Dave Semper proposed that the club may be interested in purchasing a tape Titled The world of Model shipping. It was agreed to purchase the tape at a cost of £16.

Jackie Stevens reported that there was an option to camp at the Rugby ground during the Bude event. It was unanimously agreed to continue as before at Wooda Farm Park. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

The speaker for the next meeting will be Mr. Brian Williams an ex Marine Engineer with many years of Experience.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING
7.30 Monday May 8th 2006 Thatched Cottage!
DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday May 28th 2006

