



Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC December 2005



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**NEW WEB SITE
HAVE YOU MADE
A VISIT YET?**

Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

As you can see from title above we have now launched the new web site, anyone visiting the old site will have a redirect notice to the new site. A big thank you to Scott, who pioneered our first web site, which has for the past 3 years or so been very popular and a vital tool in advertising our club. For those of you who have visited the new site we have many of the old features and a few new ones (look out for the Christmas decorations!), Maggie has made a very good job in compiling 3 pages of Photos (around 70!) which will be updated regularly, please send her your digital photos especially if we can some snowy ones again? Don't forget the Message Page where you can leave a message or enter into a written conversation.

Sadly we will not be participating in what has been our annual indoor regatta at Pontins at Brean in January the asking fee of £250 plus lifeguard fees we find unacceptable!!!!

Finally a big thank you to all the Drifters who have made the club so successful during the past year especially for TED who has found time during his multi holidays to edit the Driftwood!!

Editorial

First may the "Driftwood" team wish all readers a "Very Happy Christmas" and may Santa bring you loads of goodies for model making in 2006. As always if you give someone (i.e. your husband/wife/partner/yourself) a very very expensive radio controlled model. Don't forget the batteries, or the key to wind the spring up, or the match to light the coal, or the wind to blow the sails, or the nuclear power plant. Doreen said I'm being silly now, about the very expensive present.

Quite a year for 2005 packed with events, competitions and meetings, something for all members. Just a reminder for 2006, if you go to a model boating or seafaring event/festival and would like to **comment or report** on the happenings there, **please feel free to contact me** by phone, e-mail or post. It would make a nice change from Barrie and myself (sometimes Mike and Verd) being the sole inputters. This month I cover extracts from the latest SWAMBC "Ponderings" newsletter and that one off event at Collett Park, celebrating the "Battle of Trafalgar". Now that is all done and dusted will 2006 be a little less frantic - I doubt it? **Please note also we have a new web site, have you or your friends made a visit yet? It is still in the early stages but looks like another winner for the Drifters!**

AGM and combined Lunch * * * * *

It was proposed at the last meeting (November) that the AGM and lunch would once again be combined, with the AGM (10.30am) taking place in the morning followed by a Sunday Lunch (1pm). The date set is **Sunday 15th January (3rd Sunday in January)** at the "Thatched Cottage", Shepton Mallet (our usual haunt!)

Weed, Weed and more Weed

On Sunday 4th December, our next meeting at Collett Park, members are requested to help clear some of the weed which may hamper our Christmas night sail on 10th December. So as well as bringing a boat to sail or try out, bring wellies or waders, old working clothes and gloves. We would appreciate as much help as possible! Thanks

Parking in Collett Park

STAY ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW !

Yes it's that "old chestnut" that rears its head in the Autumn/Winter, PLEASE, PLEASE stay OFF the grass with your cars. If they stop us coming into Collett Park with our cars it's a long way to walk carrying a boat and accessories. *Us older members may only get as far as the first tree!!!!!!*

Trafalgar Night at Collett Park

Thanks to Barrie's reminder to the people of Shepton Mallet and surrounding district through the pages of the "Shepton Mallet Journal " a large crowd gathered at Collett Park to witness the night's event of the 21st October. An excellent display by the Drifters of models, paintings and artefacts depicting life aboard ship in the 1800s, impressing the general public. A Commodore of the Royal Navy opened the proceedings reading from a prayer offered by Vice-Admiral Nelson at the eve of the battle. The Shepton Mallet band played nautical extracts (I think there was a tune from the TV series Das-Boote) but my hearing not so good? And what a show by the Children and their galleons, it was a sight to behold! The end eventually came with a bang (firework set off by Barrie) and the Collett Park beacon lit by the Commodore. It was a great night! Hard work by the Drifters to set it up, but well worth the effort. Incidentally, if you did not go the weather was perfect and just started to rain as we packed the final items in our cars to come home! (Now that's called timing!)

Ponderings (extracts from the latest issue November 2005)

As the end of the year draws to a close most of the SWAMBC news is about clubs preparing for the 2006 season and the final results of the Competition Classes for 2005. So I will start this report --- and the winner is-----

Fast Electric's	Bill Hickman	Formula Two	Scale Steering	Mike Knight	Large
	Bill Hickman	Formula Three		Danny Harris	Medium
	Colin Carpenter	Formula Four		Iain Holland	Small
	Chris Osman	G500		Rob Walter	Pilot
	Chris Osman	R2R			
Tug-Towing	Mike Knight	Single-Towing	Yachting	Ron Fry	100 Class
	Ian Dingle	Single-Pushing		Gordon Evans	78 Class
	Malcolm Franks/Peter Every	- Team Towing		Gordon Evans	65 Class

Well done to all winners especially the **"DRIFTERS"!!!!**

The Chairman of SWAMBC (Barrie Stevens) said due to the sad loss of Peter Fisher (who spent many many hours perfecting the SWAMBC web site) the issue of the SWAMBC web site is currently being addressed and the current electronic digital issue of Ponderings will be by e-mail using the PDF format (Adobe Acrobat) this programme is FREE to download from the Adobe web site. This does not affect the hard copy sent to clubs and subscribers.

SWAMBC WHAT'S ON GUIDE yes it is that time of the year again and all members and clubs are reminded to get their input in as soon as possible, **the deadline for this is December 31st**. And as we are on the subject of next year's events the Weymouth International Maritime Modelling Festival is set for 8th and 9th July and this years evening entertainment is..... "The Searchers" the 1960s group, aahhhh!!!! I remember them well! I was jolly jack tar (when we had many many ships), defending Queen and country in the 60s, trying not to be sea sick?

Cheddar Steam Club, sadly reported the death of John Woodruff on 13th September, as no doubt many know that Cheddar Model Ltd. has now ceased trading, but the club and purpose built lake are still very active. A recent formed (new) club is **Clevedon and District MBC** apparently 80% of their members are new to model boating, now that must be a record! The times and venue of their lake can be found in the 2006 "What's On Guide" or contact their Chairman Mike Mayhew. The **Looe MBC** is in full swing on their new lake called Crealy in Cornwall, yes I know it is the same name as the other one, so if there is an event at Crealy ask is it Crealy Cornwall or Devon (they are miles and miles apart!) **Newquay MBC** held an open day at their new club waters, it is up-to-date with water features and has the potential to become one of the leading focal points for all model boaters (can't wait to see that in 2006). **Poole Radio Yacht Club** (well it's different from just Model Boat Club) sounds sort of up-market! Has had a good year with membership now over 100, their "laser" fleet is now 21 boats plus, the members own a large number of vintage and racing yachts. **Solent R/C Model Yacht Club** has had a number of mentions in both commercial model boating magazines currently increasing their profile. The clubs recent claim to fame was fellow member Don Scott's model of the Queen Mary 2, being invited to a reception on

the real QM2, and sailing his model QM2 in the ship's swimming pool. The model being sailed by the QM2s Captain, Commodore Ron Warwick OBE, who said, "it was harder to control than the real thing!" (yes I do believe that!) Incidentally this model has been featured in both model boat magazines.

Wessex MBC like a number of clubs receives invites to charity events and put on an excellent show for the Bournemouth Hospital "League of Friends" creating a large amount of interest by the public. **Weymouth and Portland MBC** Has had a good season with several new members joining their ranks, so we should see a rise in entries for the 2006 International Festival from Weymouth? Again like most clubs they have their individual competitions during the season with John Winkworth being the overall winner in the sailing comps. As you probably know there are two clubs in Yeovil, the Yeovil and District MBC and the Yeovil Model Warship Association apparently known as "the Club with a Pub", must be run by an ex Jack Tar. The **Yeovil and District MBC** held their annual regatta on 9th October attended by the Mayor who took a keen interest in the model boats both on and off the water, yes it's nice to get VIPs involved, you never know when it might come in handy. *Any one know any good doctors, barristers, hair stylist who are into model boating and would like to join the Drifters, it's OK we already have a plumber! a train driver and a BT engineer.* **Yeovil Model Warship Association** has had a busy year and it is thanks to them that the tug towing competition final round switched to their lake when Collett Park was full of weed. We (the Drifters) joined them for a friendly? Competition on their first Open Day and helped raise £126 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

Diorama displays for 2005 and 2006 this extract was taken from this issue of Ponderings by Graham Castle the diorama organiser. The Diorama Display once again will be held at the Weymouth IMMF 2006, (so you have been well forewarned). The guidelines is a nautical scene, occupying one square foot (individuals) and one square yard (clubs), these sizes may be interpreted very loosely, the aim is to encourage participation not put anyone off. The scene may depict any setting that appeals to you or, for those who would like a suggested theme, THINK -Brunel - it being the bi-centenary of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's birth.

And finally for this SWAMBC extract. A full report of the years competitions, the final rounds, and a more in-depth report from the clubs, and much much more, can be obtained from the actual Ponderings Newsletter either on the internet or by subscription to SWAMBC or ask Verd our rep to borrow a copy, each club receives 5 copies for loan by members. The editor Graham Castle, e-mail gant@ouvip.com would be pleased to help.

SCALE STEERING/TUG TOWING 2006

I know 2005 is not over yet and the competitions have only just ended but already preparations are in place for next years competitions. In Scale Steering we will be going to Clevedon and Eastleigh both new locations for 2006.

The Rules Meeting was held on the 20th November and the significant changes are as follows:

Scale Steering - If a competitor breaks down they will be allowed to repair their boat for a penalty of 5 points and not 5 points for every remaining obstacle as it was previously. This repair is only allowed on one occasion per meeting for each competitor. All other rules stay as per 2005.

Tug Towing - The above breakdown rule will also apply with 10 point penalty for Single Push/Towing and 15 points for Team. The other changes were to simplify the competition making it easier hopefully to do and judge. There will no longer be zones on the tanker, the scoring of points is up to a maximum of 5 points per element (ie Tug or Tanker etc). There was also clarification of the wrong course rule and how to apply it. All other rules stay as per 2005.

A full set of rules will be available on the web site soon for 2006.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's competitions and hopefully the above will encourage people to participate for the first time. It is frustrating when you travel a fair distance to the event, breakdown early on a round and your score for the day is wrecked. This change should encourage more people to have a go!

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 gemini01@btinternet.com

Mini Pond Clear out/tidy up session Sunday 4th December 10.00am contact Barrie
Christmas Night Sail Collett Park Saturday 10th December 16:00 contact Barrie
AGM 10:30am and Lunch 1pm Thatched Cottage Sunday January 15th contact Christine

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C

Held at the Thatched Cottage at 7.30 pm 14th November 2005

Members present. B.Stevens (chairman) M.Cook (secretary) V.Redwood (treasurer) J.Stevens. C.P. Sadd. M.S.Knight. F.Biggs. C.S.Jackson. R.Trott. T.Porter. N.Harvey. C.Button. G .Haberfield. I.P.Rodda D.Harris.

Following the recent death of Peter Fisher a period of silence was held before the meeting commenced.

Apologies. D. Semper. R.Stevens. C.S.Cox. A.Martin. D.Porter.

Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were read and signed.

Matters arising. The Trafalgar event in Collett Park was very well attended with an excellent write up n the local paper, the use of the shelter proved a real bonus giving us somewhere to put on our display and a warm corner out of the wind to shelter in. Thanks were given to the football people who lent us there lights for use around the lake and to those who constructed the galleons, 50 of which were made some 18-20 going to the local "Beavers" the rest were sold on the evening, the glow sticks proved a popular addition.

Chairmans report. It appears that some members of the local council have concerns regarding our parking in the park Barrie is hoping to have a face to face meeting to see what if any problems there are, in the meantime can you please drive only on the paths and if possible park only on the hard standing and be sure to keep the paths clear. The Bath model show went well despite the rain. Ted's barrage balloons added a new dimension to the harbour display and Stephens Thomas the tank engine loco added a bit more colour to the railway. If needed a clean out of some of the weed in the lake will take place on the 1st Sunday of December which is the week before our night sail, Barrie will see if he can borrow the lights from the football people again to use at the night sail.

Secretary's report. The only thing to report is the date for next years Bath model show Sunday 26th November 2006.

Treasurers report. Verd gave a revue of the clubs finances.

S W A M B C report. The AGM was well attended by 15 clubs 6 clubs sending their apologies, the fees have remained the same as have the officers, the much discussed constitution change was turned down however the rules were clarified. 4 new clubs have joined in the last year.

Drifters report. Ted reported that Driftwood still requires more input from members, even if it is just a few lines. Because of Peters untimely death a new SWAMBC web site has had to be created this will be up and running soon, also because Scott is unable to continue as Drifters Web Master a new site has also been created for the drifters this is now up and running at www.sheptondrifters.webeden.co.uk. Maggie Holland will be in charge of the picture gallery on the new site so forward any of your pics to her for inclusion. Those of you who receive driftwood by email will find it will now be in adobe PDF format if you have problems reading this on your computer contact Barrie. A vote of thanks was given to Scott, Steve, Barrie and Jackie for all their work on the web sites.

Forthcoming events. Xmas night sail 10th December
Yeovil night sail sat 26th November 4pm
Fun yachting event 22nd January at the Halfway House Yeovil

AOB. Barrie had a word with our club insurance broker and it appears there will be no increase in the premium next year. Chris Jackson is organising the Xmas meal, dates to follow, the provisional date for our AGM is Sunday 15th January. OFFCOM have announced that the old 27meg sets will not be banned therefore denying us the use of a further 20 channel., Fred Biggs has offered to put on a slide show at a future meeting. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

NEXT CLUB MEETING AGM
10:00am Monday 15th January 2006 Thatched Cottage!
DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday January 29th 2006



Drifters Winter Lunch

Sunday 15th January 2006 1pm

Two Courses £10.00

Three Courses £12.00

Starters

Tomato and basil soup

Mushroom soufflé

Chicken liver parfait

Main Courses

20 hour Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding

Turkey ballantine

Roast Pork and apple sauce

All served with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Puddings

Apple crumble

Sticky toffee pudding

Ice cream

Cheeses £2.00 supplement

Please send or telephone Christine Jackson with your menu choice
No later than Friday 6th January 2006

Address:- 106, Shaftgate Avenue, Shepton Mallet. BA4 5YQ

Telephone:- 01749 343661

PHOTO DIARY of Some of the Events in 2005!



Muddy Sunday *February*



Collett Day *June*



Weymouth Festival *July*



Yeovil Festival *August*



Trafalgar Night *October*



Bath Model Soldier Show *November*