



Driftwood

Newsletter of the Shepton Mallet Drifters MBC October 2006



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DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE GRASS!

From October 1st 2006

**Entrance to Collett Park will be from the
"Football" entrance side, Collett Avenue Road
(not near the play swings)**

Pugwash (Barrie Stevens)

Just to expand on the note on the right,

We have decided to continue using the football end of Collett Park for our entrance during the winter. Traditionally we have changed entrances during the winter because football matches were held on Sunday mornings which clashed with our cars driving to the lake. But over the last 2 years there have not been any matches, I will be finalising this with the council in due course.

Jackie and I have just returned from our annual pilgrimage to Pontins Brean Sands for the Model makers week. In true Drifters fashion during the Small Yacht Championship held over 3 days sailing the Drifters gained 2nd and 3rd place with Kevin Travaskis gaining 2nd and me third!! (a miracle I know!!). I did pick up some very useful information at Brean on how to make our table top N gauge railway more reliable.. Watch out for the winter project!!

Congratulations to Pam and Ivan for spotting the deliberate typing error in the last Driftwood ie the next Drifters meeting was to be held on the 18th September this was incorrect it should have read 11th September!! The treasurer Verd presented them with a wooden spoon at the East Somerset Railway event! Don't forget the next Drifters meeting which will be held on Monday 13th November where Christine Button will be giving an illustrated talk on her visit to South Africa!

Editorial

In this months letter we have extracts from "Ponderings" the SWAMBC Newsletter, minutes from the September meeting at the Thatched Cottage and a round-up of events in the autumn. Yes winter is on the horizon and with it hopefully the end of the weed problem that has been evident throughout the summer months. So this year has seen one or two problems include a full gale fore wind at the Evercreech Show in September, where Verd and yours truly rescued the Jazz band gazebo. Bude, Weymouth, Cranmore, Yeovil, Bristol Harbour Festival and many others, all well represented by the Drifters. Our thanks once again this year to Jackie, Barrie and others for, organising and keeping us informed about these successful events, for our benefit (*I think the public liked them too!*)

Summer weed has been a problem, (again!) and was mentioned in the SWAMBC newsletter "Ponderings". Perhaps an article or feature in one of the model boat magazines may bring a response (and possible solution) from one of the clubs in the United Kingdom. This is a far ranging problem that concerns not only competitions but modellers pleasure activities, having possibly travelled a distance to sail their model. I also notice in a national paper following health and safety feature, that some councils are now filling in the paddling and boating pools as they take "health and safety?" to a new level.

The pond at Lymington in Hampshire has been empty for a number of years now. Another council has put high iron railings with locked gates around their pond, so if someone falls in you have to get bolt croppers or a acetylene torch to get in! to rescue them! And so with the lakes drying up and others with enough weeds to walk on, should our thoughts turn to knitting? But don't forget to wear protective eye shields, a tin hat and face mask against needles and fluffy wool! (*I think I'll stick to super glue.*)

New Members We would like to welcome the following new members to our club, Stephen Moon and Brian Leakey. May you have an enjoyable time and your boats remain on the surface (unless they are submarines!) Our next club meeting is on November 13th hope to see you there!

SWAMBC Newsletter "Ponderings" by Ted

This month we have extracts from the August issue of Ponderings, it may be a little dated as we are coming into autumn, but for Members who do not receive a copy this is an extract of news from clubs in the SWAMBC network.

First though to remind members that **Verd** is our **SWAMBC** representative, and the **SWAMBC AGM takes place on October 14th**, so any member who has an input please contact **VERD ASAP on 01749 343832**. Items to be covered include SWAMBC clubs, the current organisation, the rules for competitions (fast electric, tugs, steering, small yacht racing etc.), health and safety and much more! The Drifters were not the only ones suffering from the summer weed problems, as other clubs had to cancel events and meetings, unfortunately this year the weed has struck with a vengeance making water thick with the green slime.

According to the SWAMBC Newsletter and Weymouth BC the International Maritime Festival is on again for 2007 (*time to make a new model for sailing on the pond!*), this year they have booked "Gerry and the Pacemakers" so should go down well with us younger members. One of the items brought up was a few folk having a whinge, FEW is the operative word, as the other hundreds of models had nothing but praise for another successful event. (*But us Drifters know that anyway, don't we!*). One item brought up by the SWAMBC Secretary, Dave Semper, were the "Theme" Sunday. Presented by individual clubs throughout the year, like The Grand Parade of Steam, Classic Sail event in August, Warship Day (grey Funnel event). Again the response was mixed and with tug towing and Scale Steering numbers dropping, Is it the cost of travel? (Petrol/diesel prices) and/or the larger number of events, shows and festivals now being organised. The SWAMBC secretary would love to know your ideas and they will be presented at the AGM on October 14th.

Exeter and District MBC have had a busy season with tug towing, steam-days and scale navigation, they would like to thank every one who took part in "Fathers day", again a good annual event, incidentally there were over 60 prizes to be won in the raffle. **Falmouth MBC** sail racers have formed a break-way club on their own for IOM, 36R, A-Class and 10R (*you sail chaps should know what those abbreviations are!*).

Guernsey Model Yacht Pond Club reported they had a brilliant time at Weymouth (*perhaps they should have a word with the whinger's!*). **Gosport Yacht and Boat Club** has been in existence since 1913 and took off when the boating lakes were commissioned in 1921 (*now that's real model boating, with a plank and two nails*). In fact Gosport hosted the 1986, 1996, 1998 and 2005 RA World Championships where competitors came from as far away as Australia. ("Any thing to declare sir? Yes half a dozen yachts). The club has a new club and boathouse funded by a lottery grant. Apparently they still sail the "Vane" operated yachts, these are now few and far between as local model sailing lakes and ponds (*and many modellers !!!*) are not equipped to run around the perimeter with long poles to fend off the boats (*look mum! no radio!*). **Poole Radio Yacht Club** another club having a successful visit to Weymouth by sailing "Lasers" off the pleasure pier behind the pavilion. Yes Weymouth now caters for **ALL** modellers of boats. The club picked up 3 new members due to the event at Weymouth, and next year they are thinking of racing IOMs at Weymouth.

Sedgemoor MBC unfortunately Pete's Memorial Fun Day had to be cancelled due to gale force winds with a thunderous downpour, sadly by 10am it was called off, but not to be beaten it was held on August 27th combined with their Open Day and Bar-b-Que. **Solent Radio Controlled Model Yacht Club** have purchased a frequency checker for the 27 and 40 Mhz bands and apparently proving its worth. So no more having a quick burst to see if the radio works! The club certainly gets around (like the Drifters) with visits to Marwell Zoo, Waterside Model Club event Vintage Yacht Club visit, Calshot life boat station, and a club exhibition at Romsey Model World (another busy club!). **Tone Valley Model Boat Club**, another club who had a good time at Weymouth, and offered their many thanks. Perhaps we should be thanking them for frequency control at the Pavilion, Weymouth, it is not an easy job and you always get a moaner who turns up with 1 minute to his time slot to discover he ain't got a peg! As Eddie Grant said in his bit in Ponderings "**BOOK EARLY**" for your time slot and frequency peg!

Weymouth and Portland MBC like other years once again ran the Primary Schools Model Boat Workshop at the festival. About 250 pupils made models, this is another added attraction at Weymouth as the children enjoyed watching their efforts sail across the same lake as multi-pound ££££'s radio boats do the same thing, (sink!). **Yeovil and District MBC Ltd.** Again a club doing the rounds, and bumping into members of the Drifters at Weymouth and Sherborne Castle Country Fayre. Quite a few boats were on display at the Yeovil Festival 67 in total and the same day over 87 at Sherborne, thanks to other club supporters, Drifters, Weymouth and Poole. **Yeovil Model Warship Association**, yes another travelling/wandering club, with visits to Crealy Park, Weymouth, Sherborne and Poole. A new event for them this year was their "Grey Funnel" day (to the uninitiated, warships!) with fun competitions including "name the cat? Unfortunately numbers were down to just six members, one from Exeter and five from the Drifters, after a lot of work was put in by the Yeovil Warship members, let's hope there are more next year!

Finally from Ponderings, CD Roms are on sale at £4.50 each with over 400 high-class photographs of Solent RCMYC members boats on ALL proceeds to the RNLI please contact Peter Taylor 028380 554670 for more details.

And to close one whole page of Ponderings was taken up by the MPBA's requirements for members and clubs involved with young people under 18 years of age, and reminding us of our responsibilities. The MPBA end up by saying they want to encourage young people into the model boating hobby but we need to protect both them and our members. So it boils down to: do you, *the Club*, have Any member under 18 or any event which any one under 18 are invited to attend? If the answer is YES then a whole set of rules apply including clearance under the C.R.B. system (Criminal Records Bureau). *Ed. My question is what if an 18-year-old married person joins the club with a young son? It is possible! Oh! and. can an 18 year old baby sit, or do they have to have an older person (with a Police Enhanced Disclosure Certificate) to look after them?*

Yeovil Festival.

The Drifters have been attending this event for many years and this year was a little different as the normal modelling tent organiser Peter George had opted to just exhibit only this year. Hence at the start of the set up much confusion was had by exhibitors as to where they had to set up and what tables were allocated to them. As usual the Drifters came to the rescue with Verd and the rest of the team sorting out the numbering scheme on the tables and directing exhibitors accordingly! Steve J. came with his other love of his life (yes Chris was there as well!!!) with his full size scooter and his Scout collapsible motor cycle which he is restoring. The weather held up apart from a small shower on the set up on Friday, but the Drifters 'Have a go Pool' was filled by a farm slurry tanker which we were assured by the tractor driver was clean water NOT the smelly stuff! Well to be perfectly frank when it started to fill the 'clean water' was BROWN Fortunately it did not smell it just looked like the Bristol Channel!!!! A very good weekend with the Drifting campers avoiding the smelly stuff underfoot in the camp field!

Cranmore Steam Weekend Once again the Drifters returned to Cranmore, one of the events visited in a previous year. This year there was a change as we were in a different location, (but still had the gazebos rigged ready to display our models) unfortunately not so many exhibitors had stalls, and it was a much smaller event. Having said that there was a "steam up" supper on the Saturday night when members had their evening meal on the train followed by an impromptu musical event. On the Sunday morning more members turned up with their models and quite a nice display presented, including the tabletop model, (on Verds dinning table I believe). Again fewer members of the public, but during the Sunday there were activities like music/dance and of course the steam train ride to and from Cranmore station. Thanks again for every ones help. It brought back memories of "Gazebo City" held at Cranmore a few years ago

Evercreech Village Show. With gale force winds and heavy rain predicted fun and games were on the cards at this year's 2006 show. The organisers would like to thank the members who turned up (5 of us). Verd, Ivor Pam and your truly with Doreen. The first 2 hours were spent rescuing the Jazz and children's entertainment gazebo (photo in Shepton Mallet Journal). But the rain stayed off and a number of locals appreciated the effort put into the construction of model boats, most were surprised they had radio control and were not just show models. *(I think that is a true misunderstanding in a lot of these events).*

The Drifters will once again be a feature in the local brochure (EDIS), with is distributed to over 3000 homes and businesses, (YES 3000) in the Evercreech and district area. Twice a year the Drifters have a column explaining about our club and any special event like the Christmas Night Sail at Collett Park and the international festival at Weymouth. *(I can't promise that coach loads of local will suddenly turn up at Collett in December, but you never know!)*

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

Ex Cheddar Models steam plant PUFFIN with mk 2 vertical boiler Selling on behalf of Reg Hiscox sensible offers. Contact Barrie for details 01749 343017

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

Don't forget deadline 14th November for "Driftwood items" to Ted ASAP gemini01@btinternet.com

With the season drawing to a close the final events are:

Club sailing at Collett Park	Sunday November 5 th (PLEASE do not drive over GRASS)
Club meeting at the Thatched cottage	Monday November 13 th 7.30pm
Bugle Call at Bath	Sunday November 26 th
Club sailing at Collett Park	Sunday 3 rd December
Christmas Night Sail Collett Park	Saturday December 9th

MINUTES OF THE SHEPTON MALLET DRIFTERS M.B.C

Held at the Thatched Cottage at 7.30pm on September 11th 2006.

Members Present B.Stevens. (Chairman), C. Button(Secretary),V. Redwood(Treasurer), M.Knight, S. Knight, J. Stevens, D. Harris, N.Harvey, T. wood, M. Edwards, S. Jacson,G. Bowkett, B. Leakey, R. Trott, D. Semper.

Apologies T. Porter, I. Rodda, G. Habberfield.

Minutes of the meeting held on July 17th were read by the secretary.

Matters Arising The Chairman reported that G. Bowkett had feed back from the Weymouth weekend regarding the P.A. system. There was to be a meeting in two weeks where all lose ends would be tied up. The Bring and Buy had been successful but would be discussed in the treasurer's report. There were no other matters arising and the minutes were accepted and duly signed.

Chairman's Report The Chairman reported that Ted Porter was unable to attend due to a short holiday in the New Forest. However, he had sent a letter, which the Chairman read to the members, this included an apology for his any mistakes in the Driftwood. The deadline for reports was September 24th. Weed is still a problem at Collett Park but the Chairman had endeavoured to contact Margaret Robinson, Port Folio Holder but she is on holiday.

From the 1st October the entrance to Collett Park is moved to Park Road entrance, but it had been suggested by Nigel to use the Football entrance. There had been no football for the last three years so the Chairman confirmed that club members should use this entrance. If there is any change there will be a notice on the gate. The Chairman also discussed the difficulty in pond clearing by members and he will contact the council. There has been no attempt to use the barley straw, which the council had promised at Collett day in June. There had been no significant sailing and C. Button suggested that the Wednesday evening sailing's should be cancelled due to conditions and onset of shorter evenings, this was agreed..

Treasurers Report

Bring and Buy	£65.10
Cranmore East Somerset Railway	£43.50
Yeovil	£85.00
Bristol	£140.00

Expenses included 2 plastic Sheets
Table Hire
Travelling expenses to Bristol

The treasurer also welcomed 2 new members, Brian from Frome and Stephen Moon from Stoke Sub Hambdon who used the Drifters Web page. There are now a total of 74 members. The Chairman stated that Stephen Moon had been a member of the club previously.

Secretary's Report The secretary reminded the members of forthcoming events otherwise there was not a lot to report at this stage. On behalf of Club Members, he asked Barry to convey best wishes to Roy and Daisy Stevens after his recent illness. The chairman advised members that he would be away on the next meeting and D. Sempler would be acting Chairman.

Any Other Business. Mike Knight reported that Drifters won all 4 classes at the scale steering. There is a Nationals at Yorkshire with A Tug towing variation three Man team which Mike explained. He also suggested a Scale steering at Collett Park on April 29th next year. This was agreed and accepted. The Chairman reminded members that the Council needed to be informed early in the year of any change or amendments to the normal dates for sailing at Collett Park. So the date needs to be confirmed early on. Is was also noted that SWAMBC now have 4 message boards on their internet Site and there had been a very large number of hits 23,000. so it is hoped to get feed back from as many members as possible. Forthcoming events. The Bugle Call at Bath on Sunday November 26th organised by the Toy soldier group from Bristol. The Diorama won best in show at the Toy soldier event last year. The SWAMBC AGM is due and it was agreed that Verd should be the representative for Drifters comments were invited. Danny stated that there was not the support for events organised.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT MEETING
7.30 Monday November 13th 2006 Thatched Cottage!
DEADLINE for DRIFTWOOD Sunday November 26th 2006

